

= Professor Frink =

Professor John Nerdelbaum Frink , Jr . , or simply Professor Frink , is a recurring character in the animated television series The Simpsons . He is voiced by Hank Azaria , and first appeared in the 1991 episode " Old Money " . Frink is Springfield 's nerdy scientist and professor and is extremely intelligent , though somewhat mad and socially inept . Frink often tries to use his bizarre inventions to aid the town in its crises but they usually only make things worse . His manner of speech , including the impulsive shouting of nonsensical words , has become his trademark .

Frink was originally depicted as an evil scientist in " Old Money " , since he was trying to secure funding for a death ray . When Azaria ad @-@ libbed a voice for the character , he did an impression of Jerry Lewis 's Julius Kelp character from The Nutty Professor . The staff liked the voice and therefore changed Frink to be more like Julius Kelp , both in appearance and personality ? he became more nerdy , and went from evil to just mad . Lewis later guest @-@ starred on the show as Frink 's father in the 2003 episode " Treehouse of Horror XIV " .

The professor has received acclaim from critics , particularly for his bizarre inventions such as the hamburger earmuffs , and he has appeared on many reviewers ' listings of their favorite supporting characters from The Simpsons . Frink has been featured in other media relating to the show , such as comics , video games , and a simulator ride at Universal Studios Florida . The character 's popularity has led to him giving name to the computer programming language , Frink .

= = Role in The Simpsons = =

John Frink is generally depicted as Springfield 's stereotypical nerdy , mad , and socially inept scientist , inventor , and mathematician . He wears thick glasses , a white lab coat , pink pants , and has buckteeth . Frink is a college professor at Springfield Heights Institute of Technology and runs his own astronomical observatory . He has an IQ of 197 ? it was 199 before he sustained a concussion during the collapse of Springfield 's brief intellectual junta ? and is a member of the Springfield chapter of Mensa . Frink is generally very polite and friendly . He has a trademark mannerism of using Jerry Lewis @-@ style gibberish when excited , such as " HOYVIN @-@ GLAVIN ! " and " FLAVIN " and impulsively shouting other words that have no relevance to the situation at hand . He also occasionally refers to the importance of remembering to " carry the one " in various mathematical calculations . When he rambles he often speaks incoherently in run @-@ on sentences without pauses . Frink also has a tendency to over @-@ complicate simple matters and / or invent scientific terminology while expressing various concepts , e.g. " Father and I got along like positrons and antineutrinos ! " or , " microcalifragilistics " .

Frink often tries to use his mad and bizarre inventions to aid the town in its crises , but they usually do not work or only make things worse . Most of his inventions never function properly or are of no real use . He is the inventor of , among other things , a frog exaggerator (which greatly misrepresents the size of amphibians) , automatic tapping shoes for tap dancing , the sarcasm detector , hamburger earmuffs , the 8 @-@ month @-@ after pill , and a drilling machine that can cut through anything . Some of Frink 's unsuccessful inventions include his small remote @-@ controlled plane that carries babies as passengers (it crashed) , and a burglar @-@ proof house that sprouts legs and runs away from potential danger (the legs of which collapsed causing the house to crash to the ground and catch fire) . As a scientist , Frink has discovered and cured " Frink 's Disease " and discovered the element " Frinkonium " . He has also mastered astrology to the point where he can use it to accurately predict the future , and has been shown to be capable of time travel .

The professor has a son who is seen in " Brother , Can You Spare Two Dimes ? " during a convention for infant and toddler products as a pilot of a remote @-@ controlled plane (he flies out the window of the building while in the plane and crashes) , and in " I , (Annoyed Grunt) -Bot " at a robot battle (operating the robot) . On the show , Frink has made mentions of a wife , but there have also been jokes about him having had little contact with women in his life .

Frink often appears in the Treehouse of Horror Halloween episodes of The Simpsons , which are

not accepted as canon and always take place outside the normal continuity of the show . Frink 's bizarre inventions and understanding of advanced physics usually fit well into these supernatural plotlines . In " Treehouse of Horror VIII " , Bart enters Frink 's matter teleporter and - echoing the film The Fly - it results in an accidental mix between Bart 's genes and the genes of a housefly that was also present in the transporter at the same time . In " Treehouse of Horror XIV " , it is revealed that Frink had a father who was killed by a shark , whom he brings back to life in the episode by piecing together his body parts . Unfortunately , the man decides to steal body parts to improve himself after he is revived . In the latter episode , Frink is awarded a Nobel Prize .

= = Character = =

Frink first appeared in the season two episode " Old Money " that aired on March 28 , 1991 . In that episode , Grampa Simpson inherits \$ 106 @,@ 000 from his girlfriend when she dies . He eventually decides to spend it on people who are in need of money and holds interviews . In one of these interviews , Frink introduces Grampa to his latest invention , the Death Ray , claiming that " it is just a prototype . With proper funding I ? m confident this little baby could destroy an area the size of New York City ! " Grampa responds with " But I want to help people , not kill ? em ! " , to which Frink replies " Oh . Well , to be honest , the ray only has evil applications . You know my wife will be happy , she ? s hated this whole Death Ray thing from day one . "

In the original script , Frink appeared more evil . However , when cast member Hank Azaria ad @-@ libbed a voice for Frink , he did an impression of Jerry Lewis 's character Julius Kelp from the 1963 film The Nutty Professor , and the writing staff started making Frink more of a parody of that character . Julius Kelp is a nerdy , mad professor , albeit not evil , and is often unsuccessful with his experiments , so Frink became more like that as the show progressed . The Simpsons creator Matt Groening told TV Guide that " He was just written as a mad scientist character until Hank did the voice , and suddenly he became this nutty professor persona . What I love about Hank is that , you give him a single line ? and most of these characters have very few lines ? and he just brings it to life . Every time . " Frink was originally animated without his buckteeth ; they were added later on to make him look even more like Lewis 's character . He was named after television writer John Frink , who was later hired on The Simpsons . The nonsensical utterances that Frink makes are written in the scripts as " Frink noise " .

