

= Dexter 's Laboratory =

Dexter 's Laboratory (commonly abbreviated as Dexter 's Lab) is an American comic science fiction animated television series created by Genndy Tartakovsky for Cartoon Network , and the first of the network 's Cartoon Cartoons . The series follows Dexter , a boy @-@ genius and inventor with a secret laboratory , who constantly battles his sister Dee Dee in an attempt to keep her out of the lab . He also engages in a bitter rivalry with his neighbor and fellow @-@ genius Mandark . The first two seasons contained additional segments : Dial M for Monkey , which focuses on Dexter 's pet lab @-@ monkey / superhero , and The Justice Friends , about a trio of superheroes who share an apartment .

Tartakovsky pitched the series to Hanna @-@ Barbera 's animated shorts showcase What a Cartoon ! , basing it on student films he produced while attending the California Institute of the Arts . A pilot aired on Cartoon Network in February 1995 and another pilot also aired on the network in March 1996 ; viewer approval ratings convinced Cartoon Network to order a half @-@ hour series , which premiered on April 28 , 1996 . On December 10 , 1999 , a television movie titled Dexter 's Laboratory : Ego Trip aired as the intended series finale , and Tartakovsky left to begin work on his new series , Samurai Jack . However , in 2001 , the network revived the series under a different production team at Cartoon Network Studios . It ended on November 20 , 2003 , with a total of four seasons and 78 episodes .

Dexter 's Laboratory received high ratings and became one of Cartoon Network 's most popular and successful original series . During its run , the series won three Annie Awards , with nominations for four Primetime Emmy Awards , four Golden Reel Awards , and nine additional Annie Awards . The series is notable for helping launch the careers of several cartoonists , such as Craig McCracken , Seth MacFarlane , Butch Hartman , and Rob Renzetti . Spin @-@ off media include comic books , DVD and VHS releases , music albums , collectible toys , and video games .

= = Premise = =

The series revolves around Dexter (voiced by Christine Cavanaugh in seasons 1 ? 3 ; Candi Milo in seasons 3 ? 4) , a bespectacled boy @-@ genius who possesses a secret laboratory hidden behind a bookcase in his bedroom . The laboratory is filled with Dexter 's inventions and can be accessed by speaking various passwords or by activating hidden switches on Dexter 's bookshelf (e.g. pulling out a specific book) . Though highly intelligent , Dexter often fails at what he has set out to do when he becomes overexcited and makes careless choices . Although he comes from a typical all @-@ American family , Dexter speaks with a thick accent of indeterminate origin . Cavanaugh described it as " an affectation , some kind of accent , we 're not quite sure . A small Peter Lorre , but not . Perhaps he 's Latino , perhaps he 's French . He 's a scientist ; he knows he needs some kind of accent . " Genndy Tartakovsky explained , " He considers himself a very serious scientist , and all well @-@ known scientists have accents . "

Dexter manages to keep the lab a secret from his clueless , cheerful Mom (Kath Soucie) and Dad (Jeff Bennett) , who never take notice of it . However , he is frequently in conflict with his hyperactive older sister , Dee Dee (Allison Moore in seasons 1 and 3 ; Kathryn Cressida in seasons 2 and 4) . In spite of Dexter 's advanced technology , Dee Dee eludes all manner of security , and once inside her brother 's laboratory , she delights in playing haphazardly , often wreaking havoc with his inventions . Though seemingly dim @-@ witted , Dee Dee often outsmarts her brother and even gives him helpful advice . For his part , Dexter , though annoyed by his intrusive sibling , feels a reluctant affection for her and will come to her defense if she is imperiled .

Dexter 's nemesis is a rival boy @-@ genius from his school named Susan " Mandark " Astronomonov (Eddie Deezen) . Just like Dexter , Mandark also has his own laboratory , but his schemes are generally evil and designed to gain power while downplaying or destroying Dexter 's accomplishments . In the revival seasons , Mandark becomes significantly more evil , becoming Dexter 's enemy rather than his rival and his laboratory changing from brightly @-@ lit with rounded features to gothic @-@ looking , industrial , and angular . Because Dexter 's inventions are often

better than his , Mandark tries to make up for this by stealing Dexter 's plans . Mandark 's weakness is his love for Dee Dee , though she ignores him and never returns his affections .

