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CP 470A.002
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Impromptu Assignment 2

A breakdown of roles in episodes of three television shows.

1.) The Venture Bros.: s5e4: "Spanakopita" (original air date: 6/23/2013)

Here is the description of "Jonny Quest" (1954) on its IMDB page: "The Quest family and their bodyguard investigate strange phenomena and battle villains around the world." "The Venture Bros." (2003-present) borrows the "Jonny Quest" conceit and sets in its own unique universe. The show has since grown its own legs, in part by having almost every main character undergo an existential crisis.

Like the Quests, the Venture "family" is entirely male, as are most peripheral characters. The most prominent female character in the series is "Dr. Mrs. The Monarch (sic)" (formerly known as Dr. Girlfriend) and despite having the body of a pinup model, she has the voice of a perennially heavy smoking male truck driver.

Creator Jackson Publick once commented that the show is "a boy's club" (citation lacking. I saw it once on Youtube). I chose the episode "Spanakopita" to emphasize the show's predominantly male-centric cast of characters. That said, I have no conclusions to make, other than to confirm that Publick's "boy's club" comment is indeed accurate. The reasoning is less clear and, as a huge fan of the show, I continue to wonder why Publick and co-writer Doc Hammer maintain such an aversion to creating more than a few compelling non-male characters in its ever-increasing cast amongst its (at this point, five seasons in) sea of swinging dicks.

The following are main and/or recurring characters on the show:

Dr. Venture - present day adult super-scientist
- - aka **Rusty Venture** (via flashbacks) - unwitting child star of "The Rusty Venture Show."
Brock Samson - former Venture family bodyguard.
Sgt. Hatred - present Venture family bodyguard.
Dean Venture - twin son of Dr. Venture. Age: late teens.
Hank Venture - twin son of Dr. Venture. Age: late teens.
Billy Quizboy - friend of Dr. Venture; lives in a trailer with Pete White.
Pete White - friend of Dr. Venture; lives in a trailer with Billy Quizboy.
Augustus St. Cloud - arbitrary antagonist to Dr. Venture.
Jonas Venture Sr. - Dr. Venture's deceased father (shown only in flashbacks).
Action Man - member of team Venture under Jonas Venture (shown only in flashbacks).
Col. Gentleman - member of team Venture under Jonas Venture (shown only in flashbacks).

The following characters appear in this episode only (to date):

Giorgos - Greek islander, leader of a curious annual event known as “Spanakopita.”

L. Ron - Transparently, he is the villainous spirit of L. Ron Hubbard, reanimated via a robotic vessel.

Jackie - (in flashback) She is clearly supposed to be JFK’s widow, Jacqueline Onassis.

Greek Lady 1 - of which her preteen son bears uncanny resemblance to Brock Samson.

Greek Lady 2 - of which her preteen son bears uncanny resemblance to Brock Samson.

Greek Widows - (in dream sequence) they are in the show to run screaming from Augustus St. Cloud as manifested as a Kraken.

2.) Blossom: s1e8: “The Geek”

Yeah, so, umm, I started watching Blossom over the summer. In this episode, she illogically (I can’t emphasize that enough) finds herself going to homecoming with a geek named Fred Fogerty. Others confirm that Fred’s a super-geek. She even has a dream where ALF (yes, ALF) is the guardian to the gates of heaven, and refuses to let Blossom in after finding out she went on a date with a geek. She dumps Fred, feels guilty, goes back to him, then finds out Fred already has another date. Fred even tells her off, saying, “did you really expect me to jump at the chance of going to the dance with you after the way you treated me?” Lesson learned. But, her family is there for her. Her father tells her how he used to be a geek, but he got over it. Now Blossom understands that geeks grow up to become cool people, like, for example, Mikhail Gorbachev.

I must say, the whole Geeks and Jocks thing is among the most annoying contrivances in popular culture.

Blossom Russo - All things considered, a spunky and bright, well-adjusted young lady; currently being raised by a single father and two older brothers.

Six LeMueure - Blossom’s best friend.

Nick Russo - Dad. He’s a good Dad.

Anthony Russo - Oldest brother, a young adult, living back home post-drug-rehab. He suggests to Blossom that she not succumb to peer pressure like he did, with all those drugs and stuff.

Joey Russo - Dim-witted middle child.

(Blossom’s mother - n/a.)

Fred Fogerty - A geek, because Blossom’s peers say so. He wears black rim glasses.

ALF - Remember ALF? Well, here he is. Same network, I guess.

Jordan Taylor - A cool jock who Blossom likes. He wears a letter jacket, and is WASP-y.

3. The Simpsons, s4e10: “Lisa’s First Word.”

It’s “Bart.” That’s Lisa’s first word, it turns out, followed by “Mommy,” “David Hasselhoff,” and “Homer.” Anyway, it’s one of my favorite episodes of the show. In class, Dr. Leigh brought up the way babies are identified as either male or female, based on clothing style, clothing color, length of hair, etc.

In this episode, told mostly in flashbacks, Bart as a toddler imagines his future younger sibling (the eventual Lisa). In these sequences, Bart conceives of ways to exploit his younger brother or sister. He draws on a wall, blames it on the baby. He uses the baby to prop up a board to make a ramp for his big wheel. He spills milk and uses the baby's diaper to clean it up. Obviously, he doesn't know the baby yet; that it will be who we all come to know as Lisa. The baby that the illustrators came up with appears to be an attempt to omit distinction toward being either male or female. The baby is nude save for a diaper, has a slightly darker skin tone, one tooth, and one curly hair. This imaginary sequence takes place immediately after Marge says to Bart, "you're going to have a little brother or sister to play with!" What am I to conclude? I'm not sure. Maybe nothing.

Homer Simpson -

Marge Simpson -

Bart Simpson -

Lisa Simpson -

Maggie Simpson -

Chipwhich salesman -

Stickball gang

Housewife on stairs

Housewife in windowsill

Bart's imaginary unisex younger sibling

Johnny Carson

Patty

Selma

Real Estate Agent - A cheerful feller who helps Marge and Homer find their house.

Melted Hogfat employee 1 -

Melted Hogfat employee 2 - nods

Sea Captain

Great White Shark - in the literal sense

Cats who inherited a house -

Abe Simpson

Todd Flanders

Ned Flanders

Itchy

Scratchy

Krusty

Sideshow Bob

Krusty's male assistant

Krusty's female assistant

Bart's scary clown bed

Male Olympic commentator

Female Olympic commentator

Female Olympic swimmers -

Rod Flanders
Grandma Flanders - "Hello Joe!"
Korean Gymnast Kim Huang
Drederick Tatum
Tatum's opponent
Howard Cosell
Chief Wiggum
Dr. Hibbert