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The clangers 1969

Clangers (1969) (a Titles & Air Dates Guide) Show Details: Start date: Nov 1969 End date: Oct 1974 Status: cancelled/ended Network(s): BBC One (UK) Run time: 10 min Episodes: 26 eps Genre(s): Animated, Children Credits: Oliver Postgate, narrator Episode list & details from: TVmaze • TV.com Available Videos Appear Here - Powered by JustWatch Clangers was originally broadcast by the BBC in 1969–1972, and enjoys a cult following in the UK. The first episode was broadcast on 16th November 1969, with a further 25 episodes being made. The series was made by Smallfilms, the company set up by Oliver Postgate (writer, animator and narrator) and Peter Firmin (modelmaker and illustrator). Firmin designed the characters, and his wife knitted and "dressed" the Clangers. Clangers originated from a series of children's books which developed from another Smallfilms production, Noggin the Nog. In the 1967 story Noggin and the Moonmouse, a spacecraft landed which contained a mouse-like character in a duffel coat, who wanted fuel for his spacecraft. When the BBC asked Smallfilms to produce a new series for colour television, but did not specify a storyline, Postgate concluded that because space exploration was particularly topical, the new series should be set in space. Postgate adapted the Moonmouse from the earlier story, removing its tail "because it kept getting into the soup!" The name "Clangers" derives from the sound made by opening the metal covers of the creatures' crater-like burrows, each of which was covered with a door made from an old metal dustbin lid, to protect against meteorite impacts. The distinctive whistles made by the Clangers, performed on swanee whistles, have become as identifiable as the characters themselves, much imitated by viewers. These whistles followed the rhythm and pitch of a script in English. In October 2013, it was announced that a new series would be produced. The new series of Clangers began broadcasting on CBeebies (UK) and Sprout (US) in 2015. Animation of the early 70s made by the 'Smallfilms' team of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, this series chronicled the melancholically funny lives of the Clangers, a flutey-voiced family of woolen, knitted aliens living below the surface of a knobly little planet far out in space.Animation of the early 70s made by the 'Smallfilms' team of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, this series chronicled the melancholically funny lives of the Clangers, a flutey-voiced family of woolen, knitted aliens living below the surface of a knobly little planet far out in space. 1 9 6 9 - 1 9 7 2 (UK) 27 x 10 minute episodes The children's stop-motion animation The Clangers was first broadcast on 16 November 1969. The Clangers were tiny pink long-snouted mouse-shaped creatures who lived on a small blue planet, communicated in the melodious tones of a swanee whistle and ate blue string pudding and soup from said Dragon. Living proof that 70s kids TV was in the hands of old acid-headed hippies from Woodstock or the Isle of Wight Festival! The Clangers planet was covered in metal lids under which they hid from the cold and the numerous objects falling from space – such a common occurrence that Major Clanger wore brass armour to protect himself from the falling objects. The other notable Clangers were Mother Clanger, Tiny Clanger, Small Clanger and Granny Clanger. They shared their world not only with the Soup Dragon but also with the Glow Buzzers (who provided light for the Clangers caves and tasty Glow Honey) and the four conjuring Froglets, inexplicable orange, oval stick-legged creatures who travelled in a top hat and lived in a vertical pond deep within the planet. This was a world where music grew on trees and where musical notes, when collected could be used to propel space-borne helicopters and boats. Their closest neighbour was the Iron Chicken, who lived on a spiky nest of old scrap iron and bits of machinery which she had gathered up in her travels. The series began soon after the moon landing and Mother Clanger used an American flag - left behind by a visiting astronaut - as a tablecloth. Fortunately, Oliver Postgate provided a gentle narration to make sense of it all. Each episode of The Clangers invariably had a message about we naughty Earthlings; polluting and over-crowding our own planet, sending junk into space, "invading" other planets with our space probes etc. Creator Peter Firmin worked with the BBC on a remake of The Clangers in 2014. He was relieved to see that the new CGI Clangers really did still look like knitted toys come to life. The magic remained intact as far as he was concerned. Michael Palin provided the narration in a style that kept memories of the much loved original alive. Narrator Oliver Postgate Major Clanger Mother Clanger Small Clanger Tiny Clanger Granny Clanger Soup Dragon Baby Soup Dragon The Iron Chicken Baby Iron Chicken The Froglets The Cloud Glow Buzzers Skymoos Another successful children's series from the writing/production team of Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, the Clangers were a clan of pink, woolly, mouse-like aliens who lived on a small blue moon. They wore suits of body armour to protect themselves from frequent meteor showers and took their name from the sound made when they battened down their dustbin-lid hatches. After creating a number of successful black and white children's animated programmes for the BBC, Postgate was informed by the Corporation in 1968 that all subsequent series should be made in colour, as a full colour service would be operating on BBC1 from late 1969. The programmes were not only to be in colour but were to be 'colourful.' The new series would have to be something new and quite astonishing. Inspiration came from Postgate's twins, Simon and Stephen, who