

= Jurassic Park ( song ) =

" Jurassic Park " is a parody of Jimmy Webb 's single " MacArthur Park " written and performed by " Weird Al " Yankovic ; it was released both as a single and as part of Yankovic 's Alapalooza album in October 1993 . " Jurassic Park " was penned by Yankovic after he remembered the enjoyment he had when he combined a classic rock track with a recent movie topic with his 1985 song " Yoda " . Yankovic decided to combine the plot of the recent movie Jurassic Park ? a film about a park on a fictional island where geneticists have succeeded in cloning dinosaurs .

The song was paired with an elaborately animated music video , which was created by Mark Osborne and Scott Nordlund almost entirely via claymation . The video did not receive extensive play on MTV , although it was popular on The Box , VH1 , and in Canada , where it was played on MuchMusic . The video , due to its animation , also later went on to be praised at various animation festivals worldwide .

" Jurassic Park " was met with mixed to positive reviews ; while many reviewers enjoyed Yankovic 's humor , others felt that the song did not satirize the source material , but instead merely recounted the plot to the movie . Webb himself was very pleased with the final result and has been known to sing the parody lyrics in concert . Although the single did not chart in the United States , it peaked at number 5 on the Canadian magazine The Record 's single chart . The video was also nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Short Form Music Video at the 37th Grammy Awards , although it did not win .

= = Writing = =

Yankovic was inspired to write the song after he heard The Kinks ' song " Lola " while driving in his car one day . He noted , " I was driving a rent @-@ a @-@ car through Florida when the song ' Lola ' came on the radio , and it got me thinking about how much fun I had doing ' Yoda ' [ a song from 1985 's Dare to Be Stupid ] where I took a then @-@ current topic and combined it with a classic rock tune . " He soon turned his attention to the film Jurassic Park ? about a park on a fictional island , where geneticists have succeeded in cloning dinosaurs . The film is based on the 1990 novel of the same name by Michael Crichton ? which had just come out and was already a blockbuster success . Yankovic decided to write a parody about the movie , and considered various songs that he could spoof . Eventually , he decided to parody the 1968 hit single " MacArthur Park " , which was performed by Richard Harris . Yankovic approached the original song 's writer , Jimmy Webb , who agreed to the idea . In fact , Webb was so amused by the parody that he penned a letter to Yankovic stating " Well , this [ the parody ] oughta [ sic ] bury that song once and for all ! " In addition , Yankovic received permission from Crichton and director Steven Spielberg to produce the track .

= = Recording and lyrics = =

Yankovic entered the studio to record " Jurassic Park " on July 16 , 1993 . Backing Yankovic were Jon " Bermuda " Schwartz on drums , Steve Jay on bass , and Jim West on guitar . " MacArthur Park " contained an actual orchestra complete with a strings section . " Jurassic Park " , however , features synth strings courtesy of keyboardist Brad Buxer , who programmed the section himself . Intermixed during the interlude are various dinosaur sound effects courtesy of Sandy Berman ; Berman had previously created dinosaur yells for a major theme park attraction , and loaned Yankovic the sound effects . At 3 : 53 in length , the song is considerably shorter than the original , which clocks in at 7 : 21 . Largely , this is due to the fact that the middle section featured in the original ? the so called " After the Loves of My Life " section ? is omitted from Yankovic 's parody .

The song itself recounts both the plot of the movie , and contains various in @-@ jokes and references therein . One line about lawyers ? " A huge tyrannosaurus ate our lawyer / Well , I suppose that proves they 're really not all bad " ? was deliberately placed in the song to be ambiguous , as it could either be referring to lawyers or dinosaurs as being " not all bad " . The song

also makes various pop culture references , alluding to the idea of an E ticket and Barney .

