Anna Mik, "Entry on: The Fairly OddParents (Series, S07E04): Freaks & Greeks by Earlmer Earl “Butch” Hartman IV", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Susan Deacy. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2020). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1024. Entry version as of November 21, 2026.

Earlmer Earl “Butch” Hartman IV

The Fairly OddParents (Series, S07E04): Freaks & Greeks

United States (2009)

TAGS: Artemis Centaur(s) Dionysus / Dionysos Medusa Olympus Zeus



Retrieved from flickr.com, uploaded by Fred Seibert. Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0(accessed: January 10, 2022).



General information	
Title of the work	The Fairly OddParents (Series, S07E04): Freaks & Greeks
Studio/Production Company	Nickelodeon Animation Studios, Frederator Studios, Billionfold Studios
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	Worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2009
First Edition Details	*Freaks & Greeks* (*The Fairly OddParents* series), S07E04b. Directed by Ken Bruce, Gary Conrad, Nickelodeon Animation Studios, Frederator Studios, Billionfold Studios, July 6, 2009, 12 min.
Running time	12 min
Format	DVD
Date of the First DVD or VHS	DVD – The Fairly OddParents: Season 7, Amazon exclusive, release: June 10, 2011.
Official Website	nick.co.uk (accessed: May 18, 2020).
Available Onllne	Some episodes are available at: youtube.com (accessed: May 18, 2020).

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Awards	The series got multiple nominations and awards, among others: 2002 and 2003 – BMI Film & TV Awards – BMI Cable Award for Butch Hartman, Ron Jones, and Guy Moon; 2004 – 31th Annie Awards – Outstanding Storyboarding in an Animated Television Production – Dave Thomas (“Pipe down”); 2005 – 57th Primetime Emmy Awards – Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation – Gordon Hammond (“Shelf Life”); 2010 – 37th Daytime Emmy Awards – Outstanding Sound Mixing – Live Action and Animation – Michael Beiriger and Ray Leonard and for Dave Thomas (“Dadbracadbra”).
Genre	Animated television programs
Target Audience	Children (and cross-over)
Author of the Entry	Anna Mik, University of Warsaw, anna.m.mik@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton, s.deacy@roehampton.ac.uk

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Butch Hartman by Gage Skidmore, 2009. Retrieved from Wikimedia Commons, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 (accessed: January 10, 2022).

Earlmer Earl “Butch” Hartman IV , b. 1965 (Director)

Earlmer Earl “Butch” Hartman IV is an American animator, illustrator, YouTuber, and voice actor. During his studies at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA, he participated in some major projects, inter alia: *My Little Pony* (Hasbro Studios) and *Pocahontas* (Walt Disney Pictures). However, his input was not significant. After gaining relevant experience working for these companies, he started to work for other big animation companies, like Hanna-Barbera and Cartoon Network. Not being recognized right away, Hartman’s famous works came later in his career: *T.U.F.F. Puppy* (TV-series, 2010–2015), *Bunsen is a Beast* (TV-series, 2004–2009; 2017–2018), and *The Fairly OddParents* (TV-series, 2001–2017). Currently, Hartman runs his own company Billionfold Inc. (which produced *The Fairly OddParents* for Nickelodeon), as well as the YouTube channel: Hobby Family TV (link; formerly – HobbyKids Adventures). He lives with his family in Bell Canyon, California.

Bio prepared by Anna Mik, University of Warsaw, anna.m.mik@gmail.com

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Additional information

Casting	Timmy Turner – Tara Strong, Wanda/Mom – Susanne Blakeslee, Cosmo/Dad – Daran Norris, Vicky/Medusa/Artemis – Grey Griffin, Mr. Crocker – Carlos Alazraqui, Zeus – Kevin Michael Richardson, Poseidon/Dionysus – S. Scott Bullock.
Adaptations	Among others: *The Fairly Oddparents…* *… Enter the Cleft!* – Game Boy Advanced (2002). *…Breakin’ da Rules* – Game Boy Advanced, Game Cube, Play Station 2, Xbox, Windows – exclusively in North America (2003). *…Shadow Showdown* – Game Boy Advanced, Game Cube, Play Station 2, Windows (2004). *…Clash with the Anti-World* – Game Boy Advanced (2005).
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	Previous episode (4a): *Bad Heir Day.* The following episode (5a): *Micecapades.*
Summary	The premise of the series is as follows: Timmy Tuner is a 10-year old only child living with his parents on the suburbs of Dimmsdale, a fictional town somewhere in California. Every time Mom and Dad (we don’t know their names) go out, they leave him with the evil 16 year-