= = = Recurring segments = = =

Almost every episode of Dexter 's Laboratory is divided into three different stories / segments , each one being approximately 8 minutes in length . Occasionally , the middle segment centered on characters from the Dexter 's Laboratory universe other than Dexter and his family . Two of these segments were shown primarily during the first season : Dial M for Monkey and The Justice Friends . Dial M for Monkey was the middle segment for the first six episodes of season one , and The Justice Friends took its place for the rest of the season .

The Dial M for Monkey shorts feature Dexter 's pet laboratory monkey , Monkey (Frank Welker) , whom Dexter believes is an ordinary monkey and nothing more . However , Monkey secretly has superpowers and fights evil as the superhero Monkey . Monkey is joined by his partner Agent Honeydew (Kath Soucie) , the Commander General (Robert Ridgely ; Earl Boen) , and a team of assembled superheroes . Dial M for Monkey was created by Genndy Tartakovsky , Craig McCracken , and Paul Rudish .

The Justice Friends consists of Major Glory (Rob Paulsen) , Valhallen (Tom Kenny) , and the Infraggable Krunk (Frank Welker) , three superheroes who are all roommates living in an apartment complex called Muscular Arms . Most of the trio 's adventures deal less with their lives as superheroes and more with their inability to get along as roommates ; it is presented as a sitcom , including a laugh track . Genndy Tartakovsky 's inspiration for The Justice Friends came from reading Marvel Comics when he was learning how to speak English . Tartakovsky stated in an interview with IGN that he was somewhat disappointed with how The Justice Friends turned out , saying , " it could have been funnier and the characters could have been fleshed out more . "

Between the three main segments in seasons one and two are brief mini @-@ segments , many of which feature only Dexter and Dee Dee . Other characters from the series may star in them also , such as " The Puppet Pals " , two live @-@ action puppets named Puppet Pal Mitch (Rob Paulsen) and Puppet Pal Clem (Tom Kenny) .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Dexter 's Laboratory was inspired by one of Genndy Tartakovsky 's drawings of a ballerina . After drawing Dee Dee 's tall , thin shape , he decided to pair her with a short and blocky opposite , Dexter , inspired by Tartakovsky 's older brother Alex . After enrolling at the California Institute of the Arts in 1990 to study animation , Tartakovsky wrote , directed , animated , and produced two short films that would become the basis for the series .

Dexter 's Laboratory was then made into a seven @-@ minute pilot as a part of Cartoon Network 's What a Cartoon ! project , promoted as World Premiere Toons , which debuted on February 26 , 1995 . Viewers worldwide voted through phone lines , the Internet , focus groups , and consumer promotions for their favorite short cartoons ; the first of 16 animated shorts to earn that vote of approval was Dexter 's Laboratory . Mike Lazzo , then @-@ head of programming for the network , said that it was his favorite of the 48 shorts , commenting " We all loved the humor in brother @-@ versus @-@ sister relationship " . In August 1995 , Turner ordered six half @-@ hours of the series , which would include two cartoons around one spin @-@ off segment titled Dial M for Monkey .

= = = Original run = = =

Dexter 's Laboratory premiered as a half @-@ hour series on TNT on April 27 , 1996 , and on April 28 on Cartoon Network and TBS Superstation . The series , along with Cow and Chicken , Johnny

Bravo , The Powerpuff Girls , and Courage the Cowardly Dog , became responsible for pushing Cartoon Network in a new direction focusing on original programming and " character @-@ driven " cartoons . A second season was ordered , and premiered on Cartoon Network on July 16 , 1997 .

Dexter 's Laboratory ended its initial run in 1998 after two seasons , with the second season lasting 39 episodes ; a notable record for a single TV production season on Cartoon Network . The initial series finale was " Last But Not Beast " , which differed from the format of the other episodes in that it was not a collection of cartoon shorts , but was a single 25 @-@ minute episode .

