

facts about **HEY ARNOLD!** you should know



Hey Arnold!, one of longest-running Nicktoons, made its debut on October 7, 1996. Created and produced by Craig Bartlett, the title character is a football-headed kid who wears a sweater, never tucks in his shirt (hence, the "kilt" effect), wears a baseball cap two sizes too small, and lives in a boarding house owned by his 81-year old Grandpa Phil. One of the qualities of the series is that it isn't much about Arnold, but rather about the neighborhood, his friends at school, and even the boarders at the Sunset Arms. Most notable is Arnold's looney grandma; and Helga Pataki, who hates Arnold on the outside, but loves him on the inside. In addition to the series being broad in scope, other qualities include the use of kids' voices in kids roles and the jazzy soundtrack, taking a page from the Peanuts rulebook.

Here are some interesting facts about the series:

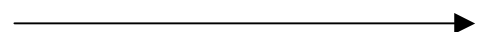
- Craig actually based the Arnold and Helga characters off a previous series of claymation shorts that he made, and the characters had also featured in a series of comics that ran in Simpsons magazine. It should also be noted that Bartlett is Simpsons creator Matt Groening's brother in-law, having married his younger sis Maggie (and the answer to your next question is, yes, he also has a sis named Lisa).
- The 2nd story to have aired, "Eugene's Bike", was claimed to have inspired at least 3 instances of a young kid using the Heimlich maneuver on someone. The story features (among other things) the titular Eugene choking on a hotdog and Arnold using the Heimlich to get it out.
- Because of the use of kids' voices in kids' roles, Arnold has been played by 4 kids: Toran Caudell, Philip Van Dyke, Spencer Klein, and, in the series' final 3 eps, Alex D. Linz (of Home Alone 3 fame).
- Series creator Bartlett has done quite a few voices on the show. You know the boy who holds a flashlight on his face in the opening? That's Brainy, and Craig does his voice.

Anyhow, after the series' debut, it constantly did well in Nick's schedule (although, like most other shows, it was also constantly being eclipsed by the continuing popularity of Rugrats). By 1999, things were looking good: There were 2 movies (one for TV, another for cinemas) being planned, as well as a spin-off, slated to begin after the main series ended.

So where did it all go wrong, then?

First, sometime in 2000, word came out that the planned spin-off (The Patakis, featuring Helga at age 15... think of the Rugrats' spin-off All Grown Up!, and you're on the right track) was rejected by not only Nick-At-Nite (where Craig had originally been intended for it to be shown), but all of the other networks owned by Nick's mother company, Viacom (the only networks that the show could air on, due to Viacom and Nick holding the rights to the characters).

Then in 2001, Craig announced that he was moving to Cartoon Network to make a new cartoon for them, "Party Wagon", which at the time was planned to air on their late-night block Adult Swim (it is now slated to be just another Cartoon Cartoon), as well as leaving



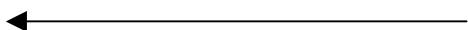
Nick, due to contract troubles. This meant the suspension of the planned cinema film, about Arnold looking for his parents in a jungle. By then, Nick had also stopped airing new eps of the show on a regular basis in the US. Even today, some of the show's eps have never been shown in the US, and yet have already been shown in foreign markets, such as Canada.

In 2002, the final insult for some fans came out. What had originally been slated to be the telefilm, originally meant to be titled "Arnold Saves the Neighborhood", came out in cinemas as "Hey Arnold! The Movie". Despite making good on the promise Craig had made in an online chat of Helga finally giving up her secret crush to Arnold (although, to the ire of some fans, this was also shown in the film's promo), it went down bad with the critics (and even some fans of the show, due to, among other things, the near-absence of many of the show's major characters from the movie) and at the box office (it earned only \$13m).

Later that year, the final ep to be produced, "The Journal", was aired. In it, Arnold finds a journal, which gives details on his own past, as well as a very important clue to where his parents are: a map in the back cover. This particular ep had been produced as a prelude to what had, by this time, become the 2nd movie. This second film, besides giving more focus to the series' various characters (something the first film came nowhere near achieving, with its focus on just Arnold, his friend Gerald, and Helga), was also meant to reveal the title character's last name (in the show's 5 seasons, the only major kid characters to not have had their last names revealed are Arnold and worrywart Sid).

And this is where you, the casual fan, come in. Many major fans have clearly expressed their disappointment at the series ending this way. As a result, the major fans have launched a campaign to get this movie made. However, the casual fans' voice is needed to get the point across to Nick. It is hoped that this handout here has convinced you to lend yours to this cause. We're counting on you to get this film made.

**For more info on how to lend your voice to this cause, head over to this webpage:
http://members.tripod.com/~Rover_Wow/hawi.htm .**



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