

The Jetsons



The Jetsons is an American animated sitcom produced by Hanna-Barbera Productions. It originally aired in prime time from September 23, 1962, to March 17, 1963, on ABC, then later aired in reruns via syndication, with new episodes produced from 1985 to 1987. It was Hanna-Barbera's *Space Age* counterpart to *The Flintstones*.^[2]

While the Flintstones lived in a world which was a comical version of the *Stone Age*, with machines powered by birds and dinosaurs, the Jetsons live in a comical version of a century in the *future*,^{[3][4]} with elaborate robotic contraptions, aliens, *holograms*, and whimsical inventions.^{[5][6]}

The original had 24 episodes and aired on Sunday nights on ABC beginning on September 23, 1962, with prime time reruns continuing through September 22, 1963.^[7] It debuted as the first program broadcast in color on ABC, back in the early 1960s when only a handful of ABC stations were capable of broadcasting in color.^[8] In contrast, *The Flintstones*, while always produced in color, was broadcast in black-and-white for its first two seasons.^[9]

The show was originally scheduled opposite *Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color* and *Dennis the Menace* and did not receive much attention. Due to poor ratings, it was cancelled after its first season but was then moved to Saturday mornings, where it went on to be very successful.^[10] Following its primetime run, the show aired on Saturday mornings for decades, starting on ABC for the 1963–64 season and then on CBS and NBC.^[11] New episodes were produced for syndication from 1985 to 1987. No further specials or episodes of the show were produced after 1989, as the majority of the core cast (George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc, and Daws Butler) had died in 1988 and 1989. The 1990 film *Jetsons: The Movie* served as the series finale to the television show, though it failed to achieve critical and commercial success.

Premise

In the future, the Jetsons are a family residing in Orbit City.^{[12][13]} The city's architecture is rendered in the *Google* style and all homes and businesses are raised high above the ground on adjustable columns. *George Jetson* lives with his family in the Skypad Apartments: his wife Jane is a *homemaker*, their teenage daughter *Judy* attends Orbit High School, and their son Elroy attends Little Dipper School. Housekeeping is performed by a

The Jetsons	
	
Genre	<i>Animated sitcom</i> <i>Comic science fiction</i>
Created by	<i>William Hanna</i> <i>Joseph Barbera</i>
Directed by	<i>William Hanna</i> (1962–63) <i>Joseph Barbera</i> (1962–63) <i>Ray Patterson</i> (Supervising, 1985–87) <i>Arthur Davis</i> (1985–87) <i>Oscar Dufau</i> (1985–87) <i>Carl Urbano</i> (1985) <i>Rudy Zamora</i> (1985) <i>Alan Zaslove</i> (1985) <i>Paul Sommer</i> (1987) <i>Charlie Downs</i> (1987)
Voices of	<i>George O'Hanlon</i> <i>Penny Singleton</i>

robot maid named Rosie, who handles chores not otherwise rendered trivial by the home's numerous push-button Space Age-envisioned conveniences. The family has a dog named Astro that talks with an initial consonant mutation in which every word begins with an "R", as if speaking with a growl; a similar effect would also be used for Scooby-Doo.

George Jetson's work week consists of an hour a day, two days a week.^[14] His boss is Cosmo Spacely, the bombastic owner of Spacely Space Sprockets. Spacely has a competitor, Mr. Cogswell, owner of the rival company Cogswell Cogs (sometimes known as Cogswell's Cosmic Cogs). Jetson commutes to work in an aerocar with a transparent bubble top. Daily life is leisurely, assisted by numerous labor-saving devices, which occasionally break down with humorous results. Despite this, everyone complains of exhausting hard labor and difficulties living with the remaining inconveniences.

Characters

Voice cast

- George O'Hanlon –George Jetson, Drummer (in "A Date with Jet Screamer"), Alice's Husband (in "The Space Car"), Police Radio (in "The Space Car"), Cat Burglar (in "The Coming of Astro"), Russian Newscaster (in "Test Pilot"), Soapy Sam (in "TV or Not TV")
- Penny Singleton – Jane Jetson, Alice (in "The Space Car"), Zoom Broom (in "Elroy in Wonderland")
- Daws Butler^[15] – Elroy Jetson, Henry Orbit, W.C Cogswell, Traffic Cop (in "A Date with Jet Screamer"), Knuckles Nuclear (in "The Space Car", Jane's Driving Lessons"), J.B. (in "The Space Car"), Bank Teller (in "The Space Car"), Molecular Motors Video Announcer (in "The Space Car"), Bank Security Guard #2 (in "The Space Car"), Moonstone (in "The Space Suit", "Astro's Top Secret"), Professor Lunar (in "Test Pilot"), Mr. Withers (in "Millionaire Astro"), Judge (in "Millionaire Astro"), Chef (in "G.I. Jetson"), Sergeant Moon (in "TV or Not TV"), Nimble (in "TV or Not TV"), Little Boy (in "Elroy Meets Orbit")
- Janet Waldo – Judy Jetson, Celeste Skyler (in "A Visit from Grandpa"), Miss Brainmocker (in "Elroy's Mob," "Elroy Meets Orbit", "Far-Out Father"), Pliers Robot (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Robot Cashier (in "Rip-Off Rosie"), Miss Booster (in "Boy George")
- Don Messick – Astro the Space Mutt, RUDI, Pet Shop Employee (in "The Coming of Astro"), Police Officer (in "The Coming of Astro", "Rosey's Boyfriend", "A Visit from Grandpa", "Rip-Off Rosie"), Mac (in "Rosey's Boyfriend", "Rosie Come Home", "Wedding Bells for

