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Tim allen and jay leno

American television host and comedian "Leno" redirects here. For other uses, see Leno (disambiguation). For the planet, see 13212 Jayleno. Jay LenoLeno in June 2019BornJames Douglas Muir Leno (1950-04-28) April 28, 1950 (age 71)New Rochelle, New York, U.S.Alma materEmerson CollegeOccupationHostcomedianwriterYears active1976–presentSpouse(s)Mavis Nicholson (m. 1980)Comedy careerMediumStand-uptelevisionfilmGenresObservational comedy, black comedy, surreal humor, sketch comedy, insult comedy, satireSubject(s)American culture, American politics, everyday life, pop culture, current events, human behavior, social awkwardness, gender differencesNotable works and rolesThe Tonight Show with Jay Leno(host, 1992–2009, 2010–2014)The Jay Leno Show(host, 2009–2010)Jay Leno's Garage (host, 2014–Present)Signature James Douglas Muir Leno (/ˈlɛnoʊ/; born April 28, 1950)[1] is an American television host, comedian, and writer. After doing stand-up comedy for years, he became the host of NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno from 1992 to 2009. Beginning in September 2009, Leno started a primetime talk show, titled The Jay Leno Show, which aired weeknights at 10:00pm ET, also on NBC. After The Jay Leno Show was canceled in January 2010 amid a host controversy, Leno returned to host The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on March 1, 2010.[2] He hosted his last episode of The Tonight Show on February 6, 2014. That year, he was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.[3] Since 2014, Leno has hosted Jay Leno's Garage. Leno writes a regular column in Popular Mechanics showcasing his car collection and giving automotive advice. He also writes occasional "Motormouth" articles for The Sunday Times. Early life Leno was born April 28, 1950, in New Rochelle, New York. His homemaker mother, Catherine (née Muir; 1911–1993), was born in Greenock, Scotland, and came to the United States at age 11. His father, Angelo (1910–1994), was an insurance salesman who was born in New York, to immigrants from Flumeri, Italy. Leno grew up in Andover, Massachusetts, and graduated from Andover High School.[4] Leno obtained a bachelor's degree in speech therapy from Emerson College, where he started a comedy club in 1973.[5] His older brother, Patrick (May 12, 1940 – October 6, 2002),[6] was a Vietnam War veteran who worked as an attorney. Career Early career Leno made his first appearance on The Tonight Show on March 2, 1977, performing a comedy routine.[7][8] During the 1970s, Leno appeared in minor roles in several television series and films, first in the 1976 episode "J.J. in Trouble" of Good Times and the same year in the pilot of Holmes & Yo-Yo. After an uncredited appearance in the 1977 film Fun with Dick and Jane, he played more prominent roles in 1978 in American Hot Wax and Silver Bears. Other films and television series from that period include Almost Heaven (1978), "Going Nowhere" (1979) from One Day at a Time, Americathon (1979), Polyester (1981), "The Wild One" (1981) from Alice, and both "Feminine Mistake" (1979) and "Do the Carmine" (1983) from Laverne & Shirley. Leno's only starring film role was the 1989 direct-to-video Collision Course, opposite Pat Morita. He also appeared numerous times on Late Night with David Letterman. In addition, Leno appeared on three weeks' worth of episodes of the short-lived NBC game show Match Game-Hollywood Squares Hour in 1983 and 1984. The Tonight Show Leno in 1993, in the year after becoming host of The Tonight Show Starting in 1986, Leno was a regular substitute host for Johnny Carson on The Tonight Show. In 1992, he replaced Carson as host[9] amid controversy with David Letterman, who had been hosting Late Night with David Letterman since 1982 (aired after The Tonight Show), and whom many—including Carson himself—had expected to be Carson's successor. The story of this turbulent transition was later turned into a book and a movie. Leno continued to perform as a stand-up comedian throughout his tenure on The Tonight Show. In 2004, Leno signed a contract extension with NBC which would keep him as host of The Tonight Show until 2009.[10] Later in 2004, Conan O'Brien signed a contract with NBC under which O'Brien would become the host of The Tonight Show in 2009, replacing Leno at that time.[11] During the 2007–08 Writers Guild of America strike, Leno was accused of violating WGA guidelines by writing his own monologue for The Tonight Show. While NBC and Leno claim there were private meetings with the WGA where there was a secret agreement allowing this, the WGA denied such a meeting.[12] Leno answered questions in front of the Writers Guild of America, West trial committee in February 2009 and June 2009, and when the WGAW published its list of strike-breakers on August 11, 2009, Leno was not on the list.[13][14] On April 23, 2009, Leno checked himself into a hospital with an undisclosed illness.[15] He was released the following day and returned to work on Monday, April 27. The two subsequently canceled Tonight Show episodes for April 23 and 24 were Leno's first in 17 years as host.[16][17] Initially, the illness that caused the absence was not disclosed, but later Leno told People magazine it was for exhaustion.[17][18] Michael Jackson trial During the 2005 trial of Michael Jackson over allegations of child molestation, Leno was one of a few celebrities who appeared as a defense witness. In his testimony regarding a call with the accuser, Leno testified that he was not asked for any money and there did not appear to be any coaching – but the calls seemed unusual and scripted.[19] Leno in 2006 As a result, Leno was initially not allowed to tell jokes about Jackson or the case, which had been a fixture of The Tonight Show's opening monologue in particular. But he and his show's writers used a legal loophole by having Leno briefly step aside while stand-in comedians took the stage and told jokes about the trial. Stand-ins included Roseanne Barr, Drew Carey, Brad Garrett, and Dennis Miller, among others.[20] The gag order was challenged, and the court ruled that Leno could continue telling jokes about the trial as long as he did not discuss his testimony. Leno celebrated by devoting an entire monologue to Michael Jackson jokes. Succession by Conan O'Brien and The Jay Leno Show Main article: The Jay Leno Show Because Leno's show continued to lead all late-night programming in the Nielsen ratings, the pending expiration of Leno's contract led to speculation about whether he would become a late-night host for another network after his commitment to NBC expired.[21] Leno left The Tonight Show on Friday, May 29, 2009,[22][23] and Conan O'Brien took over on June 1, 2009. On December 8, 2008, it was reported that Leno would remain on NBC and move to a new hour-long show at 10 p.m. Eastern Time (9 p.m. Central Time) five nights a week.[24] This show followed a similar format to The Tonight Show, was filmed in the same studio facility and retained many of Leno's most popular segments. Late Night host Conan O'Brien was his successor on The Tonight Show.[25] Leno's new show, titled The Jay Leno Show, debuted on September 14, 2009. It was announced at the Television Critics Association summer press tour that it would feature one or two celebrities, the occasional musical guest, and keep the popular "Headlines" segments, which would air near the end of the show. First guests included Jerry Seinfeld, Oprah Winfrey (via satellite), and a short sit-down with Kanye West discussing his controversy at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, which had occurred the night before.[26] Timeslot conflict and return to The Tonight Show Main article: 2010 Tonight Show conflict In their new roles, neither O'Brien nor Leno succeeded in delivering the viewing audiences the network anticipated. On January 7, 2010, multiple media outlets reported that beginning March 1, 2010, Leno would move from his 10 p.m. weeknight time slot to 11:35 p.m., due to a combination of pressure from local affiliates whose newscasts were suffering, and both Leno's and O'Brien's poor ratings.[27][28] Leno's show would be shortened from an hour to 30 minutes. All NBC late night programming would be preempted by the 2010 Winter Olympics between February 15 and 26. This would move The Tonight Show to 12:05 a.m., a post-midnight timeslot for the first time in its history. O'Brien's contract stipulated that NBC could move the show back to 12:05 a.m. without penalty (a clause put in primarily to accommodate sports preemptions).[29] On January 10, NBC confirmed that they would move Leno out of primetime as of February 12 and intended to move him to late night as soon as possible.[30][31] TMZ reported that O'Brien was given no advance notice of this change, and that NBC offered him two choices: an hour-long 12:05 am time slot, or the option to leave the network.