

= Degrassi : The Next Generation =

Degrassi : The Next Generation (later renamed Degrassi for seasons ten through fourteen) is a Canadian teen drama television series set in the Degrassi universe , which was created by Linda Schuyler and Kit Hood in 1979 . It is the fourth series in the Degrassi franchise , following The Kids of Degrassi Street , Degrassi Junior High , and Degrassi High . Like its predecessors , the series follows an ensemble cast of students at Degrassi Community School who face various challenges often seen as taboo such as sex , teen pregnancy , date rape , drug abuse , self image , homosexuality , self @-@ injury , suicide , abortion , domestic violence , death , racism and many other issues .

The series was created by Linda Schuyler and Yan Moore , and is produced by Epitome Pictures (a subsidiary of DHX Media) in association with Bell Media . The current executive producers are Schuyler , her husband Stephen Stohn and Brendon Yorke . The series is filmed at Epitome 's studios in Toronto , Ontario , rather than on the real De Grassi Street from which the franchise takes its name .

Degrassi : The Next Generation has been a critical success and has often received favourable reviews from Entertainment Weekly , The New York Times , and AfterElton.com. In its initial years , it was frequently the most watched domestic drama series in Canada , and one of the highest @-@ rated shows on TeenNick in the United States .

In 2004 , one episode received just under a million viewers in Canada , and over half a million viewers in the US . The series has won numerous awards , from the Geminis , Writers Guild of Canada and Directors Guild of Canada , and internationally from the Teen Choice Awards , Young Artist Awards , and Prix Jeunesse .

The series premiered on CTV on October 14 , 2001 . During the ninth season in 2010 , the series moved to MuchMusic . The tenth season marked a change in production style , which saw the series become a telenovela , a daily soap opera @-@ style format , during the summer months , while the rest of the season aired during the standard fall @-@ spring schedule on a weekly basis . The thirteenth season reverted to a weekly schedule and , part way through , moved to MTV Canada .

The series has been syndicated on cable television , and episodes are available on DVD and in new media download formats from Puretracks , the iTunes Store , and the Xbox Live Marketplace . Internationally , Degrassi : The Next Generation has been highly successful in the US , where it was broadcast on TeenNick , as well as being broadcast in 140 other countries .

The Next Generation aired its final episode on August 2 , 2015 , after MTV Canada and TeenNick announced the show 's cancellation . However , in 2016 , the show , re @-@ titled Degrassi : Next Class , will move to Family Channel in Canada and stream on Netflix in the United States as well as all other countries where the service is available (excluding Australia , France , and Canada until later 2016) .

= = Production = =

= = = Concept = = =

The Degrassi universe was created in 1979 by Playing With Time , a production company owned by former school teacher Linda Schuyler and her partner Kit Hood . The franchise began with The Kids of Degrassi Street , which was spawned out of three half @-@ hour short films . Degrassi Junior High followed in 1987 , Degrassi High premiered in 1989 , and the television movie School 's Out aired in 1992 .

Schuyler and original Degrassi series head writer Yan Moore began developing a new television drama in 1999 . As the months progressed , they began to think about what had happened to the characters of Degrassi High to develop a school @-@ reunion theme . However , they decided that a series would not work effectively if based around adults instead of children . Moore realized that the character Emma Nelson , born at the end of Degrassi Junior High 's second season , would

soon be entering junior high school , and development for the series took a new direction by focusing on Emma and her school experiences .

Schuyler 's husband Stephen Stohn suggested Degrassi : The Next Generation as the name for the new sequel series , borrowing the concept from Star Trek : The Next Generation , of which he was a fan . The project was pitched to CTV in May 2000 , with the originally planned reunion episode serving as the pilot to the new series .

= = = Executive producers , script @-@ writers and directors = = =

Produced by Epitome Pictures Inc , in association with CTVglobemedia , renamed Bell Media in 2011 , Degrassi receives funding from Canadian Television Fund and BCE the Shaw Rocket Fund , Mountain Cable Program and the Royal Bank of Canada , the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund , and the Cogeco Program Development Fund .

Linda Schuyler and Stephen Stohn have served as executive producers since the series began . Other Epitome Pictures employees and series crew members have also been credited with the title , including Sara Snow , Brendon Yorke , James Hurst , Aaron Martin . , and Sarah Glinski .

