

= Family Guy =

Family Guy is an American adult animated sitcom created by Seth MacFarlane for the Fox Broadcasting Company . The series centers on the Griffins , a family consisting of parents Peter and Lois ; their children Meg , Chris , and Stewie ; and their anthropomorphic pet dog Brian . The show is set in the fictional city of Quahog , Rhode Island , and exhibits much of its humor in the form of cutaway gags that often lampoon American culture .

The family was conceived by MacFarlane after developing two animated films , The Life of Larry and Larry & Steve . MacFarlane redesigned the films ' protagonist , Larry , and his dog , Steve , and renamed them Peter and Brian , respectively . MacFarlane pitched a seven @-@ minute pilot to Fox in 1998 , and the show was greenlit and began production . Shortly after the third season of Family Guy had aired in 2002 , Fox canceled the series , with one episode left unaired . Adult Swim burned off the episode in 2003 , finishing the series ' original run . However , favorable DVD sales and high ratings for syndicated reruns on Adult Swim convinced the network to renew the show in 2004 for a fourth season , which began airing on May 1 , 2005 .

Family Guy has been nominated for 12 Primetime Emmy Awards and 11 Annie Awards , and has won three of each . In 2009 , it was nominated for an Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series , the first time an animated series was nominated for the award since The Flintstones in 1961 . Family Guy has also received criticism , including unfavorable comparisons to The Simpsons .

Many tie @-@ in media have been released , including Stewie Griffin : The Untold Story , a straight @-@ to @-@ DVD special released in 2005 ; Family Guy : Live in Vegas , a soundtrack @-@ DVD combo released in 2005 , featuring music from the show as well as original music created by MacFarlane and Walter Murphy ; a video game and pinball machine , released in 2006 and 2007 , respectively ; since 2005 , six books published by Harper Adult based on the Family Guy universe ; and Laugh It Up , Fuzzball : The Family Guy Trilogy (2010) , a series of parodies of the original Star Wars trilogy . In 2008 , MacFarlane confirmed that the cast was interested in producing a feature film and that he was working on a story for a film adaptation .

A spin @-@ off series , The Cleveland Show , featuring Cleveland Brown , aired from September 27 , 2009 , to May 19 , 2013 . " The Simpsons Guy " , a crossover episode with The Simpsons , aired on September 28 , 2014 . Family Guy is a joint production by Fuzzy Door Productions and 20th Century Fox Television and syndicated by 20th Television . In 2013 , TV Guide ranked Family Guy the ninth Greatest TV Cartoon of All Time .

As of May 15 , 2016 , Family Guy was renewed for a fifteenth season .

= = Premise = =

= = = Characters = = =

The show revolves around the adventures of the Griffin family , consisting of father Peter Griffin , a bumbling yet well @-@ intentioned blue @-@ collar worker ; Lois , a stay @-@ at @-@ home mother and piano teacher who is a member of the wealthy Pewterschmidt family ; Meg , their awkward teenage daughter who is constantly ridiculed and ignored by the family ; Chris , their teenage son , who is overweight , unintelligent and a younger version of his father in many respects ; and Stewie , their diabolical infant son of ambiguous sexual orientation who has adult mannerisms and uses stereotypical archvillain phrases . Living with the family is their witty , smoking , martini @-@ swilling , sarcastic , English @-@ speaking anthropomorphic dog Brian , though he is still considered a pet in many respects .

Recurring characters appear alongside the Griffin family . These include the family 's neighbors : sex @-@ crazed airline pilot bachelor Quagmire ; African American deli owner Cleveland and his wife Loretta (later Donna) ; paraplegic police officer Joe , his wife Bonnie and their baby daughter Susie ; neurotic Jewish pharmacist Mort , his wife Muriel , and their geeky and annoying son Neil ;

and elderly child molester Herbert . TV news anchors Tom Tucker and Diane Simmons , Asian reporter Tricia Takanawa , and Blacuu @-@ Weather meteorologist Ollie Williams also make frequent appearances . Actors Adam West and James Woods guest star as themselves in various episodes .

= = = Setting = = =

The primary setting of Family Guy is Quahog (/ ?ko?h?? / [pron. ko @-@ hog or kwo @-@ hog]) , a fictional district of Providence , Rhode Island that was founded by Peter 's ancestor Griffin Peterson . MacFarlane resided in Providence during his time as a student at Rhode Island School of Design , and the show contains distinct Rhode Island landmarks similar to real @-@ world locations . MacFarlane often borrows the names of Rhode Island locations and icons such as Pawtucket and Buddy Cianci for use in the show . MacFarlane , in an interview with a news program on WNAC @-@ TV , Channel 64 in Providence , stated that the town is modeled after Cranston , Rhode Island .

