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#### **Star Wars: Clone Wars** 7 p.m. **Cartoon Network**

For the past few weeks, science-fiction adventure fans have been caught up in a massive new show of miniscule proportions. "Star Wars: Clone Wars" may be the newest installment in the Star Wars saga, but fans are eating up these bite-size animated shorts detailing the wartime events that devastate the Star Wars universe between Episode II and Episode III. Directed by Genndy Tartakovsky, the ultra-talented creator of "Samurai Jack" and "Dexter's Laboratory," each installment in the miniseries packs an action-packed punch for its micro-size. Each episode runs less then 10 minutes in

In the episodes that have aired, audiences have been reintroduced to the Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, as they lead an army of clone troopers into a universe encompassing war. New dark Jedi and good Jedi have also been introduced in the short vignettes featuring the many battlefields of the Clone Wars. Interesting new characters include Kit Fisto, an amphibious warrior who packs a mean force blast and Asajj Ventress, a sinisterly violent vixen with ties to the Sith.

With no real room for exposition, the show quickly delves deep into action in adrenalinepumping scenes of epic proportions. From an aquatic attack on giant cannons to a harrowing lightsaber duel between Kenobi and a hulking cyborg, each episode delivers a fair share of acting. The use of classic Star Wars fanfare intercut with breakneck editing keeps even the most attention deficit child in rapt attention.

While none of the actors from the cartoon's cinematic counterpart lend their voices to the characters, each main character's voice actor delivers an admirable impersonation of the legendary heroes. So uncanny are the imitations, one will not be able to differentiate between the whinny piercing voice of the animated Anakin Skywalker from Hayden Christensen.

While the prequel trilogy has not had the best critical reviews, the cartoon series forgoes all the stiff dialogue and stuffy exposition that George Lucas has crammed into his new movies and delivers an action-packed cartoon short that delivers in all counts. The show's initial 10 episodes are almost over, but they will live a long and prosperous life in reruns on the cartoon network along with mini-marathons of all the shorts put together. All the previously shown cartoons can also be accessed on Cartoon Network's Web site with decent quality and lightning-fast speed. The next 10 segments will be shown in May with a DVD release of the complete series sometime before the release of Episode III in 2005.

-- Robert Saucedo



#### **Arrested Development** 8:30 p.m. Sundays FOX

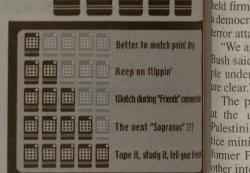
"Firefly." "Family Guy." "Action." All the shows had two things in common: they were fresh voice on network television offering ups of the best entertainment available. They were also cancelled by Fox just as they were hitti stride. With Fox's notorious reputation for an good shows that didn't meet their intimidat expectations, it is no surprise that "Arrested Development," arguably the best new sitcomi season, is in danger of being cancelled before viewers discover its brilliant premise and smart clever humor. Likened to Wes Anderson's cin matic masterpiece "The Royal Tenenbaums" Fox's new Ron Howard-produced sitcom is put

"Arrested Development" stars Jason Bateman star of the decidedly substandard "Teen Wolf To in a much welcomed return to public eye. Bateman plays nice guy Michael Bluth, son of financially crooked entrepreneur. After his fall is arrested in a government sting, Michael mu save his family from bankruptcy. Especially poignant in a time in which white-collarcing have dominated headlines, this topical but often clichéd plot is given a hilarious face lift grea to the outstanding ensemble cast that include ever-hilarious David Cross as Tobias Funke. Michael Bluth's live-in brother-in-law.

With only a few episodes under its belt, "Arrested Development" has already seen in laugh-inducing plot twists than most of NBC sitcoms will manage in their entire run. From Michael Bluth's son's unnatural fondness for first cousin to Tobias' quest to become an actor spontaneous and unpredictable nature of the is sidesplitting droll. Featuring a rich cast of ext tric family members, "Arrested Developmen" shows potential to be a show that will be come ously amusing.

One of the show's quirkier aspects is its close use of flashbacks to tell uproarious side-stone When Michael Bluth's magician of a brothera dentally kills his newest pigeon purchase, he embarks on a mission to find a way to retunt deceased bird to the pet store for full cash rein bursement.

Fans of offbeat and original sitcoms should check out "Arrested Development" while the A refreshing break from the dull rehashes and unfunny shows that have plagued networks it son, "Arrested Development" is a winner in a sense. As networks begin the process of axing standard sitcoms, audiences unfortunately ma have much longer to check this new show out



#### Rap and R&B dominate Grammy Eminem and "Hey Ya!" from OutKast. The how

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York (AP) - Rap and R&B have been consistent chart-toppers for the last few years, but in 2003 they took over pop music — and the Grammy nominations on Thursday.

The year's top-selling artist: rapper 50 Cent. Two of the year's biggest hits came from R&B singer Beyonce. In October, every spot on Billboard's top 10 singles chart was held by a rap or R&B artist.

Grammy voters took notice, doling out six nominations each to Beyonce, Jay-Z, OutKast and Pharrell Williams.

"Hip-hop is at its most commercial point," Andre 3000 of the rap duo OutKast told The Associated Press. "It's pretty poppy, and it's popular this year."

Five nominations apiece went to Missy Elliott, Eminem, Evanescence, 50 Cent, Chad Hugo, Ricky Skaggs, Justin Timberlake, the ailing Luther Vandross and the late Warren Zevon.

Four of the five nominees for record of the year fell into the rap or R&B category: Beyonce's "Crazy in Love," "Where Is The Love," by The Black Eyed Peas & Justin Timberlake, "Lose Yourself," by

ing rock group Coldplay's song "Clocks" was only exception.

And rap and R&B also dominated the albu the year category: Missy Elliott's "U Construction"; "Speakerboxxx/The Love Bell by OutKast; and "Justified," from Timber which had the former boy-band star reach into R for his first solo effort. The White Strip "Elephant" and "Fallen" from goth not Evanescence rounded out the category.

However, 50 Cent's "Get Rich or Die Try which sold more than 6 million copies, was shi of the major categories. It was nominated exclusion ly for rap awards, although 50 Cent himself nominated for best new artist, along Evanescence, R&B singer Heather Headley, the pop group Fountains of Wayne and Sean Paul

Beyonce's nominations were no surprise solo debut apart from Destiny's Child, "Cra Love," has sold more than two million cope made her a superstar. Jay-Z's "Blueprint 2: The & The Curse" was also a multiplatinum dis OutKast's highly acclaimed "SpeakerBoxu Love Below" was mentioned as a Grammy in even before its release this fall.

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