[32] On January 12, O'Brien issued a press release that stated he would not continue with Tonight if it moved to a 12:05 a.m. time slot,[33] saying, "I believe that delaying The Tonight Show into the next day to accommodate another comedy program will seriously damage what I consider to be the greatest franchise in the history of broadcasting. The Tonight Show at 12:05 simply isn't The Tonight Show." On January 21, it was announced that NBC had struck a deal with O'Brien. It was decided that O'Brien would leave The Tonight Show. The deal was made that O'Brien would receive a $33 million payout and his staff of almost 200 would receive $12 million in the departure. O'Brien's final episode aired on Friday, January 22, 2010.[34][35][36] Leno returned as host of The Tonight Show following the 2010 Winter Olympics on March 1, 2010. On July 1, 2010, Variety reported that total viewership for Leno's Tonight Show had dropped from 5 million to 4 million for the second quarter of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009. Although this represented the lowest second-quarter ratings for the show since 1992, Tonight was still the most-watched late night program, ahead of ABC's Nightline (3.7 million) and Late Show with David Letterman (3.3 million).[37][38] Announcement of successor On April 3, 2013, NBC announced that Leno would leave The Tonight Show in spring 2014, with Jimmy Fallon as his designated successor.[39] Leno's final show as the host of the Tonight Show was on February 6, 2014 with his final guest Billy Crystal and musical guest Garth Brooks, along with a few surprise guests, including Jack Black, Kim Kardashian, Jim Parsons, Sheryl Crow, Chris Paul, Carol Burnett, and Oprah Winfrey. After The Tonight Show Leno speaks in 2020 Leno has maintained an active schedule as a touring stand-up comedian appearing in, on average, 200 live performances a year in venues across the United States and Canada[40] as well as charity events and USO tours.[41][42] He has also made appearances on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon[43] and on Late Night with Seth Meyers,[44][45] as well as being a guest on the finale of The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson[43] and doing a cameo drilling and torturing James Corden in a boot camp for talk show hosts on the premiere of The Late Late Show with James Corden.[46] He declined an invitation to appear on Late Show with David Letterman despite speculation he would make an appearance on the show's finale.[47] Leno has hosted an hour long Jay Leno's Garage special on CNBC,[48] and the show has aired as a primetime series on the cable channel since 2015.[42] Leno has also had a recurring role in the Tim Allen comedy series Last Man Standing since season 5 (2015). He plays a mechanic named Joe Leonard in a store operated by Mike Baxter (Tim Allen).[49] Leno is scheduled to host a new version of the game show You Bet Your Life starting in the fall of 2021.[50] Public image Criticism of Leno Leno on The Tonight Show in 2005 Leno has faced heated criticism and some negative publicity for his perceived role in the 2010 Tonight Show conflict.[51][52] Critics have pointed to a 2004 Tonight Show clip, in which Leno said he would allow O'Brien to take over without incident.[52][53] At the time, Leno said he did not want O'Brien to leave for a competing network, adding, "I'll be 59 when [the switch occurs], that's five years from now. There's really only one person who could have done this into his 60s, and that was Johnny Carson; I think it's fair to say I'm no Johnny Carson."[53] Leno also described The Tonight Show as a dynasty, saying, "You hold it and hand it off to the next person. And I don't want to see all the fighting." At the end of the segment, he said, "Conan, it's yours! See you in five years, buddy!"[54] Rosie O'Donnell was among O'Brien's most vocal and vehement supporters,[55][56] calling Leno a "bully" and his actions "classless and kind of career-defining".[57] Bill Zehme, the co-author of Leno's autobiography Leading with My Chin, told the Los Angeles Times, "The thing Leno should do is walk, period. He's got everything to lose in terms of public popularity by going back. People will look at him differently. He'll be viewed as the bad guy."[58] Howard Stern has also been a harsh critic of Leno before and following his Tonight Show timeslot change announcement;[59] Stern appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien in 2006 and told O'Brien he felt it was unlikely that Leno would ever willingly give up The Tonight Show to anyone.[60] During the conflict, Stern made many negative remarks directed at Leno while on the Late Show with David Letterman.[61] In addition to criticism about his handling of the timeslot conflict, Leno has also been criticized for the perceived change in the content of his monologues from his previous stand-up material. Actor and comedian Patton Oswalt was among the celebrities who openly voiced disappointment with Leno, saying, "Comedians who don't like Jay Leno now, and I'm one of them, we're not like, 'Jay Leno sucks'; it's that we're so hurt and disappointed that one of the best comedians of our generation ... willfully has shut the switch off."[62] In August 2020, Leno faced criticism for expressing support for Ellen DeGeneres despite a workplace investigation into toxic behavior and sexual misconduct and harassment claims made against producers on The Ellen DeGeneres Show.[63][64] Support for Leno NBC Sports chairman and former Saturday Night Live producer Dick Ebersol spoke out against all who had mocked Leno, calling them "chicken-hearted and gutless".[65] Jeff Gaspin, then chairman of NBC Universal Television Entertainment, also defended Leno, saying, "This has definitely crossed the line. Jay Leno is the consummate professional and one of the hardest-working people in television. It's a shame that he's being pulled into this."[58] Fellow comedians Paul Reiser, Jerry Seinfeld and Jim Norton (a frequent contributor to The Tonight Show) also voiced support for Leno.[66][67][68] Responding to the mounting criticism, Leno said NBC had assured him that O'Brien was willing to accept the proposed arrangement and that they would not let either host out of his contract.[69] Leno also said that the situation was "all business", and that all of the decisions were made by NBC.[69] He appeared on the January 28, 2010, episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show in an attempt to repair some of the damage done to his public image.[70] Influences Leno's comedic influences include Johnny Carson, Robert Klein, Alan King, David Brenner, Mort Sahl, George Carlin,[71] Don Rickles,[72] Bob Newhart,[73] and Rodney Dangerfield.[74] Comedians who were influenced by Leno include: Dennis Miller and Jerry Seinfeld.[75] Personal life Leno shaking hands with President Ronald Reagan in April 1987 Leno with President Barack Obama in March 2009 Leno has been married to Mavis Leno since 1980; the couple has no children.[76] In 1993, during his first season as host of The Tonight Show, Leno's mother died at the age of 82 and in the following year, his father died at the age of 84.[77] Leno's older brother Patrick Leno, a Vietnam veteran and graduate of Yale Law School, died in 2002 at the age of 62 as a result of complications from cancer.[78] He is known for his prominent jaw, which has been described as mandibular prognathism.[79] In the book Leading with My Chin, he says he is aware of surgery that could reset his mandible, but does not wish to endure a prolonged healing period with his jaws wired shut. Leno is dyslexic.[5] He claims to need only four or five hours of sleep each night.[80] Leno does not drink or smoke, nor does he gamble.[81] He spends much of his free time visiting car collections or working in his private garage.[81] Leno has claimed that he has not spent any of the money he earned from The Tonight Show. Instead, he lives off his money from his stand-up routines.[82][83][84] Leno reportedly earned $32 million in 2005.[85] In 2014, he received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Emerson College where he also delivered the Commencement speech.[86] Charity In 2001, he and his wife donated $100,000 to the Feminist Majority Foundation's campaign to stop gender apartheid in Afghanistan, to educate the public regarding the plight of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Mavis Leno is on the board of the Feminist Majority.[87][88] In 2009, he donated $100,000 to a scholarship fund at Salem State College (now Salem State University) in honor of Lennie Sogoloff, who gave Leno his start at his jazz club, Lennie's-on-the-Turnpike.[89] In August 2012, Leno auctioned his Fiat 500, which was sold for $385,000 with all the proceeds going to a charity that helps wounded war veterans recover by providing them with temporary housing.[90] Love Ride Since 1985,[91] Leno has been the Grand Marshal for the Love Ride, a motorcycle charity event which since its founding in 1984 has raised nearly $14 million for charities benefiting muscular dystrophy research, Autism Speaks,[92] and in 2001, the September 11 attacks recovery.