	<div><u>Janet Waldo</u></div> <div><u>Daws Butler</u></div> <div><u>Mel Blanc</u></div> <div><u>Don Messick</u></div> <div><u>Jean Vander Pyl</u></div> <div><u>Frank Welker</u> (80s revival)</div>
Theme music composer	<u>Hoyt Curtin</u>
Composer	Hoyt Curtin
Country of origin	United States
Original language	English
No. of seasons	3
No. of episodes	75 (list of episodes)
Production	
Executive producers	<div>William Hanna (1985–87)</div> <div>Joseph Barbera (1985–87)</div>
Producers	<div>William Hanna (1962–63)</div> <div>Joseph Barbera (1962–63)</div> <div>Bob Hathcock (1985)</div> <div><u>Berny Wolf</u> (1987)</div> <div>Jeff Hall (1987)</div>
Running time	22–30 minutes
Production company	<u>Hanna-Barbera Productions</u>
Original release	
Network	<u>ABC</u> (Season 1) ^[1] <div><u>Syndication</u> (Seasons 2–3)</div>

Rosey"), Mr. Transitor (in "Elroy's TV Show"), Uniblab (in "Uniblab", "G.I. Jetson", "Little Bundle of Trouble"), Dr. Radius (in "Test Pilot"), Delivery Boy (in "G.I. Jetson"), Narrator (in "Millionaire Astro", "Space Bong"), Jury-Vac (in "Millionaire Astro"), Delivery Boy (in "G.I. Jetson"), Colonel Countdown (in "G.I. Jetson"), Dr. McGravity (in "Dude Ranch"), Kenny Countdown (in "Elroy's Mob"), Police Officer #1 (in "Elroy's Mob"), Orville (in "Elroy Meets Orbitty"), Announcer (in "Elroy Meets Orbitty", "Rosey Come Home"), William Martin (in "Fugitive Fleas"), Professor Ozone (in "S'No Relative"), Robot Repairer (in "Dance Time"), Moonstone (in "Mirrmorph"), Newscaster (in "The Cosmic Courtship of George and Jane"), Saturn Trash Stasher (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Roboto (in "Rip-Off Rosie"), Wolf (in "Haunted Halloween"), Edgar (in "Haunted Halloween"), Robot Usher (in "Haunted Halloween"), Starbite (in "Astro's Big Moment"), IRS Agent #1 (in "Future Tense"), Ghost of Christmas Past (in "A Jetson Christmas Carol")

- Jean Vander Pyl – Rosey, Mrs. Spacely, Jane's Mother (in "Rosey the Robot", "Mirrmorph", "Little Bundle of Trouble"), Agnes (in "Rosey the Robot"), Blanche Cog (in "Rosey the Robot"), Miss Galaxy (in "The Flying Suit", "SuperGeorge", "One Strike, You're Out"), Gloria (in "The Space Car", "Miss Solar System"), Knuckles Nuclear's Moll (in "The Space Car"), Alice's Mother (in "The Space Car"), Emily Scope (in "A Visit from Grandpa"), GiGi Galaxy (in "Las Venus"), Ariel (in "Jane's Driving Lesson"), Doctor's Assistant (in "Rip-Off Rosie"), Female Nurse (in "Rip-Off Rosie")
- Mel Blanc – Cosmo Spacely, Jimmy (in "Rosey the Robot"), Moon Garbage-man (in "Good Little Scouts"), Herbie (in "The Flying Suit"), Little Green Bird (in "The Flying Suit"), Homeless Man (in "The Flying Suit"), French Newscaster (in "Test Pilot"), Commander McMissile (in "G.I. Jetson"), Gridfather (in "Crime Games")
- Frank Welker – Orbitty, Felix (in "Elroy Meets Orbitty"), Elroy Jetson Look-alike (in "Rosey Come Home"), Richard Rocketeer (in "Family Fallout"), Hunky Moonrock (in "S'No Relative"), TV Reporter (in "S'No Relative"), Parking Meter (in "Dance Time"), Time Clock (in "Judy Takes Off"), Professor Proteus (in "Mirrmorph"), Francoise (in "The Cosmic Courtship of George and Jane"), Robot Dog (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Nozzle (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Space Bong (in "Space Bong"), Remote Control Cat (in "Astro's Big Moment"), IRS Agent #2 (in "Future Tense"), Jezebel (in "Far-Out Father"), Toy Robot Cat (in "The Jetson Christmas Carol"), Young Cosmo Spacely (in "The Jetson Christmas Carol")

Release	September 23, 1962 – March 17, 1963
Release	September 16, 1985 – November 12, 1987



George O'Hanlon provided the voice of George Jetson.



