[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox television](/wiki/Template:Infobox_television) ***Futurama*** is an American animated science fiction sitcom created by [Matt Groening](/wiki/Matt_Groening) for the [Fox Broadcasting Company](/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company). The series follows the adventures of a late-20th-century New York City pizza delivery boy, [Philip J. Fry](/wiki/Fry_(Futurama)), who, after being unwittingly [cryogenically frozen](/wiki/Cryonics) for one thousand years, finds employment at Planet Express, an interplanetary delivery company in the [retro-futuristic](/wiki/Retro-futurism) 31st century. The series was envisioned by Groening in the mid-1990s while working on [*The Simpsons*](/wiki/The_Simpsons), later bringing [David X. Cohen](/wiki/David_X._Cohen) aboard to develop storylines and characters to pitch the show to Fox.

In the United States, the series aired on Fox from March 28, 1999, to August 10, 2003, before ceasing production. *Futurama* also aired in reruns on [Cartoon Network's](/wiki/Cartoon_Network) [Adult Swim](/wiki/Adult_Swim) from 2002 to 2007, until the network's contract expired. It was revived in 2007 as four [direct-to-video](/wiki/Direct-to-video) films; the last of which was released in early 2009. [Comedy Central](/wiki/Comedy_Central) entered into an agreement with [20th Century Fox Television](/wiki/20th_Century_Fox_Television) to syndicate the existing episodes and air the films as 16 new, half-hour episodes, constituting a fifth season.<ref name=RottenTomatoesMattGroenigClarifiesFuture>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=reuters>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In June 2009, producing studio [20th Century Fox](/wiki/20th_Century_Fox) announced that Comedy Central had picked up the show for 26 new half-hour episodes, which began airing in 2010 and 2011.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) The show was renewed for a [seventh season](/wiki/Futurama_(season_7)), with the first half airing in June 2012 and the second set for early summer 2013.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) It was later revealed that the seventh season would be the final season, as Comedy Central announced that they would not be commissioning any further episodes. The series finale aired on September 4, 2013.[[5]](#cite_note-5) While Groening has said he will try to get it picked up by another network,[[6]](#cite_note-6) David X. Cohen stated that the episode "[Meanwhile](/wiki/Meanwhile_(Futurama))" would be the last episode of season 7 and also the series finale.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Throughout its run, *Futurama* has received critical acclaim. The show has been nominated for 17 [Annie Awards](/wiki/Annie_Award) and 12 [Emmy Awards](/wiki/Emmy_Award), winning seven of the former and six of the latter. It has also been nominated four times for a [Writers Guild of America Award](/wiki/Writers_Guild_of_America_Award), winning two for the episodes "[Godfellas](/wiki/Godfellas)" and "[The Prisoner of Benda](/wiki/The_Prisoner_of_Benda)", been nominated for a [Nebula Award](/wiki/Nebula_Award) and has received [Environmental Media Awards](/wiki/Environmental_Media_Awards) for episodes "[The Problem with Popplers](/wiki/The_Problem_with_Popplers)" and "[The Futurama Holiday Spectacular](/wiki/The_Futurama_Holiday_Spectacular)".<ref name=EMATFHS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> *Futurama*-related merchandise has also been released, including a [tie-in](/wiki/Tie-in) [comic book series](/wiki/Futurama_Comics) and [video game](/wiki/Futurama_(video_game)), calendars, clothes and figurines. In 2013, *TV Guide* ranked *Futurama* as one of the top 60 Greatest TV Cartoons of All Time.[[8]](#cite_note-8)

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## Production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### Development[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Fox expressed a strong desire in the mid-1990s for [Matt Groening](/wiki/Matt_Groening) to create a new series, and he began conceiving *Futurama* during this period. In 1996, he enlisted [David X. Cohen](/wiki/David_X._Cohen), then a writer and producer for *The Simpsons*, to assist in developing the show. The two spent time researching science fiction books, television shows, and films. When they pitched the series to Fox in April 1998, Groening and Cohen had composed many characters and story lines; Groening claimed they had gone "overboard" in their discussions.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Groening described trying to get the show on the air as "by far the worst experience of my grown-up life".[[10]](#cite_note-10) Fox ordered thirteen episodes. Immediately after, however, Fox feared the themes of the show were not suitable for the network and Groening and Fox executives argued over whether the network would have any creative input into the show.[[11]](#cite_note-11) With *The Simpsons* the network has no input.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Fox was particularly disturbed by the concept of [suicide booths](/wiki/Suicide_booth), [Doctor Zoidberg](/wiki/Zoidberg), and [Bender's](/wiki/Bender_(Futurama)) anti-social behavior.<ref name=1ACV03Production2>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> Groening explains, "When they tried to give me notes on *Futurama*, I just said: 'No, we're going to do this just the way we did *Simpsons*.' And they said, 'Well, we don't do business that way anymore.' And I said, 'Oh, well, that's the only way I do business.'"[[13]](#cite_note-13) The episode "[I, Roommate](/wiki/I,_Roommate)" was produced to address Fox's concerns, with the script written to their specifications.<ref name=1ACV03Production2/><ref name= 1ACV03Production>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> Fox strongly disliked the episode, but after negotiations, Groening received the same independence with *Futurama*.<ref name= 1ACV03Production3>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref>

The name *Futurama* comes from a pavilion at the [1939 New York World's Fair](/wiki/1939_New_York_World's_Fair). Designed by [Norman Bel Geddes](/wiki/Norman_Bel_Geddes), the [Futurama pavilion](/wiki/Futurama_(New_York_World's_Fair)) depicted how he imagined the world would look in 1959.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Many other titles were considered for the series, including "Aloha, Mars!" and "Doomsville", which Groening notes were "resoundly rejected, by everyone concerned with it".<ref name=1ACV05>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref>[[15]](#cite_note-15) It takes approximately six to nine months to produce an episode of *Futurama*.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) The long production time results in several episodes being worked on simultaneously.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

### Executive producers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:David_X._Cohen_&_Matt_Groening_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg)[David X. Cohen](/wiki/David_X._Cohen) and [Matt Groening](/wiki/Matt_Groening) at the *Futurama* panel of [Comic-Con](/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con_International) 2009.

Groening and Cohen served as executive producers and [showrunners](/wiki/Showrunner) during the show's entire run, and also functioned as creative consultants. [Ken Keeler](/wiki/Ken_Keeler) became an executive producer for Season 4 and subsequent seasons.

