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NOT RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES
the comics magazine • 121

this late-night HBO offering about the hellspawn to tell audience members to dim their lights. Really, it wasn't needed. The show, which followed the same basic premise and plot as the Image comic book, was dark enough with blood, murder, nudity and everything else that cable's good for.

47. THUNDARR THE BARBARIAN
(Ruby-Spears Enterprises)

Here's a cartoon with a royal pedigree. Jack "King" Kirby contributed character designs to this post-apocalyptic tale of a barbarian, his magic sword, his sorceress companion and his hairy sidekick, Ookla the Mok. Surprisingly mature, it was one cartoon that never talked down to its audience.

46. DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH
(King Features Syndicate)

Talk about your family values. This syndicated '80s cartoon hooked up classic comic-strip heroes (Flash Gordon, the Phantom, Lothar and Mandrake the Magician) with their descendants in an action-packed effort to save the Earth from evil dictator Ming the Merciless. And in a blatant case of ageism, it was usually the young'uns who saved the day.

45. THE HERCULOIDS (Hanna-Barbera)

The Herculoids were cosmic dinosaurs who battled alongside King Zandor and his family as they protected their planet *against alien invaders (which seemed to happen almost every* week–what was on that planet anyway?). Featuring creatures like a 10-legged Triceratops that can shoot exploding rocks from its head, this series was original and imaginative.

44. FREAKAZOID! (Warner Bros. Animation)

Imagine Superman but with red tights and the zaniness of classic Daffy Duck. That was Freakazoid. The show took intelligent, referential humor and pop-culture relevance and put it in a superhero setting. Here's an interesting note: Freakazoid got his powers from the Internet.

43. SPACE GHOST

See above.

42. X-MEN (Saban/Fox)

The '90s X-Men cartoon stayed fairly true to the comic, slightly altering popular storylines (like "The Phoenix Saga") in order to make them viewer-friendly. With a core cast made up of Wolverine, Cyclops, Rogue and more, and with guest appearances by Forge, Iceman, Nightcrawler and others, the 'toon was enjoyable for comic readers and TV viewers alike.

41. DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
(Marvel, D&D Entertainment)

The biggest appeal of "Dungeons & Dragons" was the dark subject matter, the violence that threatened our heroes and the frightening aspects of the villains, like the Satan-esque Venger and the multi-headed dragon called Tiamat. Based on the hit role-playing game from TSR, "D&D" actually *incurred the wrath of the National Coalition of Television* Violence at one point.

40. DR. KATZ, PROFESSIONAL THERAPIST (Tom Snyder Productions)

If anyone needs a shrink, it's stand-up comedians–you've gotta be nuts to stand in front of an audience to try and make them laugh. That's where Dr. Katz comes in, who has examined the psyches of such funny people as Stephen Wright, Janeane Garofolo and Denis Leary, who provided their own voices! Star quality and witty banter–fabulous!

39. SCOOBY-DOO (Hanna-Barbera)

See right.

38. THE ADVENTURES OF THE GALAXY RANGERS
(Transcom Media)

Heroes with extraordinary powers (team leader Zachary Foxx, for example, was enhanced via biotechnological engineering), the Rangers fought crime across the spaceways as part of the Bureau of Extra-Terrestrial Affairs. With a complex cast of characters and deep storylines built around a carefully maintained continuity, "Rangers" is as close to anime as a syndicated show has ever come.

37. SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS
(Marvel)

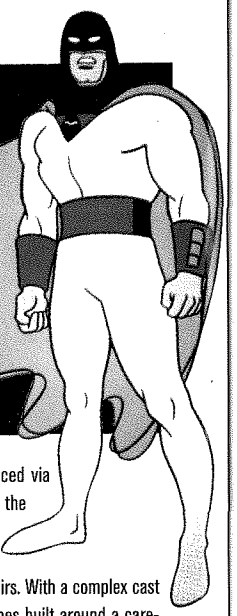
This classic teamed Spider-Man with his superhero buds, *Iceman and Firestar, while their alter egos attended* school at Empire State University. With good-hearted teasing, funny hero-villain banter and witty repartee, the series had the most decidedly carefree tone of any Spidey cartoon to date.

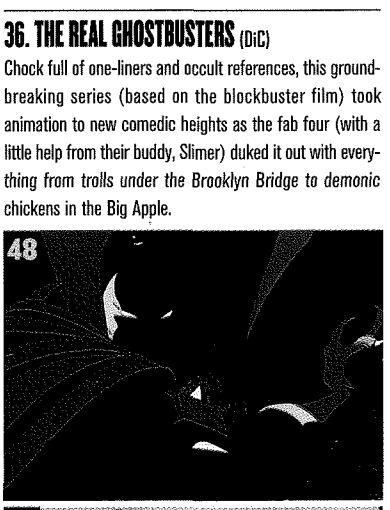
36. THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS (DiC)

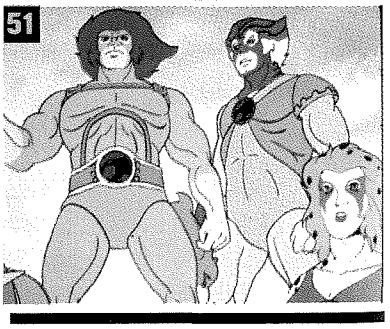
Chock full of one-liners and occult references, this groundbreaking series (based on the blockbuster film) took animation to new comedic heights as the fab four (with a little help from their buddy, Slimer) duked it out with every*thing from trolls under the Brooklyn Bridge to demonic* chickens in the Big Apple.

43 SPACE GHOST (Hanna-Barbera)

In animation history, perhaps no one character was responsible for the popularity of the superhero cartoon more than Space Ghost. His classic look, designed by legendary animator/comic artist Alex Toth, still inspires folks today. Thirty-five years after he was created, he still holds up, whether he's blasting intergalactic baddies *or* interviewing celebs.







'TOON IN And the list goes on: (42) X-Men, (45) The Herculoids, (48) Spawn, (51) Thundercats and (35) Rugrats.

35. RUGRATS (Klasky-Csup

Tommy Pickles and his peer
themselves, and their naive
understandings of adult jarg
paper all day") lead to imag
well-placed pop-culture ref
reminds older audiences of
worry was a wet diaper.

34. MOBILE SUIT GUNDA

The adventures of five youn
mobile suits in an attempt to
government sliced throug
Deathscythe's energy blade
Japanese juggernaut conquer
to question anime's popularit

33. ROBOTECH (Tatsunoko

More addictive than crack, thi
entire generation not only to
storyline that had kids runni
catch the latest installment in
Lin Min May, the vengeful
Veritech fighter planes!

32. FAMILY GUY (Film Ro

The greatest cartoon ever set
hilarious Fox sitcom follows
some more trials) of the Gr
wannabe toy designer; Brian,
ily dog; and Stewie, a one-ye
mother's matriarchal tyranny
the world!

31. STAR BLAZERS (Office A

Adapted from three different Ja
stood out among other 'toon
relationships (friends Derek a
Nova's affections), fast-paced
a post-Star Wars generation.

30. VOLTRON: DEFENDER

(World Events Productions)

Five fantastic, lion-shaped robo
in a choreographed routine
wielding robot named Voltron
pummel the menace *du jour*
episode, but you know what?

39

toons of all time. Sc
talking dog in the wor
and is still a favorite
live-action flick do hi