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Nickelodeon Reveals First-Look of Characters in Brand-New Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Animated Series

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BURBANK, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Nickelodeon today revealed a first-look of the characters in its brand-new animated series, *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, which follows the band of brothers as they discover new powers and encounter a mystical world they never knew existed beneath the streets of New York City. The 2D-animated series debuts later this year on [Nickelodeon](#).

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here:

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Nickelodeon's *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. Pictured (clockwise): Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Donatello and April O'Neil.

The Turtles' hold distinct personality traits and skills, including: Raphael, as the oldest and biggest brother, he is the leader full of enthusiasm and bravado; Leonardo, the self-professed 'coolest' brother possesses irreverent charm and a rebel heart; Donatello, a mechanical genius and tech wizard whose ninja skills are second only to his coding; and Michelangelo, the youngest brother, a skateboarder and artist who is wild and imaginative.

Viewers can visit the [Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles](#) page on [Nick.com](#) for more information and follow @TMNT for Turtle Power updates. The character art was revealed today on [Facebook Live](#).

The new 26-episode series is co-executive produced by Andy Suriano (character designer, *Samurai Jack*) and Ant Ward (supervising producer, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*) at Nickelodeon in Burbank. Veteran animation industry voice actor Rob Paulsen is voice directing the series.

Considered one of the most popular kids' television programs of the 1980s, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* is a classic,

Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles reimagines the characters in a fresh new way, featuring jagged-shelled Raphael as a snapping turtle, wielding twin tonfas as his weapons; Leonardo as a red-eared slider, using an odachi sword; Donatello as a soft-shell turtle, sporting a tech-bo staff; and Michelangelo as a box turtle, arming himself with a kusari-fundo. Along for the adventure is the Turtles' most trusted ally, April O'Neil, a street savvy native New Yorker and Splinter, father figure and sensei to the Turtles.

The series stars the voice talent of Omar Miller (*Ballers*) as Raphael, Ben Schwartz (*Parks and Recreation*) as Leonardo, Josh Brener (*Silicon Valley*) as Donatello, Brandon Mychal Smith (*You're The Worst*) as Michelangelo, Kat Graham (*The Vampire Diaries*) as April O'Neil and Eric Bauza (*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*) as Splinter. WWE Superstar John Cena lends his voice as villain, Baron Draxum, an alchemist warrior mutant who seeks to turn all of humanity into mutants.

global property created in 1984 by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. It first debuted as a successful comic book series and then became a hit animated TV show, a live-action television series and later spawned numerous blockbuster theatrical releases. The property is a global consumer products powerhouse, winning in every category that has hit shelves to date—with toys, apparel, video games, DVDs and more—and generating billions of dollars at retail. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has been the number-one action figure for the past three years and the franchise is a previous recipient of the Toy Industry Association's top honor for Property of the Year at the TOTY Awards.

About Nickelodeon

Nickelodeon, now in its 38th year, is the number-one entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The company includes television programming and production in the United States and around the world, plus consumer products, digital, recreation, books and feature films. Nickelodeon's U.S. television network is seen in more than 90 million households and has been the number-one-rated kids' basic cable network for 22 consecutive years. For more information or artwork, visit <http://www.nickpress.com>. Nickelodeon and all related titles, characters and logos are trademarks of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIA, VIAB).

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