

= Krusty the Clown =

Herschel Shmoikel Pinchas Yerucham Krustofsky , better known as Krusty the Clown ( sometimes spelled as Krusty the Klown ) , is a cartoon character in the animated television series The Simpsons . He is voiced by Dan Castellaneta . He is the long @-@ time clown host of Bart and Lisa 's favorite TV show , a combination of kiddie variety television hijinks and cartoons including The Itchy & Scratchy Show . Krusty is often portrayed as a cynical , burnt @-@ out , addiction @-@ riddled smoker who is made miserable by show business but continues on anyway . He has become one of the most common characters outside of the main Simpson family and has been the focus of several episodes , most of which also spotlight Bart. Krusty was created by cartoonist Matt Groening and partially inspired by Rusty Nails , a television clown from Groening 's hometown of Portland , Oregon . He was designed to look like Homer Simpson with clown makeup , with the original idea being that Bart worships a television clown who was actually his own father in disguise . His voice is based on Bob Bell , who portrayed WGN @-@ TV 's Bozo the Clown . Krusty made his television debut on January 15 , 1989 in the Tracey Ullman Show short " The Krusty the Clown Show " .

= = Role in The Simpsons = =

Krusty the Clown , born Herschel Shmoikel Pinchas Yerucham Krustofski , was born in the Lower East Side of Springfield and is the son of Hyman Krustofski . Very little is known about his mother , aside from her name being Rachel and that she died when Krusty was around thirteen . Hyman strongly opposed Krusty 's wish to become a clown and make people laugh , believing that it would distract him from his religion , wanting the boy to go to yeshiva instead . However , Krusty performed slapstick comedy behind his father 's back . One day , he was performing at a rabbis ' convention when one joking rabbi squirted seltzer on him , washing off his clown makeup . When Rabbi Krustofski found out , he disowned his son , and did not speak to him for 25 years . Krusty was later reconciled with his father with the assistance of Bart and Lisa Simpson . It was later revealed that Krusty did not have a Bar Mitzvah service , because Hyman feared he would violate the sanctity of the rites by " acting up " . Krusty had two adult Bar Mitzvah ceremonies : a Hollywood gala which Krusty uses to stage a comeback after his show is cancelled , then a simple ceremony intended to reconnect with his father . After leaving the Lower East Side of Springfield , Krusty started his show biz career as a street mime in Tupelo , Mississippi . Krusty later discovered that he has a daughter named Sophie . He had met Sophie 's mother when she served as a soldier in the Gulf War and he was entertaining the troops . After spending the night together , he prevented her from assassinating Saddam Hussein to protect his Saddam @-@ themed comedy act . After that she started hating clowns , and kept their daughter a secret from Krusty .

Krusty has his own show on Channel 6 in Springfield : The Krusty the Clown Show , which is aimed towards a children 's audience and has many followers , including Bart Simpson . Krusty has licensed the show to dozens of countries , including Ireland , China , Jamaica , and Romania , that produce localized versions . Some of the early details of Krusty 's career have been revealed in clips , but he himself has been contradictory . For example , Krusty once said that he was banned from television for consecutive 10 and 22 year periods - the first after saying " pants " on the air in " Day of the Jackanapes " during a sketch about the Sputnik satellite , and the second after a disastrous appearance on Rowan & Martin 's Laugh In , where the trap door he was supposed to appear through failed to open - taking him from 1957 to 89 . Yet he was back on TV as early as 1961 - an episode of Krusty 's show exists from that year in which he interviews AFL @-@ CIO president George Meany . Krusty 's show has gone through various phases : a clip from 1963 shows Krusty interviewing Robert Frost then dumping a load of snow on the poet . The show later took a different turn , featuring Ravi Shankar as a guest and having Krusty howl a drugged @-@ out version of The Doors ' " Break on Through ( To the Other Side ) " in 1973 . By the 1980s , the show had devolved into a children 's entertainment show . During the series , the Krusty the Clown Show is shown to be aimed almost entirely at children and features many characters , including Sideshow Mel , Mr. Teeny , Tina Ballerina , and Corporal Punishment . Sideshow Bob used to be Krusty 's main