= = Music video = =

When it came time for a video for " Jurassic Park " , Yankovic opted to use stop @-@ motion and claymation ; he joked during a Q & A that this was because " it 's just too hard to find real live dinosaurs these days . " " Jurassic Park " was Yankovic 's first video that was entirely animated ? previous videos , such as " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " and " Dare to Be Stupid " had featured elements of animation . The video was directed by Mark Osborne and Scott Nordlund . Yankovic initially heard of the duo from Bill Manspeaker , the leader singer of the comedy rock band Green Jelly . After being hired for the project , the two " basically turned a private residence in Los Angeles into a clay animation studio . " The two worked between July and August 1993 , and slept in shifts , so that the final project would be ready for its release in October 1993 . One critic noted that the music video seems to have been done in the style of Will Vinton 's Dinosaurs ! ? A Fun @-@ Filled Trip Back in Time ! The video parodies scenes from , as well as the general plot of the 1993 movie , and contains a myriad of sight @-@ gags ? as is usual for Yankovic 's videos ? such as a claymation version of Steven Spielberg running from dinosaurs , Barney having his head ripped off , and a Velociraptor attempting to break down a door , only to realize it has a key .

= = Release = =

= = = Reception = = =

" Jurassic Park " was released as the lead single from Yankovic 's 1993 album Alapalooza . The single did not chart in the United States . However , the song was a sales success in Canada , and peaked at number 5 on the Canadian magazine The Record 's single chart . The video for " Jurassic Park " received light rotation on MTV . Yankovic later explained in an interview that " [ MTV ] played it a few times , and then just yanked it , because it wasn 't really part of their sound . " In contrast , the single was a success on The Box and they played it " incessantly " . Furthermore , in Canada , the song was a massive success on MuchMusic . Due to this , Alapalooza is Yankovic 's best selling album in Canada , with over 200 @,@ 000 units sold , according to Music Canada . However , the video was played and remained popular on VH1 well after its release ; it ranked within the Top 50 Most @-@ Played Clips during the months of August and September 1999 , according to Billboard magazine . The video for " Jurassic Park " was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Short Form Music Video at the 37th Grammy Awards , but lost to the video for " Love Is Strong " by The Rolling Stones . Nonetheless , it received attention in animation festivals worldwide for its use of claymation effects .

Jimmy Webb was particularly pleased with the finished product . According to Yankovic , several times during different concerts in New York and Los Angeles that Yankovic was in attendance , Webb would start to perform the original , feign forgetting the words , and then invite Yankovic on stage to help him sing " Jurassic Park " instead . For a Christmas present one year , Webb even sent Yankovic a rubber dinosaur mask as a joke . Yankovic later noted that Webb " was the coolest " .

= = = Reviews = = =

Chris Hicks of the Deseret News called the single " absolutely hilarious " , and rhetorically asked " who else would think of adapting that ridiculously popular movie 's themes to new lyrics for Jimmy Webb 's classic ditty ' MacArthur Park ' ? " Hicks ' felt that the song 's funniest moments involved the jokes revolving around lawyers and the mention of Barney . Amanda Cohen of the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette wrote that it combined " the schlock of the original song with schtick about the dinosaur movie " and proved that " Yankovic is as funny as ever " . Furthermore , she noted that it

was evidence that " his voice improves with every new release " . In a review of the Spike and Mike 's Festival of Animation , Arthur Salm called the piece a " knockout " and praised the humor , specifically highlighting the claymation cameo of Steve Spielberg and the " goofy velociraptor " from the opening of the video .

Some critics felt that the song did not satirize the source material , but instead merely recounted the plot to Jurassic Park . Entertainment Weekly referred to the claymation video for the " Jurassic Park " as " clever but toothless " . The magazine argued that Yankovic 's parody did not satirize the original material , but instead transposed new elements on top of them . Rob Owen of Richmond Times @-@ Dispatch wrote that the song " does nothing but recount the plot of the hit movie " and that " dinosaurs don 't lend themselves to music " .

= = Track listing = =

CD single

" Jurassic Park " ? 3 : 53

" Frank 's 2000 " TV " ? 4 : 04

= = Charts = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

" Weird " Al Yankovic ? vocals , background vocals , production , arrangement

Jim West ? guitar

Steve Jay ? bass guitar

Jon " Bermuda " Schwartz ? drums

Brad Buxer ? keyboards , synthetic orchestration

Sandy Berman ? dinosaur growls

Tony Papa ? engineering