

= Keeping Up with the Kardashians =

Keeping Up with the Kardashians (abbreviated KUWTK) is an American reality television series that airs on the E ! cable network . The show focuses on the personal and professional lives of the Kardashian ? Jenner blended family . Its premise originated with Ryan Seacrest , who also serves as an executive producer . The series debuted on October 14 , 2007 and has subsequently become one of the longest @-@ running reality television series in the country ; the twelfth season of the show premiered on May 1 , 2016 .

The series focuses mainly on sisters Kim , Kourtney , Khloé Kardashian , and their half @-@ sisters Kendall and Kylie Jenner . It also features their parents Kris and Caitlyn Jenner (previously known as Bruce Jenner) , and brother Rob Kardashian . The significant others of the Kardashian sisters have also appeared on the show , including Kourtney 's ex boyfriend Scott Disick and Khloé 's ex husband Lamar Odom . Caitlyn 's son Brody made cameo appearances in the early seasons before joining the show to appear regularly , along with his brother Brandon , and Brandon 's wife , Leah . Kim 's friend Jonathan Cheban and Khloé 's friend Malika Haqq have also been part of the show .

Keeping Up with the Kardashians has received very poor critical reviews since its premiere . It is often criticized for the high degree of emphasis on the " famous for being famous " concept , and for appearing to fabricate some aspects of its storylines . Several critics also noted the show 's lack of intelligence , and described the family as " self @-@ absorbed " and " desperate " for fame . However , some critics recognized the reality series as a " guilty pleasure " and acknowledged the family 's success . Despite the negative reviews , Keeping Up with the Kardashians has attracted high viewership ratings , becoming one of the network 's most successful shows and winning several audience awards .

The series ' success has led additionally to the creation of numerous spin @-@ off series , including : Kourtney and Kim Take Miami , Kourtney and Kim Take New York , Khloé & Lamar , Kourtney and Khloé Take The Hamptons , Dash Dolls , and , most recently , Rob and Chyna . The network has also broadcast several television specials featuring special events involving members of the family .

= = Background = =

Robert Kardashian (1944 ? 2003) and Kristen Mary " Kris " Houghton (born 1955) married in 1978 , and had four children together : daughters Kourtney (born 1979) , Kim (1980) , and Khloé (1984) , and son Rob (1987) . The couple divorced in 1991 . In 1994 , Robert entered the media spotlight when he defended O. J. Simpson for the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman during a lengthy trial . In 1991 , Kris married retired Olympic decathlon champion Bruce Jenner (born 1949 ; now known as Caitlyn Jenner after undergoing a gender transition in 2015) . Caitlyn and Kris had two daughters together , Kendall (born 1995) and Kylie (1997) . Robert died in 2003 , eight weeks after being diagnosed with esophageal cancer . The Kardashian sisters began appearing in the media spotlight more often . In 2004 , Kim became a personal stylist for recording artist Brandy Norwood . She eventually developed into a full @-@ time stylist , and was a personal shopper and stylist for actress Lindsay Lohan . Khloé , Kim and Kourtney ventured further into fashion , opening a high fashion boutique Dash in Calabasas , California . Throughout Kim 's early career , she was involved in some high @-@ profile relationships including Norwood 's brother , singer Ray J , and later , singer Nick Lachey . In 2006 , Kourtney starred in her first reality television series , Filthy Rich : Cattle Drive . In February 2007 , a home sex video that Kim made with Ray J years earlier was leaked . Vivid Entertainment bought the rights for \$ 1 million and released the film as Kim Kardashian : Superstar on February 21 . Kim sued Vivid for ownership of the tape , but dropped the suit in April 2007 settling with Vivid Entertainment for \$ 5 million . It is often assumed that the release of the sex tape was a major contributor to the rising fame of Kim Kardashian and her family .