sidekick , but years of constant abuse led to Bob framing Krusty for armed robbery , although Bob was eventually foiled by Bart. Bob has since been replaced by Sideshow Mel , who has remained loyal to Krusty . He seems to retire from and then get back into show business repeatedly throughout his career . His most recent retirement was almost permanent because of recently paroled Sideshow Bob 's latest scheme ? wiring plastic explosives to a hypnotized Bart and sending him up on stage . When Krusty makes a tribute to Bob at the last minute , however , Bob has a change of heart and stops Bart from fulfilling his mission . Bob and Krusty were later reconciled , with Krusty exclaiming that Bob 's attempts at Krusty 's life make his ratings shoot through the roof . This reconciliation remains for the rest of the series , as Bob abandons his attempts for revenge on Krusty in favor of targeting Bart exclusively .

Bart Simpson is one of Krusty 's biggest fans . In the episode " Krusty Gets Busted " ( Season 1 , Episode 12 ) he declared " I 've based my life on Krusty 's teachings " and sleeps in a room filled with Krusty merchandise . He exposed Sideshow Bob 's attempted framing , helped Krusty return to the air with a comeback special and reignite his career and reunited Krusty with his estranged father . For his part , Krusty is usually grateful for Bart 's assistance , but will almost immediately forget about it , presumably due to his excessive drinking and drug habits , and usually doesn 't even remember his name next time they encounter each other . One summer , Bart enthusiastically attended Kamp Krusty , largely because of the promise that he would get to spend his summer with Krusty . The camp turned out to be a disaster , with Krusty nowhere to be seen , as the camp was simply a franchise location that Krusty had licensed his image to . Bart kept his hopes up by believing that Krusty would show up , but one day the camp director Mr Black brought in Barney Gumble with clown makeup masquerading as Krusty . This pushed Bart over the edge . He decided that he was sick of Krusty 's shoddy merchandise and took over the camp . Krusty immediately visited the camp in hopes of ending the conflict and managed to appease Bart.

Krusty is a multimillionaire who amassed his fortune mostly by licensing his name and image to a variety of substandard products and services , from Krusty alarm clocks to Krusty crowd control barriers . Many of these products are potentially dangerous , such as Krusty 's brand of cereal , which in one episode boasted a jagged metal Krusty @-@ O in each box . One of many lawsuits regarding these products was launched by Bart , who ate a jagged metal Krusty @-@ O and had to have his appendix removed . The " Krusty Corporation " , the company responsible for Krusty 's licensing , has also launched a series of disastrous promotions and business ventures , such as sponsoring the 1984 Summer Olympics with a rigged promotion that backfired when the Soviet Union boycotted the games , causing Krusty to lose \$ 44 million . In the TV series and comic books Krusty is also the mascot and owner of the restaurant Krusty Burger . He has been shut down by the health board many times for everything from overworking employees to stapling together half @-@ eaten burgers to make new ones , as well as using beef infected with Mad Cow Disease to save money . Krusty wastes money almost as fast as he earns it : lighting his cigarettes with hundred @-@ dollar bills , eating condor @-@ egg omelettes , spending huge sums on pornographic magazines , and losing a fortune gambling on everything from horse races to operas and betting against the Harlem Globetrotters .

Krusty is a hard @-@ living entertainment veteran , sometimes depicted as a jaded , burned @-@ out has @-@ been , who has been down and out several times and remains addicted to gambling , cigarettes , alcohol , Percodan , Pepto @-@ Bismol , and Xanax . He instantly becomes depressed as soon as the cameras stop rolling ; Marge states in " The Sweetest Apu " , that , " off camera , he 's a desperately unhappy man " . Krusty appeared to have used cocaine , one time emerging from a restaurant bathroom with white powder under his nose , but he explained that he was simply researching a part for a film , in which he played himself . In his book Planet Simpson , author Chris Turner describes Krusty as " the wizened veteran , the total pro " who lives the celebrity life . He is miserable but he needs his celebrity status . In " Bart the Fink " , Bart inadvertently reported Krusty for tax fraud to the Internal Revenue Service and as a result Krusty lost most of his money . Bart soon discovered that Krusty had faked his death and was living as Rory B. Bellows on a boat . Krusty declared that he was finished with the life of a celebrity and was unconvinced when Bart reminded him of his fans and his entourage . Finally , Bart told Krusty that leaving show business

would mean losing his celebrity status , which convinced Krusty to return . Krusty has been described as " the consummate showman who can 't bear the possibility of not being on the air and not entertaining people . "

