

= The Buzz on Maggie =

The Buzz on Maggie is an American / Canadian animated television series created by Dave Polsky for Disney Channel . The series centers on an ambitious and expressive tween fly named Maggie Pesky and her family and friends . The show is set in Stickyfeet , a city for insects located in a dump . While conceptualizing the series , Polsky wanted it to contain a playful aspect at adolescence and director Dave Wasson formed the overall look of the characters , being heavily influenced by early Walt Disney cartoon shorts . The Buzz on Maggie was Disney 's first series to be fully animated in Adobe Flash , a process done by Bardel Entertainment and Future Thought Productions .

The Buzz on Maggie premiered on June 17 , 2005 and aired its final episode on May 27 , 2006 , concluding its only season . The series received positive reviews from television critics , many of whom praised its humor , voice acting and writing . The theme song " Just the Way I Am " , performed by Canadian singer Skye Sweetnam , was also met with critical praise and a Daytime Emmy Award nomination in 2006 . During its run , The Buzz on Maggie also received an Annie Award nomination for its character design . Reruns of the show aired until August 25 , 2008 and was replaced by Recess on it 's only timeslot .

= = Plot = =

The Buzz on Maggie follows Maggie Pesky (Jessica DiCicco) , an expressive tween fly and her family ; parents Chauncey (Brian Doyle @-@ Murray) and Frieda (Susan Tolsky) ; brothers Aldrin (David Kaufman) and Pupert (Thom Adcox) ; and sister Bella (Tara Strong) , who is still a maggot . The family resides in an old milk carton in the suburban fly metropolis of Stickyfeet , which is located in a dump . Maggie has an ambitious and adventurous personality and aspires to become a rock star . Her approach to life often suffers unexpected consequences that puts herself in jeopardy , as she often follows her own impulses although they go against the rules or her parents ' wishes . However , she ultimately learns her lesson , which was one of the core themes for the show 's conception .

Maggie attends a junior high school called Buzzdale Academy with her best friend Rayna Cartflight (Cree Summer) and nemesis Dawn Swatworthy (Strong) . The school 's staff include the sneaky Principal Peststrip (Jeff Bennett) , pompous Mr. Bugspit (Curtis Armstrong) and gruff Mrs. Wingston (Candi Milo) . The Buzz on Maggie uses a slapstick comedy style and relies slightly on gross @-@ out humor . It also includes several insect aspects , such as flies ' appetite for spoiled and rotten food . The show features various references to pop culture and common themes , such as sibling rivalry and peer pressure , from a fly 's point of view .

= = Production = =

The concept of The Buzz on Maggie was created by Dave Polsky , a former writer on Scary Movie 2 and South Park . In an early interview for Animation World Network , he explained that the series utilizes a playful aspect at adolescence , naming it " individuality vs. conformity " . He said , " Maggie must learn how to pursue her agenda without alienating those she cares about . More often than not , Maggie learns that it is difficult to negotiate life on her terms without burning bridges . " Dave Wasson , the creator of the animated series Time Squad , served as the director , and executively produced the series with Polsky , while Laura Perkins Brittain was the co @-@ executive producer .

Wasson formed Maggie 's character design and supported the use of Adobe Flash for animating the series . He told Animation Magazine that he was convinced Flash was a " good way to go " as he had had previous experience with the program , such as commercials and short films . The series became Disney 's first to be fully animated in Flash . Following the cancellation of Kids ' WB 's ; Mucha Lucha ! , many animators from that series were hired on The Buzz on Maggie . For the character designs , Wasson was heavily influenced by early cartoon shorts by Tex Avery , Warner Bros. and Walt Disney . He noted that the characters in The Buzz on Maggie have " a lot of 1930s touches " and wear white gloves , which is a direct homage to the cartoon shorts . The characters

also have anime @-@ inspired designs with oversized heads and large eyes . Wasson stated that the concept of Maggie living in a dump gave him a " lot of visual opportunities " . Jorge Gutierrez supervised the character design and Roman Laney supervised location and prop design in addition to background paint . The animation was done by Bardel Entertainment and Future Thought Productions .