= = Production = =

== Development ==

The idea of creating a reality series originated in 2006 when Kris Jenner showed an interest in appearing on a television show together with her family . Jenner commented : " Everybody thinks that [my children] could create a bunch of drama in their lives , but it 's something that I felt I didn 't even have to think about . It would be natural . " Producer Ryan Seacrest , who had his own production company , decided to develop the idea , having the popular family @-@ based show The Osbournes in mind . He hired a camera man to visit the Kardashian 's family home to film them having a Sunday barbeque : " They were all together ? as crazy and as fun as loving as they are , " Seacrest described the family after seeing the tape . He later initiated the series by sharing the tape with E ! , an American cable network which features mostly entertainment @-@ related programming , and reality television series ; the show was eventually picked up . In August 2007 , it was announced that the Kardashian and Jenner families would star in a yet @-@ to @-@ be @-@ titled reality show on E ! described as a " new non @-@ scripted family sitcom " , being produced by Ryan Seacrest and Bunim / Murray Productions . The series ' announcement came one week after Paris Hilton and her friend Nicole Richie announced that their popular E ! series , The Simple Life , was ending .

The show , entitled Keeping Up With the Kardashians , premiered on October 14 , 2007 . The reality series centers around the members of the Kardashian @-@ Jenner blended family , focusing on the sisters Kourtney , Kim and Khloé . Most episodes have very similar sturcture : the family " show [s] off their privileged lifestyle and maybe get into one or two minor family squabbles before ultimately wrapping things up with a monologue that reinforces the importance of family , " as noted by Caroline Siede of Quartz . Harriet Ryan and Adam Tschorn of the Los Angeles Times described the reality series as a : " Hollywood version of The Brady Bunch -- the harmless high jinks of a loving blended family against a backdrop of wealth and famous connections " . Kim Kardashian described the beginning of filming the show , " When we first started [the show] , we came together as a family and said , ' If we 're going to do this reality show , we 're going to be 100 percent who we really are . ' " . She further commented on the show 's authenticity by saying that the network " has never once put anything out there that we haven 't approved of or accepted " . The series was renewed for a second season one month after its premiere due to high ratings . Seacrest described the show 's success : " At the heart of the series ? despite the catfights and endless sarcasm ? is a family that truly loves and supports one another [?] The familiar dynamics of this family make them one Hollywood bunch that is sure to entertain . "

The following year , Keeping Up with the Kardashians was picked up for a third season . In April 2012 , E ! signed a three @-@ year deal with the Kardashian family that kept the series airing through seasons seven , eight and nine . Keeping up with the Kardashians was later renewed for a tenth season which premiered on March 15 , 2015 . In February 2015 , it was announced that the show had been renewed for four more years , along with an additional spin @-@ off series , making it one of the longest @-@ running reality television series in the country . In terms of the show 's future , Kim Kardashian has commented that the reality series could go for an indefinite number of seasons saying that she : " hope [s] it goes on for as long as it can . " Keeping Up With the Kardashians , including its spin @-@ off series , has become the cable network 's flagship show and its most lucrative franchise . " It has changed the face of E ! " said Lisa Berger , the network 's executive producer . " We were a place to report on celebrity ; we weren 't a place to break and make celebrity , which is now the whole idea of the E ! brand . " The show 's success contributed significantly towards building the " Kardashian brand " , or " Kardashian Inc . " as it is called by The Hollywood Reporter . " These shows are a 30 @-@ minute commercial , " Khloé Kardashian admitted in 2011 , in response to a suggestion that the television series is used to promote their retail stores and endorsement deals .

== Cast ==

The reality series revolves around the children of Kris Jenner , and originally focused mainly on the children from her first marriage to deceased attorney Robert Kardashian : Kourtney , Kim , Khloé , and Rob . Kris ' children Kendall and Kylie from her subsequent marriage to American athlete Caitlyn Jenner (previously known as Bruce) have also been featured on the show since its beginning , along with Jenner 's son Brody from another marriage , although he appeared very few times during the early seasons , mostly being called by his step @-@ brother Rob to babysit their half @-@ sisters Kylie and Kendall . Kourtney 's boyfriend Scott Disick has also been appearing frequently on the show since the first season , as well as on the show 's spin @-@ offs . Cast members also include numerous friends and other acquaintances of the family members , most notably Malika Haqq and Jonathan Cheban who joined Keeping Up with the Kardashians in the second and third seasons , respectively .