In the fourteenth season , Bart convinced Krusty to run for Congress so that Krusty could introduce an airline rerouting bill and stop planes from flying over the Simpsons ' house . Krusty agreed and ran on the Republican ticket . Although his campaign started off badly , Lisa suggested that he try connecting with regular families , which Krusty did , resulting in a landslide victory . Krusty 's term started off badly , as he was completely ignored by his new , more politically savvy colleagues . With the help of the Simpsons and an influential doorman , however , Krusty succeeded in passing his bill .

His body features are a third nipple , a veal @-@ shaped birthmark and a scar on his chest as a result of having a pacemaker inserted into his heart after suffering from a heart attack on the air in 1986 .

= = Character = =

= = = Creation = = =

Krusty first appeared in " The Krusty the Clown Show " , one of The Simpsons shorts from The Tracey Ullman Show that first aired on January 15 , 1989 . The character was partially inspired by TV clown " Rusty Nails " whom The Simpsons creator Matt Groening and director Brad Bird watched as children while growing up in Portland , Oregon . Groening describes Rusty Nails as being a sweet clown whose show sometimes had a Christian message , but whose name scared Groening . Dan Castellaneta based his voice characterization on Chicago television 's Bob Bell who had a very raspy voice and portrayed WGN @-@ TV 's Bozo the Clown from 1960 to 1984 .

Many events in Krusty 's life parallel those of comedian Jerry Lewis , including his Jewish background , addiction to Percodan , and hosting of telethons . When asked , Groening has simply noted that " [ Simpsons ] characters are collaborations between the writers , animators , and actors " without specifically confirming or denying the association .

Krusty 's appearance and design is essentially that of Homer Simpson with clown makeup . Groening said that " The satirical conceit that I was going for at the time was that The Simpsons was about a kid who had no respect for his father , but worshiped a clown who looked exactly like his father " , a theme which became less important as the show developed . One concept initially saw Krusty being revealed as Homer 's secret identity but the idea was dropped for being too complex and because the writers were too busy developing the series . Krusty was originally just a normal man wearing clown makeup , but David Silverman noted that " at some point , we decided he looked [ like a clown ] all the time . " The producers had long discussions about whether or not Krusty would always remain in his clown makeup but eventually decided that it did not matter . The writers had tried showing Krusty 's real face a few times in early episodes , but decided that it did not look right , although his real face was seen in " Krusty Gets Busted " and " Like Father , Like Clown " . Later episodes made jokes about Krusty 's face . In " Homer 's Triple Bypass " , Krusty reveals that his " grotesque appearance " is the result of multiple heart attacks . Homer remarks that he seems fine , and Krusty replies , " This ain 't makeup . " In " Bart the Fink " , he abandons an idea to sail away with a new identity and swims towards shore , leaving a trail of yellow makeup in his wake and his natural white face underneath . On shore , he shakes off his black hair , revealing his natural green clown hair , and removes his normal @-@ looking fake nose to reveal his natural red bulbous clown nose underneath .

= = = Development = = =

The third season episode " Like Father , Like Clown " is the first to establish that Krusty is Jewish . Krusty 's religion had not been part of the original concept , and the idea came from Jay Kogen . The

episode is a parody of *The Jazz Singer* , which is about a son with a strict religious upbringing who defies his father to become an entertainer . In order to make " *Like Father , Like Clown* " a full parody of *The Jazz Singer* , the decision was made to make Krusty Jewish and have his father be a Rabbi . Krusty 's real last name , Krustofski , was pitched by Al Jean . Krusty 's father , Rabbi Hyman Krustofski was played by Jackie Mason , who won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance for the episode . It was established in " *Krusty Gets Busted* " that Krusty is illiterate . This was shown in subsequent episodes like " *Itchy & Scratchy & Marge* " but the trait was dropped after the first few seasons because it was hard for the writers to write for an illiterate character .