= = Development = =

MacFarlane initially conceived Family Guy in 1995 while studying animation at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) . During college , he created his thesis film entitled The Life of Larry , which was submitted by his professor at RISD to Hanna @-@ Barbera . MacFarlane was hired by the company . In 1996 MacFarlane created a sequel to The Life of Larry entitled Larry and Steve , which featured a middle @-@ aged character named Larry and an intellectual dog , Steve ; the short was broadcast in 1997 as one of Cartoon Network 's World Premiere Toons .

Executives at Fox saw the Larry shorts and contracted MacFarlane to create a series , entitled Family Guy , based on the characters . Fox proposed MacFarlane complete a 15 @-@ minute short , and gave him a budget of \$ 50 @,@ 000 . Several aspects of Family Guy were inspired by the Larry shorts . While working on the series , the characters of Larry and his dog Steve slowly evolved into Peter and Brian . MacFarlane stated that the difference between The Life of Larry and Family Guy was that " Life of Larry was shown primarily in my dorm room and Family Guy was shown after the Super Bowl . " After the pilot aired , the series was given the green light . MacFarlane drew inspiration from several sitcoms such as The Simpsons and All in the Family . Premises were drawn from several 1980s Saturday morning cartoons he watched as a child , such as The Fonz and the Happy Days Gang and Rubik , the Amazing Cube .

The Griffin family first appeared on the demo that MacFarlane pitched to Fox on May 15 , 1998 . Family Guy was originally planned to start out as short movies for the sketch show MADtv , but the plan changed because MADtv 's budget was not large enough to support animation production . MacFarlane noted that he then wanted to pitch it to Fox , as he thought that that was the place to create a prime @-@ time animation show . Family Guy was originally pitched to Fox in the same year as King of the Hill , but the show was not bought until years later , when King of the Hill became successful . Fox ordered 13 episodes of Family Guy to air in midseason after MacFarlane impressed executives with a seven @-@ minute demo .

= = Episodes = =

= = Production = =

= = = Executive producers = = =

MacFarlane has served as an executive producer during the show 's entire history , and also functions as a creative consultant . The first executive producers were David Zuckerman , Lolee

Aries , David Pritchard , and Mike Wolf . Family Guy has had many executive producers in its history , including Daniel Palladino , Kara Vallow , and Danny Smith . David A. Goodman joined the show as a co @-@ executive producer in season three , and eventually became an executive producer . Alex Borstein , who voices Lois , worked as an executive and supervising producer for the fourth and fifth seasons . A more involved position on the show is the show runner , who acts as head writer and manages the show 's production for an entire season .

= = = Writing = = =

The first team of writers assembled for the show consisted of Chris Sheridan , Danny Smith , Gary Janetti , Ricky Blitt , Neil Goldman , Garrett Donovan , Matt Weitzman , and Mike Barker . The writing process of Family Guy generally starts with 14 writers that take turns writing the scripts ; when a script is finished it is given to the rest of the writers to read . These scripts generally include cutaway gags . Various gags are pitched to MacFarlane and the rest of the staff , and those deemed funniest are included in the episode . MacFarlane has explained that normally it takes 10 months to produce an episode because the show uses hand @-@ drawn animation . The show rarely comments on current events for this reason . The show 's initial writers had never written for an animated show ; and most came from live @-@ action sitcoms .

MacFarlane explains that he is a fan of 1930s and 1940s radio programs , particularly the radio thriller anthology " Suspense " , which led him to give early episodes ominous titles like " Death Has a Shadow " and " Mind Over Murder " . MacFarlane explained that the team dropped the naming convention after individual episodes became hard to identify , and the novelty wore off . For the first few months of production , the writers shared one office , lent to them by the King of the Hill production crew .

Credited with 18 episodes , Steve Callaghan is the most prolific writer on Family Guy staff . Many of the writers that have left the show have gone on to create or produce other successful series . Neil Goldman and Garrett Donovan co @-@ wrote 13 episodes for the NBC sitcom Scrubs during their eight @-@ year run on the show , while also serving as co @-@ producers and working their way up to executive producers . Mike Barker and Matt Weitzman left the show and went on to create the long @-@ running and still ongoing adult animated series American Dad ! MacFarlane is also a co @-@ creator of American Dad ! On November 4 , 2013 , it was announced that Barker had departed American Dad ! during its run as well , after 10 seasons of serving as producer and co @-@ showrunner over the series .

During the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike , official production of the show halted for most of December 2007 and for various periods afterward . Fox continued producing episodes without MacFarlane 's final approval , which he termed " a colossal dick move " in an interview with Variety . Though MacFarlane refused to work on the show , his contract under Fox required him to contribute to any episodes it would subsequently produce . Production officially resumed after the end of the strike , with regularly airing episodes recommencing on February 17 , 2008 . According to MacFarlane , in 2009 , it costs about \$ 2 million to make an episode of Family Guy .