Most of the Kardashian sisters ' significant others have appeared on the reality series . Kim 's relationship with football player Reggie Bush was featured on the show when they were dating ; after the breakup , Bush commented on appearing on the show saying that he never felt comfortable being followed by cameras , adding : " I do it because it 's important to [Kim] . " Rob 's relationship with singer Adrienne Bailon has also been documented on the show when they were dating from 2007 to 2009 ; although Bailon later admitted that the decision to appear on the show , and be associated with the family , hurt to her career . Kim 's ex @-@ husband Kris Humphries first appeared on the show during the premiere of the sixth season ; their relationship was chronicled throughout the season and ended with the couple 's wedding special " Kim 's Fairytale Wedding : A Kardashian Event " . They eventually went through a highly publicized divorce ; Kardashian 's former publicist later claimed that Humphries was allegedly set up to be portrayed on the show in a negative way and that the short @-@ lived marriage was staged for the cameras as a ploy to generate money .

Khloé married basketball player Lamar Odom during a fourth season premiere aired in 2009 . He later had a major role as part of the supporting cast of the series , though he did not appear regularly during the following seasons as he was attempting to repair his marriage with Khloé . Kim 's current husband Kanye West made his first appearance on Keeping Up with the Kardashians in July 2012 during the seventh season when he started dating Kim . However , West was seldom seen in subsequent seasons . He explained the reasons for not appearing on the show later : " You know , the amount of backlash I got from it is when I decided to not be on the show anymore . And it 's not that I have an issue with the show ; I just have an issue with the amount of backlash that I get . " He also criticized the show for its cinematography and further complained about the way how the show is filmed . In the eighth season , Caitlyn Jenner 's sons Brandon and Brody Jenner , as well as Brandon 's wife Leah , joined the cast for regular appearances .

= = Related programming = =

The success of the reality series resulted in the development of several spin @-@ off shows and other related programming . In April 2009 , E ! announced the first spin @-@ off of Keeping Up with the Kardashians entitled Kourtney and Khloé in Miami , which was later renamed Kourtney and Khloé Take Miami . The series followed the sisters who moved to Miami to open a new Dash boutique . Ted Harbert , president and CEO of Comcast Entertainment Group , considered the sisters capable of handling their own standalone series . " It 's a very simple formula that we took from scripted TV and applied to a reality show . [?] There are a lot of family sitcom elements to ' Kardashians , ' and we think that humor and warmth will carry over to Miami , " Harbert added . The show premiered on August 16 , 2009 to very high ratings ; the first episode brought in 2 @. @ 7 million total viewers and then became the most @-@ watched show on the network since The Anna Nicole Show in 2002 . The spin @-@ off was subsequently renewed for a second season which premiered on June 13 , 2010 , and later returned as Kourtney and Kim Take Miami for a third season on January 20 , 2013 . Additionally , a series of webisodes entitled Lord Disick : Lifestyles of a Lord were released following the show , which showcased Disick as he informed viewers how to live like a " king " .

In October 2010 , the network announced another spin @-@ off called Kourtney and Kim Take New York which followed the same format as its predecessor . The show debuted on January 23 , 2011 , and followed the sisters who opened a Dash location in New York City . The series returned for another season which premiered on November 27 the same year . In January 2011 , Khloé & Lamar , which featured Khloé and her husband Lamar Odom , became the third spin @-@ off of Keeping Up with the Kardashians . The show premiered on April 10 , 2011 , and lasted two seasons . In March 2014 , E ! announced the fourth spin @-@ off entitled Kourtney and Khloé Take The Hamptons . The series premiered on November 2 , 2014 , and followed Kourtney and Khloé who relocated to the Hamptons to work on opening a new Dash pop @-@ up store . The fifth spin @-@ off series called Dash Dolls premiered on September 20 , 2015 . The most recent reality series chronicles the daily life of the employees of the upscale Dash boutique in Los Angeles owned by the Kardashian family .