### Writing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The planning for each episode began with a table meeting of writers, who discuss the plot ideas as a group. A single staff writer writes an outline and then produces a script. Once the first draft of a script is finished, the writers and executive producers called in the actors for a table read.[[11]](#cite_note-11) After this script reading, the writers collaborated to rewrite the script as a group before sending it to the animation team.[[19]](#cite_note-19) At this point the voice recording was also started and the script is out of the writers' hands.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The writing staff held three [Ph.D.s](/wiki/Doctor_of_Philosophy), seven [master's degrees](/wiki/Master's_degree), and cumulatively had more than 50 years at [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University). Series writer Patric M. Verrone stated, "we were easily the most overeducated cartoon writers in history".[[20]](#cite_note-20)

### Voice actors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) *Futurama* had eight main cast members. [Billy West](/wiki/Billy_West) performed the voices of [Philip J. Fry](/wiki/Fry_(Futurama)), [Professor Farnsworth](/wiki/Professor_Farnsworth), [Doctor Zoidberg](/wiki/Doctor_Zoidberg), [Zapp Brannigan](/wiki/Zapp_Brannigan) and many other incidental characters. West auditioned for "just about every part", landing the roles of the Professor and Doctor Zoidberg.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Although West read for Fry, his friend [Charlie Schlatter](/wiki/Charlie_Schlatter) was initially given the role of Fry.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Due to a casting change, West was called back to audition again and was given the role. West claims that the voice of Fry is deliberately modeled on his own, so as to make it difficult for another person to replicate the voice.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Doctor Zoidberg's voice was based on [Lou Jacobi](/wiki/Lou_Jacobi) and [George Jessel](/wiki/George_Jessel_(actor)).[[22]](#cite_note-22) The character of Zapp Brannigan was originally created and intended to be performed by [Phil Hartman](/wiki/Phil_Hartman).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) Hartman insisted on auditioning for the role, and "just nailed it" according to Groening. Due to Hartman's death, West was given the role. West states that his version of Zapp Brannigan was an imitation of Hartman and also "modeled after a couple of big dumb announcers I knew".[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) [Katey Sagal](/wiki/Katey_Sagal) voiced [Leela](/wiki/Leela_(Futurama)), and is the only member of the main cast to voice only one character. The role of Leela was originally assigned to [Nicole Sullivan](/wiki/Nicole_Sullivan).[[21]](#cite_note-21) In an interview in June 2010, Sagal remarked that she did not know that another person was to originally voice Leela until many years after the show first began.[[23]](#cite_note-23) [John DiMaggio](/wiki/John_DiMaggio) performed the voice of the robot [Bender Bending Rodríguez](/wiki/Bender_(Futurama)) and other, more minor, characters. Bender was the most difficult character to cast, as the show's creators had not decided what a robot should sound like.[[24]](#cite_note-24) DiMaggio originally auditioned for the role of Professor Farnsworth, using the voice he uses to perform Bender, and also auditioned for Bender using a different voice.[[25]](#cite_note-25) DiMaggio described Bender's voice as a combination of a sloppy drunk, [Slim Pickens](/wiki/Slim_Pickens) and a character his college friend created named "Charlie the sausage-lover".[[23]](#cite_note-23) [Phil LaMarr](/wiki/Phil_LaMarr) voices [Hermes Conrad](/wiki/Hermes_Conrad), his son Dwight, Ethan Bubblegum Tate, and Reverend Preacherbot. [Lauren Tom](/wiki/Lauren_Tom) voiced [Amy Wong](/wiki/Amy_Wong), and Tress MacNeille voices [Mom](/wiki/Mom_(Futurama)) and various other characters. [Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/Maurice_LaMarche) voices [Kif Kroker](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters) and several supporting characters. LaMarche won the [Emmy Award](/wiki/Emmy_Award) for [Outstanding Voice-Over Performance](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award_for_Outstanding_Voice-Over_Performance) in 2011 for his performances as [Lrrr](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Lrrr) and [Orson Welles](/wiki/Orson_Welles) in the episode "[Lrrreconcilable Ndndifferences](/wiki/Lrrreconcilable_Ndndifferences)".[[26]](#cite_note-26) [David Herman](/wiki/David_Herman) voiced [Scruffy](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Scruffy) and various supporting characters. During seasons 1–4, LaMarche is billed as supporting cast and Tom, LaMarr and Herman billed as guest stars, despite appearing in most episodes. LaMarche was promoted to main cast and Tom, LaMarr and Herman to supporting cast in Season 5, and promoted again to main cast in Season 6.

|  |
| --- |
| **colspan=8|Main cast members** |
| align=center| [110x110px|Billy West](/wiki/File:Billy_West_by_Gage_Skidmore_3.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|Katey Sagal](/wiki/File:Katey_Sagal_by_Gage_Skidmore_2.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|John DiMaggio](/wiki/File:John_DiMaggio_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|Tress MacNeille](/wiki/File:Tressmacneille.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/File:Maurice_LaMarche_by_Gage_Skidmore_2.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|Lauren Tom](/wiki/File:Lauren_Tom_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg) | align=center| [110x110px|Phil LaMarr](/wiki/File:Phil_LaMarr_by_Gage_Skidmore.jpg) | align=center| |
| [Billy West](/wiki/Billy_West) | [Katey Sagal](/wiki/Katey_Sagal) | [John DiMaggio](/wiki/John_DiMaggio) | [Tress MacNeille](/wiki/Tress_MacNeille) | [Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/Maurice_LaMarche) | [Lauren Tom](/wiki/Lauren_Tom) | [Phil LaMarr](/wiki/Phil_LaMarr) | [David Herman](/wiki/David_Herman) |
| [Philip Fry](/wiki/Fry_(Futurama)), [Professor Farnsworth](/wiki/Professor_Farnsworth), [Doctor Zoidberg](/wiki/Zoidberg), [Zapp Brannigan](/wiki/Zapp_Brannigan), various | [Leela](/wiki/Leela_(Futurama)) | [Bender](/wiki/Bender_(Futurama)), various | [Mom](/wiki/Mom_(Futurama)), various | [Kif Kroker](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Kif_Kroker), various | [Amy Wong](/wiki/Amy_Wong), various | [Hermes Conrad](/wiki/Hermes_Conrad), various | [Scruffy](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Scruffy), various |

In addition to the main cast, [Frank Welker](/wiki/Frank_Welker) voiced Nibbler and [Kath Soucie](/wiki/Kath_Soucie) voiced Cubert and several supporting and minor characters. Like *The Simpsons*, many episodes of *Futurama* feature guest voices from a wide range of professions, including actors, entertainers, bands, musicians, and scientists. Many guests stars voiced supporting characters, although many voiced themselves, usually as their own head preserved in a jar. Recurring guest stars included [Dawnn Lewis](/wiki/Dawnn_Lewis) (as Hermes' wife [LaBarbara](/wiki/List_of_recurring_characters_in_Futurama#LaBarbara_Conrad)), [Tom Kenny](/wiki/Tom_Kenny), [Dan Castellaneta](/wiki/Dan_Castellaneta) (as [the Robot Devil](/wiki/List_of_recurring_characters_in_Futurama#Robot_Devil)), [Al Gore](/wiki/Al_Gore), and [George Takei](/wiki/George_Takei), among others.

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### Animation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|Computer-generated explosion](/wiki/File:FuturamaExplosionCGI.jpg) [Rough Draft Studios](/wiki/Rough_Draft_Studios) animated *Futurama*. The studio would receive the completed script of an episode and create a [storyboard](/wiki/Storyboard) consisting over 100 drawings. It would then produce a pencil-drawn [animatic](/wiki/Storyboard#Animatics) with 1000 frames. Rough Draft's sister studio in South Korea would render the 30,000-frame finished episode.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In addition to traditional cartoon drawing, Rough Draft Studios often used [CGI](/wiki/Computer-generated_imagery) for fast or complex shots, such as the movement of [spaceships](/wiki/Spacecraft), explosions, [nebulae](/wiki/Nebula) and snow scenes. The opening sequence was entirely rendered in CGI. The CGI was rendered at 24 [frames per second](/wiki/Frame_rate) (as opposed to hand-drawn often done at 12 frames per second) and the lack of [artifacts](/wiki/Digital_artifact) made the animation appear very smooth and fluid. CGI characters looked slightly different due to spatially "cheating" hand-drawn characters by drawing slightly out of proportion or off-perspective features to emphasize traits of the face or body, improving legibility of an expression. [PowerAnimator](/wiki/PowerAnimator) was used to draw the comic-like CGI.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The series began high-definition production in [season 5](/wiki/Futurama_(season_5)), with [*Bender's Big Score*](/wiki/Futurama:_Bender's_Big_Score). The opening sequence was re-rendered and scaled to adapt to the show's transition to 16:9 [widescreen](/wiki/Widescreen) format.

