

= The Powerpuff Girls =

The Powerpuff Girls is an American animated television series created by animator Craig McCracken for Cartoon Network . The show centers on Blossom , Bubbles , and Buttercup , three girls with superpowers , as well as their father , the brainy scientist Professor Utonium , who all live in the fictional city of Townsville , USA . The girls are frequently called upon by the town 's childlike and naive mayor to help fight nearby criminals using their powers .

McCracken originally developed the show in 1992 as a cartoon short entitled Whoopass Stew ! while in his second year at CalArts . Following a name change , Cartoon Network featured the first Powerpuff Girls pilots in its animation showcase program What a Cartoon ! in 1995 and 1996 . The series made its official debut as a Cartoon Cartoon on November 18 , 1998 , with the final episode airing on March 25 , 2005 . A total of 78 episodes were aired in addition to two pilot shorts , a Christmas special , and a feature film . In addition , a tenth anniversary special was made in 2008 . A CGI special was also made in 2014 without McCracken 's input .

The series has been nominated for six Emmy Awards , nine Annie Awards , and a Kids ' Choice Award during its run . Spin @-@ off media include an anime , three CD soundtracks , a home video collection , and a series of video games , as well as various licensed merchandise . The series has received generally positive reception and won four awards . On June 16 , 2014 , Cartoon Network announced that the series would be rebooted , which premiered in the United States on April 4 , 2016 .

= = Premise = =

The show revolves around the adventures of three girls with superpowers : Blossom (who is pink) , Bubbles (blue) , and Buttercup (green) . The plot of an episode is usually some humorous variation of standard superhero and tokusatsu shows , with the girls using their powers to defend their town from villains and giant monsters . In addition , the girls have to deal with the normal issues that young children face , such as sibling rivalries , loose teeth , personal hygiene , going to school , bed wetting , or dependence on a security blanket . Episodes often contain hidden references to older pop culture (especially noticeable in the episode " Meet the Beat Alls , " which is an homage to the Beatles) . The cartoon always tries to keep different ideas within each episode with some small tributes and parodies thrown in .

The show is set mainly in the city of Townsville , USA . Townsville is depicted as a major American city , with a cityscape consisting of several major skyscrapers . In his review of The Powerpuff Girls Movie , movie critic Bob Longino of The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution said , " the intricate drawings emanate 1950s futuristic pizzazz like a David Hockney scenescape , " and that the show is " one of the few American creations that is both gleeful pop culture and exquisite high art . "

= = Characters = =

As depicted in the opening sequence of each episode , the Powerpuff Girls were created by Professor Utonium in an attempt " to create the perfect little girls " using a mixture of " sugar , spice , and everything nice " (shown in respective fields of light blue , light green , and pink) . However , he accidentally spilled a mysterious substance called " Chemical X " into the mixture , creating , instead of the " perfect little girl " , three girls (each possessing one of the above elements dominating her personality) , and granting all three superpowers including flight , super strength , super speed , near invulnerability , x @-@ ray vision , super senses , heat vision , energy projection , invisibility , and control over lightning . In the original pilot , the accidental substance was a can of " Whoopass " , which was replaced by " Chemical X " in the aired version .

The three girls all have oval @-@ shaped heads , abnormally large eyes (inspired by Margaret Keane 's art) , stubby arms and legs , and lack noses , ears , fingers , necks , and flat feet with toes (McCracken preferred them to look more symbolic of actual girls rather than going for a " realistic " look , meaning fewer body parts were needed) . They wear dresses that match the colors of their

eyes with black stripes , as well as white tights and black Mary Janes . They do not have secret identities . The closing theme to the cartoon offers a nutshell description of the three Powerpuff Girls ' personalities : Blossom , commander and the leader . Bubbles , she is the joy and the laughter . Buttercup , ' cause she 's the toughest fighter .

Blossom (voiced by Cathy Cavadini) is the tactician and self @-@ proclaimed leader of the Powerpuff Girls . Her personality ingredient is " everything nice " , her signature color is pink , and she has long red hair with a red bow and a heart @-@ shaped hairclip that can be seen from behind . She was named for having spoken freely and honestly to the Professor shortly after her creation as shown in the Powerpuff Girls Movie . She is often seen as the most level @-@ headed , and composed member of the group and also strong and determined . Her unique power is freezing objects with her breath as seen in the episode " Ice Sore " .

Bubbles (voiced by Tara Strong in the series and by Kath Soucie in the What a Cartoon ! episodes) is the cute and sensitive one . Her personality ingredient is sugar , her signature color is blue , and she has short blonde hair in two pigtails . Bubbles is seen as kind and very sweet but she is also capable of extreme rage and can fight monsters just as well as her sisters can . Her best friend is a stuffed octopus doll she calls " Octi " , and she also loves animals . She exhibits the ability to both understand multiple languages and communicate with various animals (squirrels , cats , monsters) , and her unique power is emitting supersonic waves with her voice .