Penny Singleton was the voice of Jane Jetson.

In later productions, Jeff Bergman has voiced George, Elroy, and Mr. Spacely. Bergman completed voice work as George and Spacely for *Jetsons: The Movie* (1990) after George O'Hanlon and Mel Blanc died during production. Controversially, Janet Waldo was replaced—after recording all of her dialogue—by then-popular singer Tiffany for *Jetsons: The Movie*. Lori Frazier has provided the voice of Jane Jetson in television commercials for Radio Shack.

Additional voices

- Bob Arbogast (Season 2)
- Lewis Arquette (Season 3)
- René Auberjonois (Season 2) as Happy Jethammer (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Professor Nebula (in "Spacely for a Day")
- Gay Autterson (Season 2)
- Jered Barclay (Season 2)
- Dick Beals as Arthur Spacely, Kenny Countdown (in "Far Out Father")
- Michael Bell (Season 2) as Robot Desk Sergeant (in "Crime Games"), Rocky Retro (in "9 to 5 to 9"), Mr. Zip (in "9 to 5 to 9")
- Bea Benaderet (Season 1) as Miss Asteroid (in "Private Property")
- Gregg Berger (Season 2) as Owner Manual Disk (in "Rosey Come Home"), Newscaster (in "Rosey Come Home"), Robot City Salesman (in "Mother's Day for Rosey")
- Susan Blu (Season 2)
- Earl Boen (Season 2)
- Valri Bromfield (Season 3)
- Foster Brooks (Season 2)
- Rodger Bumpass (Season 3)
- Ruth Buzzi (Season 2) as Grandma Ganymede (in "Fantasy Planet")
- Victoria Carroll (Season 2)
- Nancy Cartwright as Asteroid Cogswell (in "Judy's Elopement")
- Didi Conn (Season 2) as Cousin Melissa (in "Judy Takes Off")
- Henry Corden (Season 2) as Mr. Slick (in "S.M.A.S.H."), Police Officer (in "S.M.A.S.H.")
- Dave Coulier (Season 2) as Newsboy (in "Rip-Off Rosie")
- Peter Cullen (Season 2) as Jupiter Juggernaut (in "SuperGeorge")
- Brian Cummings (Seasons 2-3) as Robot Doctor (in "Father/Daughter Dance"), Robot DJ (in "Father/Daughter Dance"), Mr. Van Marsdale (in "Father/Daughter Dance")
- Julie Dees (Season 2) as Mechano Maid 2000 (in "Rosey Come Home")
- Roger DeWitt as Sam Spacely (in "Judy's Elopement")
- Jerry Dexter (Seasons 2-3)
- Selma Diamond (Season 2) as Di-Di (in "Judy's Birthday Surprise")
- Paul Eiding (Season 2)
- Dick Erdman (Seasons 2-3)
- June Foray (Season 2) as Woman at Gas Station (in "Little Bundle of Trouble"), Clerk (in "Little Bundle of Trouble")
- Pat Fraley (Season 2) as Skyhawk Mike (in "The Swiss Family Jetson")
- Joan Gardner (Seasons 1-2)
- Joan Gerber (Seasons 2-3) as Dr. Ruth (in "Wedding Bells for Rosey")
- Ed Gilbert (Season 3)
- Dan Gilvezan (Season 3) as Randy (in "Invisibly Yours, George")

