

= Secret Mountain Fort Awesome =

Secret Mountain Fort Awesome is an American animated television series created by Peter Brownrigt that debuted in 2011 on Cartoon Network . The show revolves around a fraternity of five monsters who unleash wild stunts upon the public from their eponymous mountain fort . The show is loosely based on the antagonists that appeared in Brownrigt 's animated short , Uncle Grandpa , and employs Mike Conte of the heavy metal band Early Man as composer .

The show premiered as a sneak peek on Cartoon Network on August 1 , 2011 , and had a formal premiere September 26 , 2011 . The show has been well received , and designers Robertryan Cory and Chris Tsigiotis both won awards for " Outstanding Individual in Animation " at the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony . The Uncle Grandpa short that Brownrigt had produced was eventually adapted as a full series of the same name , which he felt was a more lighthearted adaptation for children .

= = Plot = =

A fivesome of monsters known as the Disgustoids are banished from society due to their unruly behavior and ghastly appearances . From their sentient and eponymous mountain fort , they unleash crazy stunts on the public . Their leader , a purple , tusked creature named Festro (voiced by Peter Brownrigt) , is a macho party animal willing to do anything to help out his group , even when his help is less than desired . Dingle (also voiced by Brownrigt) , scrawny and blue , acts as their faithful pet , intelligible only to the group . Slog (Steve Little) , a black @-@ furred monster , is likewise blindly loyal , but lacks critical judgement skills ? the more hazardous something is , the more likely he will be to follow it . Gweelok (Paul Rugg) , an acned green ball , has a demanding attitude and an obsession with technology . The Fart (Pat Duke) ? a monster made of buttocks who flatulates when touched ? is the most sensitive and levelheaded of the group .

= = Production = =

At their 2011 upfront , Cartoon Network announced Secret Mountain Fort Awesome , along with various other series . Billed as a comedy , the show was created by Brownrigt and based on his animated short Uncle Grandpa , which garnered praise , a cult following and an Emmy Award nomination . Both were produced at Cartoon Network Studios . Before landing his own show , Brownrigt had worked at Augenblick Studios and MTV , as well as on individual programs , such as Futurama , The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack and Chowder . Brownrigt 's work on the lattermost series began when its creator C.H. Greenblatt looked through one of his pitch bibles that he left at the studio .

The show borrows elements and its design style from his Uncle Grandpa short , which was pitched to the network as a pilot . According to Brownrigt , they were unsure about having a series centered on the title character , and felt the monster characters from the pilot had more potential . Character designer Robertryan Cory and David P. Smith (a director and storyboard artist on Dexter 's Laboratory and The Powerpuff Girls) were brought on board to help shape the project 's development .

In an interview with Cartoon Brew , Brownrigt called the process of pitching his pilot an " amazing learning experience " because it allowed him to propose an idea to the network and see " how it can manipulate and change while you 're working on it " . On the show , animation veteran Chris Reccardi served as creative director , whilst Sue Mondt (who had previously art directed Cartoon Network 's Camp Lazlo) handled art direction and Robert Alvarez and Larry Leichliter directed the animation . Brownrigt depicted the production schedule as " really tight " , which called for them to manage their time and to pick their battles with the network .

In the United States , the show is rated TV @-@ PG . Referring to his encounters with the network regarding content , Brownrigt learned to let go and find the " right balance " , as well as to ask himself , " Is my grandma going to notice this ? " For the music , Mike Conte of the heavy metal

band Early Man was employed as composer . The score , which incorporates heavy metal elements and " lots of riffage " , was originally added to the animatics as a rough draft . Browngardt found that it harmonized with the imagery and what he envisioned for the design . Conte noted Browngardt 's inspirations from Garbage Pail Kids and Don Martin of Mad magazine , but called the result " definitely its own thing " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

Secret Mountain premiered on August 1 , 2011 on Cartoon Network as part of a sneak preview ; this broadcast was seen by 1 @. @ 8 million viewers . It premiered formally on September 26 as part of their Monday night programming block , where it was seen by 1 @. @ 3 million viewers , marking a slight decrease from the previous broadcast . The show was moved to Thursdays upon its second season premiere on December 30 , 2011 . Following the premiere of the eighth episode of the season on February 17 , 2012 , the show was pulled from broadcast . The network published the remaining eight episodes through iTunes a month later , from March 8 to March 29 , thus concluding the show .

Many critics were complimentary in regards to the series ' art style . In his website Lineboil , Aaron Simpson compared it to Garbage Pail Kids and the works of Don Martin , two elements of his childhood . Amid Amidi of Cartoon Brew called Robertryan Cory 's character designs " impressive " and " distinctively styled " , though he felt the art style 's complexity made the animation quality suffer as a result . Abby Koenig of Houston Press compared its " ridiculous " nature to the film Little Monsters , and proposed that Howie Mandel (featured in the latter work) guest voice a monster on the show . Shannon O 'Leary of Publishers Weekly wrote that the show , along with others on the network such as Adventure Time and Superjail ! , bore resemblance to the aesthetics of established independent comics artists . Meanwhile , Jason Krell of io9 considered it a failure despite its influences from Adventure Time , which made way for many successful original series on the network .

The episode " Nightmare Sauce " received multiple accolades , including at the 2012 Annecy International Animated Film Festival for " Best TV Production " (of which Browngardt was the recipient) , and at the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards , where Cory and Chris Tsirgiotis were awarded " Outstanding Individual in Animation " . Cory also won at the 39th Annie Awards for " Character Design in a Television Production " , while Tsirgiotis , Sue Mondt , Daniel Elson and Mark Bodnar were collectively awarded " Production Design in a Television Production " . At the 40th Annie Awards , Thaddeus Paul Couldron was nominated for " Character Design in an Animated Television or Other Broadcast Venue Production " for his work on the episode " Secret Mountain Uncle Grandpa " .

= = Spin @-@ off = =

After Secret Mountain Fort Awesome got axed , the original Uncle Grandpa short that Browngardt produced was adapted as a full series of the same name , developed as part of Cartoon Network 's shorts development initiative . The series revolves around the title character , who is simultaneously the grandfather and uncle of everyone in the world . Browngardt explained that while the new series would retain some aspects of Secret Mountain , it would be a more lighthearted adaption for children . He ultimately expressed that he wanted " more variety in the music and be able to go [sic] sort of a happier place , though it does go dark and heavy at times " .

= = Work cited = =