Sarah Glinski and Matt Huether are the current story editors , a position previously filled by Shelley Scarrow , James Hurst , Aaron Martin , and Sean Reycraft . Frequent directors include Phil Earnshaw , Stefan Scaini and Bruce McDonald . When production of season three began , a user on the official Degrassi : The Next Generation website with the alias " ExecProducer " began a forum thread titled " Shooting Season 3 " , revealing production details , guest actors , scheduling information and DVD release details . He referred to himself as " Stephen Stohn " in one post , although it was not until the release of Degrassi : Generations - The Official 411 in 2005 , that Stohn confirmed he was the poster and it was not an imposter .

= = = Episode format = = =

Each episode of Degrassi is written following the same formula with two or three storylines (Plot A , Plot B and Plot C) . The main storyline , A , opens and closes the episode and is usually driven by a single character . Plot B is usually more comedic in tone and sometimes slightly intertwined with the other stories , often moving story arcs forward . Plot C was usually used sporadically in a season @-@ long arc , but is now used in every episode as comedic relief . The problems and issues presented in the episode are not always resolved by the end of the episode , and are carried over to the next , or create a mini @-@ arc over several episodes . The majority of episodes are named after songs from the 1980s , and since the tenth season , episodes are named after songs from the 1990s to the present , representing the entering of a new decade and a completely different cast from the earlier seasons . For the first nine seasons , Degrassi : The Next Generation had been produced as a weekly half @-@ hour teen comedy @-@ drama series , with each season consisting of between fifteen and twenty @-@ four episodes .

Due to falling viewing figures between seasons six and nine , the series developed a daily soap opera format for the summer run of the tenth season , and increased the number of episodes to forty @-@ four . The tenth season also dropped the tagline " The Next Generation " , with only one original cast member remaining , and due to the young audience unfamiliar with the past generation , referring to the series as " Degrassi " . Season 13 reverted to airing episodes weekly , but still produced more episodes than prior to the soap opera format , airing a block in the summer of 2013 and also the summer of 2014 .

= = = Opening sequence = = =

The Degrassi opening sequence follows a two- to three @-@ minute cold open . During the first five seasons these credits showed the characters on the school premises and followed a mini storyline . Seasons six and seven featured titles with the actors breaking the fourth wall and facing the camera , over a montage of character videos from past seasons , saturated with blue colour and gold

outlines . The montages behind the characters depicting a major event in that character 's storyline . For the eighth season , the show abandoned the style of titles used for the previous two seasons and returned to the original form of showing the characters at school while participating in school @-@ related activities . Season thirteen dropped the opening credits , replacing it with an eleven @-@ second montage . This continued into season fourteen . Instead of listing every ensemble actor , after the montage , season thirteen and fourteen episodes credit only the regular actors appearing in that episode .

The theme music , " Whatever It Takes " , was composed by Jim McGrath , with lyrics written by Jody Colero and Stephen Stohn . The song include lines such as , " Whatever it takes , I know I can make it through / Be the best , the best I can be " , to convey what Colero calls , " a sense of joy and optimism . " Lisa Dalbello performed the lyrics with a children 's choir over an 1980s pop music style tune during the first three seasons . Dave Ogilvie and Anthony Valcic of Canadian industrial @-@ pop group Jakalope reworked and performed the song with a heavier sound , reflecting the growing maturity of the characters in season four . For seasons six and seven , the theme ? still performed by Jakalope ? was remixed and stripped of vocals . A fourth version of the theme song , with lyrics sung by Damhnait Doyle , was introduced for the eighth season , and a fifth version of the theme , performed by the in @-@ show band " Stüdz " is used for the ninth and tenth seasons . For seasons eleven and twelve , a sixth version of the theme song is used , performed by Alexz Johnson . Seasons thirteen and fourteen featured a truncated version of the Alexz Johnson theme .

= = = Music = = =

Jim McGrath creates the musical score for each episode using an instrumental version of the theme music . He also works with actors such as Jake Epstein , Melissa McIntyre and Jamie Johnston , when writing music for their characters Craig Manning , Ashley Kerwin , and Peter Stone to perform in the bands Downtown Sasquatch , Paige Michalchuk and the Sexkittens (PMS) , Hell Hath No Fury , and Stüdz . In addition to being scored , Degrassi features a mix of original emo , alternative rock and pop music . Popular songs are used sparingly in the series , mainly because of budget constraints . Usually , music supervisor Jody Colero selects songs from little @-@ known , unsigned Canadian artists . When these songs are included , they originate from a diegetic source . Examples of this can be seen in the first season episode " Jagged Little Pill " , when well @-@ known songs are played during Ashley 's house party , at the wedding reception in the fifth season episode " Weddings , Parties , Anything " , and during the party scene in the seventh season episode " Everything She Wants " .