- Barry Gordon (Season 2) as Galacta Sneak (in "Solar Snoops"), Mechanic (in "S.M.A.S.H."), Detective Lenny Laser (in "Judy Takes Off"), Tiny Terror (in "Little Bundle of Trouble"), Betting Machine (in "Little Bundle of Trouble")
- Phil Hartman (Season 2) as School Patrol Robots (in "Boy George"), Executive Vice-President (in "Boy George")
- John Ingle (Season 2)
- Ralph James (Season 2) as Robot City Salesman (in "Rosey Come Home"), Construction Worker (in "Rosey Come Home")
- Lauri Johnson (Season 2) as Mrs. Meltdown (in "Family Fallout")
- Stanley Jones (Season 2)
- Zale Kessler (Seasons 2-3)
- Lucy Lee (Season 2)
- Peter Leeds (Season 2)
- Allan Lurie (Seasons 2-3)
- Jim MacGeorge (Season 2)
- Danny Mann (Season 3)
- Kenneth Mars (Season 2)
- Wink Martindale (Season 3) as Wink Martindale (in "ASTRONomical I.Q.")
- Gail Matthius (Season 3)
- Chuck McCann (Seasons 2-3) as Bruno (in "9 to 5 to 9")
- Edie McClurg (Season 2)
- Terry McGovern (Seasons 2-3)
- Sonny Melendrez (Season 2) as Mr. Rocket (in "Fantasy Planet")
- Allan Melvin (Season 2) as Solarini (in "Fugitive Fleas"), Mangler Mars (in "Astro's Big Moment"), Marsley (in "The Jetson Christmas Carol"), Ghost of Christmas Present (in "The Jetson Christmas Carol"), Mr. Spenderwell (in "9 to 5 to 9")
- Shepard Menken (Season 1) as Muggsy Megaton (in "Elroy's Mob"), Microbe (in "Elroy's Mob")
- Sidney Miller (Season 3)
- Howard Morris as Jet Screamer (in "A Date with Jet Screamer"), Traffic Cop (in "The Space Car"), "Bank Security Guard #1", Harlan (in "The Flying Suit", "Astro's Top Secret", "Private Property", "Solar Snoops", "Spacely for a Day"), Booster Pendleton (in "Rosey's Boyfriend"), Montague Jetson (in "A Visit from Grandpa", "Grandpa and the Galactic Gold Digger", "Father/Daughter Dance"), Nimbus the Great (in "Elroy's Pal"), Willy Lightyear (in "Elroy's Pal"), Titus T. Tweeter (in "Jane's Driving Lesson", "Rosey Come Home", "9 to 5 to 9"), Fred Solarvan (in "Miss Solar System"), Announcer (in "TV or Not TV"), Boppo Crushcar (in "High Moon"), C.B. (in "High Moon"), Bus Driver (in "Far-Out Father"), Orwell Spacely (in "Invisibly Yours, George" and "Too Many Georges"), occasional understudy for Henry Orbit
- Lorenzo Music (Season 3) as Florist (in "The Odd Pod")
- Frank Nelson (Season 2) as Robot Dance Instructor (in "Dance Time"), Ralph (in "Robot's Revenge")
- Cliff Norton (Season 2)
- Tony Pope (Season 2)
- Philip Proctor (Season 2)
- Robert Ridgely (Season 2)
- Roger Rose (Season 2)
- Tim Rooney (Season 2)
- Neilson Ross (Season 2) as Lowbeam (in "S'No Relative")

- [Beverly Sanders](#) (Seasons 2-3)
- [Michael Sheehan](#) (Season 3)
- [Marilyn Schreffler](#) (Season 2) as Sally Spaceout (in "The Vacation")
- [Avery Schreiber](#) (Season 2)
- [Hal Smith](#) (Season 1) as G.P. Gottrockets (in "Millionaire Astro"), Fallout Earp (in "Dude Planet")
- [John Stephenson](#) (Seasons 2-3) as Jeffrey (in "Elroy Meets Orbitty"), Police Officer (in "Dance Time"), Director (in "Dance Time"), Dr. Scarem (in "Haunted Halloween"), Mangler Mars' Henchman #1 (in "Astro's Big Moment"), Gary Gammaray (in "The Century's Best"), DWMR Officer (in "Wedding Bells for Rosey"), Robot Gang Leader (in "Wedding Bells for Rosey"), Commissioner (in "Wedding Bells for Rosey")
- [Andre Stojka](#) (Season 2)
- [Mark Taylor](#) (Season 3)
- [Rip Taylor](#) (Season 3)
- [Fred Travalena](#) (Season 2)
- [Brenda Vaccaro](#) (Season 3) as D-Di (in "9 to 5 to 9")
- [Chick Vennera](#) (Season 3) as Universal Galactic Products Unlimited Leader (in "Spacely for a Day")
- [B.J. Ward](#) (Season 2) as Wicked Wrench of the West (in "Elroy in Wonderland"), Robot Activity Director (in "Elroy in Wonderland")
- [Fredricka Weber](#) (Season 2)
- [Lennie Weinrib](#) (Season 2)
- [Paul Winchell](#) (Season 2) as Dr. Input (in "S'No Relative"), Taxi Passenger (in "S'No Relative")
- [William Windom](#) (Season 2) as Saturn Cyclops (in "Elroy in Wonderland")
- [William Woodson](#) (Season 2) as "Captain Zoom" Narrator (in "Fantasy Planet")

Production

The first season for the series was produced and directed by [William Hanna](#) and [Joseph Barbera](#). When [Warner Bros. Cartoons](#) closed in May 1961, several of its animators, including [Gerry Chiniquy](#) and [Ken Harris](#), joined [Hanna-Barbera](#) to work on the first season.