In 1999 , Tartakovsky returned to direct Dexter 's Laboratory : Ego Trip , an hour @-@ long television movie . This was the last Dexter 's Laboratory production that Tartakovsky was involved with and was originally intended to be the conclusion to the series . The special was hand @-@ animated , though the character and setting designs were subtly revised . The plot follows Dexter on a quest through time as he finds out his future triumphs .

= = = Revival = = =

After the series ended , Tartakovsky began work on his new projects , Samurai Jack and Star Wars : Clone Wars . MacFarlane and Hartman had left Time Warner altogether at this point , focusing on Family Guy and The Fairly OddParents , respectively .

On February 21 , 2001 , Cartoon Network announced Dexter 's Laboratory had been revived for a 13 @-@ episode third season . The series was given a new production team at Cartoon Network Studios , with Chris Savino taking over as the creative director in Tartakovsky 's absence . Later in season four , Savino was also promoted to producer giving him further control over the show , such as the budget . The revival episodes featured revised visual designs and sound effects , recast voice actors , continuity shakeups , and the transition from traditional cel animation , which was used in the first two seasons and " Ego Trip " , to digital ink and paint , which was used permanently beginning with the third season premiere ; entitled " Streaky Clean , which aired in 2001 , when many other programs made the switchover to digital coloring .

= = = Direction and writing = = =

Directors and writers on the series included Tartakovsky , McCracken , Seth MacFarlane , Butch Hartman , Rob Renzetti , Paul Rudish , John McIntyre , and Chris Savino .

= = = Casting = = =

Christine Cavanaugh voiced Dexter for the first two seasons and early episodes of the third , but retired from voice acting in 2001 for personal reasons . She was replaced by Candi Milo .

Allison Moore , a college friend of Tartakovsky , was cast as Dee Dee . She left the show after the first season because she was no longer interested in voice acting . The role was subsequently recast with Kathryn Cressida . In season three , Moore briefly returned as Dee Dee 's voice before Cressida once again assumed the role for season four .

= = = Animation = = =

The series was animated in a stylized way , which Tartakovsky says was influenced by the Merrie Melodies cartoon The Dover Boys at Pimento University . Dexter 's Laboratory , however , was staged in a cinematic way , rather than flat and close to the screen , to leave space and depth for the action and gags . Tartakovsky was also influenced by other Warner Bros. cartoons , Hanna @-@ Barbera , Japanese mecha anime , and the UPA shorts .

Tartakovsky has said the character Dexter was designed " as an icon " ? his body is short and squat and his design is simple , with a black outline and relatively little detail . Since he knew that he was designing the show for television , he purposely limited the design to a certain degree , designing the nose and mouth , for instance , in a Hanna @-@ Barbera style to animate easily .

= = Episodes = =

Dexter 's Laboratory broadcast 78 half @-@ hour episodes over 4 seasons during its 7 @-@ year run . Two pilot shorts were produced for What a Cartoon ! that aired from 1995 to 1996 , and were reconnected into the series ' first season in later airings . Fifty @-@ two episodes were produced over the original run from 1996 to 1998 , which was followed by the TV movie Ego Trip in 1999 .

An additional 26 episodes were produced and broadcast from 2001 to 2003 . The short " Chicken Scratch " debuted theatrically with The Powerpuff Girls Movie in 2002 , and was later broadcast as a segment in the series ' fourth and final season .

= = Broadcast = =

On December 31 , 2000 , Cartoon Network aired its " New Year 's Bash " marathon featuring Dexter 's Laboratory among other programs . On November 16 , 2001 , the network broadcast the 12 @-@ hour " Dexter Goes Global " marathon in 96 countries and 12 languages . The marathon featured fan @-@ selected episodes of Dexter 's Laboratory and culminated with the premiere of the first two episodes of season 3 .

After the series ended , reruns continued to air prominently on Cartoon Network from November 21 , 2003 , to July 29 , 2005 . From September 12 , 2005 , to June 1 , 2008 , it was reran in segments on The Cartoon Cartoon Show , along with other Cartoon Cartoons from that era . On March 30 , 2012 , the series returned to the network in reruns on the revived block , Cartoon Planet .

