

= Red Dwarf =

Red Dwarf is a British comedy franchise which primarily comprises ten series (the ninth being a mini @-@ series) of a television science fiction sitcom that aired on BBC Two between 1988 and 1993 and from 1997 to 1999 , and on Dave in 2009 and 2012 , gaining a cult following . In May 2015 , it was announced that Series XI and XII will film back @-@ to @-@ back later in 2015 and will air exclusively on the Dave channel in 2016 and 2017 .

The series was created by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor . In addition to the television episodes , there are four novels , two pilot episodes for an American version of the show , a radio version produced for BBC Radio 7 , tie @-@ in books , magazines and other merchandise .

Despite the pastiche of science fiction used as a backdrop , Red Dwarf is primarily a character @-@ driven comedy , with off @-@ the @-@ wall science fiction elements used as complementary plot devices . In the early episodes , a recurring source of comedy was the Odd Couple @-@ style relationship between the two central characters of the show , who have an intense dislike for each other yet are trapped together deep in space . The main characters are Dave Lister , the last known human alive , and Arnold Rimmer , a hologram of Lister 's dead bunkmate . The other regular characters are Cat , a lifeform which evolved from the descendants of Lister 's pregnant pet cat Frankenstein ; Holly , Red Dwarf 's computer ; Kryten , a service mechanoid ; and , as of Series VII to Back to Earth , Kristine Kochanski , an alternative @-@ reality version of Lister 's long @-@ lost love .

One of the series ' highest accolades came in 1994 , when an episode from the sixth series , " Gunmen of the Apocalypse " , won an International Emmy Award in the Popular Arts category , and in the same year the series was also awarded " Best BBC Comedy Series " at the British Comedy Awards . The series attracted its highest ratings , of more than eight million viewers , during the eighth series in 1999 . The series was revived after a ten @-@ year break , when digital channel Dave screened a three @-@ episode production , titled Red Dwarf : Back to Earth , in April 2009 during the Easter weekend . This was followed by Series X , consisting of six episodes , which was first broadcast on Dave in October / November 2012 . The show has been critically acclaimed , and has a Metacritic score of 84 / 100 .

= = Radio origins = =

The show was based on Dave Hollins : Space Cadet , a series of five sketches that aired in the BBC Radio 4 series Son of Cliché , produced by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor in 1984 .

The sketches recounted the adventures of Dave Hollins (voiced by Nick Wilton) , a hapless space traveller that is marooned in space far from earth . His only steady companion is the computer Hab (voiced by Chris Barrie) .

Grant and Naylor chose to use the Dave Hollins : Space Cadet sketches as a base for a television show after watching the 1974 film Dark Star . They changed some elements from the sketches :

The 7 trillion year figure was first changed to 7 billion years and then to 3 million and the characters of Arnold Rimmer and the Cat were created . The name Dave Hollins was changed to Dave Lister when a football player called Dave Hollins became well @-@ known , and Hab was replaced by Holly . One of the voice actors from Son of Cliché , Chris Barrie went on to portray Arnold Rimmer in the Red Dwarf TV series .

Episodes of Dave Hollins can be found on the 2 @-@ disc Red Dwarf DVD sets starting with series 5 and ending with series 8 .

= = Setting and plot = =

The main setting of the series is the eponymous mining spaceship Red Dwarf , which is 6 miles (9 @.@ 7 km) long , 4 miles (6 @.@ 4 km) tall , and 3 miles (4 @.@ 8 km) wide and is operated by the Jupiter Mining Corporation . In the first episode set sometime in the late 22nd century , an on @-@ board radiation leak of cadmium II kills everyone except for lowest @-@ ranking technician

Dave Lister , who is in suspended animation at the time , and his pregnant cat , Frankenstein , who is safely sealed in the cargo hold . Following the accident , the ship 's computer Holly keeps Lister in stasis until the background radiation dies down ? a process that takes three million years . Lister therefore emerges as the last human being in the universe ? but not alone on @-@ board the ship . His former bunkmate and immediate superior Arnold Judas Rimmer is resurrected by Holly as a hologram to keep Lister sane . At the same time , a creature known only as Cat is the last member on board of Felis sapiens , a race of humanoid felines that evolved in the ship 's hold from Lister 's cat , Frankenstein , and her kittens during the 3 million years that Lister was in stasis .