For the [final episode](/wiki/Reincarnation_(Futurama)) of [season 6](/wiki/Futurama_(season_6)), *Futurama* was completely reanimated in three different styles: the first segment of the episode features black-and-white [Fleischer](/wiki/Fleischer_Studios)- and [Walter Lantz](/wiki/Walter_Lantz)-style animation, the second was drawn in the style of a [low-resolution](/wiki/Display_resolution) video game, and the final segment was in the style of Japanese [anime](/wiki/Anime).<ref name=YahooDXC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Original cancellation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Groening and Cohen wanted *Futurama* to be shown at 8:30 pm on Sunday, following *The Simpsons*. The Fox network disagreed, opting instead to show two episodes in the Sunday night lineup before moving the show to a regular time slot on Tuesday.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Beginning with its second broadcast season *Futurama* was again placed in the 8:30 Sunday spot,[[29]](#cite_note-29) but by mid-season the show was moved again, this time to 7:00 pm on Sunday, its third position in under a year.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Even by the fourth season *Futurama* was still being aired erratically.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Due to being regularly pre-empted by sporting events, it became difficult to predict when new episodes would air. This erratic schedule resulted in Fox not airing several episodes that had been produced for seasons three and four, instead holding them over for a fifth broadcast season. According to Groening, Fox executives were not supporters of the show.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Although *Futurama* was never officially canceled, midway through the production of the fourth season, Fox decided to stop buying episodes of *Futurama*, letting it go out of production before the fall 2003 lineup.[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 2002, the [Cartoon Network](/wiki/Cartoon_Network) acquired syndication rights to *Futurama* as well as [*Family Guy*](/wiki/Family_Guy) for its [Adult Swim](/wiki/Adult_Swim) block. The run on Adult Swim revived interest in both series, and when *Family Guy* found success in [direct-to-DVD](/wiki/Direct-to-DVD) productions, *Futurama****s producers decided to try the same.***[***[35]***](#cite_note-35)[***[36]***](#cite_note-36) ***In 2005,*** [***Comedy Central***](/wiki/Comedy_Central) ***entered negotiations to take over the syndication rights, during which they discussed the possibility of producing new episodes. In 2006, it was announced that*** [***four straight-to-DVD films***](/wiki/#Films) ***would be produced, and later split into 16 episodes comprising a fifth season of the show.***[***[37]***](#cite_note-37) ***Since no new Futurama projects were in production at the time of release, the final movie release Into the Wild Green Yonder was designed to stand as the Futurama series finale. However, Groening had expressed a desire to continue the franchise in some form, including as a theatrical film.***[***[38]***](#cite_note-38) ***In an interview with*** [***CNN***](/wiki/CNN)***, Groening said that "we have a great relationship with Comedy Central and we would love to do more episodes for them, but I don't know... We're having discussions and there is some enthusiasm but I can't tell if it's just me."***[***[39]***](#cite_note-39)

### Comedy Central[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

In June 2009, [20th Century Fox](/wiki/20th_Century_Fox) announced that Comedy Central had picked up the show for 26 new half-hour episodes that began airing on June 24, 2010.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) The returning writing crew was smaller than the original crew.[[43]](#cite_note-43) It was originally announced that main voice actors West, DiMaggio, and Sagal would return as well, but on July 17, 2009, it was announced that a casting notice was posted to replace the entire cast when [20th Century Fox Television](/wiki/20th_Century_Fox_Television) would not meet their salary demands.[[44]](#cite_note-44) The situation was later resolved, and the entire original voice-cast returned for the new episodes.

Near the end of a message from Maurice LaMarche sent to members of the "Save the Voices of Futurama" group on Facebook, LaMarche announced that the original cast would be returning for the new episodes.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The [*Toronto Star*](/wiki/Toronto_Star) confirmed, announcing on their website that the original cast of *Futurama* signed contracts with Fox to return for 26 more episodes.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Similarly, an email sent to fans from Cohen and Groening reported that West, Sagal, DiMaggio, LaMarche, MacNeille, Tom, LaMarr, and Herman would all be returning for the revival.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Cohen told [*Newsday*](/wiki/Newsday) in August 2009 that the reported 26-episode order means "[i]t will be up to 26. I can't guarantee it will be 26. But I think there's a pretty good chance it'll be exactly 26. Fox has been a little bit cagey about it, even internally. But nobody's too concerned. We're plunging ahead".<ref name=newsday>[Lovece, Frank](/wiki/Frank_Lovece). ["'Futurama' finds a new future on Comedy Central"](http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/tv/futurama-finds-a-new-future-on-comedy-central-1.1402526), [*Newsday*](/wiki/Newsday), August 28, 2009; posted online August 27, 2009</ref> Two episodes were in the process of being voice-recorded at that time, with an additional "six scripts ... in the works, ranging in scale from 'it's a crazy idea that someone's grandmother thought of' to 'it's all on paper'.[[48]](#cite_note-48) When *Futurama* aired June 24, 2010, on Comedy Central, it helped the network to its highest-rated night in 2010 and its highest-rated Thursday primetime in the network's history.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In March 2011, it was announced that *Futurama* had been renewed for a seventh season, consisting of at least 26 episodes, scheduled to air in 2012 and 2013.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The first episode of season 7 premiered June 20, 2012, on Comedy Central.<ref name=StartSeason7A>[Futurama – Series | Comedy Central Official Site | ComedyCentral.com](http://www.comedycentral.com/shows/futurama), [*Comedy Central*](/wiki/Comedy_Central). Retrieved March 27, 2012</ref>

In July 2011, it was reported that the show had been picked up for [syndication](/wiki/Broadcast_syndication) by both local [affiliates](/wiki/Network_affiliate) and [WGN America](/wiki/WGN_America). Broadcast of old episodes began in September 2011.[[50]](#cite_note-50) On September 19, 2011, [WGN America](/wiki/WGN_America) began re-running *Futurama*, and now airs the series weeknights during the overnight hours, and once on Saturday nights.[[51]](#cite_note-51) *Futurama* has since doubled its viewership in syndication.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Due to the uncertain future of the series, there have been four designated [series finales](/wiki/Series_finale). "[The Devil's Hands Are Idle Playthings](/wiki/The_Devil's_Hands_Are_Idle_Playthings)", "[Into the Wild Green Yonder](/wiki/Futurama:_Into_the_Wild_Green_Yonder)", and "[Overclockwise](/wiki/Overclockwise)" have all been written to serve as a final episode for the show.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) The episode "[Meanwhile](/wiki/Meanwhile_(Futurama))" currently stands as the show's official series finale.