Morey Amsterdam and Pat Carroll controversy

In 1963, [Morey Amsterdam](#) and [Pat Carroll](#) each filed \$12,000 suits against Hanna-Barbera for breach of contract,^{[16][17]} claiming they had been cast and signed to the roles of George Jetson and Jane Jetson, respectively. Although their contracts stipulated they would be paid US\$500 an episode with a guarantee of twenty-four episodes (i.e., a full season) of work, they recorded only one episode before being replaced.^[16] Several sources claimed the change had occurred as a result of sponsor conflict between Amsterdam's

commitment to *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and Carroll's to *Make Room for Daddy*.^{[18][19]} The case had been closed by early 1965.^[20] In a 2013 interview, Pat Carroll indicated that the court had ruled in favor of Hanna-Barbera.^[16]

Episodes

Season	Episodes	Originally aired			
		First aired	Last aired	Network	
<div></div> 1	24	September 23, 1962	March 3, 1963	ABC	
<div></div> 2	41	September 16, 1985	December 13, 1985	Syndication	
<div></div> 3	10	October 19, 1987	November 12, 1987		

The show's original run consisted of 24 episodes that first aired on ABC from September 23, 1962, to March 17, 1963, and, as was standard practice at the time, contained a laugh track.

In 1984, Hanna-Barbera began producing new episodes specifically for syndication; by September 1985, the 24 episodes from the first season were combined with 41 new episodes and began airing in morning or late afternoon time slots in 80 U.S. media markets, including the 30 largest.^[21] The 41 new episodes were produced at a cost of \$300,000 each, and featured all of the voice actors from the 1962–1963 show.^[21] During 1987, 10 additional "season 3" episodes were also made available for syndication.^[22]

Broadcast history

Following its prime time cancellation, ABC placed reruns of *The Jetsons* on its Saturday morning schedule for the 1963–1964 season. The program would spend the next two decades on Saturday mornings, with subsequent runs on CBS (1964–65 and 1969–71) and NBC (1965–67; 1971–76; 1979–81 and 1982–83). *The Jetsons* began airing in syndication in September 1976, and these runs continued after the program returned to NBC's Saturday morning schedule. Along with fellow Hanna-Barbera production *Jonny Quest* and *Warner Bros.* *Looney Tunes* shorts, *The Jetsons* is one of the few series to have aired on each of the Big Three television networks in the United States.

On February 21, 2021, *The Jetsons* began airing on MeTV.^[23]

Theme song

The series' theme song, by composer Hoyt Curtin, became a pop hit in 1986.^[24]

Science fiction themes

Animation historian Christopher P. Lehman considers that the series shares its main science fiction theme with *Funderful Suburbia* (1962), a Modern Madcaps animated short. Both feature people involved in space colonization. However, there is a key difference in the nature of the colonization: in *Funderful Suburbia*, humans colonize outer space in order to escape the problems of planet Earth, while the Jetsons live in a place where space colonization is already established. Life in outer space is depicted as a fact of life, and the reasons behind humanity's takeover of outer space are never explained.

Lehman argues that the series offers no explanation for its science fiction premise and does not directly satirize the social problems of any era. The setting is combined with standard sitcom elements, which serve as the series' main focus.^[25]

Smithsonian's Matt Novak, in an article called "Why The Show Still Matters" asserts, "Today *The Jetsons* stands as the single most important piece of 20th century futurism."

Novak continues, "It's easy for some people to dismiss *The Jetsons* as just a TV show, and a lowly cartoon at that. But this little show—for better and for worse—has had a profound impact on the way that Americans think and talk about the future."^[26]

Reception

After the announcement of the fall 1962 network television schedule *Time* magazine characterized *The Jetsons* as one of several new situation comedies (along with *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *I'm Dickens... He's Fenster*, and *Our Man Higgins*) that was "stretching further than ever for their situations";^[13] after all the season's new shows had premiered—a season "responding to Minow's exhortations"—the magazine called the series "silly and unpretentious, corny and clever, now and then quite funny."^[27] Almost all of the new sitcoms disappeared at the end of the season; only *The Beverly Hillbillies* would be renewed for new episodes in 1963–64, while *The Jetsons* would continue in Saturday morning reruns, eventually leading to its 1980s revival.

Thirty years later, *Time* wrote: "In an age of working mothers, single parents and gay matrimony (same-sex marriage), George Jetson and his clan already seem quaint even to the baby boomers who grew up with them."^[28] In contrast, economist Jeffrey A. Tucker wrote in 2011 that *The Jetsons* is "distinguished in science-fiction lore by the fact that it is a rare attempt in this genre that actually succeeds in predicting the future."^[29] Apart from flying cars, which are as yet unfeasible in the real world ("a lot of fun, until that first accident occurs"), much of the technology of *The Jetsons* has become commonplace: people now communicate via video chat on flat screens; domestic robots such as the Roomba are widespread, and various high-tech devices are used for leisure.^[30] Tucker notes that *The Jetsons* depicts neither a grim dystopia nor an idyllic utopia, but rather a world where capitalism and entrepreneurship still exist and technology has not changed fundamental elements of human nature.

In 2017, Devon Maloney from *The Verge* described the show as a "bone-chilling dystopia", stating how a reboot-comic book revealed that an environmental apocalypse caused humans to seek refuge in aerial cities. Maloney also notes the lack of people of color in the show and theorizes how discrimination against impoverished groups and developing countries could've taken place, stating "though long held up as the quintessential utopia, *The Jetsons* is a perfect dystopia, built on the corpses of a billions-strong underclass deemed unworthy of a life in the clouds."^[31]

Differences between versions

Added characters:

- In the first episode of the 1980s episodes, an alien named Orbitty joined the family after Elroy discovered him on a field trip to an asteroid. Orbitty speaks in his own garbled dialect, has coil springs for legs, and changes colors according to his mood.
- Various appliances appear in the 1980s episodes such as Memo-Minder and Di-Di, Judy's diary, which is shaped like a giant pair of wax lips.