The main dramatic thrust of the early series is Lister 's desire to return home to Earth , although the crew 's ownership of an unlimited time @-@ space travel drive in series seven was to later negate this intention . As their journey begins , the not @-@ so @-@ intrepid crew encounters such phenomena as time distortions , faster @-@ than @-@ light travel , mutant diseases and strange lifeforms that had developed in the intervening millions of years . During the second series , the group encounter the service mechanoid Kryten , rescuing him from a long @-@ since crashed vessel . Initially , Kryten only appeared in one episode of series two , but by the beginning of series three he had become a regular character . At the end of series five , Red Dwarf itself is stolen by persons unknown , forcing the crew to travel in the smaller Starbug craft for two series , with the side @-@ effect that they lose contact with Holly . In series seven , Rimmer departs the crew to take up the role of his alter ego from a parallel universe , Ace Rimmer , whose name has become a long @-@ standing legend and a legacy passed down from dimension to dimension . Shortly afterwards , the crew encounters a parallel version of themselves from a universe in which Kristine Kochanski , Lister 's long @-@ term love interest , had been put into stasis at the time of the leak and so became the last remaining human . A complicated series of events leaves Kochanski stranded in the series ' main universe , where she is forced to join the crew . At the end of series seven , we learn that Kryten 's service nanobots , which had abandoned him years earlier , were behind the theft of the Red Dwarf at the end of series five .

At the beginning of the eighth series , Kryten 's nanobots reconstruct the Red Dwarf , which they had broken down into its constituent atoms . In the process , the entire crew of the ship ? including a pre @-@ accident Rimmer ? are resurrected , but the Starbug crew find themselves sentenced to two years in the ship 's brig (at first , for crashing a Starbug and bringing onboard Kryten and Cat as stowaways , but later for using information from the confidential files) . The series ends with a metal @-@ eating virus loose on Red Dwarf . The entire resurrected crew evacuates save the original dwarfers . In the cliffhanger ending , Rimmer is left stranded alone to face Death (and promptly knees him in the groin and flees) .

Nine years later , the four are once more the only beings on the ship . Rimmer is again a hologram , Holly is offline , and Lister is mourning Kochanski , lost to him out of an airlock some time previously . A chance to get back to Earth through a dimension warp presents itself ; although it is not quite what it appears to be , it gives Lister new hope when he learns that Kochanski is still alive after all .

The tenth series sees Lister still travelling with Rimmer , Kryten and Cat in Red Dwarf , in hopes of eventually locating Kochanski or returning to Earth , whichever comes first .

= = Characters and actors = =

Dave Lister , played by Craig Charles , is a genial Liverpudlian and self @-@ described bum . He was the lowest @-@ ranking of the 169 crew members on the ship before the accident . He has a long @-@ standing desire to return to Earth and start a farm and / or diner on Fiji (which is under three feet of water following a volcanic eruption) , but is left impossibly far away by the accident , which renders him the last (known) surviving member of the human race . He deeply enjoys Indian food , especially chicken vindaloo , which is a recurring theme in the series .

Arnold Judas Rimmer Bsc Ssc (" Bronze swimming certificate " and " Silver swimming certificate ") , played by Chris Barrie , was the second @-@ lowest ranking member of the crew while they were all alive . He is a fussy , bureaucratic , neurotic coward who , by failing to replace a drive plate properly , is responsible for the Red Dwarf cadmium II accident that kills the entire crew (including

himself) . Nevertheless , Holly chose him to be the ship 's one available hologram because he considered him the person most likely to keep Lister sane . From the Series III episode " Timeslides " onwards , the timeline of the crew is adjusted and Rimmer 's death is newly attributed to a moment in which he hits a cardboard box filled with explosives . During Series VII , Rimmer leaves the dimension shared by his crewmates to become the new Ace Rimmer . Along with the Red Dwarf ship and its crew , Rimmer is resurrected at the start of Series VIII by nanobots . He comes face to face with Death at the end of the series , whom he kicks in the groin . From the Back to Earth specials onwards , he is once again a hologram .

The Cat , played by Danny John @-@ Jules , is a humanoid creature who evolved from the offspring of Lister 's smuggled pet cat Frankenstein . Cat is concerned with little other than sleeping , eating and fawning over his appearance , and tends not to socialise with other members of the crew . He becomes more influenced by his human companions over time , and begins to resemble a stylish , self @-@ centred human . It is later revealed that , unlike his human companions , he has a " cool " sounding pulse , six nipples and colour @-@ coordinated internal organs .

Kryten , full name Kryten 2X4B @-@ 523P (played by Robert Llewellyn from series III onwards , and as a one @-@ off appearance in series II by David Ross) , was rescued by the crew from the crashed spaceship Nova 5 in series II , upon which he had continued to serve the ship 's crew despite their having been dead for thousands or even millions of years . Kryten is a Service Mechanoid and when first encountered by the crew , he was bound by his " behavioural protocols " , but Lister gradually encouraged him to break his programming and think for himself . His change in appearance between the two actors is explained away by an accident involving Lister 's spacebike and Lister having to repair him .

Holly , the ship 's computer , (played by Norman Lovett during series I , II , VII and VIII and Hattie Hayridge in series III to V) . Holly has a functional IQ of 6000 , although this is severely depleted by the three million years of runtime and lack of repairs . Holly is left alone after the radiation accident that kills Rimmer and the rest of the crew except for Lister and the Cat . The computer had developed " computer senility " before the radiation accident , rendering it functionally inert . The change in appearance for series III is explained by Holly having changed his face to resemble that of a computer from a parallel universe " with whom he 'd once fallen madly in love " .

