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Lassie
26 x 22' HD



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Facts



Short Synopsis

In the new adventures of Lassie, the beloved collie comes to life in an animated TV series that is adventurous, humorous and a whole lot of fun.

Lassie is smart, loyal and ready to cross rivers and fires to come to the rescue of her young owner, 10-year old Zoe. A big task, as Zoe's hunger for adventure is as large as the Grand Mountain National Park that Zoe and Lassie call home. Zoe is an intelligent, capable and compassionate young girl and as Lassie actually understands human feelings, without having to ask, she is the perfect companion for Zoe. Together with their animal friends — who are a combination of pets and wild animals — they go on exciting adventures and take the young audience on a dramatic, fun and thoroughly enjoyable ride.

Key Parameters

Titel: Lassie

Format: 26 x 22'

Genre / Subgenre: Junior / Animation

Target Audience: 6–10 years

Logline: The new adventures of the world's most famous dog – Lassie!

USPs

- **The classic character in brand new animated adventures and talking for the first time.**
- **Set against the backdrop of a scenic national park where animals and humans live as one.**
- **Explores the themes of friendship, loyalty and family.**

Credits

Produced by: **DQ Entertainment, SUPERPROD**

Producer: **Tapaas Chakravarti**

Executive Producer: **Clément Calvet, Jérémie Fajner, Eric Ellenbogen, Doug Schwalbe, Annika Bluhm, Rouhini Jaswal, Sumedha Saraogi, Arne Lohmann, Nicole Keeb**

Directed by: **Jean-Christophe Roger**

Writer: **Jill Brett**

Based on the novel and the character created by Eric Knight

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Introduction

Lassie ... a Classic

For generations, Lassie has been an icon in family entertainment. Lassie first appeared in Eric Knight's best-selling novel "Lassie Come Home." Since the book's publication in 1940, Lassie has gone on to star in over 10 feature films, 4 live action TV series (totaling 691 episodes, airing in 100 countries), radio shows, comic books, home entertainment ... the list goes on and on. She's shared the screen with Hollywood icons from Elizabeth Taylor and James Stewart to Peter O'Toole and even has her own star on the renowned Walk of Fame in Hollywood. Lassie's fanbase is worldwide and spans generations. Everyone knows her as a heroine, a loving pet and a courageous friend. But no one knows what she really thinks – until now! The new adventures of Lassie give us a whole new take on the world's favorite dog! In the new 2D animated series, Lassie, the world's favorite Collie is back on the job, bringing viewers high adventure, lighthearted fun and engaging emotional stories. And in this new original series we'll get to know Lassie better than we ever have, because for the first time we'll hear Lassie talk.

As Lassie shares her thoughts with her animal friends, we'll discover the true depths of her loyalty and her courage, and her love for one very special young girl, an adventurous 10 year old girl named Zoe Parker, whose hunger for adventure is as large as the National Park that Zoe and Lassie call home.



The new adventures of Lassie

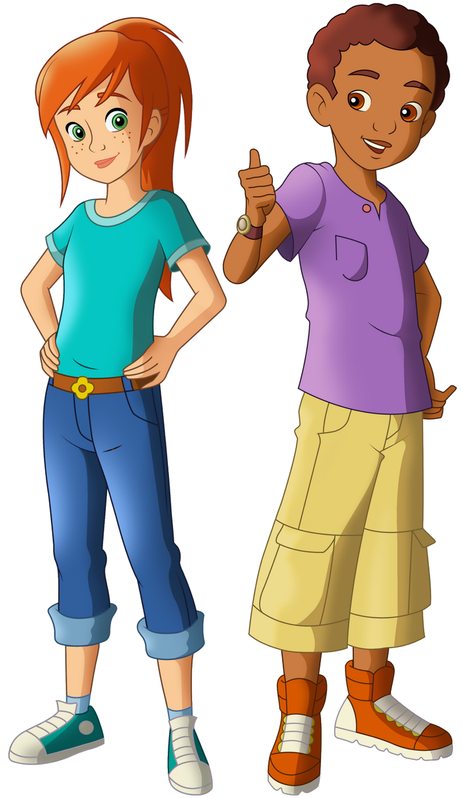
As in the live-action series, Lassie's stories are adventures. But animation allows us to create an environment like no other. The National Park that Lassie and Zoe call home is truly epic in proportions. The most breathtaking elements of National Parks from Yosemite to Yellowstone can all be found in Grand Mountain. The kids will take a mule ride through the sweltering heat as they climb to the bottom of a Grand Canyon style gorge in the park's southern end. While to the north, they'll find themselves caught in an unexpected blizzard as they climb toward the summit of Grand Mountain. Zoe and Lassie are also connected to both the natural world and life of the park in a very personal way. From helping find a lost hiker to nursing a Golden Eagle back to health, being the daughter of the Park's veterinarian and the Supervising Park Ranger means Zoe and her loyal dog Lassie are exposed to everything that goes on in Grand Mountain, from forest fires to bake sales. Through it all, we never lose sight of what really matters: this exceptional dog and the warm, sincere relationship she has with Zoe. In the end, it's a story of a friendship like no other that makes the new adventures of Lassie so special.



