

SHOW BIBLE



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WHAT IS THE ED GRIMLEY SHOW?

Martin Short stars as ED GRIMLEY, the world's sweetest, most optimistic misfit, whose comic adventures are complemented by short featurettes starring Joe Flaherty's COUNT FLOYD, the ultimate amateur vampire, and THE AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS, who show you more of the world than you'll ever want to see!

Ed Grimley is a comedy character in the classic tradition of Chaplin and Keaton. An eccentric, yet endearing guy, Ed stumbles his way through life, having the craziest escapades and getting into the wildest predicaments, yet always coming out okay, usually through no fault of his own.

For Ed, all of life is still an adventure. The most commonplace, trivial events often mushroom into comic extravaganzas when Ed arrives on the scene. Each week, Ed takes us along on his exploits, which often start off in a deceptively "normal" fashion, before taking a sudden turn into weirdness. Any temporary job, visit to the dentist, or quiet walk in the park can -- and does -- become an exciting story.

Many of Ed's stories will begin with him setting off in one direction, then having a chance encounter with some

weird character which sweeps him and the story off in a totally different direction. Going to deliver mystery phrases he's thought up for "Wheel of Fortune," he's mistaken for a spy and given top secret information, then finds himself pursued by enemy agents! As the confusion and mistaken identities build, Ed is bounced about like a pinball.

But even though Ed is usually a pawn in the game of life, he is capable of action, and when the chips are down or a friend is in trouble, Ed will leap into the fray, and sometimes even save the day -- although most times not exactly in the way he had in mind.

The tone and pace of Ed's adventures will reflect Ed's personality. Since he's a guy who always has time to stop and smell the roses, Ed's exploits -- even when proceeding at a breakneck speed or a hairsbreadth from tragedy -- will always have time for his trademark musings on life and the universe.

Though he enjoys his friends, and sometimes will go on an adventure with one or more of them, just as often Ed will travel alone. Besides, when you look at life with the wide-eyed expectation that Ed does, you're bound to make new friends everywhere you go. Every week Ed will meet new and oddball characters who will either help or hinder him in his

latest exploit. (These guest starring roles may be acted by such people as Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, John Candy.)

Bracketting Ed's exploits are COUNT FLOYD and THE AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS. Floyd is Ed's favorite TV host, a stage-frightened no-talent phony baloney Dracula, who fumbles his way through his weekly appearances on "Monster Chiller Horror Theatre." Floyd is a stumblebum for whom nothing goes right, on the air or off. Not wanting to disillusion his "fans," Count Floyd maintains his cheezy vampire persona even when he goes to the supermarket or the car wash (prompting reactions ranging from confusion to outright terror from passersby), and never fails to get himself into one mishap after another. (The "Count Floyd" segments, written and performed by Joe Flaherty, will be primarily live action.)

Roger and Emil, the AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS, are twins (they don't look at all alike) who happen to be magical professors. In a cross between "The Odd Couple" and "Mr. Wizard", each week they go on a mystical adventure to an unusual place to demonstrate some peculiar scientific principal. We say "attempt" because nothing ever goes quite right for these poor academics. Of course, Emil would say that whatever goes wrong is Roger's fault. And Roger would probably agree, because he's about the most agreeable person

in the universe. Together these two muddled professors take us to wondrous and wacky places we never thought we'd see.

ED AND HIS SUPPORTING CAST

ED GRIMLEY is a young man with a kid's enthusiasm for the world. He approaches every situation with an open mind. Wide open.

Ed savors each moment, whether good or bad, and values it purely for the experience. (He's been known to play recordings of thunderstorms because he enjoys scaring himself!) When something goes wrong, Ed really plays it up, carrying on in a typically Grimleyesque, melodramatic fashion allowing him to get the most out of every situation. Ed's such an unbounded optimist that he sees possibilities for fun and enjoyment even in the most difficult of circumstances. For Ed, everything is an adventure...if not a misadventure.

Ed is endlessly fascinated with life, often carrying on goofy stream-of-consciousness musings about everything from the greater implications of sweeping under his bed (and finding lost treasures) to the origin of the mysterious little red things in his spaghetti sauce. He always has a moment to make a random observation about things that most of us take for granted.

Ed believes in being prepared for every eventuality. He is always rehearsing with his triangle in case the triangle player for the local symphony gets sick and they

call Ed to replace him. Before every event, no matter how minor -- say, a trip to the grocery store -- Ed will rehearse it in his mind, going over any possible problems and fantasizing about the fun he's bound to have.

And, finally, Ed looks on the bright side. In fact, he finds bright sides to situations which appear to have none. His glass is always half-full.

Ed is easily swept up in events, buffeted by fate, and carried along on the tide of history. In other words, he's a man to whom things happen. If Ed sets out on a trip to the grocery, he's liable to be mistaken for a spy, whisked into a waiting car, dropped off a pier, swallowed by a huge fish, caught by deep sea fishermen, and mounted on someone's wall! Ed's life is a continuing series of circumstances beyond his control.