### Series finale[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Comedy Central announced in April 2013 that they would be airing the final episode on September 4, 2013.[[55]](#cite_note-55) The producers said that they are exploring options for the future of the series as "[they] have many more stories to tell", but would gauge fan reaction to the news.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Groening and Cohen have previously expressed a desire to produce a theatrical film or another [direct-to-video](/wiki/Direct-to-video) film upon conclusion of the series.[[57]](#cite_note-57) In an August 2013 interview with [*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*](/wiki/Milwaukee_Journal_Sentinel), [Katey Sagal](/wiki/Katey_Sagal) said regarding the series finale, "So I don't believe it... I just hold out hope for it because it has such a huge fan base, it's such a smart show, and why wouldn't somebody want to keep making that show; so that's my thought, I'm just in denial that it's over". Sagal also mentioned during the same interview that Groening told her at [Comic-Con](/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con_International) that "we'll find a place" and "don't worry, it's not going to end" (in Sagal's words).[[58]](#cite_note-58) *The Simpsons* episode "[Simpsorama](/wiki/Simpsorama)" is an official [crossover](/wiki/Fictional_crossover) with *Futurama*. It originally aired during the [twenty-sixth season](/wiki/The_Simpsons_(season_26)) of the Simpsons on November 9, 2014, over a year after the series finale aired on Comedy Central.[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61)

## Characters[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Further2](/wiki/Template:Further2) *Futurama* is essentially a workplace sitcom, the plot of which revolves around the Planet Express interplanetary delivery company and its employees,[[62]](#cite_note-62) a small group that largely fails to conform to future society.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Episodes usually feature the central trio of Fry, Leela, and Bender, though occasional storylines center on the other main characters.

* [Philip J. Fry](/wiki/Fry_(Futurama)) ([Billy West](/wiki/Billy_West_(voice_actor))) – Fry is a immature, slovenly, yet good-hearted and sentimental pizza [delivery boy](/wiki/Delivery_(commerce)) who falls into a cryogenic pod, causing it to activate and [freeze](/wiki/Cryonics) him just after midnight on January 1, 2000. He reawakens on New Year's Eve of 2999, and gets a job as a cargo delivery boy at Planet Express, a company owned by his only living relative, Professor Hubert J. Farnsworth. Fry's love for Leela is a recurring theme throughout the series.
* [Turanga Leela](/wiki/Leela_(Futurama)) ([Katey Sagal](/wiki/Katey_Sagal)) – Leela is the competent, [one-eyed](/wiki/List_of_one-eyed_creatures_in_mythology_and_fiction) captain of the [Planet Express Ship](/wiki/Planet_Express_Ship).[[62]](#cite_note-62) Abandoned as a baby, she grows up in the Cookieville Minimum Security [Orphanarium](/wiki/Orphanage) believing herself to be an [alien](/wiki/Extraterrestrial_life) from another planet, but learns that she is actually a [mutant from the sewers](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Sewer_mutants) in the episode "[Leela's Homeworld](/wiki/Leela's_Homeworld)".[[64]](#cite_note-64) Prior to becoming the ship's captain, Leela works as a career assignment officer at the cryogenics lab where she first meets Fry. She is Fry's primary love interest and wife. Her name is a reference to the [Turangalîla-Symphonie](/wiki/Turangalîla-Symphonie) by [Olivier Messiaen](/wiki/Olivier_Messiaen). [[65]](#cite_note-65) It takes approximately one hour to [render](/wiki/Rendering_(computer_graphics)) a single frame, and each second of the sequence consists of around 30 frames.<ref name=1ACV04OpeningSequence2>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref>

*Bender's Big Score* has an extended opening sequence, introducing each of the main characters. In [*The Beast with a Billion Backs*](/wiki/Futurama:_The_Beast_with_a_Billion_Backs) and [*Bender's Game*](/wiki/Futurama:_Bender's_Game) the ship passes through the screen's glass and temporarily becomes part of the environment depicted therein—a pastiche of [Disney's](/wiki/The_Walt_Disney_Company) [*Steamboat Willie*](/wiki/Steamboat_Willie) and [*Yellow Submarine*](/wiki/Yellow_Submarine_(film)) respectively—before crashing through the screen glass on the way out. In [*Into the Wild Green Yonder*](/wiki/Futurama:_Into_the_Wild_Green_Yonder), a completely different opening sequence involves a trip through a futuristic version of Las Vegas located on Mars. The theme tune is sung by [Seth MacFarlane](/wiki/Seth_MacFarlane) and is different from the standard theme tune. The end of the film incorporates a unique variation of the opening sequence; as the Planet Express ship enters a wormhole, it converts into a pattern of lights similar to the lights that appear in the opening sequence.

The *Futurama* theme was created by [Christopher Tyng](/wiki/Christopher_Tyng). The theme is played on the [tubular bells](/wiki/Tubular_bells) but is occasionally remixed for use in specific episodes, including a version by the [Beastie Boys](/wiki/Beastie_Boys) used for the episode "[Hell Is Other Robots](/wiki/Hell_Is_Other_Robots)", in which they guest starred.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The theme also samples a [drum break originating from "Amen, Brother"](/wiki/Amen_break) by American soul group [The Winstons](/wiki/The_Winstons); however, the drum break is replaced in Season 6. A remixed rendition of the theme is used in Season 5, which features altered instruments and a lower pitch. Season 6 also uses this remix, but it has been reduced again in pitch and tempo. The theme has been noted for its similarities to [Pierre Henry's](/wiki/Pierre_Henry) 1967 *Psyché Rock*.[[76]](#cite_note-76) It was originally intended for the *Futurama* theme to be remixed in every episode.<ref name=1ACV11OpeningSequence>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> This was first trialled in the opening sequence for "[Mars University](/wiki/Mars_University)", however it was realized upon broadcast that the sound did not transmit well through most television sets and the idea was subsequently abandoned.<ref name=1ACV11OpeningSequence2>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> Despite this, [beatbox](/wiki/Beatboxing) renditions of the theme performed by Billy West and John DiMaggio are used for the episodes "[Bender Should Not Be Allowed on TV](/wiki/Bender_Should_Not_Be_Allowed_on_TV)" and "[Spanish Fry](/wiki/Spanish_Fry)".

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|220px|Alien Language 1 and its equivalent](/wiki/File:Alien_decoder_Futurama.svg) [Latin characters](/wiki/Latin_alphabet) There are three alternative alphabets that appear often in the background of episodes, usually in the forms of [graffiti](/wiki/Graffiti), advertisements, or warning labels. Nearly all messages using alternative scripts transliterate directly into English. The first alphabet consists of abstract characters and is referred to as Alienese,[[64]](#cite_note-64) a simple [substitution cipher](/wiki/Substitution_cipher) from the [Latin alphabet](/wiki/Latin_alphabet).[[77]](#cite_note-77) The second alphabet uses a more complex [modular](/wiki/Modular_arithmetic) addition code, where the "next letter is given by the summation of all previous letters plus the current letter".[[78]](#cite_note-78) The codes often provide additional jokes for fans dedicated enough to decode the messages.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The third language sometimes used is [Hebrew](/wiki/Hebrew_language). Aside from these alphabets, most of the displayed wording on the show uses the Latin alphabet.

