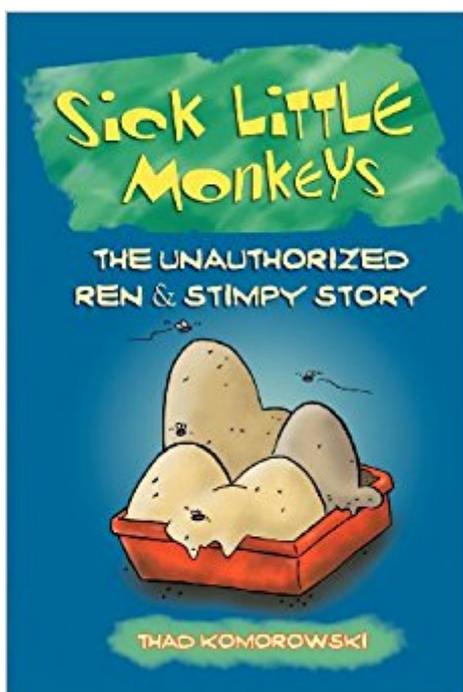


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# Sick Little Monkeys: The Unauthorized Ren & Stimpy Story



## Synopsis

In the 1990s animation boom, The Ren & Stimpy Show stood supreme. Through vigorous draftsmanship, charismatic voices, irreverent sight gags, crass humor, and stellar character acting, animation's most talented and disturbed artists created an entity for the Nickelodeon cable network that pulled the art form out of a 25-year rut. The world has never been quite the same since - and we're eternally grateful! Now you too can join the rollercoaster ride that is the fascinating, insane real-life story of art, money, and ego that gave birth to Ren Höek and Stimpson J. Cat. History Eraser Buttons need not apply. No stone has been unturned, no magic nose goblin unpicked, in this extensively detailed history of the show that defined a generation and changed an entire medium. It's everything you wanted to know about Ren & Stimpy - but were afraid to ask!

## Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: BearManor Media; 1st Edition edition (February 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1593932340

ISBN-13: 978-1593932343

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #418,063 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Reference #240 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Animation #7357 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts

## Customer Reviews

"A compelling cautionary tale of rags-to-riches success in Hollywood, Thad Komorowski's book documents the entire story behind Nickelodeon's first cartoon hit, The Ren & Stimpy Show, utilizing extensive interviews with the program's key players -- including the cartoonists, network executives, and voice actors -- justifying the show's important role in the recent history of animation. A great read." -- Jerry Beck, Animation Historian and Co-Founder of Cartoon Brew

"The behind-the-scenes drama was even stranger and more outrageous than the actual animated television series and Thad Komorowski tells the tale with no punches pulled." - Jim Korkis, Author of The Revised Vault of Walt

"Thad Komorowski's *Sick Little Monkeys* is perhaps the most thoroughly researched and extensive attempt to shed real light and clarity on the matter. From the outset his approach is

candid and, most refreshingly, without allegiance to any party in particular. "Ultimately, The Ren & Stimpy Show comes across as a radical gamble that was doomed from the outset by its own audacity. Its flaws, multitudinous though they may be, contribute to its charm and its place as contemporary animation's biggest anomaly and, simultaneously, its most important saviour." - Ben Mitchell, "Skwigly" "If you are not a fan of the show, this book is still worth reading for the light it sheds on the workings of the TV animation business. There is always tension between artists and business people over resources and content. People working in TV animation and those with ambitions to create shows need to understand the pressures and the pitfalls that shape the business. Sick Little Monkeys is a cautionary tale about walking the fine line between artistic ambition and the reality of the marketplace." - Mark Mayerson, Animation Professor and Proprietor of Mayerson on Animation "The most remarkable take-away from the book is just how intense the animation world is, considering how small the field, and how difficult it is was to create an animated show that wasn't beholden to marketing campaigns and the canned laughter approach of the cartoon world from the 50s through the 80s. If you were/still are a fan of Ren & Stimpy, the book will definitely give you a real perspective that you didn't have before. Truly a must-read." - Elizabeth Weitz, Forces of Geek

Simply put, if you're a Ren and Stimpy fan, this is a must-have book. It offers all sorts of behind-the-scenes tidbits about one of the best shows to come out of the '90s. Don't let the word "unauthorized" fool you; despite not having cooperation from John K., this book is rich with quotes from former staff members and details that, let's face it, probably wouldn't come out in an autobiography or an official studio-sponsored book. "Sick Little Monkeys" give us an idea of what it was like to work at Spumco, but it also provides a fair critique of the man himself, John K. Too many opinions of the Ren and Stimpy creator are either blind praise or seething venom, but Thad does a good job of treading the middle ground: He does praise some of his cartoons and admires what he brought back to TV animation (i.e. the creator-driven approach), but isn't above pointing out his flaws, as well as offering ways he could've better succeeded on the show (in a "hindsight is 20/20" kind of way). So if you're a John K. fanboy and are concerned this book is nothing but a bashing session, don't be. Favorite parts of the book: The animator breakdowns for two famous episodes; the party story about setting meats on John K.'s head that would later be used in the episode "Reverend Jack Cheese"

For anyone who is interested in hearing more about Ren and Stimpy and learning more about its

troubled production, this book is completely fascinating. I highly recommend it

A delight for anyone who is a fan of animation, studio politics, or, of course, Ren & Stimpy. Astutely written and very informative.

This is a must read if you are a fan of the show, or TV.

I enjoyed this book.

Thoroughly researched and full of previously-unknown trivia about the creation of a beloved TV series, this book can't be recommended enough. It's even-handed and unbiased in its portrayal of all parties involved in the show, and also includes an extensive episode guide. It puts the show into perspective in the entire history of animation, comparing it to what came before and after. Above all, it tells a compelling rags-to-riches-to-self-destruction showbiz story. If you have even a passing interest in the Ren and Stimpy Show, or the workings of the animation industry in general, you owe it to yourself to read this wonderful book.

maybe for animation geeks only but this highly detailed report on the rise and fall of one of animations most influential shows and its creators has captivated me, read it in almost one go , there were indeed some sick little monkeys working on R&S

I was there, and lived and worked through some of the series, and knew some of the principals personally. A good behind-the-scenes ( albeit, shallow) look at the travails of this trend-setting cartoon. There was some new info here ( for me) and some confirmation of old tales told about some of the dramas that went on. There's heaps more stories and anecdotes that can be told of the day-to-days, many of which are hysterically funny and some poignant, and a few that are even disturbing, but that would call for a book at least double in size of this. The book is an easy read, and looks to be well-enough researched. Its not a typical story though, so as an insight into animated productions it is VERY skewed towards a particularly troubled series and thus has very specific views about TV animation. One could say it functions as a kind of cautionary tale about the excesses of ego and perhaps passion. Still the book does also celebrate a cartoon that literally single-handedly changed attitudes about cartoons, and set the stage for other wacky shows.

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