= = = Early history and cancellation = = =

Family Guy officially premiered after Fox 's broadcast of Super Bowl XXXIII on January 31 , 1999 , with " Death Has a Shadow " . The show debuted to 22 million viewers , and immediately generated controversy regarding its adult content . The show returned on April 11 , 1999 , with " I Never Met the Dead Man " . Family Guy garnered decent ratings in Fox 's 8 : 30 pm slot on Sunday , scheduled between The Simpsons and The X @-@ Files . At the end of its first season , the show ranked at # 33 in the Nielsen ratings , with 12 @. @ 8 million households tuning in . The show launched its second season in a new time slot , Thursday at 9 pm , on September 23 , 1999 . Family Guy was pitted against NBC 's Frasier , and the series ' ratings declined sharply . Subsequently , Fox removed Family Guy from its schedule , and began airing episodes irregularly . The show returned on March 7 , 2000 , at 8 : 30 pm on Tuesdays , where it was constantly beaten in the ratings by ABC

's then @-@ new breakout hit Who Wants to Be a Millionaire , coming in at # 114 in the Nielsen ratings with 6 @.@ 32 million households tuning in . Fox announced that the show had been canceled in May 2000 , at the end of the second season . However , following a last @-@ minute reprieve , on July 24 , 2000 , Fox ordered 13 additional episodes of Family Guy to form a third season .

The show returned November 8 , 2001 , once again in a tough time slot : Thursday nights at 8 : 00 pm ET ; this slot brought it into competition with Survivor and Friends (a situation that was later referenced in Stewie Griffin : The Untold Story) . During its second and third seasons , Fox frequently moved the show around to different days and time slots with little or no notice and , consequently , the show 's ratings suffered . Upon Fox 's annual unveiling of its 2002 fall line @-@ up on May 15 , 2002 , Family Guy was absent . Fox announced that the show had been officially canceled shortly thereafter .

= = = Cult success and revival = = =

Fox attempted to sell the rights for reruns of the show , but it was difficult to find networks that were interested ; Cartoon Network eventually bought the rights , " [...] basically for free " , according to the president of 20th Century Fox Television . Family Guy premiered in reruns on Adult Swim on April 20 , 2003 , and immediately became the block 's top @-@ rated program , dominating late @-@ night viewing in its time period versus cable and broadcast competition , and boosting viewership by 239 % . The complete first and second seasons were released on DVD the same week the show premiered on Adult Swim , and the show became a cult phenomenon , selling 400 @.@ 000 copies within one month . Sales of the DVD set reached 2 @.@ 2 million copies , becoming the best @-@ selling television DVD of 2003 and the second @-@ highest @-@ selling television DVD ever , behind the first season of Comedy Central 's Chappelle 's Show . The third @-@ season DVD release also sold more than a million copies . The show 's popularity in DVD sales and reruns rekindled Fox 's interest , and , on May 20 , 2004 , Fox ordered 35 new episodes of Family Guy , marking the first revival of a television show based on DVD sales .

" North by North Quahog " , which premiered May 1 , 2005 , was the first episode to be broadcast after the show 's hiatus . It was written by MacFarlane and directed by Peter Shin . MacFarlane believed the show 's three @-@ year hiatus was beneficial because animated shows do not normally have hiatuses , and towards the end of their seasons , " ... you see a lot more sex jokes and [bodily function] jokes and signs of a fatigued staff that their brains are just fried " . With " North by North Quahog " , the writing staff tried to keep the show " [...] exactly as it was " before its cancellation , and " None of us had any desire to make it look any slicker " . The episode was watched by 11 @.@ 85 million viewers , the show 's highest ratings since the airing of the first season episode " Brian : Portrait of a Dog " .

= = = Lawsuits = = =

In March 2007 comedian Carol Burnett filed a \$ 6 million lawsuit against 20th Century @-@ Fox , claiming that her charwoman cartoon character had been portrayed on the show without her permission . She stated it was a trademark infringement , and that Fox violated her publicity rights . On June 4 , 2007 , United States District Judge Dean D. Pregerson rejected the lawsuit , stating that the parody was protected under the First Amendment , citing Hustler Magazine v. Falwell as a precedent .