several years earlier had told their father a story of their own. It was about a giant called Edward who lived on the other side of the moon, and survived on soup. When Postgate asked his children where they would obtain the soup from, they quite confidently explained to him how the moon was full of soup and all Edward had to do was unscrew a volcano and suck it through a straw. When he explained that living on the dark side of the moon would be very, very cold, they replied that the soup was very, very hot. Postgate also recalled a story he had written for a series of books aimed at teaching children to read called Noggin First Reader, which was based on the Noggin the Nog television episodes. In this particular story called Noggin and the Moonmouse, a small mouse-like creature had arrived on EarRn in a spacecraft. With the Apollo programme nearing its objective to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade, the premise of a children's programme set in space, or at least on a moon-like satellite, was not only topical but would also galvanise the enthusiasm of its target audience. In his autobiography 'Seeing Things' published in 2000, Postgate explained how the idea was expanded: 'It was unlikely that the visitor would have come from our moon because Edward lived there. But there would be other moons about and there's no reason why they shouldn't contain suitable soup. Also, because nowadays there was so much space-programme debris whizzing about the sky, they were unlikely to be living on the outside of their moon. They had probably taken to living in caves. The entrances to the caves would have metal covers over them and when they came out the covers would tip over and clang open like dustbin lids.' After discussing with Peter Firmin what the creatures should be called and disregarding titles like Flomps, Hambrils and Winglooms, the logical title was arrived at: Clangers - because of the sound made by the lids when they are tipped over. The sounds that the creatures made were achieved through a Swanny whistle. Postgate reasoning that they communicated by whistling which was then translated into a human audible frequency. However, the BBC feared that young viewers would not understand what was happening and asked Postgate to record a voice-over commentary, which he reluctantly did. It wasn't until 1984 that a commentary free episode was seen. Postgate had been invited to an international conference in Germany. When he screened the episode he discovered that each of the delegates had been able to follow the story - even believing that the Clangers were whistling in their own native language. For production purposes the scripts were written out in English so Postgate and Steven Sylvester could get a rough approximation of what was being said as they recorded the Clangers' speech. This caused some consternation at the BBC, and much later led to an amusing outcome with a merchandising company. Postgate explained both of these himself: "...we just sort of blew the whistles in Clanger language for the text that was there, so it didn't matter much what was written. But when the BBC got the script they rang me up and said, "At the beginning of episode three, where the doors get stuck, Major Clanger says 'Sod it, the bloody thing's stuck again!' Well, you can't say that on Children's television." I said "It's not going to be said, it's going to be whistled", but they just said "But people will know!" I said no, they'd think 'Oh dear, the silly thing's not working properly.'" If you watch the episode, the one where the rocket goes up and shoots down the Iron Chicken, Major Clanger kicks the door to make it work and his first words are "Sod it, the bloody thing's stuck again!" Years later, when the merchandising took off, the Golden Bear company wanted a Clanger and a Clanger phrase for it to make when you squeezed it, they got "Sod it, the bloody thing's stuck again!" The Clangers were Major, Mother, Grandmother, Small and Tiny and they ate Blue String Pudding. Other inhabitants of the their asteroid were the Soup Dragon and the Froglets, and they also enjoyed visits from the Iron Chicken that lived in a nest in space. Although only made as a five minute filler, the Clangers became a firm children's favourite and expressed a clear anti-materialistic theme. In one episode "Treasure", a supply of gold coins land on the moon causing the Clanger family to become greedy and resentful, each building their own secret hoard. Only when Tiny discovers that the coins are made of chocolate do the Clangers return to their harmonious existence. As Postgate explained: 'They meet the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune with a consistent courtesy and civility of care. They're gentle and live their own lives and I think they'd be very alarmed if they tangled with our sort of life.' Published on January 4th, 2021. Written by Laurence Marcus for Television Heaven. Image not available forColour: Sorry, this item is not available in Image not available To view this video download Flash Player See production, box office & company infoSee production, box office & company infoThe series chronicled the melancholically funny lives of the Clangers, a flutey-voiced family of woolen, knitted aliens living below the surface of a knobly little planet far out in space. Their misadventures brought them into contact with such unlikely creatures as the Soup Dragon, the Froglets, the Iron Chicken and the Glow Buzzers. --D.Giddings 1960s1970salienextraterrestrialbritish animation13 moreGenresParents guideWhat is the English language plot outline for The Clangers (1969)?AnswerPlease enable browser cookies to use this feature. Learn more. SensCritiqueSeriesjeunesseThe Clangers (1969) 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5 0 6 1 7 0 8 2 9 0 10

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