= = = Filming locations = = =

The Degrassi universe is set on De Grassi Street in Toronto , Ontario . The four previous series were filmed on and near the street . However , Degrassi is filmed at Epitome Pictures ' four soundstages and backlot located at the company 's 100 @, @ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (9 @, @ 300 m2) production studios in Toronto . The facade of Degrassi Community School is the exterior of Studio C , and uses the same colours and glass pattern as Centennial College , which was used to depict the school during Degrassi High . The area in front of this facade features a " hoarding area " where students gather , a street , and a bus stop across the road . The studio 's backlot is used for exterior shots of the characters ' houses , which is one unit dressed differently for each house , and The Dot Grill . The building for The Dot is the only one on the backlot large enough to allow filming inside ; scenes taking places inside the school and house interiors are filmed on one of four sound stages .

Studio A contains sets for the school 's hallways , washrooms , cafeteria and classrooms . The hallways are stenciled with phrases such as " the perfect human being is all human " , which were found at the Etobicoke School for the Arts , one of the many schools that set designers used during their original research . The washroom set has graffiti on the walls to look authentic , and is used for the girls ' and boys ' room ; urinals are installed and removed as needed . The set used for the

cafeteria is " purposefully bland to take the edge off the rest of the school looking so beautiful . " It is also used as the studio 's cafeteria where the cast and crew eat .

In addition to being used as the exterior of the school , Studio C holds sets for the school 's entrance foyer , the gymnasium , the media lab and a hallway with lockers . As the series progressed and the budget increased , a stairway and balcony was installed in the foyer in an attempt to get characters off the floor and not all appear in the same geometric plane . For the first few seasons , the gym floor was made of real wooden floorboards ; due to warping , it was replaced by concrete painted to look like wood .

Studio B contains the sets for the characters ' houses and The Core newspaper office which was introduced in season six . It also held sets for Instant Star , another Epitome Pictures production . The fourth studio , Studio D , houses all the production offices , dressing rooms , and make @-@ up and hair departments . The pool hall and university campus club sets were built in Studio D for the seventh season .

York University 's Keele Campus in Toronto served as the location for various sites at Smithdale University .

= = Episodes = =

= = Cast = =

= = = Main roles = = =

For the new generation of students , producers auditioned over six hundred school @-@ aged children in an attempt to provide characters to which the teenaged target @-@ audience could relate . The decision to cast age @-@ similar actors was purposeful to contrast the series from other shows of the same period such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Dawson 's Creek , which had cast actors in their twenties as teenagers .

Eleven children were given star billing in the first season . Sarah Barrable @-@ Tishauer portrayed the lonely high @-@ achiever Liberty Van Zandt . Daniel Clark played bad @-@ boy Sean Cameron . Lauren Collins was cast as Paige Michalchuk , the school 's head cheerleader and queen bee . Ryan Cooley portrayed class clown James Tiberius " J.T. " Yorke , with Jake Goldsbie cast as J.T. ' s best friend , Toby Isaacs , a computer geek . Aubrey " Drake " Graham portrayed basketball star Jimmy Brooks , who is from a wealthy family . Shane Kippel played school bully Gavin " Spinner " Mason . Miriam McDonald was cast as Emma Nelson , an environmental rights activist , with Cassie Steele cast in the role of Emma 's best friend , Manuela " Manny " Santos . Melissa McIntyre portrayed Ashley Kerwin , the perfect girl who attracts the popular boys , and who the other girls are jealous of . Christina Schmidt portrayed the overweight and insecure Terri McGreggor .

Providing ties to the previous series in the Degrassi universe , Stefan Brogren was approached to play his old character Archie " Snake " Simpson , now working at the school as the media immersion teacher . Dan Woods reprised his role as English teacher Mr. Raditch , now promoted to school principal , and Pat Mastroianni returned to his role as Joey Jeremiah . Amanda Stepto also returned to the franchise to play her character Christine " Spike " Nelson in a recurring role .

In the pilot episode , former Degrassi Junior High and Degrassi High actors Danah Jean Brown (Trish Skye) , Darrin Brown (Dwayne Myers) , Michael Carry (Simon Dexter) , Irene Courakos (Alexa Pappadopoulos) , Chrissa Erodoutou (Diana Economopoulos) , Anais Granofsky (Lucy Fernandez) , Rebecca Haines (Kathleen Mead) , Sarah Holmes (Alison Hunter) , Neil Hope (Derek " Wheels " Wheeler) , Kyra Levy (Maya Goldberg) , Cathy Keenan (Liz O 'Rourke) , Stacie Mistysyn (Caitlin Ryan) , and Siluck Saysanasy (Yick Yu) reprised their roles for the class reunion storyline .

