

'It's a Small World' composer dies

BY JILL LAWLESS
AND MARK KENNEDY

LONDON — How do you sum up the work of songwriter Robert B. Sherman? Try one word: "Supercali-

fragilisticexpialidocious." The tongue-twisting term, sung by magical nanny Mary Poppins, is like much of Mr. Sherman's work — both complex and instantly memorable, for child and

adult alike. Once heard, it was never forgotten.

Mr. Sherman, an American who died in London at age 86, was half of a sibling partnership that put songs into the mouths of nannies and Cockney chimney sweeps, jungle animals and Parisian felines.

Robert Sherman and his brother Richard composed scores for films including "The Jungle Book," "The Aristocats," "Mary Poppins" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." They also wrote the most-played tune on Earth, "It's a Small World (After All)."

Son Jeffrey Sherman paid tribute to his father on Facebook, saying he "wanted to bring happiness to the world and, unquestionably, he succeeded."

"It's a Small World (After All)" has become one of the most translated and per-



Robert Sherman (left) and his brother Richard Sherman — posing with actress Debbie Reynolds — won the Oscar in 1965 for their work on "Mary Poppins." | AP

formed songs on the planet. It plays on a continual, multilingual loop every few minutes at Disney theme parks across the world — a fact that Disney employees are only too well aware of.

"We've driven teenagers crazy in every language, Robert Sherman once quipped.

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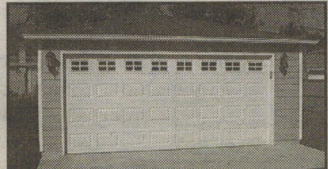
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