Kristine Kochanski (originally portrayed by Clare Grogan before Chloë Annett took on the role from series VII) was initially a Red Dwarf navigation officer whom Lister had a crush on (later retroactively altered to be his ex @-@ girlfriend) and whose memory he had cherished ever since . In one episode , the crew happens upon an alternative dimension where Kochanski survived the Red Dwarf cadmium II accident . She joins Lister and the crew after the link to her own dimension collapses . By the first episode of the Red Dwarf : Back to Earth specials , Lister believes her dead , but it is later revealed that Kryten (the sole witness to her " death ") had lied to Lister . Kochanski had instead fled the ship in a Blue Midget when it became clear Lister 's complete lack of self @-@ respect and indulgence on excesses was slowly killing him , which greatly depressed her . Lister is advised by fans of the television series to find her in " the next series " and to make amends . (The character does not , however , ultimately appear in the 10th series .)

= = Production = =

The first series aired on BBC2 in 1988 . Ten further series have so far been produced , and a film has been in development almost continually since before series VIII in 1999 .

= = = Concept and commission = = =

The concept for the show was originally developed from the sketch @-@ series Dave Hollins : Space Cadet on the BBC Radio 4 show Son of Cliché in the mid @-@ 1980s , written by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor . Their influences came from films and television programmes such as Silent Running (1972) , Alien (1979) , Dark Star (1974) and The Hitchhiker 's Guide to the Galaxy (1981) , but also had a large element of British @-@ style comedy and satire thrown into the mix ,

ultimately moulded into the form of a sitcom . Many visual and character elements bear similarities to the Trident nuclear submarine BBC documentary " Defence of the Realm " . Having first written the pilot script in 1983 , the former Spitting Image writers had hawked their unusual and original script around but it was rejected by everyone at the BBC , as it was believed a science fiction sitcom would not be popular .

It was finally accepted by BBC North in 1986 , a result of a spare budget being assigned for a second series of Happy Families that would never arise , and producer Paul Jackson 's insistence that Red Dwarf should be filmed instead . The show was lucky to be remounted after an electricians ' strike partway through rehearsals in early 1987 shut the entire production down (the title sequence was filmed in January 1987) . The filming was rescheduled for September , and the pilot episode finally made it onto television screens on 15 February 1988 .

= = = Casting = = =

Alan Rickman and Alfred Molina auditioned for roles in the series , with Molina being cast as Rimmer . However , after Molina had difficulties with the concept of the series , and of his role in particular , the role was recast and filled by Chris Barrie , a professional voice @-@ actor and impressionist who had previously worked with both the writers on Spitting Image , and with the producers on Happy Families and Jasper Carrott productions . Craig Charles , a Liverpudlian " punk poet " , was given the role of Dave Lister . He was approached by the production team for his opinion about the " Cat " character , as they were concerned it may be considered by people as racist . Charles described " Cat " as ' pretty cool ' and after reading the script he decided he wanted to audition for the part of Dave Lister . Laconic stand up comedian Norman Lovett , who had originally tried out for the role of Rimmer , was kept in the show as Holly , the senile computer of the titular ship . A professional dancer and singer , Danny John @-@ Jules , arriving half an hour late for his appointment , stood out as the Cat immediately . This was partly due to his " cool " exterior , dedicated research (reading Desmond Morris ' book Catwatching) , and his showing up in character , wearing his father 's 1950s @-@ style zoot suit .

= = = Writing , producing , and directing = = =

Grant and Naylor wrote the first six series together (using the pseudonym Grant Naylor on the first two novels and later as the name of their production company , although never on the episodes themselves) . Grant left in 1995 , to pursue other projects , leaving Naylor to write series VII and VIII with a group of new writers , including Paul Alexander and actor Robert Llewellyn who portrayed the character Kryten .

For the most part , Ed Bye produced and directed the series . He left before series V due to a scheduling clash (he ended up directing a show starring his wife , Ruby Wax) so Juliet May took over as director . May parted ways with the show halfway through the series for personal and professional reasons and Grant and Naylor took over direction of the series , in addition to writing and producing . Series VI was directed by Andy de Emmony , and Ed Bye returned to direct series VII and VIII . Series I , II and III were made by Paul Jackson Productions , with subsequent series produced by the writers ' own company Grant Naylor Productions for BBC North . All eight series were broadcast on BBC Two . At the beginning of series IV , production moved from the BBC North 's New Broadcasting House in Manchester to Shepperton .

= = = Theme song and music = = =

The theme tune and incidental music were written and performed by Howard Goodall , with the distinctive vocals on the closing theme tune by Jenna Russell . The first two series used a relatively sombre instrumental version of the closing theme for the opening titles ; from series III onwards this switched to a more upbeat version . Goodall also wrote music for the show 's various songs , including " Tongue Tied " , with lyrics written by Grant and Naylor . Danny John @-@ Jules (

credited as ' The Cat ') re @-@ orchestrated and released " Tongue Tied " in October 1993 ; it reached number 17 on the UK charts . Goodall himself sang " The Rimmer Song " heard during the series VII episode " Blue " , to which Chris Barrie mimed .