In season two , Mastroianni returned to the Degrassi franchise in a starring role as Joey Jeremiah , a car salesman and single father of two children . Joey 's stepson , musician Craig Manning , played

by Jake Epstein , is a new student at Degrassi Community School . Three other new characters were introduced in season two in recurring roles . Stacey Farber played Ellie Nash , a goth whose home life is in turmoil , and Adamo Ruggiero portrayed Marco Del Rossi , who is struggling to accept the reality that he is homosexual . Melissa Di Marco was cast as science and gym teacher Daphne Hatzilakos . Mistysyn also returned to her former Degrassi role as Joey 's ex @-@ high school sweetheart , Caitlyn Ryan , who in the years following graduation has become a world @-@ renowned journalist .

In season three , Farber , Ruggiero and Mistysyn were given regular roles , as were Andrea Lewis (Hazel Aden) and Stepto , who had held recurring roles since the first season . Mike Lobel (Jay Hogart) , Deanna Casaluce (Alex Nuñez) , Ephraim Ellis (Rick Murray) and John Bregar (Dylan Michalchuk) were introduced in recurring roles as new students . Towards the end of the season , Schmidt 's character , Terri McGreggor , was written out of the show when her possessive boyfriend Rick pushed her to the ground and knocked her head against a rock , causing her to fall into a coma .

Over the course of the ten seasons of Degrassi : The Next Generation , there have been several departures from the series . Season six depicted the first death of one of the show 's main characters when J.T. Yorke was stabbed and killed . Clark 's character Sean Cameron has been written out of the show twice . He left the series during the fourth season in the wake of the death of Rick Murray , and returned for the sixth season , but departed the series again at the end of the season . At the end of season five several main characters graduated from Degrassi Community School , and either left the series or went on to university . Six new characters were introduced in season seven in a storyline where nearby rival high school Lakehurst merged with Degrassi following a fire . Season eight saw many changes when many of the existing cast members , including Collins , Farber , Graham , Stepto , Ruggiero , and DiMarco either moved to recurring status or left the series entirely . The exodus of several major cast members was reportedly an executive decision that left the actors and producers on bad terms , with Graham stating in an interview with Vibe that " [the producers] did us foul . " Thirteen actors were added to the main cast to replace them . By season nine , Brogren , McDonald , Steele and Kippel were the only actors from season one who remained in the series as storylines began to focus on a new generation of children attending the school . This was done to avoid moving the show to a primarily college setting , as the first generation cast aged or " graduated " out of Degrassi Community School into college .

As of season 10 , none of the characters from the earlier seasons remain , with the exception of Brogren , whose character has been promoted to the principal of Degrassi Community School ; the series now centres on the new generation of Degrassi students .

= = = Guest roles = = =

Besides Brogren , Mistysyn , Stepto , and Mastroianni having starring roles , other actors from Degrassi Junior High and Degrassi High have returned to guest star in their old roles throughout Degrassi : The Next Generation 's run . As well as the pilot episode featuring the return of many Degrassi alumni , Granofsky made a second guest appearance during the second season in the episode " White Wedding " when her character attends the wedding of Spike and Snake . In a fifth season episode , Keenan and Hope guest star when their characters return to console Spike and Snake after their marriage breaks down .

Movie director Kevin Smith has been a fan of the Degrassi series from the early 1990s , when he worked at a convenience store in Leonardo , New Jersey . Actor Jason Mewes was his co @-@ worker at the store and also became a fan . Every Sunday morning at work , Smith and Mewes watched episodes of Degrassi Junior High and Degrassi High on Public Broadcasting Service . Smith enjoyed the earlier series and has acknowledged an infatuation with Stacie Mistysyn . He has also paid homage to Degrassi by referring to it in several of his films . He named a Clerks character Caitlin Bree after Mistysin 's Degrassi character , Caitlin Ryan , wrote Shannen Doherty 's character Rene wearing a Degrassi jacket throughout his Mallrats film , and had Jason Lee 's character in Chasing Amy specifically mention Degrassi Junior High as a TV show he wants to watch , rather

than going out . Smith and Mewes guest starred as themselves in the final three episodes of the fourth season . The plot for these episodes involves the pair working on Jay and Silent Bob Go Canadian , Eh ! , a fictional feature film in the View Askewniverse , using Degrassi Community School as a filming location .

