Avatar: The Last Airbender (season 2)

Avatar: The Last Airbender

Country of origin United States

No. of episodes 20

Release

Original network Nickelodeon

March 17 -

Original release December 1, 2006 December 1, 2006

Season chronology

List of Avatar: The Last Airbender episodes

Season Two (**Book 2: Earth**) of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, an American animated television series on Nickelodeon, first showed its 20 episodes from 17 March 2006 to 1 December 2006. The season was created and produced by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko and starred Zach Tyler Eisen, Mae Whitman, Jack DeSena, Jessie Flower, Mako, Grey DeLisle, and Dante Basco as the main character voices. [2]

In the season's beginning, the <u>protagonist Aang</u> and his friends <u>Katara</u> and <u>Sokka</u> started a search to find an Earthbending teacher, which finishes when they recruit <u>Toph</u>. Sokka finds important information concerning the war with the <u>Fire Nation</u>. Aang quickly becomes single-minded in looking for his kidnapped flying bison <u>Appa</u>. His search leads him to Ba Sing Se, the capital of the <u>Earth Kingdom</u>, where he uncovers the great internal government corruption of Ba Sing Se. At the season's end, Ba Sing Se falls to the Fire Nation and Aang escapes with his friends on a recovered Appa.

During the season's airing, the show received much critical acclaim, with praises such as, "As a flat concept, Avatar the Last Airbender is nothing special, but in execution, it is head and shoulders above other children's entertainment", and that "as a whole, the look of Avatar is consistently excellent." Season 2 has won multiple awards, including the "Best Character Animation in a Television Production" award from the 34th Annie Awards and the "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation" award from the 2007 Emmy Awards. [5]

Between 23 January 2007 and 11 September 2007, Nickelodeon released five DVD sets for the season: four sets had five episodes each, and a fifth DVD collection of all twenty episodes. [6] All DVDs were encoded in Region 1.

In the UK, only the season boxset was released without being released in four volumes first. The boxset was released on July 20, 2009.

Production

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The season was produced by and shown on Nickelodeon, which is owned by Viacom. The season's creators, Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, worked with Aaron Ehasz. [7] Most of the individual episodes were directed by Ethan Spaulding, Lauren MacMullan and Giancarlo Volpe. [2] Episodes were written by a team of writers, in which worked Aaron Ehasz, Elizabeth Welch Ehasz, Tim Hedrick, John O'Bryan; with creators DiMartino and Konietzko. [2]

The season's music was written by "The Track Team", which consists of Jeremy Zuckerman and Benjamin Wynn, who were known to the show's creators because Zuckerman was Konietzko's roommate. [8]

Cast

[change | change source]

See the main article: <u>List of Avatar: The Last Airbender characters</u>

From the first season

[change | change source]

Actor Role

Zach Tyler Eisen Aang

Mae Whitman Katara

Jack DeSena^[2] Sokka

Dante Basco^[9] Zuko

New characters

[change | change source]

Actor Role

Jessie Flower Toph

Cricket Leigh Mai

Olivia Hack^[2] Ty Lee

Grev DeLisle Azula

Clancy Brown Long Feng^[2]

Mako's death

[change | change source]

Mako Iwamatsu, the actor who voiced Iroh at first season, died during the production and was replaced by <u>Greg Baldwin</u>. [10]

Episodes

[change | change source]

See the main article: <u>List of Avatar: The Last Airbender episodes</u>

Episode's number	Title	Directed by	Written by	Original air date	Prod. Code
1	The Avatar State ^[12]	Giancarlo Volpe	Aaron Ehasz, Elizabeth Welch Ehasz, Tim Hedrick & John O'Bryan	17 March 2006	201
2	The Cave of Two Lovers ^[13]	Lauren MacMullan	Joshua Hamilton	24 March 2006	202
3	Return to Omashu ^[14]	Ethan Spaulding	Elizabeth Welch Ehasz	7 April 2006	203
4	The Swamp ^[15]	Giancarlo Volpe	Tim Hedrik	14 April 2006	204
5	Avatar Day ^[16]	Lauren MacMullan	John O' Bryan	28 April 2006	205
6	Blind bandit ^[17]	Ethan Spaulding	Michael Dante DiMartino	5 May 2006	206
7	Zuko Alone ^[18]	Lauren MacMullan	Elizabeth Welch Ehasz	12 May 2006	207
8	The Chase ^[19]	Giancarlo Volpe	Joshua Hamilton	26 May 2006	208
9	Bitter Work ^[20]	Ethan Spaulding	Aaron Ehasz	2 June 2006	209
10	The Library ^[21]	Giancarlo Volpe	John O' Bryan	14 July 2006	210
11	The Desert ^[22]	Lauren MacMullan	Tim Hedrick	14 July 2006	211
12	The Serpent's Pass ^[23]	Ethan Spaulding	Michael Dante DiMartino & Joshua Hamilton	15 September 2006	212
13	The Drill ^[24]				213

