

BEHIND THE MOUSE ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Karen Barnes, Senior Vice President, Development & Production, HIT Entertainment and Executive Producer, *Angelina Ballerina™ The Next Steps*, brings more than 20 years of television production and broadcast experience to HIT. In her role, Ms. Barnes also oversees the development and production of the *Barney & Friends™* television series and Home Entertainment releases. In addition, Ms. Barnes is the Executive Producer for the all new *Angelina Ballerina The Next Steps*, which follows an 8-year-old Angelina as she embarks on the next stage in her life at a new school where she experiences new forms of music and dance.

Most recently, Ms. Barnes served as a production consultant for Sesame Workshop, Hallmark Channel and ToddWorld. Prior to that, she held several positions at FOX, including Executive Vice President, 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment and Executive Vice President, Development and Programming at FOX Kids. Ms. Barnes started her career at The Jim Henson Company, where she was head of production and development for North America.

She has received numerous awards and recognition for creative achievement, including a George Foster Peabody Award and two National Education Association Awards. Before venturing into the creative arena, Ms. Barnes was a business affairs attorney. She is also a certified mediator.

Ms. Barnes received her BA from Marymount Manhattan College and JD from Fordham Law School.



BEHIND THE MOUSE ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Katharine Holabird grew up in Chicago, where she remembers dressing up and dancing around the family home with her three sisters, “just like Angelina...”

“We were always reading books and using our imagination,” she says, “and we loved to make believe we were ballerinas and princesses.”

Ms. Holabird remembers special occasions when she attended ballets like “Swan Lake” and “The Nutcracker Suite” with her grandmother and how much she enjoyed entertaining her family with performances of her own.

Ms. Holabird received a BA in Literature from Bennington College in Vermont in 1969 and was a journalist in Italy for three years before moving to England in 1973. She worked as a nursery school teacher in London, and then became a freelance writer when her first daughter was born in 1976.

Ms. Holabird began writing children’s books in 1982 and published *Angelina Ballerina*™ with English illustrator Helen Craig in 1983. The Angelina storybooks relate to childhood themes such as friendship, jealousy, loyalty and dedication. The 23 books have inspired an animated series as well as 10 Home Entertainment titles.

As a creative consultant to *Angelina Ballerina The Next Steps*, Ms. Holabird consults on all aspects of the production, including the designs, scripts and music.



BEHIND THE MOUSE ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Angelina
Ballerina**
THE NEXT STEPS



Helen Craig was born in London in 1934. She moved to the country with her family just before World War II. Many of the images from this country life have been incorporated into her illustrations in the classic *Angelina Ballerina™* books. Ms. Craig realized how important books were to her at a very young age: “I would almost enter the pictures and become so absorbed that I would wait -- expecting the figures to move. Now that I am an illustrator myself, I try to make my pictures live for the children who look at them.”

Ms. Craig comes from a very artistic family: her great grandmother, Ellen Terry, was a celebrated actress; her grandfather, Edward Gordon Craig, was a famous stage designer and innovative wood engraver; her father was a film director and her brother is a graphic designer. At the age of 16, Ms. Craig became an apprentice to a commercial photographer in London, only drawing for her own pleasure. She went on to set up her own photography studio, as well as working as a freelance potter and sculptor.

It was only when her son, Ben, was born in 1965 that she experimented with ideas for children’s picture books. She was inspired by Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are*, after buying it for Ben. In 1970, Ms. Craig took her drawings to an editor at Macmillan Books. From then on, her career as a children’s illustrator took off.

Ms. Craig has now worked on over 60 children’s book titles. The most famous are her illustrations for the *Angelina Ballerina* series written by Katharine Holabird.

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Titles from the classic book series.