Singer Alanis Morissette , who had worked with Smith , also guest stars in " Going Down the Road Part One " as herself , acting as the school principal in Smith 's film . Smith and Mewes return to Degrassi : The Next Generation as themselves for two episodes in season five . The storyline in the episodes was of the premiere of Jay and Silent Bob Go Canadian , Eh ! Alanis Morissette made a cameo appearance as the school principal when scenes from the film were shown during its premiere screening . Smith and Mewes guest starred a third time for four episodes in season eight when many of the characters travelled to Hollywood , Los Angeles . In the episodes , Mewes is the writer @-@ director and protagonist of Mewesical High , which stars a number of Degrassi Community School students . Smith appears in the episodes to support Mewes as he makes his directorial debut .

Other actors to appear in Degrassi : The Next Generation include Jayne Eastwood as Sean Cameron 's mother , Billy Ray Cyrus as Duke , a limousine driver who gets arrested , the result of which leaves Jimmy , Hazel , Paige , and Spinner stranded in the street . Season seven featured appearances from Shirley Douglas as a university professor , Free The Children founder Craig Kielburger , and English pop singer Natasha Bedingfield as themselves . Jonathan Torrens guest starred as Emma 's father , Shane , in the two @-@ part season three premiere . The character had been played by Bill Parrott in the original series , but he decided not to return the former role . In season 10 , ballroom dancer Jean @-@ Marc G  n  reux appears as a teacher , in the episodes Adam 's transgender secret is revealed . After moving to MuchMusic cameos became more frequent , including Keke Palmer , Ben Mulroney , Chaz Bono , Hedley , and Fefe Dobson .

= = Broadcast and distribution = =

= = = First run broadcast = = =

While the earlier Degrassi series aired in Canada on CBC , Degrassi is broadcast on Bell Media @-@ owned stations . Until mid @-@ season nine , it aired on the CTV Television Network , but due to a decline in viewing figures since season seven , it moved to sister channel MuchMusic in 2010 . In 2013 , following a revamp of MuchMusic 's schedule , the show moved to the Canadian version of MTV .

In the United States , where the earlier Degrassi series aired on PBS , Degrassi aired on digital cable network TeenNick (previously The N) , and is the longest @-@ running program on the channel , having aired since the channel 's launch in 2002 . Seasons six and seven premiered on The N before they aired on CTV .

In June 2015 , both MTV Canada and TeenNick announced that they would not renew the show . On June 9 , 2015 , Epitome Pictures announced that a sequel , Degrassi : Next Class , would premiere on Family Channel , a pay channel owned by DHX Media , in January 2016 . In the United States (and internationally) , first @-@ run episodes will move to Netflix . Episodes will become available on Netflix in Canada following the conclusion of the season .

In Australia , ABC1 screened the first three seasons in its " ABC Kids " line @-@ up and started airing the entire series on ABC3 in 2010 , also broadcast on Nickelodeon then later MTV .

= = = Post @-@ broadcast distribution = = =

In Canada , strip repeats of Degrassi : The Next Generation have aired on CTV Two and MTV2 , which are owned by Bell Media . In the United States , independent distributor Program Partners and Sony Pictures Television , announced on September 24 , 2006 that they acquired the syndication rights to the first 119 episodes of the show in the United States , and any subsequent

new episodes .

In December 2006 , Program Partners had reached agreements with the Tribune Company for every station it owned , The CW Plus affiliated stations , and many other stations owned by major media conglomerates . Degrassi : The Next Generation was cleared in 60 % of the country including all five of the top five media markets . By March 2007 , Program Partners had cleared it in over 70 % of the country after stations owned by Hearst @-@ Argyle Television , Capitol Broadcasting Company , and ACME Communications purchased the syndication . The series meets the American FCC 's educational and informational guidelines towards children 's programming .

= = = DVD and other new media releases = = =

The first twelve seasons of Degrassi : The Next Generation have been released on DVD . The box sets are released in Canada by Alliance Home Entertainment . In the United States , FUNimation Entertainment released the first six seasons and Echo Bridge Entertainment released seasons seven through twelve . Each season boxset includes extra features such as pictures , karaoke sessions , audition tapes , bloopers , deleted scenes and more . In Australia , seasons 1 to 4 were released by Umbrella Entertainment in 2010 and 2011 . These DVDs are compatible with the region 4 code , which is in use in Australia , New Zealand , Oceania , Mexico , and Central and South America .