On October 3 , 2007 , Bourne Co . Music Publishers filed a lawsuit accusing the show of infringing its copyright on the song " When You Wish Upon a Star " , through a parody song entitled " I Need a Jew " appearing in the episode " When You Wish Upon a Weinstein " . Bourne Co . , the sole United States copyright owner of the song , alleged the parody pairs a " thinly veiled " copy of its music with antisemitic lyrics . Named in the suit were 20th Century Fox Film Corp . , Fox Broadcasting Co . , Cartoon Network , MacFarlane and Murphy ; the suit sought to stop the program 's distribution and asked for unspecified damages . Bourne argued that " I Need a Jew " uses the copyrighted melody

of " When You Wish Upon a Star " without commenting on that song , and that it was therefore not a First Amendment @-@ protected parody per the ruling in Campbell v. Acuff @-@ Rose Music , Inc . On March 16 , 2009 , United States District Judge Deborah Batts held that Family Guy did not infringe on Bourne 's copyright when it transformed the song for comical use in an episode .

In December 2007 , Family Guy was again accused of copyright infringement when actor Art Metrano filed a lawsuit regarding a scene in Stewie Griffin : The Untold Story , in which Jesus performs Metrano 's signature " magic " act involving absurd " faux " magical hand gestures while humming the distinctive tune " Fine and Dandy " . 20th Century Fox , MacFarlane , Callaghan and Borstein were all named in the suit . In July 2009 a federal district court judge rejected Fox 's motion to dismiss , saying that the first three fair use factors involved ? " purpose and character of the use " , " nature of the infringed work " and " amount and substantiality of the taking " ? counted in Metrano 's favor , while the fourth ? " economic impact " ? had to await more fact @-@ finding . In denying the dismissal , the court held that the reference in the scene made light of Jesus and his followers ? not Metrano or his act . The case was settled out of court in 2010 with undisclosed terms .

= = = Voice cast = = =

Seth MacFarlane voices three of the show 's main characters : Peter Griffin , Brian Griffin , and Stewie Griffin . Since MacFarlane had a strong vision for these characters , he chose to voice them himself , believing it would be easier than for someone else to attempt it . MacFarlane drew inspiration for the voice of Peter from a security guard he overheard talking while attending the Rhode Island School of Design . Stewie 's voice was based on the voice of English actor Rex Harrison , especially his performance in the 1964 musical drama film My Fair Lady . MacFarlane uses his regular speaking voice when playing Brian . MacFarlane also provides the voices for various other recurring and one @-@ time @-@ only characters , most prominently those of the Griffins ' neighbor Glenn Quagmire , news anchor Tom Tucker , and Lois ' father , Carter Pewterschmidt .

Alex Borstein voices Peter 's wife Lois Griffin , Asian correspondent Tricia Takanawa , Loretta Brown , and Lois ' mother , Barbara Pewterschmidt . Borstein was asked to provide a voice for the pilot while she was working on MADtv . She had not met MacFarlane or seen any of his artwork , and said it was " really sight unseen " . At the time , Borstein was performing in a stage show in Los Angeles . She played a redheaded mother whose voice she had based on one of her cousins .

Seth Green primarily voices Chris Griffin and Neil Goldman . Green stated that he did an impression of the character Buffalo Bill from the thriller film The Silence of the Lambs during his audition .

Mila Kunis and Lacey Chabert have both voiced Meg Griffin . Chabert left the series because of time conflicts with schoolwork and her role on Party of Five . When Kunis auditioned for the role , she was called back by MacFarlane , who instructed her to speak slower . He then told her to come back another time and enunciate more . Once she claimed that she had it under control , MacFarlane hired her .

Mike Henry voices Cleveland Brown , Herbert , Bruce the Performance Artist , Consuela and the Greased @-@ up Deaf Guy . Henry met MacFarlane at the Rhode Island School of Design , and kept in touch with him after they graduated . A few years later , MacFarlane contacted him about being part of the show ; he agreed and came on as a writer and voice actor . During the show 's first four seasons , he was credited as a guest star , but beginning with season five 's " Prick Up Your Ears " , he has been credited as a main cast member .

Other recurring cast members include Adam West as the eponymous Mayor Adam West ; Jennifer Tilly as Bonnie Swanson ; John G. Brennan as Mort Goldman and Horace the bartender ; Carlos Alazraqui as Jonathan Weed ; Adam Carolla and Norm Macdonald as Death ; Lori Alan as Diane Simmons ; and Phil LaMarr as Ollie Williams and the judge . Fellow cartoonist Butch Hartman has made guest voice appearances in many episodes as various characters . Also , writer Danny Smith voices various recurring characters , such as Ernie the Giant Chicken . Alex Breckenridge also appears as many various characters .

Episodes often feature guest voices from a wide range of professions , including actors , athletes , authors , bands , musicians , and scientists . Many guest voices star as themselves . Leslie Uggams was the first to appear as herself , in the fourth episode of the first season , " Mind Over Murder " . The episode " Not All Dogs Go to Heaven " guest starred the entire cast of Star Trek : The Next Generation , including Patrick Stewart , Jonathan Frakes , Brent Spiner , LeVar Burton , Gates McFadden , Michael Dorn , Wil Wheaton , Marina Sirtis , and even Denise Crosby (season 1 as Tasha Yar) , playing themselves ; this is the episode with the most guest stars of the seventh season .