Several English expressions have evolved since the present day. For example, the word *Christmas* has been replaced with *Xmas* (pronounced "*ex*-mas"), and the word [*ask*](/wiki/Wikt:ask) with *aks* (pronounced *axe*). According to David X. Cohen it is a running joke that the French language is [extinct](/wiki/Extinct_language) in the *Futurama* universe (though the culture remains alive), much like [Latin](/wiki/Latin) is in the present.[[79]](#cite_note-79) In the French dubbing of the show, German is used as the extinct language instead.

### Humor[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Although the series uses a wide range of styles of humor, including [self-deprecation](/wiki/Self-deprecation), [black comedy](/wiki/Black_comedy), [off-color humor](/wiki/Off-color_humor), [slapstick](/wiki/Slapstick), and [surreal humor](/wiki/Surreal_humour), its primary source of comedy is its [satirical](/wiki/Satire) depiction of everyday life in the future and its [parodical](/wiki/Parody) comparisons to the present.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Groening notes that, from the show's conception, his goal was to make what was, on the surface, a goofy comedy that would have underlying "legitimate literary science fiction concepts".[[80]](#cite_note-80) The series contrasted "[low culture](/wiki/Low_culture)" and "[high culture](/wiki/High_culture)" comedy; for example, Bender's catchphrase is the insult "Bite my shiny metal ass" while his most terrifying nightmare is a vision of the [number](/wiki/Arabic_alphabet#Numerals) *2*, a joke referring to the [binary numeral system](/wiki/Binary_number) (Fry assures him, "there's no such thing as two").[[62]](#cite_note-62) The series developed a [cult following](/wiki/Cult_following) partially due to the large number of [in-jokes](/wiki/In-joke) it contains, most of which are aimed at "[nerds](/wiki/Nerd)".[[62]](#cite_note-62) In [commentary](/wiki/Audio_commentary) on the DVD releases, David X. Cohen points out and sometimes explains his "nerdiest joke[s]".[[81]](#cite_note-81) These included [mathematical jokes](/wiki/Mathematical_joke) — such as "[Loew's](/wiki/Loews_Cineplex_Entertainment) <math>\aleph\_0</math>-plex" ([aleph-null](/wiki/Aleph_number)-plex) movie theater,[[81]](#cite_note-81) — as well as various forms of science humor — for example, Professor Farnsworth, at a racetrack, complains about the use of a [quantum finish](/wiki/Photo_finish) to decide the winner, exclaiming "No fair! You changed the outcome by measuring it", a reference to the [Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle](/wiki/Heisenberg_Uncertainty_Principle).[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[82]](#cite_note-82) In the season six episode "[Law and Oracle](/wiki/Law_and_Oracle)", Fry and the robot peace officer URL track down a traffic violator who turns out to be [Erwin Schrödinger](/wiki/Erwin_Schrödinger), the 20th-century quantum physicist. On the front seat of the car is a box, and when questioned about the contents, Schrödinger replies "A cat, some poison, and a cesium atom". Fry asks if the cat is alive or dead, and Schrödinger answers "It's a superposition of both states until you open the box and collapse the wave function." When Fry opens the box, the cat jumps out and attacks him. The run is a reference to the [Schrödinger's cat](/wiki/Schrödinger's_cat) thought experiment of quantum mechanics. The series makes passing references to [quantum chromodynamics](/wiki/Quantum_chromodynamics) (the appearance of [Strong Force](/wiki/Strong_interaction)-brand glue),[[83]](#cite_note-83) [computer science](/wiki/Computer_science) (two separate books in a closet labeled [*P* and *NP*](/wiki/P_versus_NP_problem) respectively, referring to the possibility that P and NP-complete problem classes are distinct),[[84]](#cite_note-84) electronics (an X-ray — or more accurately, an "F-ray" — of Bender's head reveals a [6502](/wiki/MOS_Technology_6502) microprocessor),[[85]](#cite_note-85) and [genetics](/wiki/Genetics) (a mention of Bender's "robo- or R-NA").[[86]](#cite_note-86) The show often features subtle references to classic science fiction. These are most often to *Star Trek* — many soundbites are used in [homage](/wiki/Homage_(arts))[[62]](#cite_note-62) — but also include the reference to the origin of the word *robot* made in the name of the robot-dominated planet [Chapek](/wiki/Karel_Čapek) 9,[[87]](#cite_note-87) and the black rectangular monolith labeled "Out of Order" in orbit around Jupiter (a reference to [Arthur C. Clarke's](/wiki/Arthur_C._Clarke) [*Space Odyssey* series](/wiki/Space_Odyssey)).[[88]](#cite_note-88) Bender and Fry sometimes watch a television show called *The Scary Door*, a humorous parody of [*The Twilight Zone*](/wiki/The_Twilight_Zone_(1959_TV_series)).[[89]](#cite_note-89) Journalist/critic [Frank Lovece](/wiki/Frank_Lovece) in [*Newsday*](/wiki/Newsday) contrasted the humor tradition of Groening's two series, finding that, "*The Simpsons* echoes the strains of [American-Irish](/wiki/Irish_American) [vaudeville](/wiki/Vaudeville) humor — the beer-soaked, sneaking-in-late-while-the-wife's-asleep comedy of [Harrigan and Hart](/wiki/Edward_Harrigan), McNulty and Murray, the [Four Cohans](/wiki/Four_Cohans) (which, yes, included [George M.](/wiki/George_M._Cohan)) and countless others: knockabout yet sentimental, and ultimately about the bonds of blood family. *Futurama*, conversely, stems from [Jewish-American](/wiki/American_Jews) humor, and not just in the obvious archetype of Dr. Zoidberg. From vaudeville to the [Catskills](/wiki/Catskill_Mountains) to [Woody Allen](/wiki/Woody_Allen), it's that distinctly rueful humor built to ward away everything from despair to petty annoyance — the 'You gotta do what you gotta do' philosophy that helps the 'Futurama' characters cope in a mega-corporate world where the little guy is essentially powerless."[[48]](#cite_note-48) Animation maven [Jerry Beck](/wiki/Jerry_Beck) concurred: "I'm Jewish, and I know what you're saying. Fry has that [type of humor], Dr. Zoidberg, all the [vocal artist] [Billy West](/wiki/Billy_West) characters. I see it. The bottom line is, the producers are trying to make sure the shows are completely different entities."[[48]](#cite_note-48)

