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The Jetsons (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

If the Flintstones are the modern stone-age family, then the Jetsons are the quintessential

post-modern futuristic family, complete with flying cars. Following the massive commercial success of the animated classic The Flintstones (1960), Hanna-Barbera followed with additional prime-time cartoon series Top Cat (1961) and The Jetsons (1962). Cancelled after one season on ABC, The Jetsons lived on through the success of syndicated reruns on Saturday morning cartoons, through TV movies and specials, comic books, games, and toys. Its enduring success prompted Hanna-Barbera to revive the series from 1985 to 1988, using many of the same animation techniques and characters as found in the original...

The Jetsons follows the lives of George Jetson and his average middle-class family. George is a bumbling, yet kind-hearted family man who works for Spacely Sprockets, a sprocket manufacturing concern owned and run by the slave-driving dwarf Mr. Spacely. George's wife Jane is a homemaker who dials up breakfast for the family and pushes all the proper buttons necessary for cleaning the house and taking care of the domestic affairs. Son Elroy is a boy genius, and daughter Judy is a typical teenage rock-and-roller. Throw in a sarcastic robot maid named Rosie and a talking dog named Astro, and The Jetsons has all the elements of a modern TV classic. With flying cars, stilted high-rise houses, and automated gadgets for almost every conceivable form of work, the show matches The Flintstones pound-for-pound in respect to the artist/producers' breadth of creativity and imagination...

The Jetsons DVD features a number of hilarious episodes including the series premiere "Rosie the Robot" in which Jane urges George to buy a robot maid, but George feels they can't afford it. And with his boss, Mr. Spacely, due to come over for dinner, George doesn't think he can get raise out of Mr. Spacely if he sees a robot maid at the Jetson home. Meanwhile, Jane has taken a free one-day trial of an older-model 'Rosie' who makes Spacely the best dinner he's ever had, but not before he fires George, prompting Rosie to runaway from home. When the Jetson family finally tracks Rosie down, she decides to stay with the family permanently... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Rosie's Boyfriend" in which Rosie falls in love with the building super's rag-tag robot assistant, and "Miss Solar System" in which Jane enters the Miss Solar System pageant against George's wishes, not knowing that George is one of the secret judges...

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Below is a list of episodes included on The Jetsons (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Rosie the Robot) Air Date: 09-23-1962 Episode 2 (A Date with Jet Screamer) Air Date: 09-30-1962 Episode 3 (Jetsons Nite Out) Air Date: 10-07-1962 Episode 4 (The Space Car) Air Date: 10-14-1962 Episode 5 (The Coming of Astro) Air Date: 10-21-1962 Episode 6 (The Good Little Scouts) Air Date: 10-28-1962 Episode 7 (The Flying Suit) Air Date: 11-04-1962 Episode 8 (Rosie's Boyfriend) Air Date: 11-11-1962 Episode 9 (Elroy's TV Show) Air Date: 11-18-1962 Episode 10 (Uniblab) Air Date: 11-25-1962 Episode 11 (A Visit From Grandpa) Air Date: 12-02-1962 Episode 12 (Astro's Top Secret) Air Date: 12-09-1962 Episode 13 (Las Venus) Air Date: 12-16-1962 Episode 14 (Elroy's Pal) Air Date: 12-23-1962 Episode 15 (Test Pilot) Air Date: 12-30-1962 Episode 16 (Millionaire Astro) Air Date: 01-06-1963 Episode 17 (The Little Man) Air Date: 01-13-1963 Episode 18 (Jane's Driving Lesson) Air Date: 01-20-1963 Episode 19 (G.I. Jetson) Air Date: 01-27-1963 Episode 20 (Miss Solar System) Air Date: 02-03-1963 Episode 21 (Private Property) Air Date: 02-10-1963 Episode 22 (Planet Dude) Air Date: 02-17-1963 Episode 23 (TV or Not TV) Air Date: 02-24-1963

Episode 24 (Elroy's Mob) Air Date: 03-03-1963

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

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), a blog where you can find

more reviews like this one.

Recordable DVD formats explained

By Kenny Hemphill

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Picking your way through the ton of information available on recordable DVD formats can be a nightmare. To help you out, we've done our best to distill it into this summary.

There are five recordable versions of DVD; DVD-R for General, DVD-R for Authoring, DVD-RAM, DVD-RW, and DVD+RW. None of the formats is fully compatible with the other although there are drives which will read, and in some cases write to more than one format.

DVD-R for General and DVD-R for Authoring are essentially DVD versions of CD-R. And DVD-RW is a DVD version of CD-RW. All three formats can be read in standard DVD-ROM drives and in most DVD video players. The difference between DVD-R for General and DVD-R for Authoring is that DVD-R for General is a format intended for widespread consumer use and doesn't support 'professional' features such as piracy protection or duplication in mass duplicators. The Pioneer DVD-RW drive which is the most popular PC device for writing to DVD uses the DVD for General format. And as as

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the case with CD, DVD-RW is essentially the same as DVD-R except that it can be erased and written to again and again.

DVD-RAM is slightly different as it is a sector based disc which mounts on the desktop of a PC when inserted into a drive. Files can then be copied to it in the same way as any other mounted media. Some single-sided DVD-RAM discs can be removed from their caddy and inserted in a DVD-ROM drive which will then be able to read the content of the disc.

There are DVD video recorders which use the DVD-RAM format. This enables them to pull off clever tricks like timeshifting - where you can watch the beginning of a programme you have recorded while you are still recording the end on the same disc.

DVD+RW is the newest format and not supported by the DVD Forum, the body which sets the standards for DVD. However, it is supported by some of the biggest electronics and computer manufacturers, and is therefore likely to stick around.

It is also the format used by Philips in its DVD video recorders. Despite not being authorised by the DVD Forum, DVD+RW is claimed by its supporters to be compatible with more DVD video players than DVD-R and DVD+RW writers are found in PCs from quite a few manufacturers.

Kenny Hemphill is the editor and publisher of

The HDTV Tuner



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