The network has also aired several television specials featuring important family events . A two @-@ part television event called " Kim 's Fairytale Wedding : A Kardashian Event " , showcasing the wedding between Kim and Kris Humphries , was broadcast on October 9 and 10 , 2011 as part of the sixth season ; the special was highly successful with a combined 10 @. @ 5 million viewers . A few days after Caitlyn Jenner (then Bruce) came out as a trans woman during a 20 / 20 interview with Diane Sawyer in May 2015 , E ! aired a two @-@ part special on Keeping Up with the Kardashians entitled " About Bruce " , in which another side of the story was told featuring family members who were not involved in the previous interview on 20 / 20 . The first part of the special debuted on May 17 , 2015 , and attracted 2 @. @ 92 million total viewers , a 40 % increase from the previous episode , while the second part aired the following day with similar viewership . I Am Cait , a separate documentary series , was announced immediately after the 20 / 20 interview . The eight @-@ part , one @-@ hour docuseries debuted on July 26 , 2015 , on E ! , and focused on how Jenner was handling the aftermath of the transition ; it also attempted to deal with various LGBT @-@ related issues . Jeff Olde , head of programming at E ! network , said that the series is " not at all a Kardashian spin @-@ off " , and that " we will not resort to spectacle , " trying to emphasize its distinct format that is entirely different from most programming on the network , including Keeping Up with the Kardashians .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Keeping Up with the Kardashians has been the subject of constant panning by critics since its inception . Brian Lowry , reviewing the show for Variety , said that the network : " widens its lens to encompass the whole irritating brood ? including Kim ? s sisters Khloé and Kourtney , mom @-@ manager Kris and stepdad Bruce Jenner , who now has the distinction of having two sets of useless rich kids featured in pointless reality shows . " Ginia Bellafonte of The New York Times compared the show to reality series Gene Simmons Family Jewels and exclaimed that : " the Kardashian show is not about an eccentric family living conventionally ; it is purely about some desperate women climbing to the margins of fame , and that feels a lot creepier . " Laura Burrows of IGN criticized the family for being too self @-@ seeking and using the given platform only to gain more notoriety for themselves . Following the conclusion of the second season of the series , Burrows wrote : " Those of us who watch this show [?] want to believe that these whores of attention have souls and would actually do something for their fellow man and not reap the benefits of their service , but two seasons ' worth of self @-@ absorbed egocentrism speaks to the contrary . "

Roxana Hadadi , reviewing Keeping Up with the Kardashians for The Washington Post , was extremely negative towards the reality series due to its absurdity , and commented that the show : " firmly captures all of Kim and Co . ' s dumbest instances from the series ' debut ? from the simply self @-@ absorbed to the downright despicable . " Amaya Rivera , writing about the series for Popmatters , noted : " Indeed , there is something disturbing about the Kardashians ' intense hunger

for fame . But even worse ? it is downright boring to watch this family live out their tedious lives . " John Kubicek , the senior writer of BuddyTV , reviewed the premiere of the third season of the show and discussed the reason for the family 's success by saying that : " the Kardashians ' fame is a lot like Möbius strip or an M. C. Escher painting . " Harriet Ryan and Adam Tschorn of the Los Angeles Times described Keeping Up with the Kardashians as a : " Hollywood version of The Brady Bunch -- the harmless high jinks of a loving blended family against a backdrop of wealth and famous connections " . Jessica Chasmar of The Washington Times said that series : " illustrates our nation 's moral , spiritual and cultural decay . " Chasmar emphasized its negative influence and noted : " America of 50 years ago would regard Ms. Kardashian with a mixture of disdain and pity , embarrassed by the very idea of a young lady 's most private moments being broadcast for all the world to see . "

