



A television program for children ages 5 & up

Join Dave and Augie on their hilarious travels as they learn
about the most important historical figures and places
in the United States of America.



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If they're laughing, they're learning

Table of Contents

Reviews	3
Festivals	3
Short Summary	4
Target Audience	4
The Concept	4
Character Descriptions	5
Marketing	7
Key Personnel	8
About Freggie Productions	9
List of Episodes	10

Reviews

- ★ “I haven't learned so much from a kid show since Schoolhouse Rock’ taught me how a bill becomes a law. **This pilot is hip, funny, and crammed with information.** In spite of its user-friendly drive-by pacing, it manages to convey its data in such a way that you pay attention as well as remember. Dave and Augie are **reminiscent but not derivative of the Muppets**, and Hillary Scott is really wonderful as their human counterpart.”

Professor Robert Thompson
Director of the Center for the Study of
Popular Television at Syracuse University
NYTVF Juror Educational Category

- ★ “Interesting, good information. **Entertaining to...kids and parents as well. Cool muppets.**”

KIDS FIRST! Film Festival Adult Jurors

- ★ “[The children] were **glued to the TV the entire time** and danced along to the song at the end”

KIDS FIRST! Kid Jurors

- ★ “...offers an **interesting perspective** on a slice of American history...”

School Library Journal (Dec 2005)

- ★ “3 out of 5 apples”

A+ Educational Videos

- ★ “...will keep young viewers' interest...**entertaining and informative...**”

Booklist (Jan 1 & 15, 2006)

Festivals

- ★ KIDS FIRST! Film Festival - 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2006
- ★ KIDS FIRST! Best of the Best Film Festival - October 14, 2006
- ★ New York Television Festival - September 12-17, 2006

Short Summary

The Adventures of Dave and Augie follows two fun-loving puppets on their hilarious travels as they learn about the most important historical figures and monuments in the USA.

Target Audience

The Adventures of Dave and Augie is targeted at children ages 5 & up, their parents and caregivers as an educational, yet highly entertaining, video for the whole family. It is also targeted at elementary school teachers (grades kindergarten & up) as an engaging, educational video that aids in teaching key social studies concepts.

The Concept

Often, when children think of “history” they also think “boring,” but they quickly change their minds once they have seen Freggie Production’s *The Adventures of Dave and Augie*, a fun and entertaining program that keeps kids glued to the television screen while teaching them about key figures and places in United States history.

Each episode contains two educational segments in which a pair of exuberant puppets, Dave and Augie, and their human friend, Hillary, explain the significance of a person and/or place through on-location video, stills, animation, and the chroma-key insertion of the puppets and/or host into the live action scenes. All of the footage is edited together at a lively, visually-appealing pace, but not so quickly that the information doesn’t come across and sink in.

The two on-location sections are followed by what we call “Game Show Segments”, which are hosted by an upper-crust, intellectual, dinosaur puppet named Rex Dino. During the game shows, Mr. Dino takes three main points from the educational, on-location segments and then poses them as a multiple choice question. Three puppet contestants “ring in” to answer the question. Sometimes they’re right, and sometimes they’re hilariously wrong. When the puppets are wrong, Rex corrects them in his usual snooty way with asides to the audience. The whole idea behind the game show segments is to reinforce the information the audience has learned.

The show ends with a short wrap up segment with Dave, Augie, and Hillary talking about why the presented person or place means so much to the country. Then a puppet band, named Wolfgang and Dirty, Jim, Socks, treats us to a catchy music video that reiterates each episode’s information to the tunes of rap, rock, reggae, R&B, etc. The musical arrangements are purposely not “childish” since children’s tastes today tend to be more mature. These catchy songs are something that children and their parents will be singing all day long, which means that they will continue to learn all day long.

Character Descriptions

The Adventures of Dave and Augie stars Dave and Augie and their cast of puppet friends who participate in the game show segments and music videos.



Fun-loving and energetic, **Dave** is one of the hosts of *The Adventures of Dave and Augie*. He loves to explore new landmarks with his best friend Augie.



The other puppet host of *The Adventures of Dave and Augie*, **Augie** is Dave's best friend. He is a little bit more laid back and usually keeps Dave in check.