= = Hallmarks = =

= = = " Road to " episodes = = =

The " Road to " episodes are a series of hallmark travel episodes . They are a parody of the seven Road to ... comedy films starring Bing Crosby and Bob Hope . These episodes have always involved Stewie and Brian in some foreign , supernatural or science @-@ fiction location , unrelated to the show 's normal location in Quahog . The first , entitled " Road to Rhode Island " , aired on May 30 , 2000 , during the second season . The episodes are known for featuring elaborate musical numbers , similar to the Road films . The episodes contain several trademarks , including a special version of the opening sequence , custom musical cues and musical numbers , and parodies of science fiction and fantasy films .

The original idea for the " Road to " episodes came from MacFarlane , as he is a fan of the films of Crosby , Hope and Lamour . The first episode was directed by Dan Povenmire , who would direct the rest of the " Road to " episodes until the episode " Road to Rupert " , at which point he had left the show to create Phineas and Ferb . Series regular Greg Colton then took over Povenmire 's role as director of the " Road to " episodes .

The " Road to " episodes are generally considered by critics and fans to be some of the greatest in the series , thanks to the developing relationship between Stewie and Brian , and the strong plotlines of the episodes themselves .

= = = Humor = = =

Family Guy uses the filmmaking technique of cutaways , which occur in the majority of Family Guy episodes . Emphasis is often placed on gags which make reference to current events and / or modern cultural icons .

Early episodes based much of their comedy on Stewie 's " super villain " antics , such as his constant plans for total world domination , his evil experiments , plans and inventions to get rid of things he dislikes , and his constant attempts at matricide . As the series progressed , the writers and MacFarlane agreed that his personality and the jokes were starting to feel dated , so they began writing him with a different personality . Family Guy often includes self @-@ referential humor . The most common form is jokes about Fox Broadcasting , and occasions where the characters break the fourth wall by addressing the audience . For example , in " North by North Quahog " , the first episode that aired after the show 's revival , included Peter telling the family that they had been cancelled because Fox had to make room in their schedule for shows like Dark Angel , Titus , Undeclared , Action , That ' 80s Show , Wonderfalls , Fastlane , Andy Richter Controls the Universe , Skin , Girls Club , Cracking Up , The Pitts , Firefly , Get Real , Freakylinks , Wanda at Large , Costello , The Lone Gunmen , A Minute with Stan Hooper , Normal , Ohio , Pasadena , Harsh Realm , Keen Eddie , The \$ treet , The American Embassy , Cedric the Entertainer Presents , The Tick , Luis , and Greg the Bunny . Lois asks whether there is any hope , to which Peter replies that if all these shows are canceled they might have a chance ; the shows were indeed canceled during Family Guy 's hiatus .

The show uses catchphrases , and most of the primary and secondary characters have them .

Notable expressions include Quagmire 's " Giggity giggity goo " , Peter 's " Freakin ' sweet " , and Joe 's " Bring it on ! " The use of many of these catchphrases declined in later seasons . The episode " Big Man on Hippocampus " mocks catchphrase @-@ based humor : when Peter , who has forgotten everything about his life , is introduced to Meg , he exclaims " D 'oh ! " , to which Lois replies , " No , Peter , that 's not your catchphrase . "

= = Reception and legacy = =

= = = Ratings = = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Catherine Seipp of National Review Online described it as a " nasty but extremely funny " cartoon . Caryn James of The New York Times called it a show with an " outrageously satirical family " that " includes plenty of comic possibilities and parodies " . The Sydney Morning Herald named Family Guy the " Show of the Week " on April 21 , 2009 , hailing it a " pop culture @-@ heavy masterpiece " . Frazier Moore from The Seattle Times called it an " endless craving for humor about bodily emissions " . He thought it was " breathtakingly smart " and said a " blend of the ingenious with the raw helps account for its much broader appeal " . He summarized it as " rude , crude and deliciously wrong " . The New Yorker 's Nancy Franklin said that Family Guy is becoming one of the best animated shows ; she commented on its ribaldry and popularity . The show has become a hit on Hulu ; it is the second @-@ highest viewed show after Saturday Night Live . IGN called Family Guy a great show , and commented that it has gotten better since its revival . They stated that they cannot imagine another half @-@ hour sitcom that provides as many laughs as Family Guy . Empire praised the show and its writers for creating really hilarious moments with unlikely material . They commented that one of the reasons they love the show is because nothing is sacred ? it makes jokes and gags of almost everything . Robin Pierson of The TV Critic praised the series as " a different kind of animated comedy which clearly sets out to do jokes which other cartoons can 't do . " Family Guy has proven popular in the United Kingdom , regularly obtaining between 700 @,@ 000 and 1 million viewers for re @-@ runs on BBC Three .

