



# The Simpsons:

**Best. TV Show. Ever.\***

Speaker: Sam Creed

UDLS Jan 16 2015

\*focus on Season 1-8

# Quick Facts

animated sitcom created by Matt Groening  
premiered Dec 17, 1989 - over 25 years ago!

over 560+ episodes aired

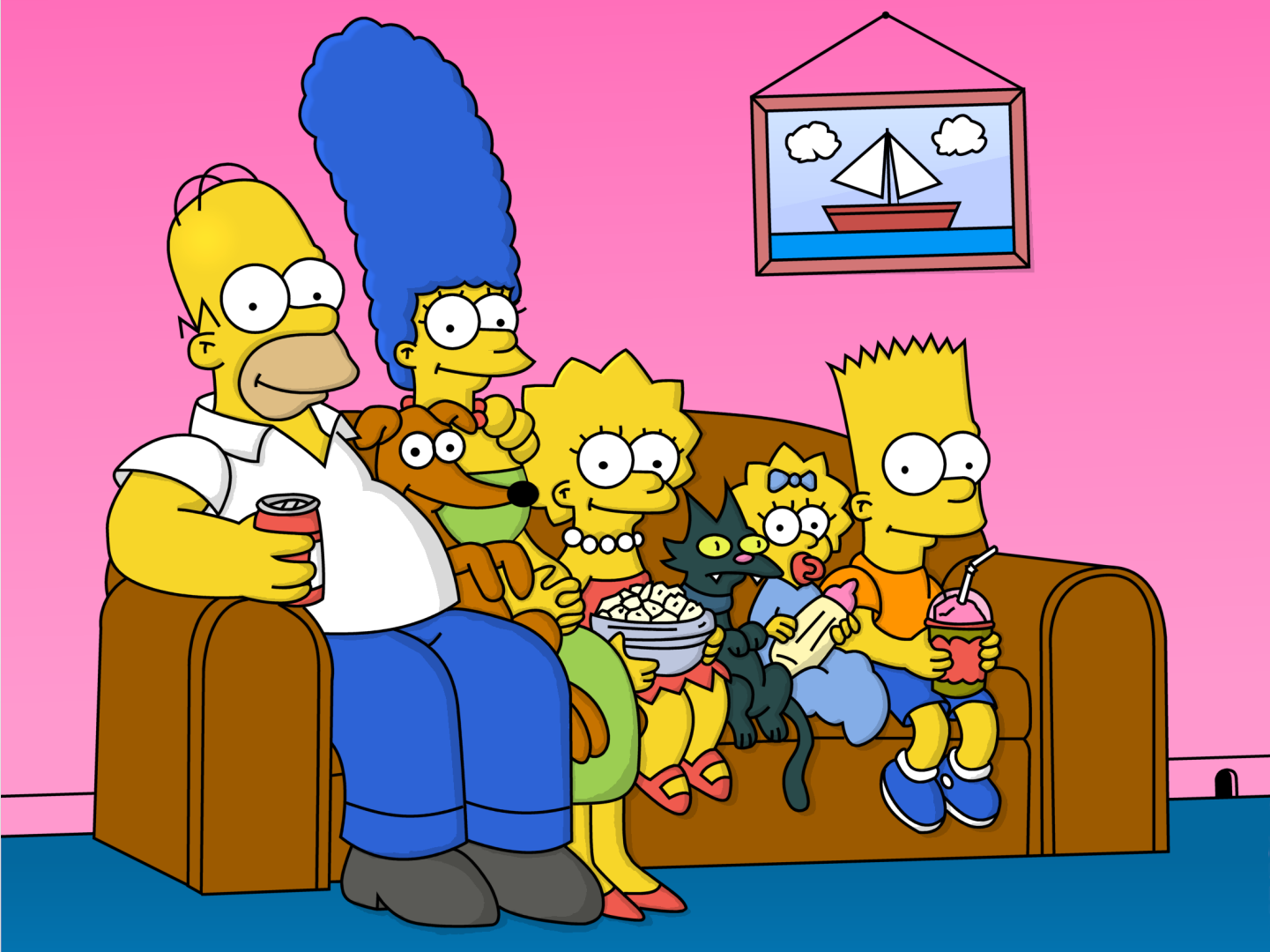
longest running scripted sitcom ever

#1 on Empire's top 50 shows, and many other  
lists in entertainment media, numerous Emmy  
awards and other accolades

# TV Land Before...



“If cartoons were meant for adults, they'd put them on in prime time.” - Lisa Simpson





# Video Clip

Homer's Sugar Pile Speech, *Lisa's Rival*, 13:  
43-15:30



# (Homer's Speech about Sugar Pile)

"Never, Marge. Never. I can't live the button-down life like you. I want it all: the terrifying lows, the dizzying highs, the creamy middles. Sure, I might offend a few of the bluenoses with my cocky stride and musky odors - oh, I'll never be the darling of the so-called "City Fathers" who cluck their tongues, stroke their beards, and talk about "What's to be done with this Homer Simpson?"

- Homer Simpson, "Lisa's Rival".