A slightly sarcastic and charming dinosaur with a brain much bigger than a peanut, **Rex Dino** is the quiz master of the game shows.



The thespian's thespian, **Sir Richmond Drake** is another of the game show contestants. He's a little uptight but loveable.



Janie is another silly game show contestant who's a bit of an airhead.



Dirty is the bass player in the band Wolfgang, and Dirty, Jim, Socks. He's a little dizzy, but it doesn't stop him from trying to answer questions on the game show.



With dreadlocks, sunglasses, and a voice like Leon Redbone, **Wolfgang** is the epitome of cool. He is the lead singer of the band Wolfgang and Dirty, Jim, Socks

Marketing

The Adventures of Dave and Augie is currently being sold through two DVD catalogue websites:

The first is The Library Video Company, the largest educational video distributor in the United States, which has been distributing our line of videos nationwide since September 2002. This prestigious company has been crucial for getting our tapes into the hands of librarians, teachers and parents.

The second is KIDS FIRST!, the ultimate resource for quality children's entertainment, which is also host to the largest film festival for children. This organization has been instrumental in bringing us to the attention of children and parents across the country through their quarterly festivals and their online educational media catalogue.

We are currently in the process of contacting additional distributors for the inclusion of our videos in their catalogues and are seeking out additional film festivals to use as a venue for presenting our program to a larger audience. Last September 2006, for example, we participated to great acclaim in the New York Television Festival for independent pilot producers.

In addition to these marketing efforts, we post amusing viral videos starring Dave and Augie at MySpace, YouTube, Google Video and Yahoo Video to build word-of-mouth about the program. These videos attract people to our website by offering them a chance to play a fun game and win a prize.

Finally, we carry out direct email campaigns on the elementary teacher's market to attract them to our website with fun, yet educational, games, quizzes and activities that can be used both online and offline in the classroom as a supplement to the videos.

Key Personnel

Gregory Ciano - Producer/Director/Puppeteer/Co-Writer

Gregory will be drawing on his experience as the producer and head puppeteer on *The Rex Dino Show*, for which he also wrote or co-wrote most of the sketches. He has been fascinated with puppets since the age of seven when he first began performing for family and friends. Later he produced and performed live puppet shows on the boardwalks of the Jersey Shore, and performed puppet re-enactments of fairy-tales for birthday parties with The Party Pleasers Company. His more recent credits include camera-operator for various projects including *Shooting Cars* for the Speed Channel and *NY Actor's Showcase* for the Metro Channel. His academic credentials include study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and at Weist Baron in New York City.

Dawn Marie Frascaria – Producer/Educational Development Researcher/Co-writer

Dawn's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in History and International Studies from the University of Richmond and a Master of Arts degree in History (magna cum laude) from Emory University. Dawn has also had ample experience teaching children during her years as an English teacher in Italy.

Brandon J. Herman – Director of Photography

Brandon has worked as a freelance director and cameraperson in the corporate video sector for numerous organizations and businesses, including pharmaceutical companies and law offices. He recently produced and directed a video for the American Syringomyelia Alliance Project Inc. that is currently being shown at hospitals, medical conferences, and fundraisers across the country. Brandon has also directed music videos for local bands; produce several short films and television programs including *NY Actor's Showcase* for the Metro Channel. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film-Making from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Michael Ricci - Composer/Puppeteer

Michael has been a musician since he took up the drums at the age of ten. Since then, he has taught himself how to play piano and guitar. Michael has played with several original and cover bands throughout the United States and abroad and has written and recorded numerous songs. He also contributed as a composer and puppeteer on *The Rex Dino Show*.

Hillary Scott – Actress

Hillary spent several seasons on the Daytime Dramas *One Life to Live* and *Another World* as well as booked many local and national commercials. She is a graduate of Professional Performing Arts School in Manhattan and is currently studying photography at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Lucille Gentile – Education Specialist

Lucille is a retired elementary school teacher with twenty-five years experience teaching every subject and every grade (1-5). She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the Hunter College in New York City and her Masters in Education from Wagner College in Staten Island, New York.

