The MLAATR Sketchbook

By the artists from
Nickelodeon’s
My Life as a Teenage Robot

Edited by Rob Renzetti, Alex Kirwan, & Eric Homan

For promotion only. Not for sale.
Forewords

The first and most important step I took to develop the look of Teenage Robot was also the easiest. I hired Alex Kirwan as my art director. We see eye to eye on a lot of things artistic and otherwise and I knew that, together, we could come up with a fresh style for our show.

We quickly devised a game plan:

We would draw on the look of 1930s animation from Fleischer Studios but combine it with the flat look of the U.P.A. stuff from the 50s. We would bring Art Deco design into every detail from the smallest utensil to the tallest building. At the same time we would evoke a future fantasy world as imagined by science fiction pulp magazines and comics.

Obviously, the second step was a little more complicated than the first. But we have been extremely lucky in finding amazingly talented people to help bring this vision to life. This book is meant as an acknowledgment and thank you for the essential contribution that each of them has made to Teenage Robot.

So, thanks.

Rob Renzetti
Creator, My Life as a Teenage Robot

If an animated cartoon is well executed it may give the viewer the impression he is watching a cartoon actor handling individual props and performing on an imaginative set. In reality, of course, the character, props, and set are actually thousands of separate images recreated repeatedly by dozens of different artists across two continents. A key goal of an animation designer is to create an image strong enough to survive its long journey of reinterpretation with its style and personality intact. These pages contain a very small sampling of the images designed by our artists to be both functional and inspiring. These original pencil sketches reveal the artists’ thought processes and exhibit raw personality that can never be completely duplicated.

Alex Kirwan
Art Director, My Life as a Teenage Robot
**Introduction**

Whenever I tell anyone I’m in the cartoon business, invariably the first thing I get asked is “Oh, do you draw?” Now, to this I crack either “Yeah, flies” or “Yes, a bath.” I’d be hard-pressed to tell you which answer breaks up a room more.

But, in truth, the answer is “No, but I sure wish I could,” especially when it comes to drawing like the artists who work on Teenage Robot. In fact, it’s a safe bet that I don’t even think like these left-brained co-workers of mine. I mean, I can’t even imagine the details of a Z-038 jet transport, an art-deco hot dog cart, or some incidental character in Mr. Smellhaus’s social studies class, so how could I possibly commit them to paper? See, I truly don’t know even how to begin what these people do; it bewilders my equally-left-and-right-sided brain (yet formidable in its own fashion). It’s a mystery to me, and one which puts me considerably in awe of their talents.

So with this sort of due admiration, it’s simple for me never to take for granted the gifts of these wonderful artists, no matter how they dress. I consider myself fortunate to see their creations daily. And now that you’ve got this book, I suspect you’ll feel the same way.

Eric Homan
Frederator Studios
Artist contributors to *My Life as a Teenage Robot*

Alex Kirwan          Sunil Hall          Dave Wasson
Bernie Petterson    Tim Barnes          Ed Baker
Brandon Kruse       Alex Almaguer       Eric Bryan
Bryan Arnett        Aliki Theofilopoulos    Ian Wasseluk
Chris Hacker        Andy Suriano         Jeff Albercht
Chris Tsirgiotis    Ashley Lenz          Jenny Gase-Baker
Heather Martinez    Bill Flores          Jill Petrilak
Janice Tolentino    Bill Schwab          Kelly Armstrong
Jill Friemark       Carlos Ramos         Mary Hanley
John Fountain       Carol Wyatt           Mike Kunkel
Joseph Holt         Chris Battle          Pablo Solis
Leticia Lacy        Chris Dent           Shelly Kvivvang
Robert Lacko        Chris Mitchell        Stephen Sandoval
Rob Renzetti        Chuck Klein          Su Moon
Sean Edberg         Cynthia McIntosh      Tom King
Seonna Hong         Dan Krall            Trevor Wall
Shawn Holt
(SCREEN SAVES THING?)

TYPING WHILE TALKING: "CAN CREATE A..."

CREATE HUMAN EXOSKIN

FIT EXOSKIN COMES IN

EXOSKIN SUIT COMES IN

SENSORS POP OUT WITH CYBERNETIC SENSORS

"A SYNTHETIC HUMAN EXOSKIN..."

SENSORS POP OUT... "IN SENSE DIT WITH INCLUDE QUICKLY..."

HEARD IT TAPER YEVZ"
TRUCK OUT


ejnny's nervous system

& PAN DOWN
SC.232
GUN TRANSFORMATION

STARTING POSE

TAIL SLIDES DOWN

GUN MOUTH WITHDRAWS BEHIND CYLINDER

CYLINDER FOLDS UP

RECTANGLE RETRACTS INTO ARM

ARMS RE-CONNECT

Do NOT CLEAN-UP

102-012
INT. JENNY'S DIRTY BEDROOM
GRAND OPENING

REPTILE HAUS

CLEAN UP NOTE:

PLEASE USE BROADWAY FOR LETTERING.
SC4, POS 9

TUCK COVERED IN ACID

102-026
102-026

SC.63 POS 4

SILVER SHELL WITH LIGHTING FX.
LET TA & LENNY
REVISED
THEN 13 TASSLES LOWER OUT OF GLOVES
14 CHAPS EMERGE FROM BEHIND LEG SHAPES
15 NEW BOOTS EMERGE FROM CHAPS, THEN
16 SPURS EMERGE FROM TOE SHAPES
STORK
202-031
*BG NOTE: GIANTS PENNY FOR SC 104 ONLY
IT SHOULD NOT APPEAR IN SC’S 111-117
* ROUGH

* MISTY ACTUALLY TRANSFORMS INTO A MIST TO ENTER A SUBJECT'S MIND

* MISTY ROUGH ATTITUDE SUGGESTIONS
ROUGH

ROUGH ORION ATTITUDE SUGGESTIONS
Nickelodeon’s *Teenage Robot* fans speak:

“In my opinion, the show is a classic.”
R. Radna

“I would definitely watch the show even if it didn't win an Emmy!! I just LOVE [it] and I've taped almost all the episodes! I have all the lines written down and I am putting them in book form so I can read the episodes while going on vacation somewhere.” tyde45

“The art direction on this show is AMAZING! I can’t wait to see season 2.” Steve Lambe

“I had often wondered what style of art it was. That's one of the reasons I watch the show.” XJ-Zero

“You're doing a fabulous job! I like what your doing with the backgrounds in each episode!” Kevin

“I just love the artwork!! [It] makes me feel comfy in my computer chair.” tyde45

“It is insanely cool of you to post character design concept sketches! They all look great. I'm really, really envious of what you guys do with colors and color combinations. It all fits into the style so well. The backgrounds on *Teenage Robot* are consistently amazing and beautiful to look at. They're fantastic, and really contribute to the show's art style.” CoyoteLoon

“Congrats! There is no doubt, *My Life As A Teenage Robot* is the best show ever! All of you deserve an award.” Kevin

“You guys are simply amazing.”
KerryJ