Other differences include the following:

- The original 1960s episodes are distinguished by 1960s design motifs, music, and references (similar to *The Flintstones* and other Hanna-Barbera shows of that period). The 1980s version had a custom soundtrack with new sound-effects created by synthesizer.
- Whereas the 1960s stories were basically 1950s sitcom plots in a setting, the 1980s stories delved into fantastic, sci-fi cartoon territory.
- The 1960s version was more adult-oriented than the 1980s version, which was aimed at younger viewers.
- The 1980s opening credits contain a re-recorded version of the original *Jetsons* theme song, which features the use of synthesized drums and synth lead tracks typical of 1980s music.
- The 1960s closing credits were similar to the closing credits scenes from *The Flintstones*, which feature the family getting ready for bed as well as a disaster with their pets. In *The Jetsons*, George is walking Astro on a treadmill, Astro chases a cat, and then both animals jumping off after the treadmill malfunctions leaving Jetson running for his life. The 1980s version had to accommodate a larger production staff, including dozens of voice actors, and this closing credits segment was replaced with static multicolored backgrounds with pictures of The Jetsons arranged next to numerous credits. The 1960s episodes were rereleased with the redesigned closing segment (containing fewer production staff credits than the 1980s episodes, but has more names than the original closing scene which left several people uncredited) but are usually seen rebroadcast with their original credits segment.
- The 1960s episodes do not contain title cards. When the 1980s episodes were made, title cards were also made for the 1960s episodes, which explains the appearance of Orbitby in the title cards of the 1960s episodes. (Orbitby also appears in the 1980s closing credits, which style was also used for the 1960s episodes.)
- Many of the 1980s episodes were colored and composited using computer animation technology including digital ink and paint, rather than the more traditional ink and paint on cels.
- The backgrounds in the 1980s version contain vivid colors, and are more detailed than the 1960s version.
- While the 1960s episodes referenced rockets and other "space age" theme devices, reflective of the real-life American space program which fascinated the United States, the 1980s episodes leaned more towards how computers would influence life in outer space.
- In the 1980s version, Rosie the Robot appears more often than in the 1960s (when she only appeared in two episodes). Astro is also featured more prominently.
- The original spelling of Rosie's name is "Rosey", as featured in the 1962 premiere "Rosey the Robot". Her spelling was modified to "Rosie", as featured in the 1985 episode "Rosie Come Home".
- Instead of the buttons, knobs, dials, and switches in the 1960s version, the 1980s version uses flat buttons and brightly lit consoles.
- The 1960s episodes were fitted with a laugh track (as was *The Flintstones*); the 1980s episodes were not.
- Many of the 1980s episodes were released in stereo sound, a first for series starring classic Hanna-Barbera characters.

Specials and film adaptations

Television films

- *The Jetsons Meet the Flintstones* (1987)
- *Rockin' with Judy Jetson* (1988)

Television specials

- *Hanna-Barbera's 50th: A Yabba Dabba Doo Celebration* (1989)

Theatrical releases

- *Jetsons: The Movie* (1990)

Direct-to-video films

- *The Jetsons & WWE: Robo-WrestleMania!* (2017)^[32]

Proposed continuations and reboots

A 1974 proposal would have created a sequel series to *The Jetsons*, set roughly ten years after the original series. CBS rejected the proposal and it was retooled into *Partridge Family 2200 A.D.*^[33]

Paramount Pictures first tried to film a live-action version of *The Jetsons* in 1985, which was to be executive produced by Gary Nardino, but failed to do so.^[34] In the late 1980s, Universal Pictures purchased the film rights for *The Flintstones* and *The Jetsons* from Hanna-Barbera Productions. The result was *Jetsons: The Movie*, which was released in 1990. In November 2001, screenwriting duo Paul Foley and Dan Forman were brought onboard to revise a screenplay, with Rob Minkoff attached as director and Denise Di Novi as producer.^[35]

On March 18, 2003, it was announced that the script was again being reworked,^[36] with Adam Shankman entering negotiations to direct and co-write the film.^[37] In June 2004, with Shankman still onboard as director, Di Novi confirmed that the latest draft was penned by Sam Harper.^[38] By May 2006, the project was re-launched with Adam F. Goldberg confirmed as the new screenwriter, and Donald De Line was added as producer alongside Di Novi.^[39]

In May 2007, director Robert Rodriguez entered talks with Universal Studios and Warner Bros. to film a CGI adaptation of *The Jetsons* for a potential 2009 theatrical release, having at the time discussed directing a film adaptation of *Land of the Lost* with Universal. Rodriguez was uncertain which project he would pursue next, though the latest script draft for *The Jetsons* by Goldberg was further along in development.^[40]