[93] Vehicle collection Leno arriving at the 45th Primetime Emmy Awards in his Hispano-Suiza Aero[94] Leno owns approximately 286 vehicles (169 cars and 117 motorbikes).[95] He also has a website and a TV program called Jay Leno's Garage, which contains video clips and photos of his car collection in detail, as well as other vehicles of interest to him.[96] Leno's Garage Manager is Bernard Juchli.[97] Among his collection are two Doble steam cars, a sedan and a roadster that were owned by Howard Hughes, the fifth Duesenberg Model X known to survive, and one of nine remaining 1963 Chrysler Turbine Cars. The collection also includes three antique electric cars — the 1925 Baker Motor Vehicle is his wife Mavis' favorite car.[98] He has a regular column in Popular Mechanics which showcases his car collection and gives advice about various automotive topics, including restoration and unique models, such as his jet-powered motorcycle and solar-powered hybrid. Leno also writes occasional "Motormouth" articles for The Sunday Times,[99] reviewing high-end sports cars and giving his humorous take on motoring matters. Leno opened his garage to Team Bondi, the company that developed the 2011 video game L.A. Noire, which is set in Los Angeles in the late-1940s. Leno's collection contains almost one hundred cars from this period, and allowed the team to recreate their images as accurately as possible.[100] Politics Hosting the 2014 Genesis Prize award ceremony in Jerusalem, Leno made jokes mocking then-President Barack Obama and then-Secretary of State John Kerry, accusing Obama of "trying to break" the U.S.'s relationship with Israel.[101] In a 2015 interview with The Jerusalem Post, Leno said, "I always considered Israel as not only the only democracy in the Middle East, I think it's the purest, because every Israeli voter seems to have his own political party."[102] He also added about Israel's relations with other Middle East countries: "Israel is so efficient in defending itself and so good at it, that to the rest of the world it looks like bullying."[102] Filmography Main article: Jay Leno filmography Awards and nominations Year Award Nominated work Result 1989 Writers Guild of America Award for Variety – Musical, Award, Tribute, Special Event Family Comedy Hour Nominated 1990 American Comedy Award for Funniest Male Performer in a TV Special – Network, Cable or Syndication The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson Nominated 1993 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Variety, Music, or Comedy Series The Tonight Show with Jay Leno Nominated 1994 Nominated 1995 Won 1996 Nominated 1998 Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program Nominated 1999 TV Guide Award for Favorite Late Night Show Won Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Variety, Music, or Comedy Series Nominated 2000 TV Guide Award for Favorite Late Night Show Won Hollywood Walk of Fame Won Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Variety, Music, or Comedy Series The Tonight Show with Jay Leno Nominated 2001 TV Guide Award for Variety Star of the Year Nominated 2002 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Variety, Music, or Comedy Series Nominated 2003 Nominated 2005 People's Choice Award for Favorite Late Night Talk Show Host Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program Nominated 2006 People's Choice Award for Favorite Late Night Talk Show Host Won 2007 People's Choice Award for Favorite Talk Show Host Nominated 2008 Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Short–Format Non-Fiction Program Jay Leno's Garage Nominated 2009 Nominated 2011 Won Hasty Pudding Man of the Year Won 2012 People's Choice Award for Favorite Late Night TV Host The Tonight Show with Jay Leno Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Short–Format Non-Fiction Program Jay Leno's Garage Nominated 2013 TCA Career Achievement Award Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Short–Format Non-Fiction Program Jay Leno's Garage Nominated 2014 TCA Career Achievement Award Nominated Mark Twain Prize for American Humor Won References ^ Sandra Brennan (2013). 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External links Jay Lenoat Wikipedia's sister projectsMedia from Wikimedia CommonsQuotations from WikiquoteData from Wikidata Jay Leno at Curlie Tonight Show with Jay Leno episodes Jay Leno's Garage (NBC) An interview with Jay Leno, Totalcar magazine The New York Times on Leno's affiliation with McPherson College Live performance videos from the Tonight Show Jay Leno at IMDb Media offices Preceded byJohnny Carson Host of The Tonight ShowMay 25, 1992 – May 29, 2009 Succeeded byConan O'Brien Preceded byConan O'Brien Host of The Tonight ShowMarch 1, 2010 – February 6, 2014 Succeeded byJimmy Fallon Retrieved from " 2American television sitcom (2006–2013) This article is about the television series. For the skyscraper and the series namesake, see 30 Rockefeller Plaza. 30 RockGenreSitcomSatireFarceCreated byTina FeyStarringTina FeyTracy MorganJane KrakowskiJack McBrayerScott AdsitJudah FriedlanderAlec BaldwinKatrina BowdenKeith PowellLonny RossKevin BrownGrizz ChapmanMaulik PancholyJohn LutzComposerJeff RichmondCountry of originUnited StatesOriginal languageEnglishNo. of seasons7No. of episodes139 (list of episodes)ProductionExecutive producersLorne MichaelsTina FeyMarci KleinDavid MinerJoann AlfanoRobert CarlockJeff RichmondJohn RiggiJack BurdittProducersAlec BaldwinJerry KupferDon ScardinoProduction locationsSilvercup StudiosNew York City, New YorkEditorKen ElutoCamera setupSingle-camera (137 episodes)Multi-camera (2 episodes)Running time22 minutesProduction companiesBroadway VideoLittle Stranger, Inc.Universal TelevisionDistributorNBCUniversal Television DistributionReleaseOriginal networkNBCPicture format1080i (16:9 HDTV)Original releaseOctober 11, 2006 (2006-10-11) – January 31, 2013 (2013-01-31) Special:July 16, 2020 External linksWebsite 30 Rock is an American satirical sitcom television series created by Tina Fey that originally aired on NBC from October 11, 2006, to January 31, 2013. The series, based on Fey's experiences as head writer for Saturday Night Live, takes place behind the scenes of a fictional live sketch comedy show depicted as airing on NBC. The series' name refers to 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, the address of the now Comcast Building, where the NBC Studios are located and where Saturday Night Live is written, produced, and performed.[1] The series was produced by Lorne Michaels' Broadway Video (which also produces Saturday Night Live) and Fey's Little Stranger, in association with NBCUniversal.[2] 30 Rock episodes were produced in a single-camera setup (with the exception of the two live episodes that were produced in the multiple-camera setup)[3] and were filmed in New York.[4][5] The pilot episode premiered on October 11, 2006,[6] and seven seasons followed. The series stars Fey with a supporting cast that includes Alec Baldwin, Tracy Morgan, Jane Krakowski, Jack McBrayer, Scott Adsit, Judah Friedlander, Katrina Bowden, Keith Powell, Lonny Ross, John Lutz, Kevin Brown, Grizz Chapman, and Maulik Pancholy.[2] Tonally, 30 Rock uses surreal humor to parody the complex corporate structure of NBC and its then parent company General Electric. A critic for The A.V. Club once remarked that it "usually adopts the manic pacing of a live-action cartoon."[7] The show was influential in its extensive use of cutaways: sudden, short cuts to unrelated scenes showing something the characters are briefly discussing. 30 Rock also became known for its dedication to making sets extremely elaborate, once showing a set that took three days to build for only six seconds of video.[8] 30 Rock won several major awards (including Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy Series in 2007, 2008, and 2009 and nominations for every other year it ran) and appeared on many critics' year-end "best of" 2006–2013 lists. On July 14, 2009, the series was nominated for 22 Primetime Emmy Awards, the most in a single year for a comedy series.[9] Over the course of the series, it was nominated for 103 Primetime Emmy Awards and won 16,[10] in addition to numerous other nominations and wins from other awards shows. Despite the high praise, the series struggled in the ratings throughout its run,[11] something of which Fey herself has made light.[12] In 2009, Comedy Central and WGN America bought the syndication rights to the show, which began airing on both networks on September 19, 2011;[13] the series also entered into local broadcast syndication on the same day.[14] Today, 30 Rock is regarded as a landmark series.[15][16][17][18] Its series finale in particular has been named as one of the greatest in television history by several publications.[19][20][21] In 2013, the Writers Guild of America West named 30 Rock the 21st best-written television series of all time.