

= Adventure Time (season 4) =

The fourth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time , created by Pendleton Ward , originally aired on Cartoon Network in the United States . The series is based on a short produced for Frederator 's Nicktoons Network animation incubator series Random ! Cartoons . The season debuted on April 2 , 2012 , and the season finale was aired on October 22 , 2012 . The season follows the adventures of Finn , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . Finn and Jake live in the post @-@ apocalyptic Land of Ooo . Along the way , they interact with the other main characters of the show : Princess Bubblegum , The Ice King , and Marceline the Vampire Queen .

The first episode of the season , " Hot to the Touch " was watched by 2 @.@ 655 million viewers ; this marked a slight decrease in viewers watching Cartoon Network when compared to the previous season 's debut . The season ended with the cliffhanger " The Lich " , which was viewed by 2 @.@ 589 million viewers ; the story was resolved at the start of season five . The season was met with largely positive critical reception . In addition , several episodes were nominated for awards ; The episodes " Princess Cookie " , " The Hard Easy " , " Lady & Peebles " , and " Goliad " were all nominated for Annie Awards . The episode " Card Wars " , however , won a Golden Reel Award .

During the production of the season Ward and the series ' crew sought to over come what they called the " season four blues " by writing more interesting and different stories than what had previously aired . The season was storyboarded and written by Cole Sanchez , Rebecca Sugar , Tom Herpich , Skyler Page , Ako Castuera , Jesse Moynihan , Bert Youn , Somvilay Xayaphone , and Steve Wolfhard while being produced by Cartoon Network Studios and Frederator Studios . Several compilation DVDs that contained episodes from the season were released after the season finished airing . The full season set was released on October 7 , 2014 on DVD and Blu @-@ ray .

= = Development = =

= = = Concept = = =

The season follows the adventures of Finn the Human , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . Finn and Jake live in the post @-@ apocalyptic Land of Ooo . Along the way , they interact with the other main characters of the show : Princess Bubblegum , The Ice King , and Marceline the Vampire Queen . Common storylines revolve around : Finn and Jake discovering strange creatures , battling the Ice King , and battling monsters in order to help others . Various other episodes deal with Finn attempting to woo Flame Princess .

= = = Production = = =

On April 6 , 2011 , Eric Homan announced through Frederator 's official blog that , although he was unable to " confirm nor deny " whether the series had been renewed for a fourth season , " if there were a fourth season planned [...] writing would begin next week . " On April 28 , 2011 , Ward officially announced that , with the storyboards for season three nearing completion , much of the production staff had shifted its focus onto the show 's fourth season . The first episode to enter into production was " Five Short Graybles " , based on its production number . However , it was later the second episode aired .

During the writing for the season , Ward and series ' head writer Kent Osborne noted that it was increasingly difficult to produce new episode concepts because the writers had " already used a lot of cool ideas " . Osborne called this slump the " season four blues " . Ward went on to clarify that , " everything 's still coming out super weird and interesting ? but it just gets a little harder . You have to dig deeper . " To combat these issues , the writer staff tried different story writing methods , such as a technique called exquisite corpse , in which one writer starts a story on a sheet of paper , and the

paper is folded and another writer tries to finish it . Ward , however , noted that " the ideas are usually terrible " . They also decided to experiment with different types of storytelling and to introduce more new characters to the show .

This season 's episodes were produced in a process similar to previous seasons ' episodes . First , all of the episodes began as simple two @-@ to @-@ three @-@ page outline that contained the necessary plot information . These outlines were then handed off to storyboard artists , who would then expand the rough outline into a full storyboard . The episodes ' design and coloring were done in Burbank , California . Animation was handled overseas in South Korea , either by Rough Draft Korea or by Saerom Animation . The season was storyboarded and written by Cole Sanchez , Rebecca Sugar , Tom Herpich , Skyler Page , Ako Castuera , Moynihan , Bert Youn , Somvilay Xayaphone , and Steve Wolfhard . Ward was proud with the writing staff for the season , saying , " Everyone [on the writing staff] is super talented [...] And they 're all a bunch of brainiacs , super smart " . He explained that " They 're amazing in helping us because they let us write really cool ideas [because] they 're really supportive , is what I am trying to say , of what we 're trying to do . " The season was produced by Cartoon Network Studios and Frederator Studios . The series is rated TV @-@ PG .

= = Cast = =

The voice actors include voice acting veterans John DiMaggio (who portrays Jake the Dog) , Tom Kenny (who plays The Ice King) , and Hynden Walch (who voices Princess Bubblegum) . In addition , Jeremy Shada portrays the voice of Finn the Human , and Olivia Olson portrays Marceline the Vampire Queen . Ward himself provides the voice for several minor characters , as well as Lumpy Space Princess . Former storyboard artist Niki Yang voices the sentient video game console BMO , as well as Jake 's girlfriend Lady Rainicorn in Korean . Polly Lou Livingston , a friend of Pendleton Ward 's mother , Bettie Ward , plays the voice of the small elephant Tree Trunks . Jessica DiCicco voices Flame Princess , who becomes Finn 's new romantic interest . Season four also features the reappearance of The Lich , the series ' principal antagonist . The Lich is portrayed by Ron Perlman . The Adventure Time cast records their lines together in group recordings as opposed to different recording sessions with each voice actor . This is to record more natural @-@ sounding dialogue among the characters . Hynden Walch has described these group recordings as akin to " doing a play reading ? a really , really out there play . "