The series ' theme song " Just the Way I Am " was composed by Bob Thiele Jr. and Dillon O 'Brian , and performed by Canadian singer Skye Sweetnam . The song is about pride , acceptance and empowerment . Adam Berry did the show 's score . Charlie Adler voice directed The Buzz on Maggie and helmed voice casting with Jamie Thomason . Newcomer Jessica DiCicco was cast as Maggie , her first main role on a television series , preceding her role on Loonatics Unleashed , which premiered the same year . The rest of the main cast included David Kaufman , Thom Adcox , Cree Summer , Brian Doyle @-@ Murray and Susan Tolsky . Tara Strong voiced Maggie 's nemesis Dawn , among other minor characters . The series had a few guest voice actors , such as Laraine Newman and Jon Polito .

= = Release = =

The Buzz on Maggie premiered on Disney Channel on Friday June 17 , 2005 , with two back @-@ to @-@ back episodes . The next week , it moved to its regular timeslot in the channel 's weekend block . Each half @-@ hour episode consists of two different segments . The Buzz on Maggie aired for one season , comprising 21 half @-@ hour episodes . The final episode , containing the segments " Synchronized Flying " and " Roach Hotel " , aired on May 27 , 2006 . In the fall of 2005 , The Buzz on Maggie was picked up by sister network ABC . The network began airing reruns of the show starting on September 17 , 2005 , on the Saturday morning block ABC Kids . According to Nielsen Media Research , the ABC premiere acquired a 1 @.@ 6 rating in the Kids 2 ? 11 demographic , and a 1 @.@ 4 rating in Tweens 9 ? 14 , as well as a 7 % share in both demographics . The premiere was that timeslot 's highest @-@ rated broadcast in nearly three months across the block 's three key demographics , Kids 2 ? 11 , Kids 6 ? 11 and Tweens 9 ? 14 . During the ABC Kids broadcasts , the series carried an E / I designation .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The Buzz on Maggie received positive reviews from television critics . Jeff Hidek of Star @-@ News viewed it as " Miss Spider 's Sunny Patch Friends meets The Proud Family " and named it " by far the most entertaining of this summer 's new offerings " . Roger Catlin of Hartford Courant wrote that it stands out from other shows on Disney Channel by " being a little sassy and sharp , and a whole lot funnier than most of [the channel 's] stuff " . He wrote that the channel " gets back into the race dominated by Cartoon Network offerings ... and a Nickelodeon roster ... with an offering just as hip and well designed " . Catlin commended the voice acting and the " sharp " writing , stating that the former factor " hit [s] the humor home " . The Philadelphia Inquirer critic David Hiltbrand noted that although the show includes " a little " gross @-@ out humor , " it 's reasonably tasteful by adolescent standards " . He concluded , " The animation ... is a little substandard , but the premise is nicely maintained . " AllMovie 's Hal Erickson deemed the fly concept unoriginal , but said that the show " set [s] itself apart from such earlier endeavors " . Erickson regarded Maggie 's " strong , forceful attitude " a positive role model for kids . A critic for Observer @-@ Reporter deemed it " suitably silly " , and Robert Lloyd of Los Angeles Times called it " delightful " .

At the time of its premiere , Gail Pennington of St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch named the show one of the " Tops of the night " . Diana Dawson , writing for Spartanburg Herald @-@ Journal , considered it an " inspiring show for fun @-@ loving tweens " . Kevin McDonough of Lawrence Journal @-@ World wrote that The Buzz on Maggie " strikes a decent balance between cartoon

anarchy and Disney 's you @-@ go @-@ girl sermonizing . " He praised the title character 's " bugged @-@ out status " , writing that it prevents the stories from being " too cute " . Jeanne Spreier of The Dallas Morning News graded The Buzz on Maggie with a B and regarded it as " perfect cartooning " for children . She wrote , " [The show 's] relatively simple plots , with equally simple resolutions and very clean dialogue , create fine cartoons for a schoolkid 's late @-@ afternoon respite . " Similarly , the show 's theme song " Just the Way I Am " received positive reactions ; Hiltbrand called it " great " , and Dawson wrote that " every episode explodes with the dynamic theme song " .

= = = Awards and nominations = = =

In 2005 , Jorge Gutierrez was nominated for the Best Character Design in an Animated Television Production award at the 33rd Annie Awards , for his work in the episode " Bella Con Carny " . However , he lost to Ernie Gilbert from The Fairly OddParents . The next year , Bob Thiele Jr. and Dillon O 'Brian received a nomination for Outstanding Original Song for the theme song " Just the Way I Am " at the 33rd Daytime Emmy Awards , but lost to the song " Sunshine " from The Young and the Restless .