The series has attracted many celebrities . Robert Downey , Jr. telephoned the show production staff and asked if he could produce or assist in an episode 's creation , as his son is a fan of the show ; the producers subsequently created a character for Downey . Lauren Conrad met MacFarlane while recording a Laguna Beach clip for the episode " Prick Up Your Ears " (season 5 , 2006) . She has watched Family Guy for years and considers Stewie her favorite character . Commenting on his appearance in the episode " Big Man on Hippocampus " (season 8 , 2010) , actor Dwayne Johnson stated that he was a " big fan " of Family Guy . Johnson befriended MacFarlane after he had a minor role in Johnson 's 2010 film Tooth Fairy . R & B singer Rihanna has admitted to being a fan of Family Guy , as has pop singer Britney Spears ; she tries to imitate Stewie 's English accent . Spears , who was mocked for her personal problems in the South Park episode " Britney 's New Look " in 2008 , offered to appear in a cameo to hit back at the similar animated show , but MacFarlane declined , stating that he did not want to start a feud with the series .

= = = Awards = = =

Family Guy and its cast have been nominated for thirteen Emmy Awards , with five wins . MacFarlane won the Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance award for his performance as Stewie ; Murphy and MacFarlane won the Outstanding Music and Lyrics award for the song " You Got a Lot to See " from the episode " Brian Wallows and Peter 's Swallows " ; Steven Fonti won the Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation award for his storyboard work in the episode " No

Chris Left Behind " ; and Greg Colton won the Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation award for his storyboard work in the episode " Road to the Multiverse " . The show was nominated for eleven Annie Awards , and won three times , twice in 2006 and once in 2008 . In 2009 it was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series , becoming the first animated program to be nominated in this category since The Flintstones in 1961 . The Simpsons was almost nominated in 1993 , but voters were hesitant to pit cartoons against live action programs . The show was nominated for a Grammy in 2011 . Family Guy has been nominated and has won various other awards , including the Teen Choice Awards and the People 's Choice Awards . In the 1,000th issue of Entertainment Weekly , Brian Griffin was selected as the dog for " The Perfect TV Family " . Wizard Magazine rated Stewie the 95th @-@ greatest villain of all time . British newspaper The Times rated Family Guy as the 45th @-@ best American show in 2009 . IGN ranked Family Guy at number seven in the " Top 100 Animated Series " and number six in the " Top 25 Primetime Animated Series of All Time " . Empire named it the twelfth @-@ greatest TV show of all time . In 2005 viewers of the UK television channel Channel 4 voted Family Guy at number 5 on their list of the 100 Greatest Cartoons . Brian was awarded the 2009 Stoner of the Year award by High Times for the episode " 420 " , marking the first time an animated character received the honor . In 2007 TV Guide ranked Family Guy number 15 in their list of top cult shows ever . Family Guy has garnered six Golden Reel Awards nominations , winning three times . In 2013 , TV Guide ranked Family Guy the ninth Greatest TV Cartoon of All Time .

= = = Criticism and controversy = = =

One of the initial critics to give the show negative reviews was Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly ; he called it " The Simpsons as conceived by a singularly sophomoric mind that lacks any reference point beyond other TV shows " . The Parents Television Council (PTC) , a conservative , non @-@ profit watchdog , has attacked the series since its premiere and has branded various episodes as " Worst TV Show of the Week " . In May 2000 the PTC launched a letter @-@ writing campaign to the Fox network in an effort to persuade the network to cancel the show . The PTC has placed the show on their annual lists of " Worst Prime @-@ Time Shows for Family Viewing " in 2000 , 2005 , and 2006 . The Federal Communications Commission has received multiple petitions requesting that the show be blocked from broadcasting on indecency grounds . Tucker and the PTC have both accused the show of portraying religion negatively , and of being racist . Because of the PTC , some advertisers have canceled their contracts after reviewing the content of the episodes , claiming it to be unsuitable . Critics have compared the show 's humor and characters with those of The Simpsons .