== Remastered ==

In 1998 , on the tenth anniversary of the show 's first airing (and between the broadcast of series VII and VIII) , the first three series of Red Dwarf were remastered and released on VHS . The remastering included replacing model shots with computer graphics , cutting certain dialogue and scenes , re @-@ filming Norman Lovett 's Holly footage , creating a consistent set of opening titles , replacing music and creating ambient sound effects with a digital master . The remastered series were released in a 4 @-@ disc DVD boxset " The Bodysnatcher Collection " in 2007 .

== Hiatus ==

Three years elapsed between series VI and VII , partly due to the dissolving of the Grant and Naylor partnership , but also due to cast and crew working on other projects . When the series eventually returned , it was filmed and no longer shot in front of a live audience , allowing for greater use of four @-@ walled sets , location shooting and single @-@ camera techniques . When the show returned for its eighth series two years later , it had dropped use of the filming process and returned to using a live audience .

The show received a setback when the BBC rejected proposals for a series IX . Doug Naylor confirmed that the BBC decided not to renew the series as they preferred to work on other projects . A short animated Christmas special was , however , made available to mobile phone subscribers . Ultimately , however , fans had to wait a decade before the series returned to television .

== Revival ==

=== Red Dwarf : Back to Earth ===

In 2008 , a three @-@ episode production was commissioned by the digital channel Dave . Red Dwarf : Back to Earth was broadcast over the Easter weekend of 2009 , along with a " making of " documentary . The episode was set nine years after the events of " Only the Good ... " (with the cliffhanger ending of that episode left unresolved , a situation that would continue with Series X) . The storyline involves the characters arriving back on Earth , circa 2009 , only to find that they are characters in a TV show called " Red Dwarf " . Kochanski is supposedly dead and Holly is offline due to water damage caused by Lister leaving a tap running . Actress Sophie Winkleman played a character called Katerina , a resurrected hologram of a Red Dwarf science officer intent on replacing Rimmer .

To achieve a more cinematic atmosphere , Back to Earth was not filmed in front of a studio audience . Some previous Red Dwarf episodes had been shot in that way (" Bodyswap " and all of the seventh series) , but Back to Earth represented the first time that a laughter track was not added before broadcast . It was also the first episode of Red Dwarf to be filmed in high definition .

The specials were televised over three nights starting on Friday , 10 April 2009 . The broadcasts received record ratings for Freeview channel Dave ; the first of the three episodes represented the UK 's highest ever viewing figures for a commissioned programme on a digital network . Back to Earth was released on DVD on 15 June 2009 , and on Blu @-@ ray on 31 August 2009 . Back to Earth was subsequently described on the series ' official website as " for all intents and purposes , the ' ninth series ' of Red Dwarf " . Its placement as Series IX was confirmed when Series X was commissioned and branded as the tenth series .

=== Red Dwarf X ===

On 10 April 2011 Dave announced it had commissioned a six @-@ episode Red Dwarf " Series X " to be broadcast on Dave in autumn 2012 . Filming dates for the new series Red Dwarf X were announced on 11 November 2011 , along with confirmation that the series would be shot at Shepperton Studios in front of an audience . Principal filming began on 16 December 2011 and ended on 27 January 2012 , and the cast and crew subsequently returned for six days filming pick ups . Discounting guest stars , only the core cast of Charles , Barrie , Llewellyn and John @-@ Jules returned for Series X , with Annett and Lovett absent , though the scripts include references to Kochanski and Holly .

On 20 July 2012 , a 55 @-@ second trailer for series X was released on Facebook , followed by a new teaser every Friday . The new series debuted on Thursday 4 October 2012 .

Since series X aired , which produced high ratings , Dave , Doug Naylor and the cast have shown a strong interest in doing another series with Naylor already starting on scripts , but this is dependent on UKTV commissioning the series . During the Dimension Jump fan convention in May 2013 , Doug Naylor stated that discussions were happening with all involved parties but arrangements had not been finalized , but he hoped shooting could begin in February 2014 . In October 2013 , Doug Naylor played down reports of a new series being commissioned ; but in January 2014 Danny John @-@ Jules stated that the eleventh series of Red Dwarf was currently being written .

== Red Dwarf XI and XII ==

In October 2013 , Robert Llewellyn posted on his blog , stating that " an eleventh series would happen " and that it would be " sometime in 2014 " . Llewellyn removed the post from his blog and Doug Naylor issued a statement on Twitter , saying : " Getting tweets claiming Red Dwarf XI is commissioned . Not true . Not yet . "

At the April 2014 Sci @-@ Fi Scarborough Festival , during the Red Dwarf cast panel , Danny John @-@ Jules stated that filming of the eleventh series would commence in October 2014 , with an expected release of Autumn 2015 on Dave .