The three @-@ episode story arc from the fourth season in which Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes guest star has also been released as a single disc Region 1 DVD . FUNimation Entertainment released the disc on November 8 , 2005 , in two versions : the first subtitled as " Uncut , Uncensored and Unrated " , and the second , " Rated . " Each release has the same DVD extras , including an interview with Kevin Smith , bloopers and a Jay and Silent Bob Photo Album , except the Unrated release also features episode commentaries by Kevin Smith , Jason Mewes , Stacie Mistysyn , the associate producer Jim Jackman and writer Aaron Martin .

Degrassi : The Next Generation is also available in various new media formats . Episodes are streamed on the websites of MuchMusic and TeenNick to viewers with Canadian or US IP addresses . Registered users of the Canadian and American iTunes Stores can purchase episodes for playback on home computers and certain iPods . In Canada , Puretracks also offers episodes for download . They are issued as a Windows Media 10 file , and the purchaser owns them forever , although the episodes can only be burned onto a disc three times and copied to a device three times . In the US , Zune and the Xbox Live Marketplace sell every episode of the series .

= = Impact = =

= = = Television ratings = = =

With characters from Degrassi Junior High and Degrassi High appearing in Degrassi : The Next Generation , viewers of the earlier series who are in their 20s and 30s make up a dedicated fan base of the current incarnation . Approximately 40 % of the series ' viewers are outside of Degrassi : The Next Generation 's 13- to 17 @-@ year @-@ old target audience . Degrassi : The Next Generation averaged 365 @,@ 000 viewers aged 13 ? 20 years old in season one , and became the most watched domestic drama in Canada . By the end of season two , it had become the most popular Canadian show for the three youngest age groups (children aged 2 ? 12 , teenagers aged 13 ? 17 and young adults aged 18 ? 34) .

In the third season , Degrassi : The Next Generation was again the most @-@ watched all @-@ Canadian drama series , and the most watched Canadian drama among adults 18 ? 49 . A season four episode that features a school shooting received 930 @,@ 000 viewers ; at that time it was the programme 's highest @-@ ever rating . A second episode in the same season that features a storyline about oral sex also earned just under 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 viewers . Overall , the season averaged 600 @,@ 000 viewers , and was again the top Canadian drama for teens aged 13 ? 17 ,

and adults in three age brackets 18 ? 34 , 18 ? 49 and 25 ? 54 . It averaged 250 @, @ 000 viewers in the US in 2004 and was the highest rated digital cable series in the US in 2006 . While that figure is still far lower than successful shows on the " big four " networks (ABC , CBS , Fox and NBC) , the premiere episodes of earlier seasons have achieved higher audience figures with females aged 13 ? 34 . 2004 also saw the school @-@ shooting episode receive more than half a million US viewers . The fifth season drew in an average of 767 @, @ 000 viewers , with episode two of the season being watched by 1 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 viewers .

In the most recent seasons , however , the audience figures have dropped considerably . In Canada , season six was watched by fewer viewers than had watched season five ; episode fourteen was the highest @-@ viewed episode of the season , with a total of 645 @, @ 000 viewers . The season finale was watched by 520 @, @ 000 viewers , and the season overall averaged 522 @, @ 000 viewers . The average viewing figures fell again during the seventh season . The season premiere achieved the highest figures with 585 @, @ 000 viewers . This progressively dropped over the coming weeks , from 446 @, @ 000 total viewers for the third episode , to 407 @, @ 000 total viewers for the fifth episode , and continued to fall to a low of 314 @, @ 000 viewers by the tenth episode . Overall , the first twelve episodes of the season averaged 455 @, @ 000 viewers , 45 @, @ 000 less than the same number of episodes from the season six .

Viewing figures continued to fall throughout season eight ; Bill Brioux , the television columnist for The Canadian Press , was surprised that Degrassi : The Next Generation had even reached its eighth season with such poor ratings , asking " What other show in the history of Canadian or American television has so consistently drawn so few viewers yet gets renewed year after year ? " The season premiere was watched by 398 @, @ 000 viewers , almost 200 @, @ 000 viewers fewer than what the premiere of season seven achieved . Viewing figures continued to drop when episodes two and six were both watched by an average of 220 @, @ 000 viewers . At the time they were the lowest figures Degrassi : The Next Generation has ever received ; however , they continued to fall and by episode eleven , overnight ratings indicated it had received 139 @, @ 000 viewers .