However, this doesn't mean that Ed can't take action when the situation calls for it. If somebody else needs his help or he's caught with his back to the wall, Ed will leap into action -- and make things worse.

Surrounding Ed is a distinctive group of supporting characters:

THE GUSTAV BROTHERS -- EMIL and ROGER live in the basement of Ed's building, where they maintain a small laboratory and lecture hall in their living room.

Constantly engaged in oddball scholastic pursuits, the Gustavs are a mismatched pair (ostensibly twins, although they look and sound nothing alike) of professors who dabble in all areas of academia. Sort of a cross between "The Odd Couple" and "Mr. Wizard," the Gustavs travel magically here and there in the course of their research and study.

MR. AND MRS. FREEBUS -- Ed's landlord and landlady are an eternally bickering, goofy old married couple who live upstairs. Mr. Freebus (Jonathan Winters) is the ultimate grouch, grumpy from the moment he gets up to the moment he goes to bed. He's also the world's unluckiest man (which might account for his grumpiness). If there's a mud puddle anywhere around, Mr. Freebus will fall into it. Mr. Freebus is also the world's biggest home handyman -- he's constantly painting or renovating or redecorating the building (and, of course, having accident after accident as he does so). His grumpiness extends to Ed, who in his sweet way is unaware of his landlord's distaste.

Mrs. Freebus (Andrea Martin) is a bit batty, given to singing silly made up songs about her housework as she dusts, and always taking up one weird hobby after another. One week she might be trying to amass the world's largest bottle top collection; the next week she's attempting to break the record for washing windows while hula hooping. Mrs. Freebus' mothering nature extends to Ed, of whom she is trusting and fond.

SHELDON is Ed's cute, very smart pet rat and roommate. Maintaining his own private little room within one of Ed's living room walls, Sheldon helps out with the chores, goes on shopping trips with Ed, and has long chats with Ed (who's the only person who can understand Sheldon's little rodent chatter). Sheldon hides from Wendell (because the kid's so wild) and Mrs. Freebus (because she just has this thing about rats) but is generally quite outgoing.

MISS MALONE (Katherine O'Hara) -- the beautiful, glamorous, ditsy woman down the hall who wants to be a TV star. Miss Malone is a sweet, friendly, yet ultimately mysterious woman whom Ed admires from afar. Miss Malone has an otherworldly air which Ed interprets as being spiritual and ethereal, but is actually just vague. She often asks "Eddie" to do her a little favor, which turns out to be something like transporting an elephant (which her safari guide brother has sent her from Africa) to a local zoo. Because Ed considers Miss Malone a special person, her every wish is his command.

WENDELL -- Miss Malone's little brother is a latchkey kid who often whiles away the time after school hanging out with Ed. Wendell's sort of a young Ferris Bueller, inventive and clever, but smug and bratty, always looking out for Number One. He enjoys Ed because he's always going

off on bizarre adventures, and because he looks at things with a slightly crazy attitude that makes life fun. Wendell, a mischievous kid, also loves to torment Ed and give him a hard time. And though Ed gets irked at Wendell's stunts, he puts up with the kid because he's Miss Malone's brother. Wendell might accompany Ed on an adventure now and then, and generally his short attention span and out-of-control curiosity make things worse for Ed.

MR. MULDANE -- Ed's eccentric, stern triangle teacher, Mr. Muldane lives across town. Muldane worships the triangle as the ultimate musical instrument. The only thing that can spoil the triangle for Mr. Muldane is the way Ed plays it. Invariably scathing in his assessment of this pupil's abilities, the overly dramatic Mr. Muldane (who's a Hans Conreid type with swept back hair and long curling eyebrows) never misses an opportunity to scold Ed (whose respect for Muldane borders on terror). The teacher's lectures don't get Ed down for long, though. He's determined to play his triangle with the world's greatest orchestras -- or even on TV -- and knows that it's Muldane's duty to keep him on his toes, musically speaking.

ED'S WORLD AND WELCOME TO IT

Ed lives in a small, eccentrically decorated apartment in a charming -- though rather odd -- Victorian house which has been converted into apartments. He lives alone, except for SHELDON, his pet rat, and MOBY, his mischievous goldfish. Ed's quite proud of his apartment, and spends many happy hours rearranging his furniture to take maximum advantage of his space.

When not redecorating, Ed enjoys practicing his triangle, a demanding instrument which he's determined to master. He's been known to get so carried away during these practice sessions that he flings his triangle into the air and breaks into his unique spontaneous dance. Often when neighbors drop in for an impromptu get-together, they're able to convince Ed to entertain by improvising lilting triangle accompaniments to favorite classical recordings.

Ed gets along quite well with his neighbors (for the most part). During the course of the series, we'll get to know several of these eccentric personalities.

