Matt Groening
Matthew Abram Groening

born 1954, Portland/Oregon

Creator of:
- Life in Hell
- The Simpsons
- Futurama

National Cartoonist Society Reuben and Emmy Award

http://www.search.com/reference/Matt_Groening
After BA at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, Groening moved to Los Angeles to become a writer. He worked “as chauffeur and “biographer” of unsuccessful 88-year-old B-Western movie director” (Wikipedia). “described life in Los Angeles to his friends in form of a comic book”
Life in Hell: Characters and Themes

Drawings: fun and laughs, but also expression of angst, alienation, fear

Characters: mostly rabbits

- Star “Binky”: bitter, depressed, alienated, has estranged girlfriend (Sheba), one-night stand (Hulga) and illegitimate son (Bongo)
- Akbar & Jeff: Gay Lovers, “brothers or lovers or possibly both”
- Groening himself
WILL YOU LOVE ME WHEN I'M OLD AND WRINKLY?

YES I WILL.

WILL YOU LOVE ME TILL THE DAY I DIE?

YES I WILL.

WILL YOU LOVE ME WHEN THE PLANET SHATTERS, AND BECOMES A LIFELESS, WHIRLING MUDDLE?

YES I WILL.

IN ABOUT FIVE BILLION YEARS, WHEN THE SUN SELF-DESTROYS, WILL YOU LOVE ME?

YES I WILL.

IN TRILLIONS OF TRILLIONS OF TRILLIONS OF YEARS, WHEN ALL THE STARS IN ALL THE GALAXIES DIE, WILL YOU LOVE ME?

YES I WILL.

WILL YOU LOVE ME WHEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS CONDENSATION OF DUST, GAS, SHREDDED STARS, AND MYSTERIOUS BLACK HOLES?

YES I WILL.

AND WHEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE COMES TO A HALT, AND ALL THAT'S LEFT IS AN INCREASINGLY SPATIALIZED ARRAY OF ELECTRONS, POSITRONS, AND NEUTRINOS, WILL YOU LOVE ME?

I THINK WE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEE OTHER NEUTRINOS.
LIFE IN HELL

PLEASE RISE FOR THE FLAG SALUTE.
I PLEDGE IMPERTINENCE TO THE FLAG-WAVING
OF THE UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATORS OF AMERICA

AND TO THE REPUBLICANS FOR WHICH I CAN'T STAND
ONE ABOMINATION, UNDERHANDED FRAUD
INDEFENSIBLE

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FORGET IT.
HEN HEN

http://www.godlessgeeks.com/LINKS/LifeInHell.jpg
“photocopying and distributing it in the book corner of Licorice Pizza[a record store he was working at]” (Wikipedia) became quickly popular appeared in newspapers like Los Angeles Reader, series of books writer/producer James Brooks asks Groening for animations for the Tracey Ullman Show (1985)
The Simpsons: The beginning

1987: Shorts for the Fox variety show The Tracey Ullman Show

Groening: storyboard and script
David Silverman/Wes Archer: animation


Video 1
The Simpsons: The Show

Spin-off in 1989

Groening: executive producer/creative consultant, Show runner for Season 1/2

Longest running American sitcom (381 episodes, 18 seasons)

Fox' most successful show

Groening: producer and writer for the movie coming out July 2007 (video2)
The Simpsons

Assume everybody has seen enough Simpsons episodes to know the characters and setting.

Name: “Simpson”=”Son of a Simpleton”

Characters are named after his younger sisters, mother and father.

Self-referential/meta-referential humor developed its own cartoon style influential on television (adult-oriented animation, Family Guy, South Park), music, language.
The Simpsons: Animation Techniques

in the beginning: hand-drawn animation
later partly computerized, e.g. filling with colors
parts 3D cel-shaded (toon shading) animation
Futurama

developed by Groening/David X Cohen
Emmy award
on Fox Network 1999-2003
Comedy Central ordered 13 new episodes for 2008
Futurama

Assume everybody has seen enough episodes...
	named after 1939 New York World's Fair

highly referential to science fiction

literature

Galactic politics: United States of Earth,
Democratic Order Of Planets (Wikipedia)

Linguistics: Alienese is a substitution
cipher from Latin alphabet