On 2 May 2015 , at the Dimension Jump XVIII convention , Naylor announced that an eleventh and a twelfth series had been commissioned . The two series will be shot back @-@ to @-@ back towards the end of 2015 for broadcast on Dave in 2016 and 2017 respectively . The new series will be co @-@ produced by Baby Cow Productions , with company CEO , Henry Normal , executive producing the new episodes .

In the 2015 Christmas message , the official Red Dwarf website confirmed that six episodes (Red Dwarf XI) had been filmed and the remaining six (Red Dwarf XII) would be filmed between January and March 2016 . The message also said that no broadcast date had been set , although the corresponding Facebook post stated that Red Dwarf XI would be shown sometime in 2016 . On 24 June 2016 , along with a brief synopsis of the upcoming season , it was confirmed that Series XI would air in September 2016 .

== Themes ==

Red Dwarf was founded on the standard sitcom focus of a disparate and frequently dysfunctional group of individuals living together in a restricted setting . With the main characters routinely displaying their cowardice , incompetence and laziness , while exchanging insulting and sarcastic dialogue , the series provided a humorous antidote to the fearless and morally upright space explorers typically found in science @-@ fiction series , with its main characters acting bravely only when there was no other possible alternative . The increasing science @-@ fiction elements of the series were treated seriously by creators Rob Grant and Doug Naylor . Satire , parody and drama were alternately woven into the episodes , referencing other television series , films and books . These have included references to the likes of 2001 : A Space Odyssey (1968) , Top Gun (1986) , RoboCop (1987) , Star Wars (1977) , Citizen Kane (1942) , The Wild One (1953) , High Noon (1952) , Rebel Without a Cause (1955) , Easy Rider (1969) , The Terminator (1984) and Pride

and Prejudice (1813) .

The writers based the whole theme of some episodes on the plots of feature films . The series III episode " Polymorph " references and parodies key moments from Alien (1979) ; from series IV , " Camille " echoes key scenes from Casablanca (1942) , while " Meltdown " borrows the main plot from Westworld (1973) . For series IX , " Back to Earth " was partially inspired by Blade Runner (1982) . The series ' themes are not limited to films or television , having also incorporated historical events and figures . Religion also plays a part in the series , as a significant factor in the ultimate fate of the Cat race , and the perception of Lister as their ' God ' , both within the episode " Waiting for God " (whose title makes a literary reference to the Samuel Beckett play Waiting for Godot) , as well as the crew meeting a man they believe to be Jesus Christ in series X episode " Lemons " . The series VII episode titled " Ouroboros " derives its name and theme from the ancient mythological snake by the same name .

The series explores many science @-@ fiction staples such as time @-@ travel paradoxes (including the grandfather paradox) , the question of determinism and free will (on several episodes) , the pursuit of happiness in virtual reality and , crucially to the show 's premise of Lister being the last human , the near @-@ certainty of the human species ' extinction some time in the far future .

Aliens do not feature in the series , as Grant and Naylor decided very early in the process that they did not want aliens involved . This is usually addressed with Rimmer 's belief in extraterrestrial life being shot down , such as a vessel he believes to be an alien ship turning out to be a garbage pod . However , there are non @-@ human life forms such as evolutions of Earth species (e.g. the Cat race) , robotic or holo @-@ life forms created by humans , and a kind of ' Genetically Engineered Life Form ' (GELF) , an artificially @-@ created creature . Simulants and GELFs frequently serve as antagonists among the later series of the show .

= = Hallmarks = =

The series developed its own distinct vocabulary . Words and phrases such as hologramatic [sic] , Dollarpound , Felis sapiens , Simulants , GELF , space weevil and Zero Gee Football appear throughout the series , highlighting a development in language , political climate , technology , evolution and culture in the future . The creators also employed a vocabulary of fictional expletives in order to avoid using potentially offensive words in the show , and to give nuance to futuristic colloquial language ; in particular " smeg " (and variants such as " smegging " , " smegger " , and " smeg @-@ head ") features prominently , alongside the terms " gimboid " and " goit " .

= = Ratings = =

= = = Red Dwarf VIII = = =

= = = Red Dwarf IX : Back to Earth = = =

= = = Red Dwarf X = = =

= = Reception and achievements = =

= = = Critical reactions = = =

The changes that were made to the series ' cast , setting , creative teams and even production values from series to series have meant that opinions differ greatly between fans and critics alike as

to the quality of certain series . In the " Great Red Dwarf Debate " , published in volume 2 issue 3 of the Red Dwarf Smegazine , science @-@ fiction writers Steve Lyons and Joe Nazzaro both argued on the pros and cons of the early series against the later series . Lyons stated that what the show " once had was a unique balance of sci @-@ fi comedy , which worked magnificently . " Nazarro agreed that " the first two series are very original and very funny " , but went on to say that " it wasn't until series III that the show hit its stride . " Series VI is regarded as a continuation of the " Monster of the week " philosophy of series V , which was nevertheless considered to be visually impressive . Discussions revolve around the quality of series VI , seen by viewers as just as good as the earlier series ' , but has been criticised as a descent into formulaic comedy with an unwelcome change of setting .