# Comedy Devices/Techniques

**Parody/Reference** - Scarface

**Juxtaposition/Absurdism:** Sugar, Englishman

**Slapstick:** Bees attacking Homer

**Hyperbole:** Homer acts like a child

**Repetition:** Sideshow Bob and Rakes



# The Everyman

By using incongruity, sarcasm, exaggeration, and other comedic techniques, The Simpsons satirizes most aspects of ordinary life, from family, to TV, to religion, achieving the true essence of satire. Homer Simpson is the captivating and hilarious satire of today's "Everyman."

- Brett Mullin, *The Simpsons, American Satire*

“...the American family at its most complicated,  
drawn as simple cartoons”

- Ken Tucker, *EW*

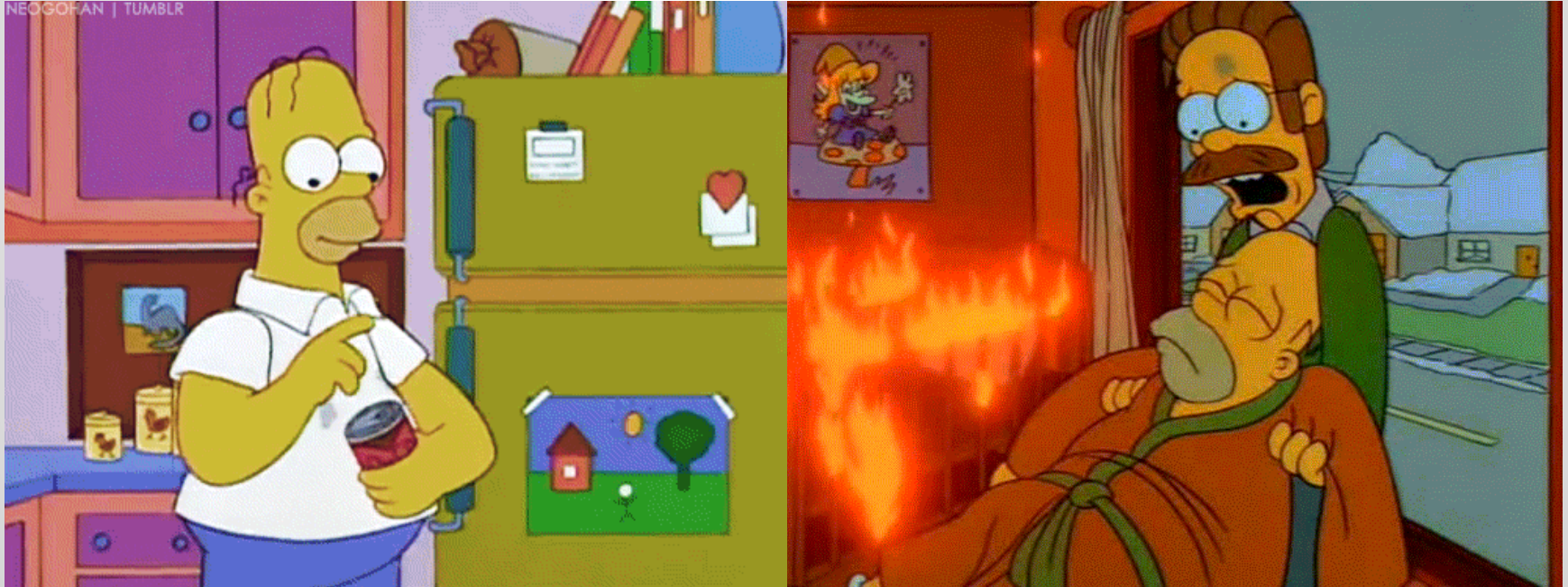
# Freedom of Animation

Not bound by normal restrictions faced in live-action productions, possibilities in animation bound by imagination

# The Freedom of Animation



# The Freedom of Animation



# Not just a Comedy

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x25fyni\\_bart-gets-an-f-crying-scene\\_animals](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x25fyni_bart-gets-an-f-crying-scene_animals)

10 heart-breaking moments:

<http://deadhomersociety.com/2011/09/15/10-heartbreaking-simpsons-moments/>

“...Matt Groening sought to create stories and plots along the same imperfect lines as his characters, revising the modern American dream to make it ‘more attainable’. A show like Full House, popular when The Simpsons premiered, misrepresented the American dream allowing audiences to escape reality while simultaneously condemning them for not being as perfect as the Full House family. Where The Simpsons succeeds is in recognizing no family is or could ever be perfect, but that doesn’t mean they can’t be happy.”

-Miller, *Simpsons Influence*



# Worldwide Popularity

Broadcast in more than 90 countries and 45 languages



# Influence, Impact on Politics/World

Initial reaction:

George H.W. Bush vs  
Waltons, etc



# Influence on TV



# Terminator



# Lie Detector



# To Conclude...

“The Simpsons has made a mark on television and social history that is ever-growing in distinction, and may never fade. Through very intelligent writing, the series not only makes the viewer laugh, but also makes them think. The Simpsons appeals to young audiences because of its ever-present pratfalls and stupidity that is, at times, nothing short of brilliant; but, it appeals even more to adults who are young at heart, who can laugh at the low comedy, yet understand the biting satire that truly drives the series. By poking fun at family, television, religion, and the American lifestyle, The Simpsons is a satire that may not grow old for a long time to come.”

- Brett Mullin

# Episode Recommendations

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/skgriffith/the-20-asimpsonsa-moments-that-made-you-cry-rgsj>

<http://ca.ign.com/articles/2014/08/21/the-top-25-simpsons-episodes>

# References

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