On January 16 , 2006 , the series began airing in reruns on Cartoon Network 's sister channel Boomerang ; the occasion was marked by a 12 @-@ hour Martin Luther King , Jr . Day marathon . Reruns of the series have been removed from Boomerang on January 4 , 2015 before the rebrand , but returned on June 27 , 2016 .

The Canadian version of Cartoon Network airs reruns as well , with the series being featured on the channel 's launch on July 4 , 2012 . The launch was commemorated by parent network Teletoon , which aired Cartoon Network @-@ related programming blocks and promotions in the weeks leading up to the event , including episodes of Dexter 's Laboratory .

= = = Controversial episodes = = =

The segment " Dial M for Monkey : Barbequor " (season one , 1996) was removed from rotation after a few years of being broadcast in the United States for two reasons . First , the short features a character named the Silver Spooner (a spoof of the Silver Surfer) , which was perceived by Cartoon Network as a stereotype of gay men . Second , Krunk appears to become drunk , has a hangover , and vomits off @-@ camera . In later broadcasts and on the Season One DVD (Region 1) , the banned segment has been replaced with " Dexter 's Lab : A Story " , an episode from season two .

During the initial run of Dexter 's Lab , a segment titled " Rude Removal " (season two , 1997) was produced . The short involves Dexter creating a " rude removal system " to diminish Dee Dee and Dexter 's rudeness ; however , it instead creates highly rude clones of both siblings . The episode was only shown during certain animation festivals and was never aired on Cartoon Network or any television channel due to the characters swearing , even though the swear words were censored . Tartakovsky commented that " standards didn 't like it . " Linda Simensky , then @-@ vice president of original programming for Cartoon Network , said " I still think it 's very funny . It probably would air better late at night . " Fred Seibert , president of Hanna @-@ Barbera Cartoons from 1992 to 1996 , has attested to the existence of the short .

In October 2012 , Genndy Tartakovsky was asked about the episode during an AMA on Reddit , and he replied " Next time I do a public appearance I 'll bring it with me ! " . Adult Swim later asked fans on Twitter if there was still any interest in the episode , and the response was " overwhelming " . The episode was finally uploaded on AdultSwim.com via YouTube on January 22 , 2013 .

== Reception ==

=== Ratings ===

Since its debut , Dexter 's Laboratory has been one of Cartoon Network 's most successful original series , being the network 's highest @-@ rated original series in both 1996 and 1997 . Internationally , the series garnered a special mention for best script at the 1997 Cartoons on the Bay animation festival in Italy . In 1998 and 1999 , a Dexter balloon was featured in the Macy 's Thanksgiving Day Parade alongside many other iconic characters , including the titular piglet from the movie Babe whom Christine Cavanaugh also voiced . The show was also part of the reason for Cartoon Network 's 20 % ratings surge over the summer of 1999 . The series ' July 7 , 2000 , telecast was the network 's highest @-@ rated original telecast of all time among households (3 @.@ 1) , kids 2 ? 11 (7 @.@ 8) , and kids 6 ? 11 (8 @.@ 4) , with a delivery of almost 2 million homes . On July 31 , 2001 , it scored the highest household rating (2 @.@ 9) and delivery (2 @,@ 166 @,@ 000 homes) of any Cartoon Network telecast for that year . Dexter 's Laboratory was also one of the network 's highest @-@ rated original series of 2002 .

=== Critical reception ===

One of Cartoon Network president Betty Cohen 's favorite animated shows was Dexter 's Laboratory . Rapper Coolio has also said that he is a fan of the show and was happy to do a song for the show 's soundtrack at Cartoon Network 's request , stating , " I watch a lot of cartoons because I have kids . I actually watch more cartoons than movies . "

In a 2012 top 10 list by Entertainment Weekly , Dexter 's Laboratory was ranked as the fourth best Cartoon Network show . In 2009 Dexter 's Laboratory was named the 72nd best animated series by IGN , with editors remarking , " While aimed at and immediately accessible to children , Dexter 's Laboratory was part of a new generation of animated series that played on two levels , simultaneously fun for both kids and adults . "

=== Awards and nominations ===

== Merchandise ==

=== Comics ===

Characters from Dexter 's Laboratory appeared in a 150 @,@ 000 @-@ print magazine called Cartoon Network , published by Burghley Publishing and released in the United Kingdom on August 27 , 1998 .