The changes seen in series VII were seen by some as a disappointment ; while much slicker and higher @-@ budget in appearance , the shift away from outright sitcom and into something approaching comedy drama was seen as a move in the wrong direction . Furthermore , the attempt to shift back into traditional sitcom format for series VIII was greeted with a response that was similarly lukewarm . There was criticism aimed at the decision to resurrect the entire crew of Red Dwarf , as it was felt this detracted from the series ' central premise of Lister being the last human being alive . There are other critics who feel that series VII and VIII are no weaker than the earlier series , however , and the topic is the subject of constant fervent debate among the show 's fanbase .

= = = Achievements = = =

Although the pilot episode of the show gathered over four million viewers , viewing figures dipped in successive episodes and the first series had generally poor ratings . Through to series VI the ratings had steadily increased and peaked at over six million viewers , achieved with the episode " Gunmen of the Apocalypse " . When the series returned in 1999 it gained the highest audience figures yet ? over eight million viewers tuned in for series VIII 's opening episode " Back in the Red : Part I " . In its eight @-@ series history , the series has won numerous awards including the Royal Television Society Award for special effects , the British Science Fiction award for Best Dramatic Presentation , as well as an International Emmy Award for series VI episode " Gunmen of the Apocalypse " , which tied with an Absolutely Fabulous episode , " Hospital " , in the Popular Arts category . The show had also been nominated for the International Emmy Award in 1987 , 1989 , and 1992 . Series VI won a British Comedy Award for ' Best BBC Comedy Series ' . The video sales have won eight Gold Awards from the British Video Association , and the series still holds the record for being BBC Two 's longest @-@ running , highest @-@ rated sitcom . In 2007 the series was voted ' Best Sci @-@ Fi Show Of All Time ' by the readers of Radio Times magazine . Editor Gill Hudson stated that this result had surprised them as ' the series had not given any new episodes this century ' .

= = Spin @-@ offs and merchandise = =

The show 's logo and characters have appeared on a wide range of merchandise . Red Dwarf has also been spun off in a variety of different media formats . For instance , the song " Tongue Tied " , featured in the " Parallel Universe " episode of the show , was released in 1993 as a single and became a top 20 UK hit for Danny John Jules (under the name ' The Cat ') . Stage plays of the show have been produced through Blak Yak , a theatre group in Perth , Western Australia , who were given permission by Grant Naylor Productions to mount stage versions of certain episodes in 2002 , 2004 and 2006 . In October 2006 an Interactive Quiz DVD entitled Red Dwarf : Beat The Geek was released , hosted by Norman Lovett and Hattie Hayridge , both reprising their roles as Holly .

= = = Novels = = =

Working together under the name " Grant Naylor " , the creators of the series collaboratively wrote

two novels . The first , *Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers* , was published in November 1989 , and incorporates plot lines from several episodes of the show 's first two series . The second novel , *Better Than Life* , followed in October 1990 , and is largely based on the second @-@ series episode of the same name . Together , the two novels provide expanded backstory and development of the series ' principal characters and themes .

The authors began work on a sequel to *Better than Life* , called *The Last Human* , but Rob Grant was drawn away from *Red Dwarf* by an interest in other projects . Still owing Penguin Publishing two more *Red Dwarf* novels , Grant and Naylor decided to each write an alternative sequel to *Better than Life* . Two completely different sequels were made as a result , each presenting a possible version of the story 's continuation . *Last Human* , by Doug Naylor , adds Kochanski to the crew and places more emphasis on the science @-@ fiction and plot elements , while Rob Grant 's novel *Backwards* , is more in keeping with the previous two novels , and borrows more extensively from established television stories .

An omnibus edition of the first two novels was released in 1992 , including edits to the original text and extra material such as the original pilot script of the TV series . All four novels have been released in audiobook format , the first two read by Chris Barrie , *Last Human* read by Craig Charles , and *Backwards* read by author Rob Grant .

In December 2009 , *Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers* was released in Germany with the title *Roter Zwerg* (*Red Dwarf* in German) .