		Giancarlo Volpe	Michael Dante DiMartino + Bryan Konietzko	15 September 2006
14	City of Walls and Secrets ^[25]	Lauren MacMullan	Tim Hedrick	22 September 214 2006
15	Tales of Ba Sing Se ^[26]	Ethan Spaulding	Joann Estoesta, Lisa Wahlander, Andrew Huebner, Gary Scheppke, Lauren MacMullan, Katie Mattila, Justin Ridge & Giancarlo Volpe	29 September 215 2006
16	Appa's Lost Days ^[27]	Giancarlo Volpe	Elizabeth Welch Ehasz	12 October 216 2006
17	Lake Laogai ^[28]	Lauren MacMullan	Tim Hedrick	3 November 217 2006
18	The Earth King ^[29]	Ethan Spaulding	Jonh O' Bryan	16 November 218 2006
19	The Guru ^[30]	Giancarlo Volpe	1 December 2006	219
20	The Crossroads of Destiny [31]	Michael Dante DiMartino	Aaron Ehasz	1 December 220 2006

Critic

[change | change source]

In a review of the Volume 2 DVD Release for Book 2, Gabriel Powers from DVDActive.com described the series as one of the best children's series in recent times, making comparisons with Samurai Jack and Justice League, and complimented it for its depth and humour. [32] Powers also comments:

Without dumbing down its characters, plots, or humour, and without overtly taming-up the action or peril, Avatar manages to enthral children and adults, ages 4 to 56...There is a genuine classic feel to the series, which uses actual Asian culture and lore as its base. Like *Star Wars*, the creative forces behind the show

have tapped into that basic, generation spanning storytelling that will live long after the series' youngest fans are old and bitter.^[32]

For the video and audio quality, Powers says "Season two generally looks better than the bulk of season one, but still has some issues" concerning image sharpness. [33] Jamie S. Rich from DVD Talk says that "As a flat concept, *Avatar the Last Airbender* is nothing special, but in execution, it is head and shoulders above other children's entertainment", and that "as a whole, the look of Avatar is consistently excellent". [3]

The show also received acclaim for its visual appeal. In the 34th Annie Awards, the show was nominated for and won the "Best Character Animation in a Television Production" award, for Jae-Myung Yu's animation in "The Blind Bandit", and the "Best Directing in an Animated Television Production" award, for the episode "The Drill". [4] In 2007, the show was nominated for "Outstanding Animated Program" in the 2007 Emmy Awards for the "City of Walls and Secrets" episode, [34] though it did not win. [5] However, the show did win the "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation" award for Sang-Jin Kim's animation in the "Lake Laogai" episode. [5]

DVD releases

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Between 23 January 2007 and 11 September 2007, Nickelodeon released five DVD sets for the season: four sets had five episodes each, and a fifth DVD collection of all 20 episodes. [6][35] All DVDs were encoded in Region 1 (USA). In the UK, only the season box set was released without being released in four volumes first. The box set was released on 20 July 2009.

Volume	Discs	Episodes	Region 1 release (<mark>USA</mark>)	Region 2 release (<mark>Europe</mark>)	Region 4 release (<u>Australia</u>)
1	1	5	23 January 2007	Not released	4 June 2009 ^[36]
2	1	5	10 April 2007	Not released	6 August 2009 ^[37]
3	1	5	22 May 2007	Not released	29 October 2009 ^[38]
4	1	5	14 August, 2007	Not released	31 March 2010 ^[39]
Box set	5 ^[40]	20 ^[40]	11 September 2007	20 July 2009	9 September 2010 ^[41]

Film adaptation

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A sequel to *The Last Airbender*, a film adaptation of Book One, is expected to be based on Book Two with all the main cast and M. Night Shyamalan to return as director, writer and producer. Production will possibly start in 2011 and the film will be released in 2012 at the earliest. It will be the second part of a planned trilogy.

References

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Specific

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Other websites

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• Official Site

Avatar: The Last Airbender • ½ • ½ • £		
The Last Airbender (The Legend of Aang)	 Book 1: Water "The Boy in the Iceberg" "The Siege of the North" Book 2: Earth "Zuko Alone" "The Chase" "The Secret of the Fire Nation" "City of Walls and Secrets" "The Tales of Ba Sing Se" "Appa's Lost Days" "The Crossroads of Destiny" Book 3: Fire "The Avatar and the Fire Lord" "The Day of Black Sun" "The Firebending Masters" "Sozin's Comet: The Final Battle" 	
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