About Freggie Productions

The Adventures of Dave and Augie is produced by Freggie Productions, a production company based in Hightstown, New Jersey and owned by Gregory Ciano. Gregory founded the company in 1999 to provide high-quality, entertaining, educational videos/DVD's for children. The company's slogan is: "If they're laughing, they're learning."

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List of Episodes

African American History

- ★ Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site – Atlanta, GA
- ★ Anti-slavery Movement
 - Part 1: Boston African American National Historic Site – Boston, MA
 - Part 2: Frederick Douglass National Historic Site – Washington D.C.
- ★ Nicodemus National Historic Site – Nicodemus, KS
- ★ The Underground Railroad
 - Part 1: Harriet Tubman Home – Auburn, NY
 - Part 2: The Rokeby Site – Ferrisburgh, VT
- ★ Booker T Washington National Monument – Hardy, VA

Great American Women

- ★ Women's Rights National Historic Park – Seneca Falls, NY
- ★ Susan B. Anthony House – Rochester, NY
- ★ The Clara Barton National Historic Site - Glen Echo, MD
- ★ Betsy Ross House – Philadelphia, PA
- ★ The Harriet Beecher Stowe House and Library – Hartford, CT
- ★ Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site – Richmond, VA

Civil War

- ★ Gettysburg National Park – Gettysburg, PA
- ★ Arlington House – Robert E. Lee Memorial – McLean, VA
- ★ Home of Ulysses S. Grant – Saint Louis, MO
- ★ The Siege of Petersburg and the End of the Civil War
 - Part 1: City Point & the Petersburg National Battlefield – Petersburg, VA
 - Part 2: Appomattox Court House – Appomattox, VA

The Seeds of Revolution

- ★ Independence National Historical Park – Philadelphia, PA
- ★ Boston National Historic Park – Boston, MA

Revolutionary War

- ★ Washington's Crossing – Washington Crossing, PA, and Trenton, NJ
- ★ Minute Man National Historical Park – Concord, MA
- ★ Morristown National Historical Park – Lincoln and Lexington, MA
- ★ Valley Forge – Valley Forge, PA Morristown, NJ
- ★ Yorktown National Battlefield – Yorktown VA

Great American Presidents

- ★ George Washington – Mount Vernon – Alexandria, VA
- ★ Thomas Jefferson – Monticello – Charlottesville, VA

- ★ John Adams National Historical Park – Quincy, MA
- ★ Abraham Lincoln
 - Part 1: Boyhood Home – Hodgenville, KY
 - Part 2: Lincoln Home – Springfield, IL
- ★ Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt
 - Part 1: Home of Franklin Roosevelt– Hyde Park, NY
 - Part 2: Home of Eleanor Roosevelt – Hyde Park, NY
- ★ John F. Kennedy National Historic Site – Brookline, MA
- ★ Theodore Roosevelt – Sagamore Hill National Historic Site - Oyster Bay, NY

Immigration

- ★ Lower East Side Tenement Museum – New York, NY
- ★ Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island – New York, NY and Jersey City, NJ

Arrival of Europeans

- ★ Attempts at Colonization
 - Part 1: Fort Raleigh National Historic Site – Manteo NC
 - Part 2: Jamestown National Historic Site – James City County, VA

Colonial Living

- ★ Colonial Williamsburg - Williamsburg, VA
- ★ Philipsburg Manor – Sleepy Hollow (Hudson Valley) NY

Inventors

- ★ Edison National Historic Site – West Orange, NJ

Pioneers

- ★ Daniel Boone Homestead – Birdsboro, PA

19th Century Living

- ★ Orchard House – Concord, MA
- ★ Old Sturbridge Village – Sturbridge, MA
- ★ Cane River National Heritage Area – Natchitoches, LA

Transportation

- ★ Dayton Aviation Heritage – Dayton, OH
- ★ Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site – Gallitzin, PA

Industrial Revolution

- ★ Lowell National Historical Park – Lowell, MA
- ★ Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site – Hyde Park, NY
- ★ Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor – Worcester County, MA and Providence County, RI

Religion

The Shakers

Part 1: Watervliet Shaker Historic District – Colonie, NY

Part 2: Enfield Shakers Historic District - Enfield, NH