## Reception, legacy, and achievements[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

### Success[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

*Futurama****s 7:00 pm Sunday timeslot caused the show to often be pre-empted by sports and usually have a later than average season premiere. It also allowed the writers and animators to get ahead of the broadcast schedule so that episodes intended for one season were not aired until the following season. By the beginning of the fourth broadcast season, all the episodes to be aired that season had already been completed and writers were working at least a year in advance.***[***[17]***](#cite_note-17) When *Futurama* debuted in the Fox Sunday night line-up at 8:30 pm between *The Simpsons* and [*The X-Files*](/wiki/The_X-Files) on March 28, 1999, it managed 19 million viewers, tying for 11th overall in that week's [Nielsen ratings](/wiki/Nielsen_ratings).[[90]](#cite_note-90) The following week, airing at the same time, *Futurama* drew 14.2 million viewers. The third episode, the first airing on Tuesday, drew 8.85 million viewers.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Though its ratings were well below *The Simpsons*, the first season of *Futurama* rated higher than competing animated series: [*King of the Hill*](/wiki/King_of_the_Hill), [*Family Guy*](/wiki/Family_Guy), [*Dilbert*](/wiki/Dilbert_(TV_series)), [*South Park*](/wiki/South_Park), and [*The PJs*](/wiki/The_PJs).[[92]](#cite_note-92) When *Futurama* was effectively canceled in 2003, it had averaged 6.4 million viewers for the first half of its fourth broadcast season.[[93]](#cite_note-93) In late 2002, [Cartoon Network](/wiki/Cartoon_Network) acquired exclusive cable syndication rights to *Futurama* for a reported ten million dollars.[[94]](#cite_note-94) In January 2003,[[94]](#cite_note-94) the network began airing *Futurama* episodes as the centerpiece to the expansion of their [Adult Swim](/wiki/Adult_Swim) cartoon block. In October 2005, Comedy Central picked up the cable syndication rights to air *Futurama*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') 72-episode run at the start of 2008, following the expiration of Cartoon Network's contract.[Template:Cn](/wiki/Template:Cn) It was cited as the largest and most expensive acquisition in the network's history. It airs every night on Comedy Central and WGN.<ref name=variety>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> A Comedy Central teaser trailer announced the return of *Futurama* March 23, 2008,[[95]](#cite_note-95) which was *Bender's Big Score* divided into four episodes followed by the other three movies. The series also airs in syndication in many countries around the world.

On June 24, 2010, the season six premiere, "[Rebirth](/wiki/Rebirth_(Futurama))", drew 2.92 million viewers in the 10 pm timeslot on Comedy Central.[[96]](#cite_note-96) The second episode of the sixth season, "[In-A-Gadda-Da-Leela](/wiki/In-A-Gadda-Da-Leela)", aired at 10:30 pm, immediately following the season premiere. "In-A-Gadda-Da-Leela" drew 2.78 million viewers.[[96]](#cite_note-96) This was the series' premiere on the network, with original episodes—the fifth season had previously aired on the network, but it had originally been released in the form of the four direct-to-video films.

### Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Award** | **Category** | **Nominee** | **Result** |
| 1999 | [Annie Awards](/wiki/Annie_Awards) | Outstanding Achievement in an Animated Television Program[[97]](#cite_note-97) | *Futurama* | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Individual Achievement for Writing in an Animated Television Production[[97]](#cite_note-97) | [Ken Keeler](/wiki/Ken_Keeler) for "[The Series Has Landed](/wiki/The_Series_Has_Landed)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| [Primetime Emmy Award](/wiki/Primetime_Emmy_Award) | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[A Big Piece of Garbage](/wiki/A_Big_Piece_of_Garbage)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2000 | Annie Awards | Outstanding Individual Achievement for Directing in an Animated Television Production[[99]](#cite_note-99) | [Brian Sheesley](/wiki/Brian_Sheesley) for "[Why Must I Be a Crustacean in Love?](/wiki/Why_Must_I_Be_a_Crustacean_in_Love?)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Achievement in a Primetime or Late Night Animated Television Program[[99]](#cite_note-99) | *Futurama* | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Individual Achievement for Directing in an Animated Television Production[[99]](#cite_note-99) | [Susie Dietter](/wiki/Susie_Dietter) for "[A Bicyclops Built for Two](/wiki/A_Bicyclops_Built_for_Two)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation[[98]](#cite_note-98) | Bari Kumar (color stylist) for "[A Bicyclops Built for Two](/wiki/A_Bicyclops_Built_for_Two)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| [Environmental Media Awards](/wiki/Environmental_Media_Awards) | TV Episodic – Comedy[[100]](#cite_note-100) | For "[The Problem with Popplers](/wiki/The_Problem_with_Popplers)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| 2001 | Annie Awards | Outstanding Individual Achievement for Voice Acting by a Male Performer in an Animated Television Production[[101]](#cite_note-101) | [John DiMaggio](/wiki/John_DiMaggio) as [Bender](/wiki/Bender_(Futurama)) for "[Bendless Love](/wiki/Bendless_Love)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Individual Achievement for Writing in an Animated Television Production[[101]](#cite_note-101) | [Ron Weiner](/wiki/Ron_Weiner) for "[The Luck of the Fryrish](/wiki/The_Luck_of_the_Fryrish)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Achievement in a Primetime or Late Night Animated Television Production[[101]](#cite_note-101) | *Futurama* | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation[[98]](#cite_note-98) | Rodney Clouden ([storyboard artist](/wiki/Storyboard_artist)) for "[Parasites Lost](/wiki/Parasites_Lost)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[Amazon Women in the Mood](/wiki/Amazon_Women_in_the_Mood)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2002 | Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[Roswell That Ends Well](/wiki/Roswell_That_Ends_Well)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Annie Awards | Outstanding Directing in an Animated Television Production[[102]](#cite_note-102) | [Rich Moore](/wiki/Rich_Moore) for "[Roswell That Ends Well](/wiki/Roswell_That_Ends_Well)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Best Animated Television Production[[102]](#cite_note-102) | *Futurama* | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2003 | Annie Awards | Music in an Animated Television Production[[103]](#cite_note-103) | [Ken Keeler](/wiki/Ken_Keeler) for "[The Devil's Hands Are Idle Playthings](/wiki/The_Devil's_Hands_Are_Idle_Playthings)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Writing in an Animated Television Production[[103]](#cite_note-103) | [Patric Verrone](/wiki/Patric_Verrone) for "[The Sting](/wiki/The_Sting_(Futurama))" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[Jurassic Bark](/wiki/Jurassic_Bark)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| [Writers Guild of America Award](/wiki/Writers_Guild_of_America_Award) | Animation | [Ken Keeler](/wiki/Ken_Keeler) for "[Godfellas](/wiki/Godfellas)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| 2004 | Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[The Sting](/wiki/The_Sting_(Futurama))" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Music and Lyrics | For the song "I Want My Hands Back" in "[The Devil's Hands Are Idle Playthings](/wiki/The_Devil's_Hands_Are_Idle_Playthings)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| [Nebula Award](/wiki/Nebula_Award) | Best Script[[104]](#cite_note-104) | [David A. Goodman](/wiki/David_A._Goodman) for "[Where No Fan Has Gone Before](/wiki/Where_No_Fan_Has_Gone_Before)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Writers Guild of America Award | Animation | [Patric Verrone](/wiki/Patric_Verrone) for "[The Sting](/wiki/The_Sting_(Futurama))" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2007 | Annie Awards | Best Home Entertainment Production[[105]](#cite_note-105) | For [*Bender's Big Score*](/wiki/Bender's_Big_Score) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| 2008 | Annie Awards | Best Home Entertainment Production[[106]](#cite_note-106) | For [*The Beast with a Billion Backs*](/wiki/The_Beast_with_a_Billion_Backs) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| 2009 | Annie Awards | Best Home Entertainment Production[[107]](#cite_note-107) | For [*Into the Wild Green Yonder*](/wiki/Into_the_Wild_Green_Yonder) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| 2010 | Annie Awards | Best Animated Television Production[[108]](#cite_note-108) | *Futurama* | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Writing in an Animated Television Production[[108]](#cite_note-108) | [Michael Rowe](/wiki/Michael_Rowe) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2011 | Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[The Late Philip J. Fry](/wiki/The_Late_Philip_J._Fry)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Voice-Over Performance[[98]](#cite_note-98) | [Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/Maurice_LaMarche) as [Lrrr](/wiki/List_of_recurring_characters_in_Futurama#Lrrr) and [Orson Welles](/wiki/Orson_Welles) in "[Lrrreconcilable Ndndifferences](/wiki/Lrrreconcilable_Ndndifferences)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Annie Awards | Best Writing in an Animated Television Production | [Josh Weinstein](/wiki/Josh_Weinstein) for "[All the Presidents' Heads](/wiki/All_the_Presidents'_Heads)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Editing in Television Production | [Paul D. Calder](/wiki/Paul_D._Calder) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Environmental Media Awards | TV Episodic – Comedy[[100]](#cite_note-100) | For "[The Futurama Holiday Spectacular](/wiki/The_Futurama_Holiday_Spectacular)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Writers Guild of America | Animation | [Ken Keeler](/wiki/Ken_Keeler) for "[The Prisoner of Benda](/wiki/The_Prisoner_of_Benda)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| [Patric Verrone](/wiki/Patric_Verrone) for "[Lrrreconcilable Ndndifferences](/wiki/Lrrreconcilable_Ndndifferences)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2012 | Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[The Tip of the Zoidberg](/wiki/The_Tip_of_the_Zoidberg)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Voice-Over Performance[[98]](#cite_note-98) | [Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/Maurice_LaMarche) as Clamps, Donbot, Hyper-Chicken, Calculon, Hedonism Bot and Morbo in "[The Silence of the Clamps](/wiki/The_Silence_of_the_Clamps)" | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Annie Awards | Outstanding Achievement, Writing in an Animated Television or other Broadcast Venue Production[[109]](#cite_note-109) | [Eric Horsted](/wiki/Eric_Horsted) for "The Bots and the Bees" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2013 | Annie Awards | Best General Audience Animated TV/Broadcast Production[[110]](#cite_note-110) | *Futurama* | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Writing in an Animated TV/Broadcast Production[[110]](#cite_note-110) | [Lewis Morton](/wiki/Lewis_Morton) | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |
| Outstanding Achievement, Editorial in an Animated TV/Broadcast Production[[110]](#cite_note-110) | [Paul D. Calder](/wiki/Paul_D._Calder) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| 2014 | Primetime Emmy Award | Outstanding Animated Program[[98]](#cite_note-98) | For "[Meanwhile (Futurama)](/wiki/Meanwhile_(Futurama))" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |
| Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance[[98]](#cite_note-98) | [Maurice LaMarche](/wiki/Maurice_LaMarche) as Calculon and Morbo in "[Calculon 2.0](/wiki/Calculon_2.0)" | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |

### Achievements[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

The Futurama Theorem

On August 19, 2010, Comedy Central aired "[The Prisoner of Benda](/wiki/The_Prisoner_of_Benda)", an episode written by Ken Keeler. To support the plot of this episode, Keeler, a PhD mathematician, penned "The Futurama Theorem", also known as "Keeler's theorem", which establishes (with [mathematical proof](/wiki/Mathematical_proof)) an algorithm for reversing the results of a particular [body swap](/wiki/Body_swap) scenario.

Other honors

In January 2009, [IGN](/wiki/IGN) named *Futurama* as the eighth best in the "Top 100 Animated TV Series".[[111]](#cite_note-111) At the 2010 [San Diego Comic-Con International](/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con_International), [Guinness World Records](/wiki/Guinness_World_Records) presented *Futurama* with the record for "Current Most Critically Acclaimed Animated Series".[[112]](#cite_note-112) In 2014, [WatchMojo.com](/wiki/WatchMojo.com) ranked *Futurama* as the second best cartoon to have been cancelled.[[113]](#cite_note-113) In 2016, [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) ranked it as the thirtieth best science fiction television show ever.[[114]](#cite_note-114)

## Other media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

### Comic books[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

First started in November 2000, *Futurama Comics* is a comic book series published by [Bongo Comics](/wiki/Bongo_Comics_Group) based in the *Futurama* universe.[[115]](#cite_note-115) While originally published only in the US, a UK, German and Australian version of the series is also available.[[116]](#cite_note-116) In addition, three issues were published in Norway. Other than a different running order and presentation, the stories are the same in all versions. While the comics focus on the same characters in the *Futurama* [fictional universe](/wiki/Fictional_universe), the comics may not be [canonical](/wiki/Canon_(fiction)) as the events portrayed within them do not necessarily have any effect upon the continuity of the show.

Like the TV series, each comic (except US comic #20) has a caption at the top of the cover. For example: "Made In The USA! (Printed in Canada)." Some of the UK and Australian comics have different captions on the top of their comics (for example, the Australian version of #20 says "A 21st Century Comic Book" across the cover, while the US version does not have a caption on that issue). All series contain a letters page, artwork from readers, and previews of other upcoming Bongo comics.

### Films[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) When Comedy Central began negotiating for the rights to air *Futurama* reruns, Fox suggested that there was a possibility of also creating new episodes. Negotiations were already underway with the possibility of creating two or three [straight-to-DVD](/wiki/Direct-to-video) films. When Comedy Central committed to sixteen new episodes, it was decided that four films would be produced.[[37]](#cite_note-37) On April 26, 2006, Groening noted in an interview that co-creator David X. Cohen and numerous writers from the original series would be returning to work on the movies.[[117]](#cite_note-117) All the original voice actors participated. In February 2007, Groening explained the format of the new stories: "[The crew is] writing them as movies and then we're going to chop them up, reconfigure them, write new material and try to make them work as separate episodes."[[118]](#cite_note-118) The first movie, [*Bender's Big Score*](/wiki/Futurama:_Bender's_Big_Score), was written by Ken Keeler and Cohen, and includes return appearances by the [Nibblonians](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Nibblonians), Seymour, Barbados Slim, [Robot Santa](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Robot_Santa), [the "God" space entity](/wiki/Godfellas), [Al Gore](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Al_Gore), and Zapp Brannigan.[[119]](#cite_note-119) It was animated in widescreen and was released on standard DVD on November 27, 2007, with a possible [Blu-ray Disc](/wiki/Blu-ray_Disc) release to follow.[[120]](#cite_note-120) A release on [HD DVD](/wiki/HD_DVD) was rumored but later officially denied. *Futurama: Bender's Big Score* was the first DVD release for which 20th Century Fox implemented measures intended to reduce the total carbon footprint of the production, manufacturing, and distribution processes. Where it was not possible to completely eliminate carbon, output [carbon offsets](/wiki/Carbon_offset) were used, thus making the complete process [carbon neutral](/wiki/Carbon_neutrality).[[121]](#cite_note-121) The second movie, [*The Beast with a Billion Backs*](/wiki/Futurama:_The_Beast_with_a_Billion_Backs), was released on June 24, 2008. The third movie, [*Bender's Game*](/wiki/Futurama:_Bender's_Game), was released on DVD and Blu-ray Disc[[122]](#cite_note-122) on November 3, 2008, in the UK, November 4, 2008, in the USA, and December 10, 2008, in Australia. The fourth movie, [*Into the Wild Green Yonder*](/wiki/Futurama:_Into_the_Wild_Green_Yonder), was released on DVD and Blu-ray Disc on February 23, 2009.[[123]](#cite_note-123)