Buttercup (voiced by E. G. Daily) is the toughest of the three . Her personality ingredient is spice , her signature color is green , and she has short black hair in a flip . She is a tomboy who loves to get dirty , fights hard and plays rough ; she does not plan and is all action . Buttercup is the only Powerpuff Girl without a unique super power (aside from being able to curl her tongue as shown in the episode " Nuthin ' Special ") . But often is shown being much stronger than her sisters . For example , she often takes on many monsters her self and defeats them all . McCracken originally wanted to name the character " Bud " until a friend suggested the name Buttercup .

= = Production = =

During Craig McCracken 's first year in the character animation program of CalArts , he created a series of short cartoons based on a character called " No Neck Joe " . In June 1991 , he created a drawing of three girls on a small sheet of orange construction paper as a birthday card design for his brother . The following year he included the three girls as the main characters of his short film Whoopass Stew ! The Whoopass Girls in : A Sticky Situation . Initially , McCracken wanted to animate four Whoopass Girls shorts , but only one came to be . McCracken 's shorts were selected to be shown at Spike and Mike 's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation in 1994 .

While working on 2 Stupid Dogs in 1993 , McCracken 's Whoopass Girls short was picked up for a series by Cartoon Network . However , the name Whoopass had to be dropped for the channel to include it as part of its new What a Cartoon ! animated shorts showcase mostly because the name Whoopass sounded inappropriate because it was pronounced whoop ass . The Whoopass Girls then became The Powerpuff Girls , and the " can of whoop ass " was renamed " Chemical X " . McCracken 's new short , entitled " The Powerpuff Girls in : Meat Fuzzy Lumpkins " , aired as part the network 's World Premiere Toon @-@ In on February 20 , 1995 . The short was not as popular as Dexter 's Laboratory , a project McCracken and former classmate Genndy Tartakovsky (who also directed many episodes of Powerpuff Girls) worked on together ; being the most popular of the shorts , Dexter 's Laboratory was the first to be greenlit by the network . Cartoon Network executive Mike Lazzo allowed McCracken to produce a new Powerpuff Girls short titled " Crime 101 " , which aired on What a Cartoon ! in early 1996 . Announcer Ernie Anderson , the narrator of the pilot episodes , died of cancer in 1997 , and he was replaced by Tom Kenny for the remainder of the series .

The Powerpuff Girls series debut on November 18 , 1998 , was the highest rated premiere in Cartoon Network 's history at the time . During its run , the series consistently scored the highest rating for an original series each week for the network across a wide range of demographics ? from young children to adults . In October 2000 , Cartoon Network credited the series for its Friday night

prime time ratings win among cable networks . By the end of 2000 , merchandising based on the series encompassed a whole variety of products , including T @-@ shirts , toys , video games , lunchboxes , and dishware . Concerning the show 's success , Craig McCracken has stated , " I thought it would get on Cartoon Network and college kids would watch it and there would be a few random T @-@ shirts out there in the rave scene or in record shops . But I had no idea that it would take off to this extent . " Following the series ' fourth season , McCracken left The Powerpuff Girls to focus on his new animated series , Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends , leaving Chris Savino to take his place . The show 's last original run episode was on March 25 , 2005 ; in all six seasons were made . Cartoon Network had offered to give McCracken and Savino a seventh season of The Powerpuff Girls , but they believed the series had run its course .

All of the original episodes were hand @-@ drawn and produced at Rough Draft Studios in South Korea , except the What a Cartoon ! shorts , with the first one being animated at Animal House in Japan and the second being animated at Fil Cartoons in the Philippines . James L. Venable , Thomas Chase , & Stephen Rucker composed the opening theme of the series , and Scottish band Bis performed the ending theme song , as played during the credits . The opening theme uses a sped @-@ up drum break sample of " Funky Drummer " performed by Clyde Stubblefield .

= = = Tenth anniversary special = = =

In August 2008 , McCracken revealed on his DeviantArt account , as had been announced in that year 's Comic Con , that he was working with Cartoon Network on a new half @-@ hour Powerpuff Girls special to celebrate the series ' tenth anniversary . The special , titled " The Powerpuff Girls Rule ! ! ! " , aired on the Pan @-@ Euro Cartoon Network on November 29 , 2008 , on the Powerpuff Girls Birthday Marathon , and in the United States on January 19 , 2009 , as part of its 10th anniversary marathon . Unlike previous episodes in the series , the anniversary special was animated using Adobe Flash at Cartoon Network Studios . In March 2012 , the series returned to Cartoon Network in reruns on the revived block , Cartoon Planet .