In January 2012, recording artist Kanye West was mistakenly reported as creative director over the project, though West clarified on social media that "I was just discussing becoming the creative director for the Jetson [*sic*] movie and someone on the call yelled out.. you should do a Jetsons tour!"^[41] Longtime producer Denise Di Novi denied the confirmed involvement stating negotiations with West via conference call was merely "preliminary and exploratory and introductory".^[42] In February 2012, Warner Bros. hired Van Robichaux and Evan Susser to rewrite the script.^{[43][44]}

On January 23, 2015, it was announced that Warner Bros. is planning a new animated *Jetsons* feature film, with Matt Lieberman to provide the screenplay.^{[45][46]} As of May 25, 2017, Conrad Vernon will direct the film.^[47]

On August 17, 2017, ABC ordered a pilot for a live-action sitcom version of *The Jetsons* to be written by Gary Janetti and executive produced by Janetti, Jack Rapke and Robert Zemeckis.^[48]

Further appearances

Hanna-Barbera-related

- *The Funtastic World of Hanna-Barbera (ride)*, Elroy Jetson is kidnapped by Dick Dastardly (from *Wacky Races* and *Dastardly and Muttley in Their Flying Machines*) and it is up to ride guests to save him. (1991)
- *Space Stars*, Astro appeared in the segment "*Astro and the Space Mutts*".

Other projects

- *The Jetsons: Father & Son Day* (Spümcø, Macromedia Flash)
- *The Jetsons: The Best Son* (Spümcø, Macromedia Flash)
- Some characters appeared in commercials for *Electrasol* and *Tums*.
- In the late 1990s, George, Jane, and Astro appeared in *Christmas*-season commercials for *Radio Shack*.
- In 2003, New Zealand ISP *Xtra* used *The Jetsons* as part of an advertising campaign, with George Jetson promoting the benefits of broadband Internet. The advert ended with George saying, "Broadband is the way, but some people will never get used to progress", and an image of Fred Flintstone using a stone shaped computer with a real mouse.^[49]
- The Jetsons have appeared in *Family Guy* three times, on "*Brian in Love*" (s2, ep4, May 7, 2000), "*From Method to Madness*" (s4, ep18, January 24, 2002), and on "*Meet the Quagmires*" (s5, ep18, May 20, 2007).
- The Jetsons were seen in a Cartoon Network Rap in 1995.
- The Jetsons characters were in a parody of *I, Robot* done on *Robot Chicken* where Rosie is accused of murdering George.
- The Jetsons can be seen in the background in the "*MetLife*" commercial "Everyone" in 2012.
- The Jetsons appear in *Harvey Birdman, Attorney at Law*, in the episode "Back to the Present" (s2, ep6 [16], May 16, 2004).
- The Jetsons family makes a cameo appearance in the 2021 film *Space Jam: A New Legacy*. They appear among the crowd of other Hanna-Barbera and Warner Bros. characters as spectators during the game between the Tune Squad and the Goon Squad. While George and Jane watch from their flying car, Elroy, Judy, Astro, and Rosie watch from the ground.

Educational films

- *Hanna-Barbera Educational Filmstrips*
 - *The Jetsons: Geometric Jetson* (1978)^[50]
 - *The Jetsons: Down to Earth Nutrition* (1980)^[51]
- *Learning Tree Filmstrip Set*

- *Learning About Work with The Jetsons* (1982)^[52]

Comics

- *The Jetsons* #1–36 (Gold Key Comics, January 1963 – October 1970)
- *March of Comics* #276 (1965), #330 (1969), #348
- *The Jetsons* #1–20 (Charlton Comics, November 1970 – December 1973); 100-page no-number issue
- *Spotlight* #3 (Marvel Comics, 197x)
- *The Jetsons* #1–5 (Harvey Comics, September 1992 – November 1993); Big Book #1–3, Giant Size #1–3
- *The Jetsons* #1–17 (Archie Comics, September 1995 – August 1996)
- *The Flintstones and the Jetsons* #1–21 (DC Comics, August 1997 – April 1999)
- *Scooby Doo Team-Up* #8 (DC Comics, January 2015)
- *Booster Gold/The Flintstones Annual* #1 (DC Comics, March 2017)
- *The Jetsons* #1–6 (DC Comics, January – June 2018)^[53]

Video games

- *The Jetsons' Ways with Words* (Intellivision – 1984)
- *The Jetsons: George Jetson and the Legend of Robotopia* (Amiga – 1990)
- *The Jetsons: By George, in Trouble Again* (DOS – 1990)
- *Jetsons: The Computer Game* (Commodore 64, ZX Spectrum, Amstrad CPC – 1991, Amiga – 1992)
- *The Jetsons: Cogswell's Caper!* (NES – 1992)
- *The Jetsons: Robot Panic* (Game Boy – 1992)
- *The Jetsons: Mealtime Malfunction* (Apple – 1993)
- *The Jetsons' Space Race* (part of *Hanna-Barbera's Cartoon Carnival*) (CD-i – 1993, Macintosh – 1995, Windows 3.x – 1995)
- *The Jetsons: Invasion of the Planet Pirates* (Super NES – 1994)
- *Flintstones/Jetsons: Time Warp* (CD-i – 1994)

