That Was a Wabbit: Bugs Bunny as Trickster

Essay by David Creighton

The Warner Brothers studio in 1938 saw the birth of Happy Rabbit, a cute little fellow with buck teeth. But his godfather, Mel Blanc, didn't care for his name and gave him a new one, Bugs Bunny.

On with the show, this is it!

The world first heard Bugs's Brooklyn accent (lent by Blanc) in the 1940 short, A Wild Hare. He grew into a sophisticated young performer, simply superb (or "supoisb"). Yet according to Elmer Fudd, he was a "wascawwy wabbit" who used dastardly means to defeat his foes. Didn't he drop a piano once on Yosemite Sam, when both were trying to win the hand of a wealthy widow?

Bugs did his bit during World War II, appearing in several cartoons promoting the sale of war bonds. He also had a brief operatic career, memorably recorded in the classic cartoon, What's Opera, Doc?