[17] Premise Liz Lemon is head writer and showrunner of the NBC sketch comedy series TGS with Tracy Jordan (originally called The Girlie Show), produced in Studio 6H in 30 Rockefeller Plaza. She supervises cast and crew, including star Jenna Maroney, her best friend, while working with network executive Jack Donaghy and page Kenneth Parcell. In the first episode, Jack forces Liz to hire the unpredictable Tracy Jordan as co-star. Episodes often depict conservative Jack and liberal Liz's disagreements, Jenna's attempts to become a film star, Tracy's behavior, and the characters' romantic and personal lives. The show satirizes the cultures of NBC, parent company General Electric, and the entertainment industry. The network airs programs like reality shows MILF Island, Queen of Jordan and America's Kidz Got Singing as well as paranormal drama Hunchbacks, and game shows Gold Case and Celebrity Homophone. In later seasons, the show depicts the network being acquired by Philadelphia-based media company Kabletown (a parody of Comcast's NBC acquisition). Development and production Conception In 2002, Fey was the head writer and a performer on the television show Saturday Night Live (SNL). She pitched the show that became 30 Rock to NBC, originally as a sitcom about cable news.[22] NBC Entertainment president Kevin Reilly felt that "Fey was using the news setting as a fig leaf for her own experience and [he] encouraged her to write what she knew."[23] The show was subsequently reworked to revolve around an SNL-style sketch show. After being presented to Reilly once more, the show was set to air during the 2005–2006 television season. In May 2003, Fey signed a contract with NBC to remain in her SNL head writer position until at least the 2004–2005 television season and to develop a primetime project to be produced by Broadway Video and NBC Universal.[24] Filming was postponed due to Tina Fey's first pregnancy.[25] During the 2004–2005 pilot season, a pilot was announced named Untitled Tina Fey Project. The 30 Rock pilot focused on the boss of a variety show who must manage her relationships with the show's volatile star and its charismatic executive producer. The storyline evolved into one that dealt with a head writer of a variety show who dealt with both of the stars, as well as the show's new network executive.[26] 30 Rock was officially given the green light to air May 15, 2006, along with a 13-episode order.[27] The series underwent further changes during the months leading up to and following its debut. A May 2006 press release mentioned that sketches from The Girlie Show would be made available in their entirety on NBC's broadband website, DotComedy.com. The idea was to air the fictitious TGS with Tracy Jordan online.[28] This aspect of the series was abandoned prior to its debut. Filming Interior scenes for 30 Rock were mostly filmed at Silvercup Studios in Long Island City, Queens, New York City (Studio 8H in 30 Rock in Manhattan for two live episodes).[4] In the episodes "Cleveland" and "Hiatus", Battery Park City, Manhattan, and Douglaston, Queens, doubled for Cleveland, Ohio and Needmore, Pennsylvania, respectively.[29] In the episode "Gavin Volure", stock footage of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion was used for exterior shots of the home of Steve Martin's character.[30] The title sequence comprises photos and videos of 30 Rockefeller Plaza and features the series regulars. The sequence ends with a time lapse of the building and then a title card reading "30 Rock". The sequence has remained mostly the same throughout the series, although changes have been made to most of the actors' images. Music The series features a "jaunty" jazz score.[31] Most of the incidental music melody is played by either clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, or strings, often as wildly varying renditions of the usual central theme. The music is composed by Fey's husband, Jeff Richmond, who is also a producer for 30 Rock. Richmond wrote the theme music, which was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Main Title Theme Music.[32] Seven short, original songs have been featured in episodes, five of which were performed by Krakowski,[33][34][35][36][37] another performed by Fey and Jason Sudeikis,[38] and another performed by Morgan.[39] The show has also covered three existing songs,[40][41][42] including the song "Midnight Train to Georgia" by Gladys Knight and the Pips. The song had its lyrics altered to accommodate the character Kenneth being "misinformed about the time [of the 11:45 train]".[42] The song "Oh My" performed by The Gray Kid is heard throughout the episode "The Source Awards", which was mixed with a piano arrangement composed by Richmond.[43] "Kidney Now!", a rendition of the popular song, "We Are the World", is performed by various artists in the season-three finale. Other popular songs have been featured (with blessings by the singers), such as "I Will Remember You" or "Bitch". The 30 Rock Original Television Soundtrack was released by the Relativity Music Group on November 16, 2010.[44] Internet content On April 2, 2008, NBC announced 30 Rock 360, an online extension of the 30 Rock series. The extension featured Jack Donaghy's Online Business Courses (or Jack U). Users were also able to read Jack's blogs and upload their own business advice in video form. Users were able to submit sketches for TGS with Tracy Jordan and act out skits from TGS. The feature reopened Ask Tina, an interactive question and answer platform in which users could ask Fey questions. Fey answered the questions in video form.[45] Ask Tina was a fixture on NBC.com's 30 Rock section throughout the first season.[46] Cast and characters Main article: List of 30 Rock characters 30 Rock features an ensemble cast.[2] The seven roles that receive star billing during the opening credits are: Tina Fey as Liz Lemon, a "sexually frightened know-it-all" and head writer of TGS with Tracy Jordan Tracy Morgan as Tracy Jordan, the loose-cannon, crazy, and unpredictable star of TGS Jane Krakowski as Jenna Maroney, the original star of "The Girlie Show," co-star of TGS and Liz's constantly attention-seeking, arrogant, and clueless best friend Jack McBrayer as Kenneth Ellen Parcell, a cheerful, obedient Southern-born NBC page who "lives for television" Scott Adsit as Pete Hornberger, the "sane," quick-witted producer of TGS, who often reveals embarrassing details about his family life Judah Friedlander as Frank Rossitano, a trucker hat-wearing, manchildish, sarcastic writer at TGS whose hat bears a different phrase in every episode Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy, the decisive, controlling, suave, and occasionally senseless network executive who constantly interferes with the goings-on at TGS Beginning with season two, several actors received star billing after the opening credits.[2] Katrina Bowden as Cerie Xerox, Liz's beautiful, laid-back assistant, who usually wears revealing outfits to work, much to the delight of the writers' room (seasons 2–7; recurring season 1) Keith Powell as James "Toofer" Spurlock, a TGS writer who is "two for one," a Harvard guy and a black guy, and the polar opposite of both Tracy and Frank (seasons 2–7; recurring season 1) Lonny Ross as Josh Girard, a young and immature TGS writer and co-star, known for his impressions (seasons 2–4; recurring season 1) Kevin Brown as Walter "Dot Com" Slattery, an erudite member of Tracy's entourage who is also a Wesleyan University-trained stage actor (seasons 3–7; recurring seasons 1–2) Grizz Chapman as Warren "Grizz" Griswold, a gentle giant member of Tracy's entourage (seasons 3–7; recurring seasons 1–2) Maulik Pancholy as Jonathan, Jack's loyal and overprotective personal assistant, who at times appears to be in love with Jack (seasons 3–5, 7; recurring seasons 1–2) John Lutz as J. D. Lutz, a lazy, overweight TGS writer who is often insulted or made fun of by the rest of the staff (seasons 4–7; recurring seasons 1–3) Additional characters Dean Winters as Dennis Duffy, Liz's irresponsible ex-boyfriend Chris Parnell as Leo Spaceman, Tracy's quack doctor who regularly provides him with experimental treatments Jason Sudeikis as Floyd DeBarber, a lawyer working in 30 Rockefeller who dates Liz before moving home to Cleveland Rachel Dratch appears as several minor characters in seasons 1, 5, and 6, including 4 episodes as Greta Johansen, a cat wrangler working on TGS Sue Galloway as Sue LaRoche-Van der Hout, a French-Dutch writer hired by TGS and often referred to as "girl writer" Cheyenne Jackson as Jack "Danny" Baker, a TGS cast member added in the fourth season James Marsden as Criss Chros, Liz's boyfriend and later husband, who ran a hot dog stand in his first episodes of the series Casting Fey worked with Jen McNamara and Adam Bernstein for the casting of the series.[47] Fey's first act as casting director was to cast herself as the lead character, Liz Lemon, who is said to be much like Fey herself when she first became head writer on SNL.[48] The next actor to be cast was Tracy Morgan as Tracy Jordan,[49] who was then a former castmate of Fey's in SNL. Morgan was asked by Fey to play the role, and he believed it was "right up [his] alley and it was tailor made for [him]".[50] Fey said that the character of Kenneth was written with McBrayer in mind. McBrayer is an old friend of Fey's (they worked together at Second City in Chicago), and she "really wanted him for that part and was very happy when no one objected".[47] Rachel Dratch, Fey's longtime comedy partner and fellow SNL alumna, was originally cast to portray Jenna. Dratch played the role in the show's original pilot, but in August 2006, Krakowski was announced as Dratch's replacement, with Dratch remaining involved in the show playing various characters.[51] Fey explained the change by noting that Dratch was better-suited to playing a variety of side characters,[52] which was suitable when the show intended to feature actual sketches from TGS with Tracy Jordan. However, this aspect of the show was scrapped,[28] thus they required more of a straight-ahead acting part for the role of Jenna. Although Fey went on to say, "Rachel and I were both very excited about this new direction," [52] Dratch said that she was not happy with the media's depiction of the change as a demotion;[53] furthermore, she was also skeptical about the reasons she was given for the change and was not happy with the reduction in the number of episodes in which she would appear.[53] Following the first season, Dratch only appeared in a handful of episodes. Shortly following the casting of McBrayer and Dratch, Baldwin was cast as Jack, the "totally uncensored" vice president of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming.[54] Fey said that the character of Jack was written with Baldwin in mind, and she was "very pleasantly surprised when he agreed to do it."[47] Judah Friedlander was cast as Frank Rossitano, a staff writer of The Girlie Show. Friedlander had never met Fey before auditioning for a role in 30 Rock. His character was based on at least two writers with whom Fey used to work at SNL, but he has said that he "certainly brought some of [his] own things to it, as well."[55] Finally, Scott Adsit was cast as Pete Hornberger, a longtime friend of Liz's and producer of The Girlie Show. Adsit, an old friend of Fey's, also had his character written based on him.[47] Following SNL's ongoing tradition,[56] 30 Rock had several real-life politician cameos, including Al Gore (twice), Nancy Pelosi (series finale)[57] and Condoleezza Rice (as Jack's former love interest).[58] Episodes Main article: List of 30 Rock episodes SeasonEpisodesOriginally airedFirst airedLast aired121October 11, 2006 (2006-10-11)April 26, 2007 (2007-04-26)215October 4, 2007 (2007-10-04)May 8, 2008 (2008-05-08)322October 30, 2008 (2008-10-30)May 14, 2009 (2009-05-14)422October 15, 2009 (2009-10-15)May 20, 2010 (2010-05-20)523September 23, 2010 (2010-09-23)May 5, 2011 (2011-05-05)622January 12, 2012 (2012-01-12)May 17, 2012 (2012-05-17)713October 4, 2012 (2012-10-04)January 31, 2013 (2013-01-31)SpecialJuly 16, 2020 (2020-07-16) Season one Main article: 30 Rock (season 1) Season one began airing in the United States on October 11, 2006,[6] and featured 21 episodes.[59] The season finale aired on April 26, 2007.[60] Jack Donaghy, the "Head of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming" at General Electric (GE), is transferred to work at the NBC headquarters, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, and retool the late-night sketch-comedy series The Girlie Show. The show's cast and crew are outraged by this, especially head writer Liz Lemon and main actress Jenna Maroney. Jack proceeds to wreak havoc on The Girlie Show, forcing Liz to hire off-the-wall movie star Tracy Jordan. He again irritates the cast and crew of The Girlie Show when he changes the name to TGS with Tracy Jordan (or just TGS). As the season progresses, the episodes become less about TGS and more about how the characters deal with juggling their lives and their jobs . Specifically, Liz, but other characters are also explored. Episodes also become less self-contained, and various story arcs develop in the second half of the season. For example, the first major story arc centers on Liz's relationship with Dennis Duffy (Dean Winters), "The Beeper King." Other story arcs include Jenna promoting her movie The Rural Juror; Tracy going on the run from the Black Crusaders; Jack's engagement, which was eventually called off, to a Christie's auctioneer named Phoebe (Emily Mortimer); and another relationship of Liz's with Floyd (Sudeikis). Guest stars include John McEnroe, Nathan Lane, Isabella Rossellini, Paul Reubens, Will Arnett, Wayne Brady, Elaine Stritch, Whoopi Goldberg, Conan O'Brien, LL Cool J, Rip Torn, and Ghostface Killah. Season two Main article: 30 Rock (season 2) Season two began airing in the United States on October 4, 2007,[61] and featured 15 episodes.[62] The second season was originally intended to consist of 22 episodes, but the order was cut to 15 due to the 2007–2008 Writers Guild of America strike.[63][64] The season finale aired on May 8, 2008.[65] After Liz broke up with Floyd in the summer, she is looking for ways to rebound. When Jerry Seinfeld confronts Jack about a new marketing campaign which featured clips of Seinfeld's sitcom, Seinfeld, in all NBC shows, he has a chance encounter with Liz that gives her some much-needed advice. During the TGS summer hiatus, Jenna becomes overweight due to performing in the Broadway show Mystic Pizza: The Musical (based on the real 1988 film Mystic Pizza). Tracy has encountered some marital problems with his wife Angie Jordan (Sherri Shepherd) and they become separated, but later reunite. During the season, Jack develops a relationship with a Democratic congresswoman named Celeste "C. C." Cunningham (Edie Falco). They later break up. An arc that was established in the first season, but becomes more apparent in the second, regards Jack running for the GE chairmanship against his nemesis Devon Banks (Will Arnett). The season ends with Liz planning to adopt a child after believing she was pregnant with Dennis' baby. Kenneth also travels to Beijing to be a page at the 2008 Summer Olympics, and Tracy invents a pornographic video game. Jack ends the season working at a new government job in Washington, DC, but plans to get fired by proposing a "gay bomb." Season three Main article: 30 Rock (season 3) 30 Rock returned with a third season as part of NBC's 2008 fall schedule, airing immediately after The Office. The show experienced a large ratings and popularity spike this season after Tina Fey's highly praised performance as Sarah Palin on SNL. This is also the season where the show made Primetime Emmy Award history, being nominated for 22 awards. The season consisted of 22 episodes.[66][67][68] Oprah Winfrey guest-starred in the second episode, playing herself (actually a drug-induced hallucination of Liz's), as well as Jennifer Aniston playing Liz's ex-roommate. Salma Hayek[69] also appeared for a multiple-episode arc, portraying Jack's new girlfriend, Elisa. Other guest stars this season included John Lithgow, Kerry Butler, Megan Mullally, Peter Dinklage, and Steve Martin.[70] Jon Hamm played Liz's love interest and neighbor for several episodes.[71] Alan Alda appeared in the season's final two episodes as Milton Greene, Jack's biological father. The season finale featured multiple musical guests, including Talib Kweli, Michael McDonald, Norah Jones, Steve Earle, Moby, Clay Aiken, the Beastie Boys, Adam Levine, Mary J. Blige, Elvis Costello, Sheryl Crow, Rhett Miller, Cyndi Lauper, Sara Bareilles, Wyclef Jean, and Rachael Yamagata, performing "Kidney Now!", an organ-donation drive spoof of We Are The World and "Just Stand Up!". Season four Main article: 30 Rock (season 4) The fourth season of 30 Rock premiered on October 15, 2009. Like the previous season, it also consisted of 22 episodes. A recurring story arc early in the season revolved around Jack's request that Liz cast a new actor for TGS and Liz's subsequent search for the perfect comedian, much to Jenna and Tracy's dismay, who fear losing their spotlight. The latter half of the season focused on complementary story arcs: Jack's inability to choose between his two girlfriends, Liz's inability to find a boyfriend to live up to her expectations, and Jenna's relationship with a Jenna Maroney impersonator. The season has also featured such guest stars as Julianne Moore, Jon Bon Jovi, Cheyenne Jackson, Sherri Shepherd, Will Forte, Elizabeth Banks, Michael Sheen, Matt Damon, and James Franco. Season five Main article: 30 Rock (season 5) 30 Rock premiered its fifth season on September 23, 2010, in the Thursday 8:30 pm time slot.[72] An episode of 30 Rock's fifth season was produced and broadcast live, twice, on the evening of October 14, 2010. The two separate performances resulted in a live telecast of the episode to American viewers on both the West and East Coasts, to ensure both would view a live performance. Produced in front of a live audience, the episode aired at 8:30 pm EDT and PDT on NBC. A ratings success, the episode was also met with positive reviews.[73][74][75] 30 Rock moved to the 10/9c from January 20, 2011.[76] Season five focuses on Liz Lemon's continuing relationship with Carol Burnett (Matt Damon), Jack's start into fatherhood with fiancée Avery Jessup (Elizabeth Banks), struggling with the merger of NBCUniversal with Kabletown, Tracy's foray into getting an EGOT, and Kenneth's attempt to get back to NBC. Aside from featuring the return of Rachel Dratch in "Live Show," other guest stars include Matt Damon, Elizabeth Banks, Susan Sarandon (as Frank's former teacher- who was in prison due to their relationship while he was a student- and present girlfriend), Paul Giamatti (as one of the TGS editors), Sherri Shepherd, Queen Latifah, Rob Reiner, John Amos, Jon Hamm (reprising his role as Drew, Liz Lemon's former love interest who despite being a doctor, she dumped for being too dumb), Julia Louis-Dreyfus (playing the reimagined version of Liz Lemon and also as herself playing this character in "Live Show"), Bill Hader, Chris Parnell, Kelsey Grammer (playing himself), Buck Henry, David Gregory, John Slattery, Daniel Sunjata, Will Forte, Kelly Coffield Park, Elaine Stritch, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Alan Alda, Cheyenne Jackson, Robert De Niro (playing himself), Dean Winters, Ken Howard, Vanessa Minnillo, Brian Williams (playing himself), Richard Belzer, Ice-T, John Cho, Chloë Grace Moretz (as Kaylie Hooper – the granddaughter of Kabletown CEO Hank Hooper and Jack's sworn enemy as heir to the Kabletown throne), Terrance Mann (as oceanographer Robert Ballard), Cristin Milioti (as Abby Flynn in "TGS Hates Women"), Eion Bailey, Adriane Lenox, Michael Keaton, Margaret Cho (as Avery's kidnapper, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il), and Tom Hanks (as himself in "100: Part 1" and "100: Part 2"). Season six Main article: 30 Rock (season 6) On November 15, 2010, NBC announced 30 Rock had been renewed for a sixth season, set to air at the beginning of 2012, due to Tina Fey's pregnancy.[77] The season began airing January 12, 2012, in its new 8 pm time slot leading into Parks and Recreation, The Office, and Up All Night.[78] Season six finds Liz emotionally maturing while in a new relationship; Jack continues to attempt to recover his wife from North Korea and find his identity at Kabletown, Kenneth moves up (and later down) the corporate ladder. Jenna reaches a new level of fame due to being a judge on a reality show and considers settling down with boyfriend Paul. Many LGBT groups called for Tracy Morgan's resignation or dismissal from the show due to anti-gay comments he made between the end of season five and the filming for season six.[79] Morgan issued an apology and continued with his starring role.[80] 30 Rock had previously received an award from GLAAD, commending the show on its portrayal of LGBT themes and characters.[81] The scandal inspired the second episode of the season, in which Tracy Jordan goes on an offensive rant during a standup set, forcing the show to apologize on his behalf after he mistakenly apologizes to Glad, the plastic bag company, instead of GLAAD. Season seven Main article: 30 Rock (season 7) 30 Rock returned for a final, abbreviated season consisting of 13 episodes,[82] which began airing on October 4, 2012.[83] Alec Baldwin reportedly approached NBC and offered to cut his pay for 30 Rock to be renewed for a full seventh and eighth seasons, stating on Twitter: "I offered NBC to cut my pay 20% in order to have a full 7th and 8th seasons of 30 Rock. I realize times have changed."[84] Season seven continues to develop the relationship between Liz and Criss (James Marsden), as the pair tries for children and considers getting married. Meanwhile, Jack attempts to improve his prospects at the company, first by trying to "tank" NBC and convince Kabletown CEO Hank Hooper (Ken Howard) to sell it, and later by plotting to discredit Hooper's granddaughter and future CEO, Kaylee Hooper (Chloë Grace Moretz). Ultimately, however, he begins to wonder if he is truly happy. Elsewhere, Tracy has found success with his new movie studio, which produces comedy films mostly starring African American actors, similarly to Tyler Perry; Jenna prepares to marry her long-term boyfriend Paul (Will Forte), and Kenneth has started a relationship with Hazel (Kristen Schaal), unaware that she is using him to get her moment on TGS. Reception Critical Alec Baldwin's performance as Jack Donaghy was praised by critics. 30 Rock has received many positive reviews from critics. Chris Harnick, writing in the Huffington Post, has ranked it along with I Love Lucy and Seinfeld as one of the great TV comedies.[15] The Writers Guild of America West listed it as the 21st best written TV series.[17] Its series finale has been rated highly by several publications. HitFix ranked it the 15th best series final,[19] IndieWire included it in its list of 16 best series finals,[20] and HuffPost named it the 5th best.[21] The first season of 30 Rock was reviewed favorably by critics.[85] Metacritic gave the pilot episode a Metascore—a weighted average based on the impressions of a select thirty-one critical reviews—of 67 out of 100.[86] Robert Abele of LA Weekly declared that the show was a "weirdly appropriate and hilarious symbol of our times".[87] The Wall Street Journal's Dorothy Rabinowitz wrote that the "standard caution is relevant—debut episodes tend to be highly polished. All the more reason to enjoy the hilarious scenes and fine ensemble cast here".[88] Some less favorable reviews were received from Brian Lowry of Variety. Lowry said, "Despite her success with Mean Girls, [Tina] Fey mostly hits too-familiar notes in the pilot. Moreover, she's a limited protagonist, which is problematic."[89] Maureen Ryan of the Chicago Tribune criticized "30 Rock for being less than the sum of its parts, and, as an entry in the single-camera comedy sweepstakes, it fails to show either the inspired inventiveness of Arrested Development or provide the surprisingly perceptive character studies of The Office".[90] At the end of 2006, LA Weekly listed 30 Rock as one of the best "Series of the Year".[91] The show also appeared on similar year end "best of" 2006 lists published by The New York Times,[92] The A.V. Club,[93] The Boston Globe,[94] the Chicago Sun-Times,[94] Entertainment Weekly,[94] the Los Angeles Times,[94] the Miami Herald,[94] People Weekly,[94] and TV Guide.[94] The Associated Press wrote that NBC's "Thursday night comedy block—made up of My Name Is Earl, The Office, Scrubs, and 30 Rock—is consistently the best night of prime time viewing for any network."[95] In 2007, it appeared on The Boston Globe's "best of" list[96] as well as the "best of" lists of the Chicago Sun-Times,[96] the Chicago Tribune,[96] Entertainment Weekly,[96] the Los Angeles Times,[96] Newark Star-Ledger,[96] The New York Times,[96] Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,[96] The San Francisco Chronicle,[96] The San Jose Mercury News,[96] TV Guide and USA Today.[96] 30 Rock was named the best series of 2007 by Entertainment Weekly.[96] At the end of 2009, Newsweek magazine ranked 30 Rock as the best comedy on TV in the past decade,[97] and at the end of 2010, Metacritic reported that the show ranked 12th place in their list of collected Television Critic Top Ten Lists.[98] At the end of 2012, a poll undertaken by 60 Minutes and Vanity Fair named 30 Rock the seventh greatest sitcom of all time.[99] In 2013, the Writers Guild of America named 30 Rock as one of the best-written television series of all time, ranking it at 21st place.[17] In 2019, the series was ranked 12th on The Guardian newspaper's list of the 100 best TV shows of the 21st century.[100] Awards and nominations Main article: List of awards and nominations received by 30 Rock Capping its critically successful first season, 30 Rock won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series and Elaine Stritch was awarded Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series in September 2007 for her work as a guest actress in the season one finale episode, "Hiatus".[101] Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin were nominated in the Outstanding Lead Actress and Outstanding Lead Actor in a comedy series categories, respectively.[102] "Jack-Tor" and "Tracy Does Conan" were both nominated for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series.[102] 30 Rock received four Creative Arts Emmy Awards.[102] Alec Baldwin received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Series – Musical or Comedy in 2007.[103] Baldwin also received the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series in 2007.[104] The show also received various other guild award nominations during its first season[105][106] and the Peabody Award.[107] Fey won six Primetime Emmy Awards for her work on 30 Rock. In 2008, Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin both won Screen Actors Guild Awards.[108] The series took home the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Comedy Series in 2008.[109] It also received the Danny Thomas Producer of the Year Award in Episodic Series – Comedy from the Producers Guild of America in 2008.[110] 30 Rock received 17 Primetime Emmy Award nominations for its second season, meaning it was the second-most nominated series of the year.[111] These 17 nominations broke the record for the most nominations for a comedy series, meaning that 30 Rock was the most-nominated comedy series for any individual Primetime Emmy Award year. The previous holder of this record was The Larry Sanders Show in 1996 with 16 nominations.[112] 30 Rock also won the Television Critics Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Comedy.[113] In 2008, 30 Rock completed a sweep of the major awards at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards. The show won Outstanding Comedy Series, Alec Baldwin was recognized as Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series, and Tina Fey was given the award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series. This marked the eighth time in the Primetime Emmy Awards history that a show won best series plus best lead actor and actress.[114] Tina Fey also won the award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series for the second-season finale episode, "Cooter". Tina Fey and the cast and crew of 30 Rock at the 67th Annual Peabody AwardsAt the 66th Golden Globe Awards, 30 Rock won the award for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy, Alec Baldwin won Best Actor in a Television Series – Musical or Comedy, and Tina Fey won Best Actress in a Television Series – Musical or Comedy.[115] At the 67th Annual Peabody Awards, 30 Rock received the Peabody Award for the show's 2007 episodes.[116] Upon announcing the award, the Peabody Board commended the show for being "not only a great workplace comedy in the tradition of The Mary Tyler Moore Show, complete with fresh, indelible secondary characters, but also a sly, gleeful satire of corporate media, especially the network that airs it".[117] In 2009, 30 Rock received a record-breaking 22 Primetime Emmy Award nominations and won five of them, including Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series (Baldwin), and Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series for "Reunion".[9] It received 15 Primetime Emmy Award nominations in 2010, including the series' fourth consecutive nominations for Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series (Baldwin), and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series (Fey).[118] 30 Rock received 9 Primetime Emmy Award nominations, in 2011 and 13 in 2012. In 2013, 30 Rock's seventh and final season received 13 Primetime Emmy Award nominations (the most of any comedy series and the most of any final season of a comedy series), including Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for Fey, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series for Baldwin, Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for Krakowski, directing, two nominations for writing, and its seventh consecutive nomination for Outstanding Comedy Series, bringing the series' total number of nominations to 103. The series' casting directors won their third prize for Outstanding Casting for a Comedy Series, while Tina Fey and Tracey Wigfield won for their writing for the series finale, "Last Lunch".[119] At the 19th Screen Actors Guild Awards, both Fey and Baldwin won for their performances in the Female and Male comedy categories, respectively, while the cast received their final nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.[120] Ratings Below, "Rank" refers to how well 30 Rock rated compared to other television series which aired during primetime hours of the corresponding television season; for example, in its first year, 101 television series were rated higher. The television season begins in September of any given year and ends in May of the following year. "Viewers" refers to the average number of viewers for all original episodes (broadcast in the series' "Regular Timeslot") of 30 Rock aired during the television season. Although the viewer average may be higher for some seasons than others, the rank will not necessarily be higher. This is due to the number of programs aired during primetime. In some seasons, more regular programs may be aired during primetime than in others. Season Timeslot (ET) Premiered Ended TV

Season Rank Viewers(in millions) Date PremiereViewers(in millions) Date FinaleViewers(in millions) 1 Wednesday 8:00 pm (October 11 – November 1, 2006)Thursday 9:30 pm (November 16, 2006 – March 8, 2007)Thursday 9:00 pm (April 5–26, 2007) October 11, 2006 8.1[121] April 26, 2007 4.7 2006–2007 #102[122] 5.8[122] 2 Thursday 8:30 pm (October 4, 2007 – April 17, 2008)Thursday 9:00 pm (December 13, 2007)Thursday 9:30 pm (April 24 – May 8, 2008) October 4, 2007 7.3[123] May 8, 2008 5.6[124] 2007–2008 #111[125] 6.5[125] 3 Thursday 9:30 pm (October 30, 2008 – May 14, 2009) October 30, 2008 8.7[126] May 14, 2009 5.7[127] 2008–2009 #69[128] 7.5[128] 4 Thursday 9:30 pm (October 15, 2009 – May 20, 2010)}Thursday 9:00 pm (January 14, 2010)Thursday 8:30 pm (April 22, 2010) October 15, 2009 6.4[129] May 20, 2010 5.5[130] 2009–2010 #86[131] 5.9[131] 5 Thursday 8:30 pm (September 23 – December 9, 2010)Thursday 10:00 pm (January 20 – May 5, 2011)Thursday 10:30 pm (April 28, 2011) September 23, 2010 5.9[132] May 5, 2011 4.2[133] 2010–2011 #106[134] 5.3[134] 6 Thursday 8:00 pm (January 12 – March 8, 2012)Thursday 9:00 pm (January 26, 2012)Thursday 8:30 pm (March 15 – May 17, 2012) January 12, 2012 4.5[135] May 17, 2012 2.8[136] 2011–2012 #130[137] 4.6[137] 7 Thursday 8:00 pm (October 4, 2012 – January 31, 2013)Wednesday 8:00 pm (October 31, 2012) October 4, 2012 3.5[138] January 31, 2013 4.9[139] 2012–2013 #99[140] 4.6[140] The pilot episode generated 8.13 million viewers,[141] the series' highest ratings until that of its third-season premiere which garnered 8.5 million viewers. In its original timeslot of Wednesday at 8:00 pm EST, the show averaged 6.23 million viewers.[142] 30 Rock aired on Wednesdays for its first four episodes. The season's lowest ratings were achieved by "Jack the Writer" and "Hard Ball" which both achieved 4.61 million viewers.[143][144] The season-two premiere, "SeinfeldVision," was viewed by 7.33 million viewers, the highest rating since the pilot.[145] 30 Rock entered a hiatus due to the 2007–2008 Writers Guild of America strike on January 10, 2008.[63] The episode that aired on that date was viewed by 5.98 million viewers.[146] The second-season finale, "Cooter", which aired on May 8, 2008, was viewed by 5.6 million viewers.[65] On December 29, 2006, Nielsen Media Research (NMR) reported the results of having, for the first time, monitored viewers who use a digital video recorder to record shows for later viewing. NMR reported that 30 Rock adds nearly 7.5% to its total audience every week as a result of viewers who use a DVR to record the show and then watch it within a week of its initial airing.[147] A March 2007 report from MAGNA Global, based on NMR data about viewership ranked by among adults 25–54, shows that as of the time of the report 30 Rock's viewers have a median income of $65,000, high enough to place the show tied at 11th in affluence with several other shows. This is during a period where for the season 30 Rock is tied at number 85 in the 18–49 demographic.[148] During its second season, 30 Rock ranked in fourth place, against all primetime programming, for television series which are watched by viewers with income above $100,000.[149] Following Fey's popular impressions of Alaskan governor Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live, the third-season premiere was seen by 8.5 million viewers, making it the highest-viewed episode in the series.[150] The premiere earned a 4.1 preliminary adults 18–49 rating, an increase of 21% from the second-season premiere.[151] Similarities to other media Two shows debuting on 2006–07 NBC lineup, 30 Rock and Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, revolved around the off-camera happenings on a Saturday Night Live-analogue sketch comedy series. Similarities between the two led to speculation that only one of them would be picked up. Baldwin said, "I'd be stunned if NBC picked up both shows. And ours has the tougher task, as a comedy, because if it's not funny, that's it."[152] Kevin Reilly, then president of NBC Entertainment, was supportive of Fey, describing the situation as a "high-class problem": I just can't imagine the audience would look at both shows, choose one and cancel the other out. In some ways, why is it any different than when there have been three or four cop shows on any schedule, or Scrubs and ER, which are tonally very different?[153] Evidence of the overlapping subject matter between the shows, as well as the conflict between them, arose when Aaron Sorkin, the creator of Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, asked Lorne Michaels to allow him to observe Saturday Night Live for a week, a request Michaels denied.[152] Despite this, Sorkin sent Fey flowers after NBC announced it would pick up both series, and wished her luck with 30 Rock.[154] Fey said, "it's just bad luck for me that in my first attempt at prime time I'm going up against the most powerful writer on television. I was joking that this would be the best pilot ever aired on Trio. And then Trio got canceled."[152] Fey wound up "beating" Sorkin when Studio 60 was canceled after one season and 30 Rock was renewed for a second. Though 30 Rock's first-season ratings proved lackluster and were lower than those of Studio 60,[122] Studio 60 was more expensive to produce.[155] One early promo for 30 Rock portrayed Alec Baldwin mistakenly thinking he would meet Sorkin,[156] and when asked on her "Ask Tina" space what she thought of the criticism that 30 Rock received, Fey jokingly replied that people who did not like it were probably confusing it with Studio 60.[157] However, none of 30 Rock's producers have given Studio 60 any serious criticism, positive or negative. In a November 1, 2006 interview, Fey said she had seen the first two episodes of Studio 60. When asked what her impressions were, she jokingly replied, "I can't do impressions of Bradley Whitford and Matthew Perry."[158] At least five 30 Rock episodes have briefly parodied Studio 60: "Jack the Writer" contains a self-referring walk and talk sequence, such sequences being commonly used on Studio 60 and Aaron Sorkin's previous shows.[159] "Jack-Tor": Liz tries to quote global education statistics, only to mess up and realize that she does not know what she is talking about.[160] "Jack Meets Dennis": Liz says the upcoming show will be "worse than that time we did that Gilbert and Sullivan parody." The second episode of Studio 60, "The Cold Open," included a parody of the "Major-General's Song" on the show-within-the-show. "The Fabian Strategy": In the ending sequence, Kenneth watches the credits for TGS, which include Ricky and Ronnie as writers, the two ex-head writers on Studio 60. "Plan B": Aaron Sorkin appears as himself as Liz is attempting to get a new job at NBC's The Sing-Off. Sorkin explains to Liz that he, too, is having trouble finding work writing for television, despite having written such works as The West Wing, A Few Good Men, and The Social Network. Liz adds Studio 60 to that list, but Sorkin tells her to "shut up." The two of them also engage in Sorkin's signature "Walk and Talk" during their exchange, leading them to where they started the conversation, which Liz points out. Some critics have compared 30 Rock to The Mary Tyler Moore Show, with parallels drawn between the relationship of Liz and Jack and that of Mary Richards and Lou Grant.[161][162] It has also been compared to That Girl.[163][164] Like That Girl and Mary Tyler Moore, 30 Rock is a sitcom centering on an unmarried, brunette career woman living in a big city where she works in the television industry. That Girl was parodied in the opening segment of 30 Rock's pilot. Syndication It was announced in 2009 that off-network syndication rights for 30 Rock had been acquired by Comedy Central and WGN America for a combined value in the range of $800,000 an episode.[165][166] Between 2011 and 2012, the show was syndicated on local broadcast networks in the United States. In Canada, CityTV airs it at 7 pm in syndication and Omni 1 airs it at 10 pm in syndication. It also airs in the United Kingdom on Sky Comedy. Aborted potential spin-off and removed episodes In 2019, Tina Fey and 30 Rock co-showrunner Robert Carlock received a straight-to-series order for an untitled comedy series from NBC. The original script was meant to see Baldwin reprise Jack Donaghy's role and was to follow his political career as mayor of New York following the series finale. Baldwin was in negotiations for a year to star in the project before dropping out. Ted Danson replaced Baldwin as the lead character, and the series setting was changed to Los Angeles to accommodate Danson's wish to remain in his home city. Following this, the series (now titled "Mr. Mayor") was rewritten to lose any connections to 30 Rock.[167] On June 22, 2020, Tina Fey, the show's creator, and NBC announced that four episodes of the series that depict actors in blackface would be removed from streaming services and taken off circulation on TV after a request by the show's producers. Fey stated: "As we strive to do the work and do better in regards to race in America, we believe that these episodes featuring actors in race-changing makeup are best taken out of circulation. I understand now that 'intent' is not a free pass for white people to use these images. I apologize for pain they have caused [...]". The episodes that were removed are the third season episode "Believe In The Stars" and the fifth season episode "Christmas Attack Zone," both of which featured Jane Krakowski's character, Jenna, in blackface; the sixth season episode "Live from Studio 6H", which featured Jon Hamm in blackface; and the east coast version fifth season episode "Live Show." The lattermost's west coast version remained. The decision to remove the episodes came amid protests over the murder of George Floyd.[168] Reunion special Main article: 30 Rock: A One-Time Special On June 16, 2020, NBC announced that it would produce a one-off, hour-long reunion special, which premiered on July 16. The hour-long special aired with no commercial interruptions, but featured promotions and tie-ins for programs airing across NBCUniversal properties (including its new streaming platform Peacock) for the 2020-21 television season — effectively acting as a substitute for a physical upfronts presentation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The special was produced with the involvement of NBCUniversal Creative Partnerships. The same day, an accompanying online summit for media and advertisers included an early screening of the special, while the special became available on Peacock and aired on other NBCUniversal cable networks on July 17. A number of major NBC affiliate groups declined to air the special, citing concerns over its aim to be a vehicle for promoting NBCUniversal's cable networks and Peacock.[169][170][171][172] Home media Universal Home Entertainment released all seven seasons on DVD in addition to releasing a complete collection bundle. The complete DVD and Blu-ray sets were released through Mill Creek Entertainment on April 21, 2020.[173] Episode downloads and online streaming Episodes of 30 Rock are available to download for a per-episode fee, to U.S. residents only, via Amazon Video, Apple's iTunes Store, Google Play. Back when the show was still running, it was also available on the now-defunct "NBC Direct" service. In addition to paid downloads, all seven seasons can be streamed on Hulu in the US with a paid subscription, having moved there from Netflix on October 1, 2017, under a new agreement with NBCUniversal Television and New Media Distribution.[174] The previous Netflix deal had existed for much of the show's run, and lasted several years after.[175] DVD releases Season Region 1 Region 2 Region 4 Discs Extras One September 4, 2007 March 17, 2008 April 30, 2008 3 Episode commentaries, outtakes and deleted scenes (region 1 only).[176] Two October 7, 2008 May 25, 2009 January 8, 2009 2 Episode commentaries, outtakes, deleted scenes, the table read for the episode "Cooter", 30 Rock Live at the UCB Theatre, a behind-the-scenes look at an episode of Saturday Night Live which was hosted by Tina Fey, and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Presents: An Evening With 30 Rock.[62] Three September 22, 2009 April 5, 2010 November 11, 2009 3 Episode commentaries, outtakes, deleted scenes, the table read for the episode "Kidney Now!", behind-the-scenes with the Muppets, 1-900-OKFACE, The Making of "He Needs a Kidney," photo gallery Four September 21, 2010 February 14, 2011 November 3, 2010 3 Episode commentaries, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes, extended episodes, Ace of Cakes episode, "Tennis Night in America" music video, photo gallery.[177] Five November 29, 2011 March 12, 2012 November 3, 2011 3 Episode commentaries, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes of "30 Rock Live" Six September 11, 2012 April 15, 2013 November 7, 2012 3 Episode commentaries, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes of "Live from Studio 6H" Seven May 7, 2013 May 5, 2014 November 28, 2013 2 Episode commentaries, deleted scenes, animated webisodes, series finale retrospective CompleteCollection January 12, 2014 May 5, 2014 November 28, 2013 20 All features from individual release References

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