= = = 2014 special = = =

On January 28 , 2013 , a new CGI special titled Powerpuff Girls : Dance Pantsed was announced to premiere that year , though it was later delayed to January 20 , 2014 . The former Beatle Ringo Starr promoted the special on Cartoon Network singing a new original song " I Wish I Was a Powerpuff Girl " with previews leading up to the airdate . Ringo also voiced a new character named Fibonacci Sequins in the episode . The special was directed by Dave Smith , who directed episodes for the series in the past , and featured the original cast members reprising their roles . This Powerpuff Girls special marked the first time that series creator Craig McCracken had no input . The episode 's plot has Mojo Jojo kidnap Fibonacci along with an opera singer and a badger . The girls rescue all of them , and defeat Mojo yet again with his kidnapping plan . Not deterred he then goes on to invent an evil video game called " Dance Pants R @-@ EVILution " to take over Townsville . Common Sense Media gave the special 3 / 5 stars citing the " tasteful update of the original animation style " however recommends it for older kids around the age of 7 . GON (Geeked Out Nation) gave the show a B rank and described it as " ... a good special with the return of the characters that many of us grew up [with] " , while they said that the special has few flaws . Den of Geek gave the special a 2 @.@ 5 out 5 said " The Powerpuff reboot needs those paddles to jump @-@ start it . I want more . But I want better . "

= = Merchandise and media = =

= = = Anime and manga = = =

In April 2005 , plans for a Japanese anime version , Demashita ! Powerpuff Girls Z , were

announced . The series premiered in Japan the following year with 52 half @-@ hour episodes , airing each Saturday from July 1 to December 23 , 2006 , and from January 6 to June 30 , 2007 . The series deviated from its American predecessor in terms of style , storyline , and characterization , but only minimally retained the essential themes that made the original a success . The characters feature three junior high school students Momoko Akatsutsumi (Hyper Blossom) , Miyako Gotokuji (Rolling Bubbles) , and Kaoru Matsubara (Powered Buttercup) as the three heroines . A manga adaptation , illustrated by Shiho Komiyuno , was serialized in Shueisha 's Ribon magazine between June 2006 and July 2007 .

= = = Film = = =

The Powerpuff Girls Movie was released in the United States on July 3 , 2002 , by Warner Bros. and Cartoon Network . The movie , a prequel to the series , tells the story of how the Powerpuff Girls were created , and how Mojo Jojo became a supervillain . After the girls were created by Professor Utonium to help the city against crime , they end up only causing chaos in Townsville . Down about how everyone refers to them as freaks , they turn to Mojo Jojo , a monkey who says he is there to help make people like them again . Unknown to the girls , Mojo Jojo was Professor Utonium 's lab chimp helper who was mutated as a cause from the Powerpuff Girls being made and has become super smart as a result and jealous of them . Mojo Jojo ends up tricking the girls into helping him make a machine to mutate other chimps . Seeing what they have done the girls run away in shame but come back after seeing Professor Utonium in trouble , and they end up beating Mojo Jojo and his army of mutated smart chimps and saving the day , thus becoming Townsville 's new defenders . The movie received a rating of 63 % at Rotten Tomatoes and receive some criticism for the violence involved . In all , the movie grossed \$ 16 million worldwide with an \$ 11 million budget .

= = = Music = = =

Three CD soundtracks were officially released for the series . The first , entitled Heroes & Villains , features original songs about the Powerpuff Girls characters by a number of artists , including the new wave group Devo , Bis , The Apples in Stereo and Frank Black . The first album did well , topping the Billboard 's children 's music chart for six weeks . Another album entitled , The City of Soundsville , features electronica @-@ style character themes and also did well with critics . The third album , entitled Power Pop , features a more teen @-@ oriented variety of pop songs . The album was considered a " big disappointment " and not received as well .

= = = Parodies and comics = = =

A crossover parody of The Powerpuff Girls and 2 Broke Girls was done in Cartoon Network 's TV series MAD 's second season known as " 2 Broke Powerpuff Girls " . The parody which aired on January 30 , 2012 , is of Bubbles and Buttercup , who are broke and work for " Him " in a diner after the show got placed on permanent hiatus . Tara Strong (Bubbles) and Tom Kane (" Him ") reprised their roles here . The MAD episode with the parody ranked # 26 / 30 for the week with 1 @.@ 903 million viewers . In February 2013 , IDW Publishing announced a partnership with Cartoon Network to produce comics based on its properties and The Powerpuff Girls was one of the titles announced to be published .