DC Comics printed four comic book volumes featuring Dexter 's Laboratory . It first appeared in Cartoon Network Presents , a 24 @-@ issue volume showcasing the network 's premiere animated programming at the time , which was produced from 1997 to 1999 . In 1999 , DC gave the show its own 34 @-@ issue comic volume , which ran until 2003 . DC also ran a Cartoon Cartoons comic book from 2001 to 2004 that frequently contained Dexter 's Laboratory stories . This was superseded by Cartoon Network Block Party , which ran from 2004 to 2009 .

In February 2013 , IDW Publishing announced a partnership with Cartoon Network to produce comics based on its properties . Dexter 's Laboratory was one of the titles announced to be published . The first issue was released in April 2014 .

=== Home media releases ===

Dexter 's Laboratory first appeared in home media on three VHS tapes made widely available in the early 2000s . Episodes had not been officially released prior to this , with the exception of a complete series DVD collection given as a contest prize .

Warner Bros. stated in a 2006 interview that they were " ... in conversations with Cartoon Network " for DVD collections of various cartoons , among which was Dexter 's Laboratory . Madman Entertainment released the complete first season and the first part of the second season in Region 4 in 2008 . A Region 1 release of the first season was released by Warner Home Video on October 12 , 2010 . The release was the third in an official release of several Cartoon Cartoons on DVD , under the " Cartoon Network Hall of Fame " name .

The complete series , with the exception of the Ego Trip TV movie and the unaired " Rude Removal " segment , became available on iTunes in 2010 . All the seasons of Dexter 's Laboratory have been released on Hulu . The video game Cartoon Network Racing contains the episodes " Dexter 's Rival " and " Mandarker " (PS2 version only) as unlockable extras .

= = = Music releases = = =

The series has spawned two music albums , Dexter 's Laboratory : The Musical Time Machine and Dexter 's Laboratory : The Hip @-@ Hop Experiment , three hip hop music videos , and a fourth music video by the band They Might Be Giants for their song " Dee Dee and Dexter " , which features Japanese @-@ style animation , as its animation was produced by Klasky Csupo , the studio that made Rugrats . Three Dexter 's Laboratory tracks were also featured on the Cartoon Network compilation album Cartoon Medley .

= = = Toys and promotions = = =

In November 1997 , Wendy 's promoted Dexter 's Laboratory with six collectible toys called " Dexter 's Lab Creation " , " Dexter 's Green Test Tube Straw " , " Dexter 's Grabber " , " Dexter 's Purple Spark Maker " , " Dexter 's Pen Stand " , and " Dexter 's Yellow Noisemaker " in their kids ' meals . A Subway promotion lasted from August 23 to October 3 , 1999 , and included " Dexter 's Super Computer Giveaway " , in which a computer , monitor , games , software , and an exclusive set of Dexter 's Laboratory DVDs were given out to the winner . Discovery Zone sponsored Cartoon Network 's eight @-@ week @-@ long " Dexter 's Duplication Summer " in 1998 to promote the show 's new schedule . Toy company Trendmasters released a series of Dexter 's Lab figures and playsets in 2001 . A set of six kids ' meal toys was available as part of an April 2001 Dairy Queen promotion . That same month , Cartoon Network and Perfetti Van Melle launched the " Out of Control " promotion , which included on @-@ air marketing and a sweepstakes to win an " Air Dextron " entertainment center . The following April , a similar promotion featured Dexter 's Laboratory @-@ themed AirHeads packs and an online sweepstakes . Subway promoted the series a second time from April 1 to May 15 , 2002 , with four kids ' meal toys . In September 2003 , Burger King sponsored Dexter 's Laboratory toys with kids ' meals as part of a larger promotion featuring online games , Cartoon Orbit codes , and new episodes of the series .