### Video game[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) On September 15, 2000, *Unique Development Studios* acquired the license to develop a *Futurama* video game for consoles and handheld systems. [Fox Interactive](/wiki/Fox_Interactive) signed on to publish the game.[[124]](#cite_note-124) [Sierra Entertainment](/wiki/Sierra_Entertainment) later became the game's publisher, and it was released on August 14, 2003.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Versions are available for [PlayStation 2](/wiki/PlayStation_2) and [Xbox](/wiki/Xbox_(console)), both of which use [cel-shading](/wiki/Cel_shading) technology. However, the game was subsequently canceled on the [Nintendo GameCube](/wiki/GameCube) and [Game Boy Advance](/wiki/Game_Boy_Advance) in North America and Europe.[[126]](#cite_note-126)

## Broadcast[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Season** | **Network** | **Time slot** |
| 1 (1999) | [Fox](/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company) | Sunday at 8:30–9:00 pm (EST) (March 28[[127]](#cite_note-127) – April 4, 1999[[128]](#cite_note-128)) Tuesday at 8:30–9:00 pm (EST) (April 6[[129]](#cite_note-129) – May 18, 1999[[130]](#cite_note-130)) |
| 2 (1999–2000) | Sunday at 8:30–9:00 pm (EST) (September 26[[131]](#cite_note-131) – December 19, 1999[[132]](#cite_note-132)) Sunday at 7:00–7:30 pm (EST) (February 6[[133]](#cite_note-133) – May 21, 2000[[134]](#cite_note-134)) |
| 3 (2001–2002) | Sunday at 7:00–7:30 pm (EST)[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138)[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140) |
| 4 (2003) |
| 5 (2008–2009) | [Comedy Central](/wiki/Comedy_Central) | Thursday at 10:00–10:30 pm (EST)[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) |
| 6 (2010–2011) | Thursday at 10:00–10:30 pm (EST)[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) |
| 7 (2012–2013) | Wednesday at 10:00–10:30 pm (EST)[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) |

*Futurama* premiered and originally aired in the United States on the Fox network, March 28, 1999 – August 10, 2003. Adult Swim carried the series in the US January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2007, followed by Comedy Central March 23, 2008 – September 4, 2013. Syndicated broadcast of the series in the US began in Fall 2011.[[145]](#cite_note-145) Canadian networks [YTV](/wiki/YTV_(TV_channel)), [Teletoon at Night](/wiki/Teletoon_at_Night) and [Global Television](/wiki/Global_Television_Network) broadcast *Futurama* March 28, 1999 – August 10, 2003.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The series was broadcast in Australia on the following stations: [Seven Network](/wiki/Seven_Network) aired the series from December 2, 1999 – 2003, [Fox8](/wiki/Fox8) from 2000–present, [Network Ten](/wiki/Network_Ten) between 2005–2010, and on [Eleven](/wiki/Eleven_(TV_channel)) January 11, 2011 – present.

Audiences in New Zealand received the series on the following stations: [TV2](/wiki/TV2_(New_Zealand)) March 28, 1999 – 2005, [the BOX](/wiki/The_BOX_(New_Zealand)) from 2000–2010, [C4](/wiki/C4_(TV_channel)) from 2005–2011, [Comedy Central](/wiki/Comedy_Central_(New_Zealand)) between 2010–, and on [Four](/wiki/Four_(New_Zealand)) from 2011–2013.

*Futurama* currently airs in Ireland on networks [3e](/wiki/3e), [Comedy Central](/wiki/Comedy_Central_(UK_and_Ireland)), [Pick](/wiki/Pick_(TV_channel)) and [Sky1](/wiki/Sky1).

The series was carried by the following networks in the United Kingdom: [Sky1](/wiki/Sky1) from September 21, 1999 – present, [Channel 4](/wiki/Channel_4) from 2000–2004, and the series is currently repeated on Pick.

## Merchandise[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) While relatively uncommon, several action and tin figurines of various characters and items from the show have been made and are being sold by various hobby/online stores. When the show was initially licensed, plans were made with Rocket USA to produce wind-up, walking tin figurines of both Bender and Nibbler with packaging artwork done by the original artists for the series.[[146]](#cite_note-146) The Bender toy included a cigar and bottle of "Olde Fortran Malt Liquor" and featured moving eyes, antenna, and a functioning compartment door; it received an "A" rating from [Sci Fi Weekly](/wiki/Syfy#Science_Fiction_Weekly).[[147]](#cite_note-147) A can of Slurm actually contains a deck of cards featuring the Planet Express crew as the face cards. A two-deck pack of cards was also released.

I-Men released five two-packs of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) high figures: Fry and [Calculon](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Antonio_Calculon); Zoidberg and [Morbo](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Morbo); Professor Farnsworth and [URL](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Officer_URL); [Robot Devil](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Robot_Devil) and Bender; Leela and [Roberto](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Roberto). Each figure comes with a corresponding collectable coin that can also double as a figure stand.

The collectible releases include a set of bendable action figures, including Lieutenant [Kif Kroker](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Kif_Kroker), Turanga Leela, and Bender. There have also been a few figures released by Moore Action Collectibles, including Fry, Turanga Leela, Bender, and the Planet Express ship. In late 2006, Rocket USA brought out a limited edition "super" heavyweight die-cast Bender. Another special edition Bender figure was released at the [San Diego Comic Con](/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con_International) (SDCC) in 2006; the figure was called "Glorious Golden Bender".

[Toynami](/wiki/Toynami) produced new *Futurama* figures.[[148]](#cite_note-148) The first series of the Toynami figures is separated into 3 waves: wave one, released in September 2007, featured Fry and Zoidberg; wave two, released in January 2008, consisted of Leela and Zapp (who comes with Richard Nixon's head-in-a-jar); the third wave, released in June 2008, includes Bender and Kif. Each figure comes with a build-a-figure piece to assemble the Robot Devil. The second series of Toynami figures includes Captain Yesterday (A Fry variant from "[Less Than Hero](/wiki/Less_Than_Hero)") and Nudar in the first wave. The second wave includes Super-King (Bender from "Less Than Hero") and [Calculon](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Antonio_Calculon), and the third wave includes Clobberella (Leela from "Less Than Hero") and Amy Wong. The figures in series 2 include pieces to build Robot Santa. The third, and current, series of the Toynami line includes Professor Farnsworth (who comes with Nibbler), and Hermes. Wave 2 was released in February 2010 and includes Chef Bender and Mom, who comes with a removable fat-suit. Series 3 figures come with pieces to build [Roberto](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Roberto). Series 9 will include [URL](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Officer_URL) and Wooden Bender (from "[Obsoletely Fabulous](/wiki/Obsoletely_Fabulous)") and Series 10 will include [Clamps](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Robot_Mafia) and [Joey Mousepad](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Robot_Mafia). Series 11 consists of [The Donbot](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Robot_Mafia) and [Flexo](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Flexo). That wave will not have a specific Build A Bot character, planned [Morbo](/wiki/List_of_recurring_Futurama_characters#Morbo). All figures feature multiple points of articulation and character-specific accessories.

In August 2009 [Kidrobot](/wiki/Kidrobot) released 3-inch vinyl mini figurines of some of the cast. These are sold in "blind" box form and each comes with an accessory. Probability of receiving each of the characters is printed on the side, with two special mystery characters having unknown probabilities. 6-inch versions of some of the figures are also available as limited editions, but these are not sold as "blind" boxes.

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

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