Several voice actors and actresses reprise their characters in this season . Andy Milonakis returns as N.E.P.T.R. in " Hot to the Touch " and " BMO Noire " . Ron Lynch again voices Pig in " Dream of Love " . Martin Olson reprises his role as Hunson Abadeer in the two @-@ parter episode " Return to the Nightosphere " / " Daddy 's Little Monster " . Miguel Ferrer voices Death in " Sons of Mars " . In the same episode , Ward voices Abraham Lincoln , a throw @-@ back to the series ' pilot episode . Erik Estrada again voices the titular character in " King Worm " . George Takei voices the anthropomorphic heart villain Ricardio in " Lady & Peebles " . Justin Roiland returns as the Earl of Lemongrab in " You Made Me " ; the episode would also see him voice Lemongrab 's genetically created twin . Keith David once again voices the Flame King in " Ignition Point " . Lou Ferrigno returns in " The Lich " to voice Billy .

Emo Philips makes his debut as Cuber in the episode " Five Short Graybles " . Bobcat Goldthwait and Susie Essman voice the spider couple in " Web Weirdos " . Writer Graham Linehan 's daughter Wendy appears as the titular character in " Goliad " , and Linehan 's son Henry voices Stormo . Donald Faison lends his voice to the character Baby @-@ Snaps in " Princess Cookie " . Tom Gammill , Melissa Villaseñor , Kenny , and Ferrer voice the four @-@ headed deity Grob Gob Glob Grod in " Sons of Mars " . Matthew Broderick voices the Dream Warrior in " Who Would Win " , and Gammill returns in the same episode as The Farm . Paul F. Tompkins appears as Furnius in " Ignition Point " . Both Brian Doyle @-@ Murray and Jonathan Katz lend their voices to the episode " The Hard Easy " as Prince Huge and the Mud Scamp elder , respectively . Katz was originally supposed to voice a character in the previous season , but had to bow out due to a scheduling conflict .

Various other characters are voiced by Tom Kenny , Dee Bradley Baker , Maria Bamford , Steve Little , and Kent Osborne .

= = Reception and release = =

= = = Ratings = = =

The season debuted on April 2 , 2012 , with the episode " Hot to the Touch " . The episode was watched by 2 @.@ 655 million viewers . This marked a slight decrease from the third season premiere , which had been viewed by 2 @.@ 686 million viewers . The episode was number one among kids aged 2 ? 11 , 6 ? 11 , and 9 ? 14 , as well as boys aged 2 ? 11 , 6 ? 11 and 9 ? 14 . The season 's sixteenth episode , " Burning Low " was seen by 3 @.@ 504 million viewers , making it the most @-@ watched episode of the series to air . The twenty @-@ third episode of the season , " The Hard Easy " , was the 100th episode produced of the entire show , although it was the 101st aired . It aired on October 1 , 2012 . The season finale , " The Lich " , aired on October 22 , 2012 , and was viewed by 2 @.@ 589 . It ranked as the number one television episode in its timeslot among all kids aged 2 ? 11 , 6 ? 11 , and 9 ? 14 , and all boy demographics .

= = = Reviews and accolades = = =

Mike LeChevallier of Slate magazine award the fourth season of the show four stars out of five . In the review , LeChevallier positively complimented the show for " growing up " with its characters , and that " the show 's dialogue is among the best of any current animated series . " He concluded that the series possesses " strikingly few faults " . Season four was the first season that was reviewed by The A.V. Club ; reviewer Oliver Sava wrote that in its fourth year , the show " transformed into a different beast " and that it was the show 's " strongest season yet " . Each episode was graded by The A.V. Club with a different letter grade ; the season received three " C " grade entries , eight " B " grade installments , and thirteen " A " grade episodes .

Four of the season 's episodes were nominated for Annie Awards . " Princess Cookie " was nominated Best Animated Television Production For Children , " The Hard Easy " was nominated for Design in an Animated Television / Broadcast Production , and " Lady & Peebles " and " Goliad " were both nominated Storyboarding in an Animated Television / Broadcast Production . None of the episodes managed to win , however . The episode " Card Wars " won a Golden Reel Award for Best Sound Editing : Sound Effects , Foley , Dialogue and ADR Animation in Television .

= = = Home media = = =

Warner Home Video released several DVDs , consisting of region 1 and region 2 formats ; Jake vs. Me @-@ Mow , Fionna and Cake , Jake the Dad , The Suitor , Princess Day , Finn the Human , Frost & Fire , The Enchiridion , and Card Wars were created for region 1 markets containing some episodes from the fourth season . The season four DVD and Blu @-@ ray was released on October 7 , 2014 . All DVD releases can be purchased on the Cartoon Network Shop , and the individual episodes can be downloaded from both the iTunes Store and Amazon.com.

= = Episodes = =

= = DVD release = =