Characters



Primary Characters





Lassie



Lassie is the heart of the series. She personifies all the qualities of a “super heroine” minus the distance or the ego, and with a sense of tenderness and generosity that makes her simply unique. Unique in her knowledge of the world around her, in her physical abilities, her intuition, her tender relationship with Zoe, her beauty, her courage...

Lassie is a true guide. In the true sense, of course, because she understands nature and possesses a 6th sense that allows her to find her bearings anywhere and to foresee dangerous situations ... There is no other dog as incredible as Lassie. She is also a sort of “spiritual guide” because she helps, comforts, teaches (always through action) and protects Zoe and comes to the aid of the animals of Big Mountain without exception.

Zoe Parker

Zoe, our human heroine, is a genuinely likeable girl, who wants to discover Mother Nature and all her mysteries through adventures and who quenches her curiosity by experiencing the world first hand ... We don’t only like her and feel attached to her because she has Lassie by her side: That would be to overlook all her qualities: her enthusiasm, her courage, her tolerance.

Zoe grew up in a vast natural wildlife preserve and a veterinary clinic. At 10 years old, she has met fewer humans than animals (wild, sick or tame). That’s why she has developed a special relationship with them that is very simple and natural ... Since she is often motivated by her big heart (like Lassie), she has become a little caregiver for lost or lonely baby animals, feeding any stray little critter, sometimes creating a cacophony of “meows” in front of her house.



« My love is like
a red, red rose
With eyes of
ocean blue
I'm hopelessly
attached to her
Like gum beneath
her shoe. »



Harvey Smith

If there is anyone passionately in love with Big Mountain, it's Harvey! He knows the flora, the fauna, the first inhabitants, the major natural disasters, the animals whether big, small or dangerous... everything! Well, almost everything. Because there is still a lot to learn at 10 ... And that happens to be what Harvey likes most: telling himself there is still so much to discover ... And with Zoe as his best friend, he is one lucky boy! She constantly leads him off on adventures, gives him the opportunity to discover new things, gives him the idea to go and verify, investigate, etc.

The Barn Gang

The "Barn Gang" is the name we give the animal friends of Lassie's that hang around the old barn behind Sarah Parker's clinic. They are a loving and loveable group of animals that truly appreciate Lassie and Zoe both. The thing about the "Barn Gang" is that while they mean well, they are absolutely hopeless when it comes to doing almost anything.





Biff

Biff is Mrs. Lee's dog. The manager of Grand Mountain's "grocery and souvenir shop", this warm, energetic octogenarian is everyone's dream grandmother ... and her loyal, well-meaning but misguided little pug dog is a central part of life in the Valley.

Biff marches around The Valley like he was a much larger dog. He's a lucky dog to be allowed to roam The Valley freely, but "freedom" is what his owner, Mrs. Lee, is all about. So everyone knows him and knows Mrs. Lee. They know that if there are rules about dogs and leashes and so forth, they don't apply to the old lady who has lived here since before Grand Mountain was a National Park.



Pica the Mapie

Five years ago, when Lassie saved Pica from a violent peregrine falcon attack, Pica swore her undying loyalty to her heroine, to help her out no matter what, to fly for her day or night, in a thunderstorm or a hailstorm, into a driving wind or carried by a ferocious tempest ... Pica and Lassie are for life!

Pica will never forget the wonderful thing that Lassie did for her. She is lovable, loyal and well-meaning and she wants very much to live the kind of life that Lassie leads ... in service of the world around her. So when Biff announces that the Barn Gang is going to "save the world," Pica is ready to do whatever it takes. But step on her foot and everything falls apart.