SAMPLE SHOW FORMAT

The show will be formatted around Ed's 15-16 minute two-act adventures. Following Act One (which will usually end on a cliff-hanger of some kind) we will have a 2-3 minute adventure with THE AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS. After a commercial break, we resume with Act Two of Ed's escapade of the week, which races to a thrill-packed conclusion. We insert the 2-3 minute "Count Floyd" segment into the second act (cleverly integrated into the story being told). Following the second commercial break, Ed reappears in a brief Tag -- usually him writing in his diary -- which provides a button to his week's story.

Of course, this format is loose enough to allow for variations. For instance, one week Count Floyd might introduce the entire show as if it's an episode of "Monster Chiller Horror Theatre." (We could even go so far as to show Ed sitting down in front of his television to watch Count Floyd and see, to his amazement, that this week's "scaaary" story is about him!)

Ed can also interact with the Count Floyd or Roger and Emil characters, with his adventure somehow merging into or interfering with their own. For example, say Ed is walking

down the street while two movers are hoisting a piano up the side of a building. Suddenly, the ropes break and the piano comes hurtling to the ground towards an unsuspecting Ed. At that moment, the action freezes and we cut to the Gustav Brothers who are working on a science project involving gravity, and they use Ed's predicament as the opening to their very comical, but informative, science lesson. After the lesson is over, the action once again picks up on the falling piano. Such interweaving of stories is quite possible in our series.

We also feel free to make startling leaps in continuity or logic if they'll benefit the comedy or story-telling. If we want Ed to freeze the action in the middle of an adventure so he can make a comment or watch Count Floyd on TV, we can. Kids today are quite adept at making sudden leaps in logic and accepting wacky twists of the story, and these slightly bizarre ways of linking the departments together will help make the show different from standard Saturday morning fare.

ED'S SERIES SEGMENTS

In addition to Ed Grimley's adventures, we'll have short departments each week featuring Ed's exciting co-stars: JOE FLAHERTY'S COUNT FLOYD, and THE AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS.

COUNT FLOYD

The host of Ed Grimley's favorite television show, "The Monster Chiller Horror Theatre," Count Floyd is an imitation Dracula for whom nothing seems to go right. The ultimate small-town children's show host, Count Floyd is always at a loss for words, but somehow manages to stumble through his "scaaaary" intros to "scaaaary" movies for all the boys and girls out there in the viewing audience. With his slightly off Transylvanian accent, melodramatic swoops of the cape, and silly wolf howls, Count Floyd is a character to delight kids everywhere (and was one of SCTV's characters who has always particularly appealed to young viewers).

Life is a comedy of errors for this amateur vampire. Either the movie he's showing that day scares him more than the audience, or he gets locked out of the studio just as the show's about to start, or he has a flat tire on the way to the station and has to hitchhike, vampire cape and all.

Count Floyd is the ultimate example of the sort of amateur celebrity that every small town TV station seems to have. His bumbling attempts to be frightening, and his obvious embarrassment as his show crumbles around him each week make him a classically funny character.

THE AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS

Join ROGER and EMIL, the AMAZING GUSTAV BROTHERS, each week as they take you through their magic portal to explore the wonders of the universe.

Roger and Emil are teachers. But not ordinary teachers. They're magical teachers, with the ability to travel through space and time... they can literally go anywhere! And when they go, so do we. Nature, geography, science, history -- the Gustav Brothers are experts in all of these fields, and like "Mr. Wizard" they live to impart their massive knowledge to others.

The keys to the comedy of this department are the relationships. Although ostensibly twins (Emil, always the formal one, invariably introduces Roger as "my twin brother, the esteemed Prof. Roger Gustav"), the two professors do not look and sound alike.

Emil, who always introduces the subject for the day, is a supercilious, pompous educator who wears his diplomas and knowledge like a badge of honor. He easily becomes exasperated at his brother. Of course, all of Emil's

impatience and sniping rolls right off Roger's back. This eternally happy goof is always quite willing to admit his mistakes or ineptness. Nothing gets him down, makes him mad or even scares him -- he has the full range of emotions of your typical frontal lobotomy case. (Needless to say, Roger's smiling, wide-eyed acceptance of Emil's verbal abuse infuriates him even further -- nothing is more irritating than having one's sarcasm and criticisms go unnoticed.)

Despite Emil's role as the brother "in the know" -- the one with all the answers -- he's often the one who suffers in the event that the Gustavs' latest expedition goes awry. And they all go awry in one way or another, usually due to Roger's smiling ineptitude.

The silly patter between the two brothers, reminiscent in tone to the Smothers Brothers or the two ultra-polite chipmunks from old Warner Brothers cartoons, combined with the imaginative visuals and crazy situations in which they find themselves, make "The Amazing Gustav Brothers," a hilarious component of "The Ed Grimley Show."