Goal Auzeen Saedi , reviewing Keeping Up with the Kardashians for Psychology Today , emphasized the show 's influence saying that : " The Kardashians become more relatable the more famous they become . " Saedi also questioned their decision to appear on the show and added : " But if living life in the spotlight is so taxing and demands multiple justifications for the way your life is being lived and criticized , perhaps you can take the cameras out of your house . " Vinnie Mancuso , writing for The New York Observer , criticized the show and felt : " roughly one iota of shadenfreudic pleasure from this endeavor , but for the most part this show is the 100 % drizzling poops . " David Hinckley of the New York Daily News , reviewing the tenth season , said that " even when you think something about the Kardashians could be interesting , it 's not , " adding that the " entertainment value [of the show] is like having spent 10 years in Rapid City , S.D. , watching the traffic lights change . " Amy Amatangelo of The Hollywood Reporter said that " in true Kardashian fashion , they managed to make everything about them , " after Caitlyn Jenner came out as a trans woman to her family in the " About Bruce " special aired as part of the tenth season . Amatangelo felt that the conversations " seemed a little too staged , too controlled , " and noted that " there was no attempt to educate the viewers about transgender issues . "

However , several critics were more positive towards the show . Tim Stack , writing for Entertainment Weekly , welcomed the show as a guilty pleasure and described the reality series as : " my favorite little slice of reality TV spongecake . " Lauren Le Vine of Refinery29 appreciated the success of the family which " achieved the American dream of making something out of nothing , " using the given platform . Libby Hill of The A.V. Club also acknowledged the show 's success and said : " Keeping Up With The Kardashians gives us real , joyous , ugly , unsavory , hilarious life , with all the polished sitcom trappings . And though the latter may have launched a multimedia empire , the former has made it last " . Maura Kelly of The Guardian evaluated the aftermath of the failed wedding of Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries , which was documented on Keeping Up with the Kardashians , and subsequently caused public outrage , including an online protest petition to cancel the show . " Since Kim doesn 't exactly seem to be an exemplar of self @-@ awareness , I suppose it 's possible that she really believed she and Humphries would live happily ever after , " Kelly speculated whether or not the marriage was a publicity stunt . " But more likely , she and E ! are laughing all the way to the bank ? 10 @.@ 5 million viewers tuned into " Kim 's Fairytale Wedding : A Kardashian Event " , after all , " Kelly summarized the controversy . Josh Duboff , writing for Vanity Fair , commented on the show 's long run and said that " it is near impossible to argue that their continued relevance , 10 years later , is anything other than awe @-@ inspiring and remarkable " .

= = = Viewership = = =

Keeping Up with the Kardashians has been a ratings success for E ! ? in its first month it became the highest @-@ rated series aired on Sunday nights for adults 18 ? 34 and was seen by 1 @.@ 3 million total viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . Lisa Berger , executive vice president of original programming and series development for E ! , said : " The buzz surrounding the series is huge , and viewers have clearly fallen for the Kardashians . [?] Seacrest and Bunim @-@ Murray 's unique ability to capture this family 's one @-@ of @-@ a @-@ kind dynamics and hilarious antics

has made the series a fantastic addition to our prime @-@ time lineup . " The second season continued the success and was viewed by 1 @.@ 6 million viewers on average , which led to a third season renewal . The two @-@ hour fourth season premiere , which aired on November 8 , 2009 , and featured the wedding ceremony of Khloé and Lamar Odom , brought in then @-@ record ratings with 3 @.@ 2 million viewers . The subsequent season debuted with nearly 4 @.@ 7 million total viewers , which ranked as the highest @-@ rated season premiere of the show , as of August 2015 . It was also the second highest @-@ rated episode of Keeping Up with the Kardashians , second only to the previous season 's record @-@ breaking finale with 4 @.@ 8 million viewers .