Home media

On June 28, 1990, Hanna-Barbera Home Video released six episodes from the show on videocassette. Warner Home Video released season 1 on DVD in Region 1 on May 11, 2004; upon its release, James Poniewozik wrote that it is "as much about New Frontier 1962 as about the distant future. Its ditzzy slapstick is like the peanut-butter-and-jelly mix Goober Grape—if you didn't love it as a kid, you're not going to acquire the taste as an adult—and the pop-culture gags ... have not aged well. But the animation is still a classic of gee-whiz atomic-age modernism."^[54]

The review of the DVD release from *Entertainment Weekly* said the show "trots through surprisingly dated sitcom plots about blustery bosses, bad lady drivers, and Elvis Presleyesque teen idols, all greeted with laugh tracks" but points out "it's the appeal of the retro-prescient gadgets (recliner massagers, big-screen TVs, two-way monitors) that still carries the show."^[55] Season 1 was released on DVD in Region 4 on July 5, 2006.^[56] Season Two, Volume 1 was released on DVD almost three years later, on June 2, 2009, for Region 1.^[57]

On November 8, 2011, Warner Home Video (via the [Warner Archive Collection](#)) released *The Jetsons: Season 2, Volume 2* on DVD in Region 1 as part of their [Hanna-Barbera Classics Collection](#). This is a Manufacture-on-Demand (MOD) release, available exclusively through Warner's online store and Amazon.com.^[58] Warner Archive followed up by releasing Season 3 in the same way on May 13, 2014.^[59]

The complete ABC series was released on [Blu-ray](#) on September 10, 2019, by Warner Home Video (again via the Warner Archive Collection), sourced from new [2K](#) scans of the original broadcast masters while maintaining the show's original [4:3](#) aspect ratio.^[60]

DVD Name	Ep #	Release date
Season 1	24	May 11, 2004
Season 2, Volume 1	21	June 2, 2009
Season 2, Volume 2	20	November 8, 2011
Season 3	10	May 13, 2014

Legacy

William S Higgins writing for *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* noted that the show "has become a popular [metonym](#) for 'the future'. While satirizing Space Age notions of a better tomorrow, the series seems also to have visually codified expectations of the future to a great many viewers: when the twenty-first century arrived, complaints that flying cars and jet packs were missing often mentioned *The Jetsons*."^[61]

The show influenced the turn-of-the-millennium show *Futurama*, which made a number of references to *The Jetsons*, or reused its tropes.^[61]




Boomerang has aired reruns of the show since April 1, 2000. [Cartoon Network](#) aired the show from 1992 to 2004 and returned the series October 2012. Also, some of the 1980s episodes were available for viewing on [In2TV](#) prior to its shutdown; these episodes were later moved to the online version of [Kids' WB](#). Also the first two seasons of *The Jetsons* are available to download on Sony's [PlayStation Network](#), Apple's [iTunes Store](#) and at the [Xbox Live Marketplace](#). The Kids' WB website eventually shut down in 2015, however, the Kids' WB episodes can still be streamed, thanks to much of the website being preserved by the Internet Archive's [Wayback Machine](#).

Forbes magazine valued Spacely Sprockets at \$1.3 billion, on its "The 25 Largest Fictional Companies" list.^[62]

The original cartoon series had several devices that did not exist at the time but subsequently have not only been invented but are in common usage: a [flatscreen television](#), [newspaper](#) on a [computer-like screen](#), a [computer virus](#), [video chat](#), a [tanning bed](#), [home treadmill](#) and more.^[63]

In January 2009, [IGN](#) listed *The Jetsons* as the 46th best animated television series.^[1]

See also

	1960s portal
	Animation portal
	Cartoon portal



Television portal



United States
portal

- List of works produced by Hanna-Barbera Productions
- List of Hanna-Barbera characters
- Design for Dreaming
- Googie architecture

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Further reading

- Mallory, Michael (1998). *Hanna-Barbera Cartoons* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=hAiLQgAACAAJ>). Hugh Lauter Levin Associates. ISBN 0-88363-108-3.

External links

- *The Jetsons* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0055683/>) at IMDb
- *The Jetsons* (http://www.bcdb.com/cartoons/Hanna-Barbera_Studios/G-J/The_Jetsons/index.html) at the Big Cartoon DataBase
- *The Jetsons* at Don Markstein's Toonopedia (<http://www.toonopedia.com/jetsons.htm>)
- Jetson's Movie (<http://www.jetsonsmovie.com>)
- The Cartoon Scrapbook (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100419133840/http://www.cartoonscrapbook.com/JJ/jetsons1962.htm>) – Profile on *The Jetsons*.

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