= = = = List of Red Dwarf Novels = = = =

= = = Home video releases = = =

For the initial release of the VHS editions , episodes of *Red Dwarf* were separated and two volumes released for each series (except series VII , which was released on three separate tapes) , labelled ' Byte One ' and ' Byte Two ' (plus ' Byte Three ' for series VII) . These videos were named after the first episode of the three presented on the tape , as was typical with other BBC video releases at the time . However , on occasions the BBC decided to ignore the original running order and use the most popular episodes from the series to maximise sales of the videos : for series III (the first ever release) , " Bodyswap " and " Timeslides " were swapped round , so that the latter could receive top billing on the second VHS volume ; for the second VHS volume of series I , " Confidence and Paranoia " was given top billing , even though the original broadcast order was retained ; this was due to the leading episode being " Waiting for God " which shared its name with the title of another comedy series (set in a retirement home) ; and for series V , " Back to Reality " and " Quarantine " were given top billing on their respective video release , which completely re @-@ organised the order of episodes from that in which they were originally broadcast . Future releases would increasingly observe authenticity with the ' original broadcast ' context . All eight series were made available on VHS , and three episodes of series VII were also released as special " Xtended " [sic] versions with extra scenes (including an original , unbroadcast ending for the episode " Tikka To Ride ") and no laugh track ; the remastered versions of series I ? III were also released individually and in a complete box @-@ set . Finally , two outtake videos were released , *Smeg Ups* in 1994 , and its sequel *Smeg Outs* in 1995 .

The first eight series have since been released on DVD in Region 1 , 2 and 4 , each with a bonus disc of extra material and each release from series III onwards being accompanied by an original documentary about the making of each respective series . Regions 2 and 4 have also seen the release of two *Just The Shows* , digipack boxsets containing the episodes from series I ? IV (Volume 1) and V @-@ VIII (Volume 2) with static menus and no extras . *Red Dwarf : The Bodysnatcher Collection* , containing the 1997 remastered episodes , as well as new documentaries for series I and II , was released in 2007 . This release showcased a storyboard construction of " Bodysnatcher " , an unfinished script from 1987 , which was finally completed in 2007 by Rob Grant and Doug Naylor who were working together for the first time since 1993 . In December 2008 an

anniversary DVD set entitled Red Dwarf : All The Shows was released , reworking the vanilla disc content of the two Just The Shows sets within A4 packaging resembling a ' photo album ' , which carefully omitted information that no extras were included . This box @-@ set was re @-@ released in a smaller slip @-@ case sized box , reverting to the Just the Shows title , in November 2009 . The series is also available for download on iTunes .

===== DVD releases =====

===== Blu @-@ ray releases =====

===== Magazine =====

The Red Dwarf Magazine ? the magazine part of the title changed to " Smegazine " from issue 3 ? was launched in 1992 by Fleetway Editions . It comprised a mix of news , reviews , interviews , comic strips and competitions . The comic strips featured episode adaptations and original material , including further stories of popular characters like Mr. Flibble , the Polymorph and Ace Rimmer .

Notably , the comic strip stories ' holographic characters , predominately Rimmer , were drawn in greyscale . This was at the request of Grant and Naylor , who had wanted to use the technique for the television series , but the process was deemed too expensive to produce . Despite achieving circulation figures of over 40 @,@ 000 per month , the magazine 's publisher decided to close the title down to concentrate on their other publications . A farewell issue was published , cover dated January 1994 , and featured the remaining interviews , features and comic strips that were to feature in the following issues .

Another Red Dwarf magazine was started called Red Dwarf : Better Than Life which is only available through the Red Dwarf Official Fan Club . It features cast interviews and the latest news . Each person gets four issues each year .

===== U.S. version =====

Despite the original version having been broadcast on PBS , A pilot episode for an American version (known as Red Dwarf USA) was produced through Universal Studios with the intention of broadcasting on NBC in 1992 . The show essentially followed the same story as the first episode of the original series , using American actors for most of the main roles : Craig Bierko as Lister , Chris Eigeman as Rimmer , and Hinton Battle as Cat . Exceptions to this were Llewellyn , who reprised his role as Kryten , and the British actress Jane Leeves , who played Holly . It was written by Linwood Boomer and directed by Jeffrey Melman , with Grant and Naylor onboard as creators and executive producers . Llewellyn , Grant and Naylor travelled to America for the filming of the American pilot after production of the fifth series of the UK series . According to Llewellyn and Naylor , the cast were not satisfied with Linwood Boomer 's script . Grant and Naylor rewrote the script , but although the cast preferred the re @-@ write , the script as filmed was closer to Boomer 's version . The pilot episode includes footage from the UK series in its title sequence , although it did not retain the logo or the theme music of the UK series . During filming of the pilot , the audience reaction was good and it was felt that the story had been well received .

The studio executives were not entirely happy with the pilot , especially the casting , but decided to give the project another chance with Grant and Naylor in charge . The intention was to shoot a " promo video " for the show in a small studio described by the writers as " a garage " . New cast members were hired for the roles of Cat and Rimmer , Terry Farrell and Anthony Fuscile respectively . This meant that , unlike the original British series , the cast was all Caucasian . Chris Barrie was asked to play Rimmer in the second pilot , but he declined . With a small budget and deadline , new scenes were quickly shot and mixed in with existing footage of the pilot and UK series V episodes , to give an idea of the basic plot and character dynamics , alongside proposed future episodes ,

remakes of episodes from the original show . Llewellyn did not participate in the re @-@ shoot , though clips from the British version were used to show the character . Despite the re @-@ shoots and re @-@ casting , the option on the pilot was not picked up . Farrell was cast almost immediately afterwards for Star Trek : Deep Space Nine , in which she was cast as Jadzia Dax . Similarly , one year later Jane Leeves was cast in Frasier as Daphne Moon .