The seventh season premiere of the series , which aired on May 20 , 2012 in its earlier timeslot , continued to deliver high ratings attracting almost three million total viewers which exceeded the premiere of the previous season by 16 % . Kim Kardashian has explained the success of the show by saying that people tune in to watch the series because they can relate themselves to the members of the family ; in an interview with the V magazine she said : " You can see that soap operas aren 't on the air as much anymore . I think reality shows are taking over that genre , but I think the draw to our show is that we are relatable . " The eighth season debuted to 3 million viewers , up 6 % from the previous season , while the subsequent ninth season 's premiere was down by 20 % . The ninth season averaged 3 @.@ 3 million total viewers and almost 2 @.@ 2 million in the 18 ? 49 years adult demographic , the most sought after by advertisers . It was the highest rated cable show in its timeslot . The series finished as the most @-@ social ad @-@ supported cable program and , as of March 2015 , Keeping Up with the Kardashians is the most @-@ watched show on E ! network . The first episode of the tenth season averaged 2 @.@ 5 million viewers , slightly less than the premiere of the ninth season .

= = Awards and nominations = =

Keeping Up with the Kardashians has been nominated for , and won , several television awards . The reality series has received nominations for a Teen Choice Award in the Choice TV : Celebrity Reality Show category eight consecutive times between 2008 and 2015 , winning the award in 2010 , 2013 and 2014 . The show also won a People 's Choice Award as Favorite TV Guilty Pleasure in 2011 . The Kardashian sisters have been nominated as part of the cast for five awards , winning four times ; Kim Kardashian has been nominated for three awards winning one in 2012 . In 2010 , Kris and Caitlyn Jenner received a Teen Choice Award nomination in a one @-@ time Choice TV : Parental Unit category .

= = Broadcast history = =

Keeping Up with the Kardashians premiered on October 14 , 2007 in the United States on the E ! cable network at 10 : 30 / 9 : 30 pm ET / PT . The half @-@ hour reality series continued to air every Sunday night in the same time slot , and the eight @-@ episode first season of the show concluded on December 2 . The subsequent season premiered the following year on March 9 in an earlier time slot at 10 : 00 / 9 : 00 pm with a repeated episode airing immediately afterwards . The season ended on May 26 , 2008 with an episode " Junk in the Trunk " , which featured the Kardashian siblings sharing the most memorable moments of the season . The third season commenced airing on March 8 , 2009 and concluded with two back @-@ to @-@ back episodes which aired on May 25 . The subsequent season premiered with a two @-@ hour long episode entitled " The Wedding " on November 8 , and ended on February 21 , 2010 ; some of the episodes aired throughout the season were extended to a full hour .

The fifth season of Keeping Up with the Kardashians began airing on August 22 , 2010 and concluded with another " Junk in the Trunk " episode on December 20 . The sixth season commenced on June 12 , 2011 and ended with a television special " Kim 's Fairytale Wedding : A Kardashian Event " which aired two extended episodes on October 9 and 10 . The show later returned on December 19 with the episode " Kendall 's Sweet 16 " . Starting with the seventh season , which premiered on May 20 , 2012 , the half @-@ hour reality series was extended to a full

hour in a new 9 : 00 / 8 : 00 pm time slot . The season concluded on October 28 . The eighth season of the series started airing on June 2 , 2013 ; it became the longest season with 21 episodes and ended on December 1 . The ninth and tenth seasons aired in 2014 and 2015 , respectively . The latter season included a television special entitled " About Bruce " which aired on May 17 and 18 , 2015 . The eleventh season premiered on November 15 , one month after the previous season finished . The twelfth season of the show debuted on May 1 , 2016 .

= = Home video releases and streaming = =

In North America , the first three seasons of the reality series were distributed on DVD . The first season was released on October 7 , 2008 by Lions Gate Entertainment which obtained the home entertainment distribution rights for a variety of programming from Comcast Entertainment Group , including Keeping Up with the Kardashians . The second and third seasons of the series were released on November 10 , 2009 and August 17 , 2010 , respectively . In Australia , all seasons are released on DVD by Universal Sony Pictures . The latest addition , which includes the eleventh season of the show , was released on April 28 , 2016 . In the United Kingdom , the reality series is distributed by Universal Pictures UK . The DVD set of the seventh season , the latest addition , was released on June 24 , 2013 . The episodes of Keeping Up with the Kardashians are also available on numerous streaming video on demand services , such as Amazon Video , iTunes , Google Play , Microsoft Movies & TV , Hulu , and Vudu , as well as the E ! network 's own streaming service .