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

old-babysitter, Vicky. The life with dull parents (they are clueless most of the time and have rather stupid ideas) and a wicked teenager changes when the Fairly OddParents, Wanda and Cosmo, appear out of nowhere to grant the boy’s wishes. Almost every time they get Timmy in trouble and ultimately teach him a valuable life lesson. The show is kept in a humorous, sometimes even absurd, style

In the episode *Freaks & Greeks* Mom and Dad are leaving for a Toga Party to eat traditional – according to them – Greek food, French fries. Before they leave, Mom instructs Timmy to keep an eye on the collection of glass figurines she preserves in her precious cabinet. As usual, the parents leave Timmy with Vicky, someone who is so mean that she brings snakes to babysit the child. Luckily for the boy, Cosmo and Wanda come to help and send the teenager to a basement. Now Timmy can have a toga party of his own.

The boy and his OddParents go to Mount Olympus, where the party never stops. Here they meet the king of parties, Zeus, and other gods known from Greek mythology. The party resembles college affairs, with a lot of crazy games and no sense of responsibility. Unfortunately, the fun is disrupted by the appearance of Medusa. As one of the gods states: “She’s pure evil! She turns people to stone but worse of all, she double dips!”. In panic, Timmy accidentally destroys Olympus (columns falling like dominos resemble the scene from Disney’s *Hercules*). Now, the gods have to move the party somewhere else – and they choose Timmy’s house.

The party is now led by Elvis the centaur. The human world fascinates the gods: Zeus loves the toaster, Poseidon the toilet, and Artemis the TV. Ultimately, the Olympic gods seem rather dull and shallow, as all they care to do is to party. Not being very responsible, they almost destroy Mom’s cabinet, which drives Timmy crazy. Finally, the gods are scared off by Vicky, who escapes from the basement. With snakes in her hair, she resembles Medusa. The gods go back to Olympus (renovated thanks to Wanda’s magical skills and taste) and Vicky once again disappears in another floor trap. When Mom and Dad come back, Timmy sighs with relief – and with his breath destroys fragile glass figurines. Luckily, Mom is not mad, on the contrary, she is thrilled that now she can collect other pointless items – the shattered glass pieces.

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Analysis

Freaks & Greeks is a light take on the popular idea of Greek mythology. Gods and goddesses presented in the episode are clueless, shallow, and gregarious. Their powers serve them only to have fun, not to legitimise their authority over humans (potentially, they could interfere with human’s lives, they just do not care that much). The life on Olympus is an endless, crazy party. But wasn’t it, in a way, also the case of the already existing pop-cultural “prototype”?

The cartoon representation of the ancient world suggests that mythical gods and goddesses created dramatic situations, engaged in scandalous romances, and behaved irresponsibly mainly in order to relieve boredom of immortal life. When divine creatures are in Timmy’s house, they are fascinated by everything surrounding them – but it is all a party for them. The gods, just like Timmy’s parents, are not accountable or wise – they are more immature than the 10-year old protagonist. *Freaks & Greeks* not only presents a satirical view of mythological “reality,” but also of adulthood in general indulging in its own ridiculous activities – like for instance, pointless collecting useless items.

In the episode we observe also a very stereotypical depiction of Medusa. In the mythical universe the archetypical monster is clearly an antagonist who threatens the Olympic party. On earth, the role of Medusa is assumed by Vicky, the series’ antagonist. The Gorgon in the cartoon is a ‘party pooper’, not necessarily a horrific beast. Maybe due to the cartoon style of animation, with plenty of slap-stick jokes and rather basic humour, it was not possible to present this character in a different light. Cartoons have rather fast pace, while the alternative forms of animation, like *Mythopolis* by Alexandra Májová have the ability to explore the Medusa’s character in more in-depth manner.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Artemis Centaur(s) Dionysus / Dionysos Medusa Olympus Zeus

Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth

Abandonment Adversity Authority Child, children Humour Parents (and children) Pop culture references

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Culture

Further Reading

Bignell, Jonathan, *Postmodern Media Culture*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000.

Kelen, Christopher and Björn Sundmark, eds., *Child Autonomy and Child Governance in Children’s Literature: Where Children Rule*, London, New York, NY: Routledge, 2017.

Parandowski, Jan, *Mitologia. Wierzenia i podania Greków i Rzymian* [Mythology. Beliefs and Legends of Greeks and Romans], Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 1989 (ed. pr. 1924).

Singer, Dorothy G. and Jerome L. Singer, eds., *Handbook of Children and the Media*, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publication, Inc., 2012.

Addenda

Translations: multiple languages

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.