Looper the Racoon

Light-fingered, the king of resourcefulness, Looper loves these descriptions, these “nice little names”. And they fit him like a glove! Because ever since he learned how to walk, Looper has spent his time stealing from grocery stores, picnic tables, restaurant garbage cans and even dumps: “When you gotta eat, you gotta eat!” These skills are naturally very useful for the Barn Gang: Looper is always ready to join in. Maybe it’s his natural curiosity or maybe he likes being part of something. But when Biff mobilizes the group, this “wild” animal is always willing to lend a hand.



Houdini

As a cherished little house pet, Houdini lives a life of ease in Zoe, Sarah and Graham’s light-filled house. You would think the hamster would be happy all the time but the opposite is true of Houdini. The neurotic little complainer is never satisfied. Whether we’re talking about food or attention ... Houdini always wants more.

Whenever Lassie sees Houdini coming, she does her best to look busy, or find a reason to leave. Lassie knows that Houdini absolutely never talks to anyone unless he needs a favor. Houdini honestly believes that Lassie, Zoe and everyone else in the world is there to make his life easier.







Sarah Parker

Zoe's mother, Sarah, is the Grand Mountain's veterinarian. She's 38 years old and met Graham when she was volunteering at the clinic that she now owns and runs. The two married during Sarah's last year and Zoe was born almost the day that Sarah moved to the park full time and took over the clinic.

Sarah represents emotion. She is not melodramatic, but consistently nurturing and supportive. As a veterinarian, Sarah cares for animals as well as she cares for her family. She exists to give Zoe emotional guidance, both through her words and her actions.

Graham Parker

Zoe's father, Graham is a supervising Ranger in Grand Mountain National Park. This means that he's in charge of the Park day to day. From the wildlife to the campers who come to the park on vacation, Graham is ultimately responsible for them all. He doesn't deal with budgets or bureaucracy ... that's the job of the Park Manager. Her office is outside the gates of the park.

Graham is a rock. He's 41 years old. While his wife carries the emotion for the family, Graham is a force for order in the midst of chaos. He represents unassailable, unchangeable values. He doesn't play favorites, but he makes sure everyone ... especially Zoe ... is safe.



Secondary Characters



Beth Smith





Gail & Robert Humphrey



Nick Connelly



Samantha Humphrey



Mrs. Lee

Mrs. Lee

Mrs. Lee plays a big role in Zoe's life. Like a surrogate Grandmother, Mrs. Lee is always available for Zoe. She has good advice and a perspective that is very different from Graham and Sarah's. She's the "Fun Grandmother" kind of older lady ... who is "tough as nails" but "sweet as pie." She's in her 80's and she's still got a heart full of adventure ... so she is a "partner in crime" for Zoe who just finds herself a little too old to go out and have the adventures she encourages the kids to experience.

Mrs. Lee's store, "The Happy Camper," sells a little bit of everything. It serves as the Valley's grocery store, but also sells maps and camping gear. The Happy Camper is aptly named because Mrs. Lee is a very "Happy Camper."

Samantha Humphrey

We all know people like her: shallow, self-important individuals who compete with everyone regardless of whether or not they're competing with her. Samantha wants to show the world she's more adventurous than Zoe, smarter than Harvey and "cooler" than both of them put together. This means throwing herself into situations that are far beyond her experience in the outdoors. It also means she'll cheerfully (and sometimes dangerously) try to ruin whatever Zoe's trying to accomplish.

Beth Smith

Beth Smith is the “Fun Mom.” She occupies the space between Zoe’s ultra-responsible and slightly idealized parents and the show’s broader adult characters. Beth is a responsible mother, but her relationship with her son and Zoe is less formal that Sarah and Graham’s. Beth found a job in the park’s Visitors’ Center and now she runs the place. Beth will answer any questions visitors have but on nice days, she’ll do it from the side of the boulder behind the office. If you want to know about the flora and fauna of the park, Beth’s the person to talk to. She is proud of the interactive exhibits she’s created in the Visitors’ Center, and has created a website that connects Zoe and Harvey to kids outside the park. She is a natural teacher.

Robert & Gail Humphrey

Robert Humphrey represents unbridled development. He is greed, personified. On the surface, Robert only wants to make the park “more accessible” to people. Unfortunately the truth is he wants to make a fortune by reversing all regulation, running paved roads through protected areas and generally turning the park into something more like Disneyland than the Grand Canyon. The good news is that he can’t “own” a hotel in the middle of a National Park, he can only own the right
to run it.

If Robert’s wife, Gail, is a little more sympathetic it is only because she is not actively involved in trying to destroy Grand Mountain Park. Gail is trying to just make it through the day in a world full of animals and dirt. It seems like every time she turns a corner there is something there to remind her that the Humphreys aren’t living in Manhattan any more.