The overall number of viewers rose slightly for the thirteenth episode , the first of a two @-@ parter , when it was watched by 157 @, @ 000 people , but the viewing figures for the key 18 ? 34 demographics was at a low of 81 @, @ 000 . The following week , the episode that concluded the two @-@ parter picked up viewers , reaching an estimated total of 206 @, @ 000 . Brioux commented again about Degrassi : The Next Generation still being on the schedules , wondering when CTV was going to announce its cancellation and noting that The Amazing Race , which follows it in the scheduling , was watched by ten times the number of Degrassi 's viewers . That pattern was repeated the following week , when Degrassi : The Next Generation was watched by 222 @, @ 000 viewers , compared to 1 @, @ 834 @, @ 000 viewers for The Amazing Race , 1 @, @ 579 @, @ 000 viewers for Desperate Housewives and 1 @, @ 106 @, @ 000 viewers for The Mentalist , which were broadcast by CTV later in the evening .

CTV aired two episodes back @-@ to @-@ back in the first half of season nine , and the scheduling had improved ratings . The first two episodes earned a combined figure of 471 @, @ 000 viewers , and the third and fourth episodes retained them ; they were watched by a combined 475 @, @ 000 viewers . The following week , the total viewing figures for episodes five and six had increased to 608 @, @ 000 , and remained high as the season went into hiatus in November with 572 @, @ 000 total viewers .

= = = Awards = = =

Degrassi : The Next Generation has won over fifty awards , and has been nominated for many others . The Writers Guild of Canada has awarded its Canadian Screenwriting Awards to the writers of two episodes . In 2004 , Aaron Martin , James Hurst and Shelley Scarrow won the " Best Youth Script Award " for " Pride " . The following year , the Scarrow @-@ penned episode " Secret " vied with " Mercy Street " , written by James Hurst and Miklos Perlus for the " Best Youth Script Award " . " Mercy Street " won . The series has been nominated for fourteen Directors Guild of Canada

Awards . In the " Outstanding Achievement in a Television Series ? Children 's " group category , the Bruce McDonald helmed " Mother and Child Reunion " (nominated 2002) and " When Doves Cry " (nominated 2003) were winners .

" White Wedding " , also directed by McDonald , won the award in 2003 for " Outstanding Achievement in Direction ? Television Series " . McDonald 's " Holiday " (nominated 2004) , and Stefan Scaini 's " Time Stands Still , part 2 " (nominated 2005) won the group categories for " Outstanding Achievement in a Television Series ? Family " . " Can 't Hardly Wait " and " Pass the Dutchie " were also nominated in that category in 2007 and 2008 , respectively , but failed to win the awards . Stephen Withrow has picked up two awards in the " Outstanding Achievement in Picture Editing " category , for " Mother and Child Reunion " in 2002 and " When Doves Cry " in 2003 . Degrassi : The Next Generation has won seventeen Gemini Awards since 2002 , and has been nominated in twenty @-@ six other categories . In 2010 , producer Linda Schuyler received the Academy Achievement Award .

Degrassi : The Next Generation has also seen awards success internationally . It was nominated for a " Best Children 's Television Programme " Prix Jeunesse in Germany in 2004 , and has been nominated at the GLAAD Media Awards four times . In 2004 , the show received a nomination in the Outstanding Drama Series category , but lost to the sports drama Playmakers . It was nominated in the same category again in 2008 , but lost to Brothers & Sisters . In 2005 , Degrassi : The Next Generation won the Television Critics Association Award for " Outstanding Achievement in Children 's Programming " . It was only the second time that a non @-@ United States series has won an award in this category (the first time was Degrassi Junior High in 1988) .

The Young Artist Awards has been recognising actors in the Degrassi franchise since 1987 . Degrassi : The Next Generation was nominated for four awards in its first year . Ryan Cooley and Jake Goldsbie were nominated in the " Best Leading Young Actor Performance in a TV Comedy Series " category , but lost to Frankie Muniz from Malcolm in the Middle . The series won the award for " Best Ensemble in a Comedy or Drama TV Series " category . A year later , Jake Epstein won the Young Artist Award in the category for " Best Leading Young Actor Performance in a TV Comedy Series " . In 2005 , Christina Schmidt tied with Alia Shawkat of Arrested Development to win the award for " Best Supporting Young Actress Performance in a TV Comedy Series " , and Jamie Johnston won the 2008 category for " Best Leading Young Actor Performance in a TV Series " . Young Artist Awards were awarded again in 2012 , with both Cristine Prosperi and A.J. Saudin winning awards in the Lead Young Actress and Recurring Young Actor categories respectively . However , they both tied with another in their category .