Krusty 's design has undergone several subtle changes since the early years . For the episode " *Homie the Clown* " , Krusty 's design was permanently enhanced and he was given a different shaped mouth muzzle and permanent bags under his eyes in order to distinguish him from Homer . In the episode " *Lisa 's Wedding* " , which is set fifteen years in the future , Krusty 's design was significantly altered to make him look considerably older and was based on Groucho Marx .

Krusty is a favorite character of several of the original writers , many of whom related themselves to him and wanted to write the Krusty focused episodes . Krusty was used as a chance for show business jokes and thus many of Krusty 's experiences and anecdotes are based on real experiences and stories heard by the writers . He was a particular favorite of Brad Bird , who directed the first two Krusty episodes and always tried to animate a scene in every Krusty episode .

In 1992 , Matt Groening and James L. Brooks began planning a live @-@ action spinoff from *The Simpsons* that revolved around Krusty and would star Dan Castellaneta . They pitched the series in 1994 . Groening and Michael Weithorn wrote a pilot script where Krusty moved to Los Angeles and got his own talk show . A recurring joke throughout the script was that Krusty lived in a house on wooden stilts which were continuously being gnawed by beavers . Eventually , the contract negotiations fell apart and Groening decided to stop work on the project .

= = Reception = =

In 2004 , Dan Castellaneta won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance in " *Today I Am a Clown* " , an episode that heavily features Krusty . Several episodes featuring Krusty have been very well received . In 2007 , *Vanity Fair* named " *Krusty Gets Kancelled* " as the ninth best episode of *The Simpsons* . John Ortved felt , " This is Krusty 's best episode ? better than the reunion with his father , or the Bar Mitzvah episode , which won an Emmy much later on . The incorporation of guest stars as themselves is topnotch , and we get to see the really dark side of Krusty 's flailing showbiz career . Hollywood , television , celebrities , and fans are all beautifully skewered here . " Matt Groening cites " *Krusty Gets Busted* " as his ninth favorite episode and has said that he particularly loves Castellaneta 's voice work . Groening claims that he has to leave the room every time Castellaneta records as Krusty for fear of ruining the take . *Star News Online* named " *Krusty the Clown 's hatred of children* " , *Kamp Krusty* , and Krusty 's line " All these rules , I feel like I 'm in a strip club " as some of the four hundred reasons why they loved *The Simpsons* . *The Observer* listed two Krusty products , " *Krusty 's Non @-@ Toxic Kologne* " and " *Krusty 's home pregnancy kit* " , as part of their list of the three hundred reasons why they loved the show .

In 2003 , Krusty was included in a special history of Jewish entertainers exhibit at the Jewish Museum in New York City .

= = Merchandise = =

Krusty has been included in many *Simpsons* publications , toys and other merchandise . Krusty @-@ themed merchandise includes dolls , posters , figurines , Jack @-@ in @-@ the @-@ boxes , Pint glasses , bobblehead dolls , costumes , and clothing such as T @-@ shirts . Playmates Toys has made a talking evil Krusty doll , based on the one that appeared in " *Treehouse of Horror III* " . In 1992 , Acclaim Entertainment released the video game *Krusty 's Fun House* for PC and home

consoles . Krusty was made into an action figure , and several different versions were included as part of the World of Springfield toy line . The first , which shows Krusty in his normal clown attire with several Krusty products , was released in 2000 as part of " wave one " . The second , released in 2002 as part of " wave nine " , is called " busted Krusty " and shows him in a prison and without his clown makeup , as he was seen in " Krusty Gets Busted " . The third was released in 2003 as part of " wave thirteen " and was called " Tuxedo Krusty " . Several Krusty themed play sets were also released , including a Krusty @-@ Lu Studios and Krusty Burger playset , both released in 2001 .

In The Simpsons Ride , a simulator ride opened at Universal Studios Florida and Universal Studios Hollywood in May 2008 , Krusty builds and opens a cartoon theme park called Krustyland . Sideshow Bob makes an appearance and tries to murder the Simpson family . In July 2007 , convenience store chain 7 @-@ Eleven converted eleven of its stores in the United States and one in Canada into Kwik @-@ E @-@ Marts to celebrate the release of The Simpsons Movie . Amongst the products sold were " Krusty @-@ O 's " , which were made by Malt @-@ O @-@ Meal .

Krusty The Clown is also a playable character in Lego Dimensions