A fan @-@ produced webcomic series called PowerPuff Girls Doujinshi was created in 2004 and released through Snafu Comics . The girls are shown to be a bit older than , but with the same personalities as , their T.V. counterparts , and the comic includes many characters from other cartoon shows . The story has the girls now going to school in a neighboring city of Townsville known as Megaville . The comic was the " Outstanding Superhero Comic " and " Outstanding Character Art " winner on the Web Cartoonist 's Choice Awards in 2005 .

Shortly after the 2014 CGI special 's release , a comic which was published by IDW Publishing was withdrawn after retailers complained that they wanted to boycott the issue . The comic , which

shows the Powerpuff Girls with breasts and dressed in latex , was designed by an artist who works for Cartoon Network . The artist was " thinking of it more along the lines of ' female empowerment ' than the kind of thing you guys are talking about " . Cartoon Network said in a statement : " We recognise some fans ' reaction to the cover and , as such , will no longer be releasing it at comic book shops . "

= = = Toys = = =

From August 21 to October 1 , 2000 , Subway promoted the series with four toys in their kids ' meals . A set of six kids ' meal toys was available as part of an April 2001 Dairy Queen promotion , which also included a sweepstakes offering the Powerpuff Girls VHS Boogie Frights . Jack in the Box released six Powerpuff Girls toys in July 2002 as a tie @-@ in for The Powerpuff Girls Movie . On February 10 , 2003 , Burger King began a four @-@ week promotion featuring The Powerpuff Girls and Dragon Ball Z toys as well as special codes to redeem online for Cartoon Network 's Cartoon Orbit .

= = = Video games = = =

Several video games were made for this show all being action in genre . The Powerpuff Girls : Bad Mojo Jojo , released on November 14 , 2000 , follows Blossom as she tries to beat Mojo Jojo . The game was called " simple and boring " by GameSpot and was a failure critically . The Powerpuff Girls : Paint the Townsville Green , another game released in November 2000 , follows Buttercup as she fights crime . The Powerpuff Girls : Battle HIM follows Bubbles in her fight against HIM and was released in February 2001 . The Powerpuff Girls : Chemical X @-@ traction was released in October 2001 , where the girls battle enemies in a variety of settings in order to reclaim Chemical X and track down Mojo Jojo , who fed the material to all the villains in Townsville . IGN gave the game a positive review while giving the PSone version a 2 @. @ 0 / 10 bad review . The Powerpuff Girls : Relish Rampage was released in November 2002 . All three girls are playable in a 3D world , and the game received mixed reviews . The Powerpuff Girls : Mojo Jojo A @-@ Go @-@ Go released in 2001 centers around the name of the Powerpuff Girls ' mission to stop Mojo Jojo and his minions . The game received mixed reviews . The Powerpuff Girls : HIM and Seek was released in 2002 where the girls battle their variety of enemies through Townsville while on a scavenger hunt . The game received mostly positive reviews . PC games were also made for the series . These include : The Powerpuff Girls : Mojo Jojo Clone Zone , The Powerpuff Girls : Princess Snorebucks , The Powerpuff Girls : Mojo Jojo 's Pet Project , and The Powerpuff Girls : Gamesville .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

In a 2000 Entertainment Weekly review , Marc Bernadin complimented the show on its " spot @-@ on pop @-@ culture acumen " and " unparalleled sense of fun " , giving it a warm welcome from earlier " lame " superhero cartoons that he grew up with . Peter Marks of The New York Times noted the show 's use of adult humor and pop culture references , declaring it " the sort of playful satire that can appeal as much to a viewer of 37 as 7 . " Joly Herman of Common Sense Media describes the show as a " cute , highly stylized series thrills the senses with its strange characters , funny situations , and lots of lowbrow humor " . She goes on to say , however , that the show does go from innocent to violent in no time and that there is not much protecting young viewers against the violent undertones . Robert Lloyd of the LA Times said that the series might be " transgressive " based on the violence but " also cute " .

TV Guide chose the Powerpuff Girls as No. 13 in a list of the 50 Greatest cartoon characters of all time . IGN ranked the series 18th in its Top 25 Primetime Animated Series of All Time list in 2006 .

Delta Express promoted the series by having a Boeing 737 @-@ 200 jet painted with a special livery featuring the characters Blossom , Bubbles , and Buttercup on the exterior . The plane 's inaugural flight was held at Logan International Airport in Boston , Massachusetts , on July 17 , 2000 . In 2002 the aircraft was repainted with a different Powerpuff Girls theme to promote The Powerpuff Girls Movie . The Powerpuff Girls series has won two Primetime Emmys , two Annie Awards , and including those four wins , has been nominated a total of sixteen times for various awards .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =