

Aug. 18, 2023

TOP PRESCHOOL BRAND DISNEY JUNIOR MAKES MAJOR NEW SERIES, SPECIALS AND CAST ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 'DISNEY JUNIOR & FRIENDS PLAYDATE' EVENT AT DISNEY CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE PARK

New Projects

- New Iteration of Flagship Series 'Mickey Mouse Clubhouse' to Debut in 2025 –
- 'Mickey and Friends Trick or Treats' Halloween Special Premieres Oct. 1 –

Special Holiday Episodes

- Halloween Episodes of 'SuperKitties' (Sept. 25), 'Mickey Mouse Funhouse' (Sept. 26), 'Pupstruction' (Sept. 27) –
- Rosh Hashanah-themed Episode of 'Marvel's Spidey and his Amazing Friends' Airs Sept. 15 –
- Dia de los Muertos Episode of 'Mickey Mouse Funhouse' (Oct. 6) –

Casting

- Taye Diggs, Amber Riley and Mykal-Michelle Harris to Star in 'Disney Junior's Ariel' –
- Cynthia Erivo, Valerie Bertinelli, Alan Cumming, Susan Kelechi Watson, Ana Gasteyer, Alison Pill and Dulé Hill Join Talented Young Voice Cast in Recurring Guest Star Roles for 'RoboGobo' –

Premiere Date Announcements

- 'Doc McStuffins: The Doc & Bella Are In!' Stop-Motion Shorts Premiere Sept. 6 –
- Season Two of 'Firebuds' Debuts This November –
- New episodes of 'Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures' Premieres Nov. 8 –

Disney Junior, home to some of the most beloved franchises for preschoolers – including the year's #1 most-watched series for preschoolers and kids, "Bluey"* – made several key programming announcements today, including a new iteration of its flagship series, "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse," set to debut in 2025, and the stop-motion Halloween special "Mickey and Friends Trick or Treats," premiering Oct. 1, 2023. The announcements were made by Ayo Davis, president of Disney Branded Television, during the "Disney Junior & Friends Playdate" event at Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California.

Other announcements included additional holiday-themed episodes of Disney Junior favorites, including "SuperKitties," "Pupstruction," "Mickey Mouse Funhouse" and "Marvel's Spidey and his Amazing Friends," and casting for the new 2024 series "Disney Junior's Ariel" and "RoboGobo." In shorts news, the Sept. 6 premiere date of "Doc McStuffins: The Doc & Bella Are In!" – the first new

fully original “Doc McStuffins” content to premiere since 2020 — was announced, along with new “Playdate with Winnie the Pooh” and “Me & Winnie the Pooh” shorts, which debuted today on Disney Junior YouTube and Disney Junior.

“Disney Junior captures the hearts and imaginations of preschoolers and their families everywhere with stories and characters filled with magic, wonder, adventure and heart,” said Davis. “From providing early entry points into classic Disney franchises to introducing brand-new IP that becomes the latest kid obsessions, Disney Junior is always there with infinite opportunities to engage and play.”

The three-day “Disney Junior & Friends Playdate” event, which celebrates the magical, entertaining and music-filled stories of Disney Junior’s hit series, will move to the Downtown Disney District on Saturday, Aug. 19, and Sunday, Aug. 20, giving even more young fans a chance to experience the beloved characters and storytelling of Disney Junior.

Series logos and image assets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/45lRdO6>

NEW PROJECTS

“MICKEY MOUSE CLUBHOUSE 2.0” — working title — *(New episodes coming 2025 on Disney Junior and Disney+)*

Link to series logo: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Disney Television Animation

Executive Producer: Rob LaDuca

Co-Producer/Story Editor: Kim Duran

In the next iteration of Disney Junior’s Emmy® Award-winning global hit series **“Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 2.0” (working title)**, Mickey and pals welcome everyone back to the clubhouse for all-new adventures filled with songs, laughs, handy helping, and fun new surprises. The new series will see the clubhouse expanding with a brand-new area just for Minnie and the addition of Duffy the Disney Bear, Mickey’s trusted teddy bear, who will make surprise appearances in multiple episodes. Beloved by preschool fans and their families around the world, the series combines the rich heritage of Disney’s beloved classic characters with state-of-the-art CG animation and introduces a whole new generation of preschoolers to Mickey and his pals. The series originally premiered in 2006 and became a pop culture phenomenon that is still breaking records today with over 4 billion views on Disney Junior’s YouTube Channel, including for the iconic “Hot Dog Dance” video.

“MICKEY AND FRIENDS TRICK OR TREATS” — *(Premieres Sunday, Oct. 1, on Disney Junior, Disney Channel and Disney XD at 7:00 p.m. EDT/PDT; streaming Monday, Oct. 2, on Disney+)*

Link to key art image: [HERE](#)

Link to clip here: <https://youtu.be/CoSKfR-xHw>

Produced by: Stoopid Buddy Stoodios in association with Disney Junior

Director/Producer: David H. Brooks

Supervising Producer: John Harvatine IV

In this new Halloween stop-motion special, Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Donald and Daisy are trick-or-treating when Donald spies the spookiest mansion he's ever seen and assumes it has the best treats. After he convinces his friends to risk a visit, the owner, Witch Hazel, casts a spell that turns them into their costumes. The special features new original music from Emmy Award-nominated songwriter Beau Black ("The Lion Guard").

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EPISODES

"SUPERKITTIES" – (A full-length Halloween episode premieres Monday, Sept. 25, on Disney Junior at 7:00 p.m. EDT/PDT; shortly thereafter on Disney+)

Link to Halloween episode image: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Sony Pictures Television – Kids in association with Disney Junior

Creator/Executive Producer: Paula Rosenthal

Co-Executive Producer: Kirk Van Wormer

One of the hottest new series for preschoolers, **"SuperKitties"** follows the action-packed adventures of four fierce and furry superhero kittens – Ginny, Sparks, Buddy and Bitsy – who are on a mission to make their town of Kittydale a more caring and pawesome place. In the Halloween episode titled "Howloween Cat," the pets' Howloween treats go missing all over Kittydale, so the SuperKitties must track down the thief.

"PUPSTRUCTION" – (A spooky Halloween episode premieres Wednesday, Sept. 27, on Disney Junior at 7:00 p.m. EDT/PDT; streaming same day on Disney+)

Link to Halloween episode image: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Titmouse in association with Disney Junior

Creator/Executive Producer: Travis Braun

Executive Producer: Vic Cook

Co-Producer/Story Editor: Robyn Brown

Supervising Director: Abigail Nesbitt

"Pupstruction" premiered in June 2023 and follows the adventures of the Pupstruction team – a doggone hard-working construction crew ranging from some of the brawniest breeds to irresistibly cute and playful puppies. It centers on Phinny, an innovative young corgi who might be the smallest pup on the crew but proves that you don't need big paws to have big dreams or big ideas. In the Halloween episode titled "Happy Howl-o-ween/The House of Howls," Bobby Boots (voiced by Bobby Moynihan) thinks he wasn't invited to Pupstruction's Howl-O-Ween party, and Tank doesn't think he's brave enough to help build a haunted house.

“MARVEL’S SPIDEY AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS” — (A *Rosh Hashanah*-themed episode featuring *The Thing* – aka *Ben Grimm* – premieres Friday, Sept. 15, on Disney Channel at 8:30 a.m. EDT/PDT and Disney Junior at 1:00 p.m. EDT/PDT; streaming shortly thereafter on Disney+)

Link to Rosh Hashanah episode image: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Disney Junior and Marvel Studios in association with Atomic Cartoons

Executive Producer: Harrison Wilcox

Co-Executive Producers: Bart Jennett and Chris Moreno

Co-Producer/Story Editor: Becca Topol

Supervising Producer: Steve Grover

In a new “Web-Spinners” storyline introduced into the series this summer, Spidey, with the help of Iron Man (voiced by John Stamos), creates new hi-tech suits and gear that lets the Spidey Team stop baddies and help people —not just in their friendly neighborhood, but now all over the world. The storyline will continue into season three, debuting next year, and brings into the fold new characters joining the ranks of other well-known Marvel Super Heroes and villains who have appeared in the series, including *The Thing* (voiced by Andy Milder), Ms. Marvel’s teleporting dog, *Lockjaw* (voiced by Dee Bradley Baker), and the power-hungry robot supervillain *Zola* (voiced by Trevor Devall). In the episode titled “An UnBEElievable Rosh Hashanah,” Gobby steals all of the bees, so Team Spidey and *The Thing* must get them back and save Rosh Hashanah.

“MICKEY MOUSE FUNHOUSE” — (A *Halloween*-themed episode premieres Wednesday, Sept. 26, on Disney Junior at 7:00 p.m. EDT/PDT; a *Día de los Muertos*-themed episode premieres Friday, Oct. 6, on Disney Channel at 10:00 a.m. EDT/PDT and Disney Junior at 12:05 p.m. EDT/PDT; both episodes streaming shortly thereafter on Disney+)

Link to *Día de los Muertos* image: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Disney Television Animation

Executive Producer/Supervising Director: Phil Weinstein

Co-Executive Producer/Supervising Story Editor: Thomas Hart

Story Editor: Mark Drop

Producer: Steve Walby

The whimsical animated series “**Mickey Mouse Funhouse**” introduces preschoolers’ first pal, Mickey Mouse, and his friends — Minnie, Goofy, Donald, Daisy and Pluto — to Funny, an enchanted talking playhouse, who takes the Sensational Six on adventures of all types to unique worlds that inspire the imagination. In the Halloween-themed episode titled “The Curious Case of the Kooky Scientist,” premiering Sept. 26, Mickey and the gang are off to Halloweenville to see kooky scientist Von Drake’s newest invention. Then, in the episode premiering Oct. 6 titled “Stink, Stank, Stunk! /Día de los Muertos,” Mickey and the gang discover the Grand Pumpkin and must return it to Halloweenville before it rots away, and Donald’s pal Panchito invites the gang to celebrate *Día de los Muertos* in Mexico City.

CASTING NEWS

“DISNEY JUNIOR’S ARIEL” — *(Premieres 2024 on Disney Junior and Disney+)*

Link to talent headshots and new character images of King Triton and Ursula: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Wild Canary in association with Disney Junior

Executive Producer: Lynne Southerland

Producer: Ezra Edmond

Supervising Director: Kuni Tomita

Art Director: Chrystin Garland

Story Editors: Norma P. Sepulveda and Keith Wagner

Mykal-Michelle Harris (“Raven’s Home”) has been cast in the lead role of Ariel in **“Disney Junior’s Ariel,”** an animated musical series for preschoolers inspired by the beloved story of “The Little Mermaid.” Broadway, film and television stars Taye Diggs (“Rent”) and Amber Riley (“Glee”) will voice King Triton and Ursula in the series, which follows 8-year-old mermaid princess Ariel as she and her friends embark on fun-filled, action-packed underwater adventures throughout their Caribbean-inspired fairytale kingdom of Atlantica and beyond. In addition to Harris, Diggs and Riley, the series stars Elizabeth Phoenix Caro (“The Christmas Chronicles”) and Cruz Fleteau (“SuperKitties”) as Ariel’s friends Lucia and Fernie, respectively, and Gracen Newton (“Puppy Dog Pals”) as Flounder.

“ROBOGOBO” — *(Premieres 2024 on Disney Junior and Disney+)*

Link to series logo: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Brown Bag Films in association with Disney Junior

Creator/Executive Producer/Director: Chris Gilligan

Developed for Television by: Matt Hoverman

Story Editors: Matt Hoverman, Andy Guerda, Brandon Violette

A plethora of noteworthy stars — including Cynthia Erivo, Valerie Bertinelli, Alan Cumming, Susan Kelechi Watson, Ana Gasteyer, Alison Pill and Dulé Hill — have been cast in recurring guest star roles for Disney Junior’s next new series **“RoboGobo.”** They join a talented roster of young voice actors, including Ja’Siah Young (“Raising Dion”), Brayden Morgan (“Slumberkins”), Azuri Hardy Jones (“My Adventures with Superman”), Gracen Newton (“Puppy Dog Pals”), newcomer Leili Ahmadyar and veteran voice actor Dee Bradley Baker (“Phineas and Ferb”), who voice lead character Dax (Young) and his five adorable adopted pets, Booster, Allie, Hopper, Shelly and Wingo. After being given super-powered Robo-Suits by kid inventor Dax, the pets are on a mission to save other pets in trouble and learn how to become a family in the process.

