

## Minnie and Mickey II



Mickey Mouse was a rising young star at Disney Studios when Management decided he needed a girlfriend. Mickey vociferously objected. He *liked* his solo role, and when his character turned lothario, he preferred limiting his encounters to one-night stands. Still, it's hard to fight an entity that signs your paycheck, plus his agent pointed out that his contract clearly allowed for such pairings. So Mickey consented to a series of screen tests with potential distaff partners. It wasn't easy. He pronounced them either too tall or too short, too perky or too lugubrious, too this or too that. Then a young girl in a gingham skirt and jacket waltzed onto the sound stage. She had a supercilious attitude and virtually ignored Mickey as they traded lines. Never mind Mickey's reaction, the producers loved her! Especially when they saw how she bossed around the mouse, who was for once at a loss for words. She was hired that afternoon, and a few wardrobe accessories later – rather a lot of them, really – Minnie and Mickey Mouse made their cinematic debut. Their working interspecific chemistry would follow later. *Much* later, as it turned out.