Azaria has voiced Frink ever since the first appearance of the professor . Out of the many characters for which Azaria provides the voice , Frink is his favorite to do because he was a fan of Lewis in his younger years and he enjoys imitating the voice of the nutty professor . He has said that " once you start talking like [Julius Kelp] it ? s very hard to stop . On each take , I ? ll make it sillier , I always have . I ? ll add more and more stupid noises and sounds to it . If they let me keep going , it gets ridiculous . "

As a homage to Lewis , Azaria conceived the idea of the " Treehouse of Horror XIV " segment in which Frink revives his dead father , with Lewis guest starring as the father . In a review of that episode , which aired around Halloween in 2003 , Robert Bianco of USA Today wrote that it is hard to tell Frink and his father 's voices apart : " Azaria voices Frink with such a spot @-@ on Lewis imitation that it 's sometimes hard to tell which one of the two nutty professors is talking . " In addition , The Knoxville News @-@ Sentinel 's Terry Morrow commented that " to hear Lewis doing Azaria doing Lewis is a mind @-@ bending gut buster , the kind of pay @-@ off that die @-@ hard Simpsons fans live for . "

= = Reception = =

Frink is a popular character on The Simpsons and he has received acclaim from critics . Mark Hughes Cobb of The Tuscaloosa News named him his favorite secondary character from the show . Fort Worth Star @-@ Telegram 's Robert Philpot called the professor one of the five best supporting characters on The Simpsons , writing that " Springfield 's mad scientist is a triumph of style over substance , with Hank Azaria giving him a ripoff Jerry Lewis voice that reminds you why we once

thought Lewis was funny . " On their list of the top twenty @-@ five peripheral Simpsons characters , IGN 's Eric Goldman , Dan Iversen , and Brian Zoromski listed Frink at number fourteen , commenting that he fits nicely into the Simpsons universe " as the town 's brilliant mad scientist . " They highlighted a scene from the episode " The PTA Disbands " , in which Frink becomes a kindergarten substitute teacher and keeps one of the children 's toys to himself because the children " wouldn 't enjoy it on as many levels " as he did . Nick Griffiths of Radio Times named Frink one of the best characters of the show , stating that he has " always loved Professor Frink " , particularly because of his appearance , gibberish talking , and overuse of the word " the " , and because of his inventions such as the matter teleporter that turns Bart into half @-@ human half @-@ fly . The Sydney Morning Herald 's David Hollingworth profiled Frink in his list of " TV 's great tech figures " , writing that apart from being smart , the professor is best known for his " rather idiosyncratic speech patterns ? hmmguyvin @-@ whey @-@ hey . " Joe Rhodes of TV Guide listed the following as the professor 's most memorable line : " Sorry I 'm late . There was trouble at the lab with the running and the exploding and the crying when the monkeys stole the glasses off my head . "

Several critics have commented on Frink 's inventions . Patrick Goss of MSN 's Tech & Gadgets wrote that " When it comes to gizmos , Frink is the king " , and listed the Death Ray as one of the greatest gadgets featured in The Simpsons . Although he added that it " was not one of [Frink 's] most successful , " since it never received the funding it needed from Grampa . On the same list , Goss also featured Frink 's automatic phone dialer , intra bovine ice @-@ cream maker (an invention that is inserted into a cow and uses the four stomachs to mix the various ingredients) , and hamburger earmuffs . In a profile about Frink , the publication UGO Networks wrote : " Where would the town be without your Jerry Lewis / Julius Kelp @-@ inspired voice and antics ? A lot safer most likely . Professor John Frink 's inventions range from distracting to disruptive . Who can forget his hamburger earmuffs ? Or his teleportation device , responsible for switching Bart Simpson 's head with that of a housefly ? " Howard Waldrop and Lawrence Person of Locus listed the scene in The Simpsons Movie that features Frink 's drilling machine invention as one of the highlights of the film .

= = Merchandising and legacy = =

Frink has appeared in various merchandise related to The Simpsons , including issues of Simpsons Comics , the simulator ride " The Simpsons Ride " at Universal Studios Florida , and video games such as The Simpsons Wrestling , The Simpsons : Road Rage , The Simpsons : Hit & Run , and The Simpsons Game . He has also been turned into a Halloween @-@ inspired action figure that was packaged with Kids Meals at Burger King in October and November 2002 . In addition , Frink was featured on the cover of the October 16 , 2000 issue of TV Guide .

The professor has also had an impact on real life science . Frink , a computer programming language , was named after him . It is , according to creator of the language , " designed to make physical calculations simple , to help ensure that answers come out right , and to make a tool that 's really useful in the real world . It tracks units of measure (feet , meters , kilograms , watts , etc .) through all calculations , allowing you to mix units of measure transparently , and helps you easily verify that your answers make sense . "