Various episodes of the show have generated controversy . In " 420 " (season seven , 2009) Brian decides to start a campaign to legalize cannabis in Quahog ; the Venezuelan government reacted negatively to the episode and banned Family Guy from airing on their local networks , which generally syndicate American programming . Venezuelan justice minister Tareck El Aissami , citing the promotion of the use of cannabis , stated that any cable stations that did not stop airing the series would be fined ; the government showed a clip which featured Brian and Stewie singing the praises of marijuana as a demonstration of how the United States supports cannabis use . In " Extra Large Medium " (season eight , 2010) a character named Ellen (who has Down syndrome) states that her mother is the former Governor of Alaska , which strongly implies that her mother is Sarah Palin , the only woman to have served in the office of governor in the state . Sarah Palin , the mother of a special @-@ needs child , criticized the episode in an appearance on The O 'Reilly Factor , calling those who made the show " cruel , cold @-@ hearted people . "

= = Broadcast = =

Family Guy premiered in Australia on April 9 , 1999 on the Seven Network , in 2000 on Fox8 , and on 7mate on September 27 , 2010 . In Canada , the series started airing January 31 , 1999 on Global and September 1 , 2003 on Teletoon . The show aired on Global until 2015 . Beginning in the

2015 ? 16 season , it started to air on City instead . In the past the show was also syndicated on TVtropolis (now DTour) and on Adult Swim from July 4 , 2012 . The show also airs in Ireland on 3e , and in New Zealand on Four .

In the United Kingdom , Family Guy premiered in September 1999 , originally on Channel 4 and Sky One . In January 2005 , FX (now Fox) began broadcasting the show . From October 2005 , BBC Two started screening Family Guy before switching to BBC Three on September 2006 . In March 2015 , it was announced that season 14 of Family Guy and all of MacFarlane 's other cartoons will transfer to ITV2 , premiering on February 29 , 2016 , while the BBC would continue to hold the rights until 2017 for older episodes .

= = Other media = =

= = = Comic books = = =

A comic book based on the Family Guy universe is being produced . Published by Titan Comics , it will be edited by Steve White and illustrated by Anthony Williams and S. L. Gallant . The writing and the illustrations will be supervised by the show 's producers . The comics will consist of a main story , a short story , and a gag strip . The first comic book was released on July 27 , 2011 .

= = = Books = = =

Family Guy : It Takes a Village Idiot , and I Married One was written by executive story editor Chevapravatdumrong and actress Alex Borstein . The book was first published on 8 May 2007 . The book is a biographical monologue by Lois Griffin discussing her memories of growing up and to her attempted run for mayor in the town of Quahog . Though the book primarily consists of a loose narrative monologue by Lois , it is also interspersed with sections from other characters such as Peter Griffin . The book covers events featured in the Family Guy episode " It Takes a Village Idiot , and I Married One " , with which it shares a title .

It was published in the United Kingdom in 2007 by Orion Books .

= = = Live performances = = =

As promotion for the show , and , as Newman described , " [to] expand interest in the show beyond its diehard fans " , Fox organized four Family Guy Live ! performances , which featured cast members reading old episodes aloud . The cast also performed musical numbers from the Family Guy : Live in Vegas comedy album . The stage shows were an extension of a performance by the cast during the 2004 Montreal Comedy Festival . The Family Guy Live ! performances , which took place in Los Angeles and New York , sold out and were attended by around 1 @, @ 200 people each .

In 2007 , at the 59th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards , MacFarlane performed (as the digitally inserted Stewie and Brian) the ceremony 's opening number . He performed a song insulting modern television to the tune of the song " The Fellas At The Freakin ' F.C.C. " performed in the episode PTV . The song insulted TV shows such as Two and a Half Men , Desperate Housewives , and Scrubs , as well as the final scene of The Sopranos .

In 2009 , a special televised performance show aired entitled Family Guy Presents Seth & Alex 's Almost Live Comedy Show , in which voice actors Alex Borstein and MacFarlane performed songs from the show , as well as a parody of Lady Gaga 's song " Poker Face " in the voice of Marlee Matlin , who appeared on stage as a guest during the performance . Some new animated gags also appeared in the show .

= = = Film = = =

On July 22 , 2007 , in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter , MacFarlane announced that he may start working on a feature film , although " nothing 's official . " In TV Week on July 18 , 2008 , MacFarlane confirmed plans to produce a theatrically released Family Guy feature film sometime " within the next year . " He came up with an idea for the story , " something that you could not do on the show , which [to him] is the only reason to do a movie . " He later went to say he imagines the film to be " an old @-@ style musical with dialogue " similar to The Sound of Music , saying that he would " really be trying to capture , musically , that feel . " On October 13 , 2011 , Seth MacFarlane confirmed that a deal for a Family Guy film had been made , and that it would be written by himself and series co @-@ producer Ricky Blitt .

On November 30 , 2012 , MacFarlane confirmed plans to produce a Family Guy film . The project was put on hold while MacFarlane worked on Ted 2 .

