According to Stan Lee, one of the most influential comic book creators, Al Jaffee is among the greatest cartoonists he has ever worked with. In 2010, a call came to Al about a Fold-In that was to be run in the next issue of MAD magazine. His first reaction was, “Al, you are old.”

“Al, you are old.” These words were most likely spoken by his superior talent during his time at MAD magazine, where his cartoons first appeared. Born in 1921, Al Jaffee has been a signature contributor to MAD magazine and, at the age of 94, is still working for the magazine. His cartoons are known for their irreverence and outside-the-box thinking.

The March 13, 2006, episode of The Daily Show featured Al Jaffee’s 85th birthday, and Colbert saluted Al with a Fold-In. Al has won many awards for his contributions to the world of cartooning, including a Reuben Award as Cartoonist of the Year in 2008.

During World War II, Al was stationed in Miami, where the Biltmore Hotel was converted into a convalescent home for wounded airmen. Al's assignment was to teach the airmen how to draw, so he arranged for attractive young ladies to model for his classes to keep them interested. Soldiers stationed in Miami, where the Biltmore Hotel had been converted into a convalescent home for wounded airmen, were readily attracted to the tropical lifestyle and became great business for Miami.

Weinstein returned to vacation in Miami after the War—which was the inspiration for his primary quest to find a way to make a living with his artistic skills. Instead of improving his drawing and making a living the way others did, he arranged to teach the airmen how to draw. The Evans Boarding House was converted into a luxurious Biltmore Hotel of Coral Gables, FL. From the moment Al graduated from Music & Art High School in New York City, along with his brother Harry and several other artists, Al started making cartoons for MAD magazine and, at the age of 24, was the genius behind Marvel Comics.

It was irreverent, outside the box, making cartoons for a magazine was like the inspiration for an artist to draw cartoons. The world may be in awe of our art, but one of the primary springboards for attractive young ladies to model for Al’s classes was to teach the airmen how to draw. It was the inspiration for his signature innovation, the Fold-In. As of November 2015, he remains a regular in the magazine after fifty-nine years.

What was your first awareness of cartooning? When did you decide to make a living at cartooning? Was there a point in time when you started thinking of your talent? Was there a point in time when you started thinking of yourself as a cartoonist? Please describe the creation and evolution of the “Fold-In” for MAD magazine.

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 60 seconds and 8 minutes. Tap on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

INTRODUCTION:
1:25 min.

CRITICAL THINKING:
8:08 min.

CURIOSITY & AWARENESS:
2:02 min.

INNOVATION:
4:04 min.

COLLABORATION:
7:39 min.

SEIZING THE MOMENT:
2:26 min.

INNOVATION:
4:38 min.

INNOVATION:
2:41 min.

INNOVATION:
2:41 min.

INNOVATION:
2:41 min.