At the Teen Choice Awards , children aged between twelve and nineteen vote for each category 's winner . The series has been nominated three times in the " Choice Summer TV Show " category , and has won twice , in 2005 and 2007 . The episode " My Body Is a Cage " , where Adam 's transgender secret is revealed , earned a Peabody Award , and a Creative Arts Emmy Award nomination in 2011 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Degrassi : The Next Generation has received generally positive reviews . Entertainment Weekly has called it " a cult hit " , and The New York Times named it " Tha Best Teen TV N da WRld (The best teen TV in the world) " . Of the first season , The Ottawa Citizen 's Tony Atherton had mixed feelings of the new incarnation , saying it " has a cleaner , more polished look , has lost its edge [and offers] nothing new to viewers familiar with the groundbreaking preceding series , nor to anyone else who has watched the deluge of teen dramas since ... there is a sense of déjà vu with regards to the plots and characters " . He did , however , praise the show for having " the same simple narrative told from a kid 's viewpoint , and the same regard for unvarnished reality [as Degrassi Junior High and Degrassi High] " .

Before its debut in the United States , The Seattle Times ' Melanie McFarland wondered whether the series would do well , writing : " soft @-@ pedaling through the issues might work for today 's family of viewers , but what 's gentle enough for Mom and Dad 's peace of mind might not be

enough to hook Junior or the original Degrassi 's older fans " . The issues that the characters experience have often been commented on in the media . It has been noted that the series never attempts to hide from depicting honest accounts of the trials and tribulations that real teenagers may often experience . Sarah Liss from CBC News said that despite often being corny and soap opera @-@ y , Degrassi : The Next Generation tackles issues that other genre series prefer to gloss over , and was part of her essential viewing . She named the series one of " the [ten] most important television shows of the 2000s " , and was the only children 's series , and the only Canadian television series , to appear on the list , which included Mad Men , Lost , the CSI franchise , and Sex and the City .

In 2008 , Jeffrey Bento @-@ Carrier described one storyline that showed a teacher being accused of sexually assaulting one of his students as " shock [ing] " , adding that " Degrassi is not for everyone , mainly because it 's an honest account what it 's like to be a teen in a society which values cliques and confrontation over truth and real growth . " Brian Orloff of the St. Petersburg Times echoed the sentiments , and praised the series for " stay [ing] in touch with teens ' lives " .

In spite of these comments , The N held back one of the more controversial episodes of the first season , which showed a character losing control after taking an ecstasy pill , and refused to broadcast it until it was presented with an edited copy from the producers . The N also refused to broadcast two episodes from the second season that featured a storyline about date @-@ rape until suitable edits could be made , and withheld other episodes from season three that showed a fourteen @-@ year @-@ old character having an abortion after having consensual sexual intercourse with her boyfriend , and feeling no regrets . The decision caused an uproar amongst fans who organized a petition that caught the attention of the New York Times , as well as CBC , the National Post and the London Free Press in Canada . The episodes eventually aired three years later as part of an " every episode ever " marathon , with very little advertisement from the network . Another storyline was featured in the media after ten children from a Québécois school were found to have a number of cuts on their bodies . They said they had copied the show when one character began cutting herself in an episode .

Comparisons between Degrassi : The Next Generation and other genre specific series have also been made throughout the run . Jake Surette , a writer with AfterElton.com , a website which focuses on the portrayal of homosexual and bisexual men in the media , reported on the portrayal of two Degrassi : The Next Generation gay characters . " Degrassi features ongoing stories of real @-@ life teen dilemmas ? including intense gay and lesbian storylines ? and does it without the righteous , ' On a Very Special Blossom ' endings that many teen dramas and sitcoms thrive on . " Kevin Thompson of The Palm Beach Post said the series " is told from a teenager 's point of view since the writers have no interest in appealing to a broad @-@ based demographic like the writers on , say , Fox 's The O.C. ... it connects with teens on their level " . PopMatters 's Jodie Janella Horn also compared it with The O.C. , saying that while scenes from Degrassi could be " actual scenes from my actual teenage life ... The O.C. will never remind me of anything in my life " , adding that it is the most unnervingly accurate series ever of the high school genre .

The San Jose Mercury News has said " If they [Everwood , The O.C. , and One Tree Hill] want to be taken seriously , the shows could take a cue from Canadian drama Degrassi : The Next Generation , which ... addresses the same gritty teen issues without being far @-@ fetched " , the New York Times has also made favourable reviews of the series in comparison to Everwood , The O.C. , and One Tree Hill , as well as Beverly Hills , 90210 , Gilmore Girls , Dawson 's Creek , and adult series such as Sex and the City , Maude , and Six Feet Under . AOL TV ranked it as the sixth TV 's Biggest Guilty Pleasure .