= = = Spin @-@ off = = =

MacFarlane co @-@ created ? alongside Mike Henry and Richard Appel ? the Family Guy spin @-@ off The Cleveland Show , which premiered September 27 , 2009 . They began discussing the project in 2007 . Appel and Henry served as the show 's executive producers and showrunners , handling the day @-@ to @-@ day operations , with limited involvement from MacFarlane . Henry and Appel conceived the show as " more of a family show , a sweeter show " than Family Guy . The first season consisted of 22 episodes , and the show was picked up by Fox for a second season , which consisted of 13 episodes . The announcement was made on May 3 , 2009 , before the first season began . It was extended to a full second season . Appel signed a new three @-@ year , seven @-@ figure deal with Fox to continue serving as showrunner on The Cleveland Show in 2010 . Fox chairman Gary Newman commented : " What is special about him is his incredible leadership ability . " The show follows the Family Guy character Cleveland Brown , who is voiced by Henry , as he leaves the town of Quahog and moves with his son to start his own adventure .

Fox canceled The Cleveland Show on May 13 , 2013 , roughly a week before the May 19 conclusion of its fourth season . On July 16 , 2013 , MacFarlane confirmed an upcoming twelfth season episode of Family Guy centering on Cleveland 's return to Quahog .

= = = Video games = = =

The Family Guy Video Game ! is a 2006 action game released by 2K Games and developed by High Voltage Software . The game received mixed reviews , averaging 50 % favorable reviews for the PlayStation 2 version , 51 % for the PlayStation Portable version , and 53 % for the Xbox version , according to review aggregator Metacritic . The game received praise for its humor , but was criticized for its short playtime and " uninteresting gameplay " . On November 2 , 2009 , IGN journalist Ryan Langley reported the production of a Family Guy @-@ based party game for the Xbox 360 , PlayStation 3 , and Wii . He cited the LinkedIn profiles of former HB Studios developer Chris Kolmatycki and Invisible Entertainment co @-@ owner Ron Doucet , which stated that the individuals had worked on the game . MacFarlane recorded exclusive material of Peter 's voice and other Family Guy characters for a 2007 pinball machine of the show by Stern Pinball . A game called Family Guy Online was announced .

Family Guy : Back to the Multiverse , which is centered around the episode " Road to the Multiverse " , was released on November 20 , 2012 .

Family Guy : The Quest for Stuff launched on iOS and Android on April 10 , 2014 .

= = = Crossovers with other animated series = = =

An event known as " Night of the Hurricane " depicts a hurricane hitting the hometowns of MacFarlane 's sitcoms Family Guy , American Dad ! and The Cleveland Show , culminating in a stand @-@ off among the three fathers of each family .

It was announced that a special episode of Family Guy featuring an official crossover with The

Simpsons would premiere in 2014 . At San Diego Comic Con a 5 @-@ minute preview was shown . The episode is titled The Simpsons Guy and aired September 28 , 2014 .

= = Merchandise = =

As of 2009 , six books have been released about the Family Guy universe , all published by HarperCollins since 2005 . The first , Family Guy : Stewie 's Guide to World Domination (ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 06 @-@ 077321 @-@ 2) by Steve Callahan , was released in April 26 , 2005 . Written in the style of a graphic novel , the plot follows Stewie 's plans to rule the world . Other books include Family Guy : It Takes a Village Idiot , and I Married One (ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 7528 @-@ 7593 @-@ 4) , which covers the events of the episode " It Takes a Village Idiot , and I Married One " ; and Family Guy and Philosophy : A Cure for the Petarded (ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 4051 @-@ 6316 @-@ 3) , a collection of 17 essays exploring the connections between the series and historical philosophers . A book written from Brian 's point of view (written by Andrew Goldberg) was published in 2006 , called Brian Griffin 's Guide to Booze , Broads and the Lost Art of Being a Man .

Family Guy has been commercially successful in the home market . The show was the first to be resurrected because of high DVD sales . The first volume , covering the show 's first two seasons , sold 1 @.@ 67 million units , topping TV DVD sales in 2003 , while the second volume sold another million units . Volumes six and seven debuted at fifth place in United States DVD sales ; volume seven was the highest @-@ selling television DVD , selling 171 @,@ 000 units by June 21 , 2009 . Family Guy Presents Blue Harvest , the DVD featuring the Star Wars special " Blue Harvest " , was released on January 15 , 2008 , and premiered at the top of United States DVD sales . The DVD was the first Family Guy DVD to include a digital copy for download to the iPod . In 2004 , the first series of Family Guy toy figurines was released by Mezco Toyz ; each member of the Griffin family had their own toy , with the exception of Stewie , of whom two different figures were made . Over the course of two years , four more series of toy figures were released , with various forms of Peter . In 2008 , the character Peter appeared in advertisements for Subway Restaurants , promoting the restaurant 's massive feast sandwich .