

Louis de Rochemont

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Louis de Rochemont (January 13, 1899 – December 23, 1978) was an American film maker known for creating, along with Roy E. Larsen from Time, Inc., the monthly theatrically shown newsreels *The March of Time*. His brother Richard de Rochemont was also a producer and writer on *The March of Time*.

The de Rochemonts were descended from Huguenot ancestors who settled in New Hampshire early in the nineteenth century. Born in 1899, the son of a Boston attorney, he grew up in small-town Massachusetts. His film career began when, still a teenager, he filmed his New England neighbours and sold the footage to local theatres under the title *See Yourself as Others See You*.^[1]

The newsreels he created defined film news from 1935 to 1951. The 20-minute films, which combined filmed news with interpretive interviews and dramatizations, appeared between featured films in theaters.

When he moved from newsreels to feature films, de Rochemont chose to produce films based on real stories in actual locations, often with locals in the cast. After three spy films that helped define film noir, including *The House on 92nd Street* (1945), he produced a wide array of feature films such as the semi-documentary *Boomerang* (1947). He has been called the "father of the docu-drama." His early documentary productions won two Academy Awards. *Windjammer* (1958) was produced by Louis de Rochemont and directed by his son, Louis de Rochemont III. Louis de Rochemont also produced *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* (1962).

In March 1951, de Rochemont's production company purchased the animated film rights to George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and de Rochemont was heavily involved in the artistic direction of the animated film.^[2]

References

- ↑ Orwell Subverted, Daniel Leab, Penn State Press, p.21-22
- ↑ Shaw, Tony (2007). *Hollywood's Cold War*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. p. 76.

External links

- Louis de Rochemont at IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0211195/>)
- Louis de Rochemont III at IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0211194/>)

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