Race to the Brainergizer and The Incredible Invention Versus Dee Dee , two board games based on the series , were released by Pressman Toy Corporation in 2001 .

= = = Video games = = =

Six video games based on the series have been released : Dexter 's Laboratory : Robot Rampage for the Nintendo Game Boy Color , Dexter 's Laboratory : Chess Challenge for the Nintendo Game Boy Advance , Dexter 's Laboratory : Deesaster Strikes ! , also for the Game Boy Advance , Dexter 's Laboratory : Mandark 's Lab ? for the Sony PlayStation , Dexter 's Laboratory : Science Ain 't Fair for PC , and Dexter 's Laboratory : Security Alert ! for mobile phones .

A Dexter 's Laboratory combat @-@ style action video game for the PlayStation 2 and Nintendo

GameCube was set to be developed by n @-@ Space , published by BAM ! Entertainment , and distributed by Acclaim Entertainment for a 2004 release , but the project was cancelled . On February 15 , 2005 , Midway Games announced plans to develop and produce a new Dexter 's Laboratory video game for multiple consoles , but the game never saw the light of day .

Dexter , Mandark , Dee Dee , Dexter 's computer , and Major Glory , along with many items , areas , and inventions from the show were featured in the MMORPG FusionFall . Various characters from the series were also featured in Cartoon Network Racing and Cartoon Network : Punch Time Explosion . Punch Time Explosion featured different voice talent for Dexter (Tara Strong instead of Christine Cavanaugh or Candi Milo) and Monkey (Fred Tatasciore instead of Frank Welker) .

= = = Books = = =

Fourteen books set in Dexter 's Laboratory were released by Scholastic , and a few more by Golden Books . These books were :

Under " Dexter 's Laboratory " :

Dexter 's Ink (2002) by Howie Dewin (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 38579 @-@ 2)

Dex @-@ Terminator (2002) by Bobbi J. G. Weiss and David Cody Weiss (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 38580 @-@ 6)

Dr. Dee Dee & Dexter Hyde (2002) by Meg Belviso and Pam Pollack (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 43422 @-@ X)

I Dream of Dexter (2003) by Meg Belviso and Pam Pollack (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 43423 @-@ 8)

The Incredible Shrinking Dexter (2003) by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 43424 @-@ 6)

Dexter 's Big Switch (2003) by Meg Belviso and Pamela Pollack (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 44947 @-@ 2)

Horse of a Different Dexter (2002) by David Cody Weiss and Bobbi J. G. Weiss (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 38581 @-@ 4)

Knights Of The Periodic Table (2003) by David Cody Weiss and Bobbi J. G. Weiss (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 43425 @-@ 4)

Cootie Wars (2003) by David Cody Weiss and Bobbi J. G. Weiss (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 44932 @-@ 4)

Brain Power (2003) by David Cody Weiss and Bobbi J. G. Weiss (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 44942 @-@ 1)

Zappo Change @-@ O (2001 , by Golden Books) by Genndy Tartakovsky (ISBN 0 @-@ 307 @-@ 99812 @-@ 6)

The last five of these were unnumbered , at least on the covers .

Under " Dexter 's Laboratory Science Log " :

Dee Dee 's Amazing Bones (2002) by Anne Capeci (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 44175 @-@ 7)

Mixed @-@ Up Magnetism (2002) by Anne Capeci (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 38582 @-@ 2)

What 's the " Matter " with Dee Dee ? (2003) by Anne Capeci (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 47240 @-@ 7)

Little Lab or Horrors (2003) by Anne Capeci (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 47242 @-@ 3)

Publication details , and book covers for most , are available at the Internet Speculative Fiction Database .

Additional related books , which are not " story " books are :

Dexter 's Laboratory : Science Fair Showdown ! (2001 , Golden Books) by Chip Lovitt , a collection of science fair projects . (ISBN 0 @-@ 307 @-@ 10775 @-@ 2)

Dexter 's Joke Book For Geniuses , (2004 , Scholastic) by Howie Dewin (ISBN 0 @-@ 439 @-@ 54582 @-@ X)