The cast of both the British and American versions criticised the casting of Red Dwarf USA , particularly the part of Lister who is portrayed in the British version as a likable slob but in the US version as somewhat clean cut . In the 2004 documentary Dwarfing USA , Danny John @-@ Jules said the only actor who could have successfully portrayed an American Lister was John Belushi . In a 2009 interview on Kevin Pollak 's Chat Show , Bierko said that casting him as Lister was a " huge mistake " and also said a " John Belushi type " would have been better suited to the role .

The American pilot has been heavily bootlegged , but it has never been broadcast on TV in any country . Excerpts from the first pilot are included in Dwarfing USA , a featurette on the making of the pilots included on the DVD release of Red Dwarf 's fifth series . Because of rights clearance issues , no footage from the second pilot is included in the featurette .

= = = Red Dwarf : The Movie = = =

Since the end of the eighth series in 1999 , Doug Naylor has been attempting to make a feature @-@ length version of the show . A final draft of the script was written , by Naylor , and flyers began circulating around certain websites . The flyer was genuine and had been distributed by Winchester Films to market the film overseas . Plot details were included as part of the teaser . It was set in the distant future where Homo sapienoids - a race of cyborgs ? had taken over the solar system and were wiping out the human race . Spaceships that tried to escape Earth were hunted down until only one remained ... Red Dwarf .

Naylor had scouted Australia to get an idea of locations and finance costs , with pre @-@ production beginning in 2004 and filming planned for 2005 . However , finding sufficient funding has been difficult . Naylor explained at a Red Dwarf Dimension Jump convention that the film had been rejected by the BBC and the British Film Council . Reasons given for the rejections were that while the script was considered to be funny , it was not ready .

Contents from early drafts of the film were eventually used in the Series X finale " The Beginning " .

= = = Roleplaying game = = =

Deep7 Press (formerly Deep7 LLC) released Red Dwarf - The Roleplaying Game in February 2003 (although the printed copyright is 2002) . Based on the series , the game allows its players to portray original characters within the Red Dwarf universe . Player characters can be human survivors , holograms , evolved house pets (cats , dogs , iguanas , rabbits , rats and mice) , various types of mechanoid (Series 4000 , Hudzen 10 and Waxdroids in the corebook , Series 3000 in the Extra Bits Book) or GELFs (Kinatawowi and Pleasure GELF in the corebook , " Vindaloovians " in the Extra Bits Book) .

A total of three products were released for the game : the core 176 @-@ page rulebook , the AI Screen (analogous to the Game Master 's Screen used in other roleplaying games , also featuring the " Extra Bits Book " booklet) , and the Series Sourcebook . The Series Sourcebook contains plot summaries of each episode from series I @-@ VIII as well as game rules for all major and minor characters from each series .

The game has been praised for staying true to the comedic nature of the series , for its entertaining writing , and for the detail to which the background material is explained . However , some reviewers found the game mechanics to be simplistic and uninspiring compared to other science fiction roleplaying games on the market .

= = = Red Dwarf Night = = =

On 14 February 1998 , the night before the tenth anniversary of the show 's pilot episode broadcast , BBC Two devoted an evening of programmes to the series , under the banner of Red Dwarf Night . The evening consisted of a mixture of new and existing material , and was introduced and linked by actor and fan Patrick Stewart . In addition , a series of special take @-@ offs on BBC Two 's idents , featuring the " 2 " logo falling in love with a skutter , were used . The night began with Can 't Smeg , Won 't Smeg , a spoof of the cookery programme Can 't Cook , Won 't Cook , presented by that show 's host Ainsley Harriott who had himself appeared as a GELF in the series VI episode " Emohawk : Polymorph II " . Taking place outside the continuity of the series , two teams (Kryten and Lister versus Rimmer and Cat , although Cat quickly departs to be replaced by alter ego Duane Dibbley) were challenged to make the best chicken vindaloo .

After a compilation bloopers show , featuring out @-@ takes , the next programme was Universe Challenge , a spoof of University Challenge . Hosted by original University Challenge presenter Bamber Gascoigne , the show had a team of knowledgeable Dwarf fans compete against a team consisting of Chris Barrie , Craig Charles , Robert Llewellyn , Chloë Annett and Danny John Jules . This was followed by The Red Dwarf A ? Z , a half @-@ hour documentary that chose a different aspect of the show to focus on for each letter of the alphabet . Talking heads on the episode included Stephen Hawking , Terry Pratchett , original producer Paul Jackson , Mr. Blobby , Patrick Stewart , and a dalek . Finally , the night ended with a showing of the episode " Gunmen of the Apocalypse " .