PREMIERE DATE/MONTHS

“DOC MCSTUFFINS: THE DOC & BELLA ARE IN!” — *(Premieres Wednesday, Sept. 6, on Disney Channel and Disney Junior at 9:25 a.m. EDT/PDT; streaming same day on Disney+)*

Link to key art: [HERE](#)

Link to clip here: <https://youtu.be/PjZYbYh95kc>

Produced by: Stoopid Buddy Stoodios in association with Disney Junior

Executive Producer: Jamie Mitchell

Writer: Chelsea Beyl

Director/Producer: David H. Brooks

Supervising Producer: John Harvatine IV

In this brand new short-form series inspired by Disney Junior’s Peabody Award-winning “Doc McStuffins,” Doc welcomes Bella Bunnynose (voiced by Kate Micucci), an adorable plush bunny who dreams of being a toy doctor just like Doc. Bella joins the toys in the clinic and learns from Doc as her intern. The series’ lead voice cast, including Laya DeLeon Hayes (as Doc), Lara Jill Miller (as Lambie), Robbie Rist (as Stuffie), Jess Harnell (as Chilly) and Loretta Devine (as Hallie), will reprise their roles in the shorts.

“FIREBUDS” — *(Season two premieres in November on Disney Junior and Disney+)*

Link to “Firebuds” Forest Rescue Logo [HERE](#)

Produced by: Disney Television Animation

Creator/Executive Producer: Craig Gerber

Producer: Craig Simpson

Supervising Director: Robb Pratt

Story Editors: Krystal Banzon and Jeremy Shipp

From Emmy Award-winning creator and executive producer Craig Gerber (Disney’s “Elena of Avalor” and “Sofia the First”), “Firebuds” follows a group of friends, all children of first responders, who embark on adventures to help their community and learn what it truly means to be a hero. Building off the success of the series’ debut, season two features a forest rescue theme and finds the Firebuds crew back with some new friends and equipped with new gear to use in the great outdoors. Throughout the new season, the Firebuds embark on daring forest rescues while continuing to help their neighbors in Gearbox Grove.

“STAR WARS: YOUNG JEDI ADVENTURES” — *(New episodes premiering Nov. 8 on Disney Junior and Disney+; More new episodes coming 2024)*

Link to new episodic image: [HERE](#)

Produced by: Lucasfilm in collaboration with Wild Canary for Disney+ and Disney Junior

Showrunner/Executive Producer: Michael Olson

Executive Producers: James Waugh, Jacqui Lopez, and Josh Rimes

Supervising Director/Co-Producer: Elliot M. Bour

Consulting Producer: Lamont Magee

Set 200 years before “The Phantom Menace,” during the High Republic era, “**Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures**” follows Jedi younglings as they study the ways of the Force, explore the galaxy, help citizens and creatures in need, and learn valuable skills needed to become Jedi along the way. A new batch of episodes, including a Life Day holiday episode, will debut on Disney Junior and Disney+ on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The Life Day episode will follow Master Yoda, Master Zia and Jedi younglings Kai, Lys and Nubs as they take a trip to Kashyyyk to celebrate Life Day and learn more about the Wookiee’s holiday traditions.

**Source: Nielsen Media Research Data for time spent viewing on combined linear networks and streaming, versus all programs tracked by Nielsen. (12/26/22-6/25/23; L+7 for Linear, Live for Streaming)*

About Disney Junior

Disney Junior is a global multiplatform brand expressly geared towards preschoolers aged 2-7 and their families. With stories and characters that encapsulate signature Disney qualities of magic, music, adventure and heart, the brand is home to some of the most cherished programming and franchises for preschoolers, including Peabody Award-winning “Doc McStuffins”; current hit series “Bluey,” “SuperKitties,” “Firebuds,” “Pupstruction,” “Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures,” “Marvel’s Spidey and his Amazing Friends” and “Mickey Mouse Funhouse”; and the upcoming “Disney Junior’s Ariel.” With content created by Disney Branded Television, Disney Junior is available anytime and anywhere for families to watch and enjoy together — from the 24-hour #1 Disney Junior preschool network to the popular [Disney Junior YouTube channel](#) and streaming on Disney+.

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