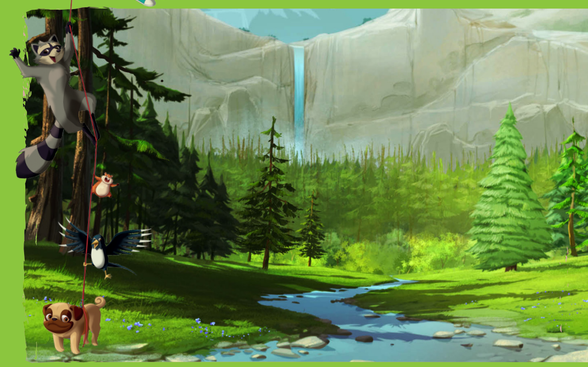
Nick Connelly

Nick represents a reckless disrespect for nature. While Robert Humphrey would like to pave the park, Nick will tell you he’s a big fan of the wilderness. He likes to think and likes to tell anyone who will listen that he’s the last of the great mountain men. The truth is Nick doesn’t respect or understand the park’s power but he presents himself as a professional guide, ready and willing to give paying clients the “ultimate wilderness experience.”

For the right price Nick will take you flyfishing, mountain climbing, back-country skiing, caving, hiking and whatever else you can think of. Can Nick really do all those things? He really truly believes he’s the greatest outdoorsman alive. The problem is he’s not. Nick is just reckless and imprudent.

Locations in the Valley





Grand Mountain

Grand Mountain Park represents nature at its most basic. It is important to remember that no one in our show, even Lassie, is more powerful than nature. With more than half a million acres of wilderness in the American West, Grand Mountain has a little of everything. There are waterfalls, hot springs, rivers and lakes and more than a few 4000 meter peaks. And there are animals ...
a lot of animals. Where Zoe lives is inside the boundaries of Grand Mountain National Park. She and everyone else who lives there call it “The Valley.” A collection of small cottages and rectangular, manufactured homes, the valley may be the perfect place for a kid to grow up.

The Park

There are no cars in the park. Everything in the valley is within walking distance of everything else including most of the trailheads. It is rare but not uncommon for wild animals to wander into the Valley. And while the tourists react as if it is a dangerous thing, the appearance of a bear in the Valley is more of an annoyance than anything.

The Clinic / Parker Home

The Grand Mountain Veterinary Clinic and the Parker Family home occupy the same cluster of buildings at the North end of the Park. Dr. August Westin, the valley’s original veterinarian, built his clinic as an annex to this family’s home back in the 1960’s. From the clinic’s small back office/examination room there is a door that leads directly to the Parkers’ kitchen. Upstairs, Zoe’s room has all the posters and toys and books of a girl who is on the cusp of adolescence.

Visitor’s Center

The Park’s Visitors’ Center is an interactive, educational wonderland ... thanks to Harvey’s mother, Beth, who has turned what was once a dreary little place where visitors could pick up a map into an exciting, 21st century resource.

Grand Mountain Ranger Station

Centrally located, the Ranger Station is next to the Visitors’ Center. We rarely see the inside of the Rangers’ office because first, it’s not a lot of fun, and second, if we’re in there it means we’re probably tracking some very serious emergency, like a fire or a missing hiker.

The Happy Camper

The Happy Camper, with its souvenirs, fishing licenses, popsicles and camping gear is designed so that someone visiting the park can get whatever they need at the moment, from a Granite Valley paperweight to batteries for their flashlights. But that’s just the beginning because the Happy Camper’s proprietor and soul employee, Mrs. Harriet Lee has made the place something special.

The Lodge

Rustic, comfortable and inviting, the Grand Mountain Lodge is a folksy hotel from the 1920s. There’s an Olympic sized pool heated by an underground hot springs. And, in the 1930’s the last private owner of the hotel (before it was bought by the Park Service) put in a first class ice cream parlor.

The Old Barn

Behind Sarah Parker’s clinic is an old Barn. The barn has fallen into disuse. This is where Biff and the other animals meet to discuss the matters of the day. Pica will flit around the rafters, Looper will emerge from the shadows and Houdini will come racing breathlessly in through the door ... always convinced he was just moments away from being snatched up by a hungry hawk.









The Park



The Clinic / Parker Home



Visitors Center







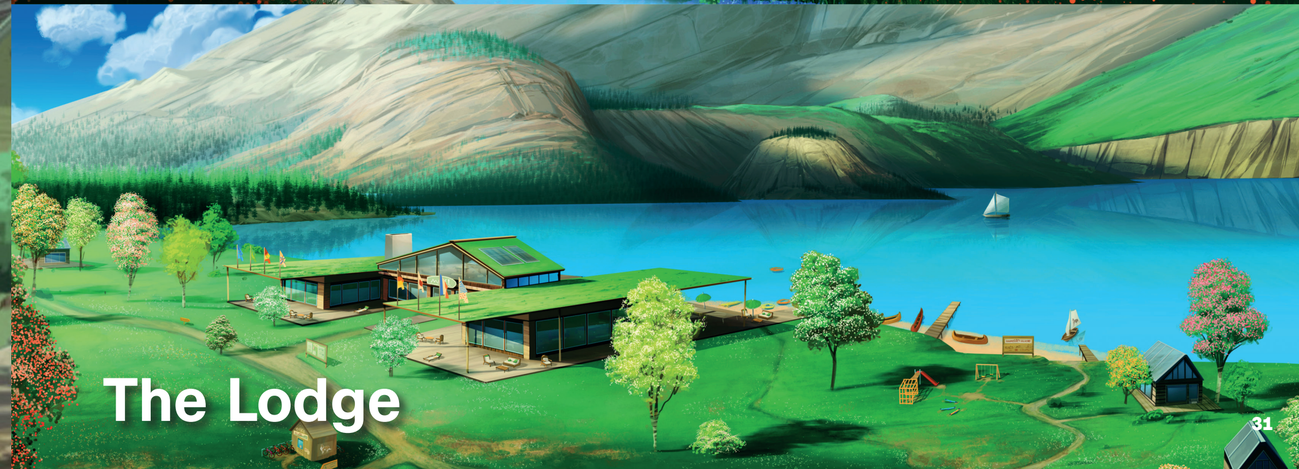
Grand Mountain Ranger Station



The Happy Camper



The Old Barn



The Lodge

Sample Storylines



Saving Zuli

With the first snows of winter on the way, Zoe, Lassie and Harvey ignore Graham's warnings and track a tagged bird they have released into the wild. The three rescue the bird, too weak to migrate south, but not until they've exposed themselves to a dangerous blizzard.



Gold Rush!

Zoe and Lassie take Harvey up a small creek to see a beaver dam and visit her family's favorite swimming hole. Realizing that the beavers – and the Creek itself - are threatened by a pair of unscrupulous gold miners who have snuck into the area, Zoe and Harvey take in on themselves to stop them.





The Treasure of Dan Montaigne

When Lassie and the kids find an old treasure map in Mrs. Lee's store, it sends them on an adventure that reveals the truth about a notorious hermit who lived in the peaks of Grand Mountain. When Nick Connelly follows them, hoping to steal the 'treasure', he sets off a trap that endangers them all.





Forest Fire!

Zoe and Harvey witness a lightning strike that begins a forest fire. Making a heroic choice not to head home, Zoe leads Lassie and Harvey up the mountain to a fire lookout, using the radio inside to alert her father to the fire. However, her eagerness to save a group of animals trapped by the advancing fire puts them all in danger.



Spider Bite!

Zoe, Lassie and Harvey are with Graham in a nearby town when Sarah calls them with an emergency. Mrs. Lee has been bitten by a poisonous spider and needs antivenin. Rushing home, Graham and the kids encounter a couple of tourists who have got themselves into trouble. Graham is duty-bound to remain behind. Now it's up to Lassie, Zoe and Harvey to find the quickest way into the valley...and that means rafting down the notoriously dangerous rapids.



Where's Lassie?



Hiking in the forest Zoe stays behind to hang out with some older girls she admires and Lassie heads for home on her own. When Zoe arrives home later, she's concerned to discover that Lassie never came home. Now while the whole community searches for her, only Zoe knows the dog well enough to find her.



Who Knows Best?

When Zoe and Harvey make a bet who can get home first, they take different paths. While Harvey follows the paths as indicated on his map, Zoe attempts to blaze her own trail. But without Lassie along to guide her, Zoe will get herself hopelessly lost.



Condors in the Valley

After Lassie spots a condor that's been hurt in the wing, Zoe and Harvey must transport the endangered bird to Sarah's clinic. Lassie realizes the Condor has left a chick in her nest and the kids realize they must save TWO generations of this endangered species. With fewer than 400 of these rare birds left alive, their mission is a vital one.



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