

BY HILARY UNDERWOOD





Source: BCC.com

STUDIO GHIBLI

Although this is not a television series, this is a world renown studio that was established in 1985. Studio Ghibli has a collection of small television shows like *Ronja*, the *Robber's Daughter*. The movies are more beloved with titles like *Spirited Away* written by Hayao Miyazaki, a fantasy film released in 2001 and grossed \$395.8 million at the worldwide box office. *Spirited Away* brought us into a magical world that is delightfully animated and engrosses you in beautiful character design, a unique storyline, and unforgettable scenes. There are some honorable mentions like my personal favorites, *Howl's Moving Castle* or *Princess Mononoke*. A good one that will pull your heart strings is one called *Pom Poko*, which has some earth-shattering revelations in it regarding an animal's point of view. In whole, the entirety of Studio Ghibli's collection will stay forever in your heart with the passion in their animation and the distinctive storytelling.

AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER

Avatar the Last Airbender is an Asiatic-inspired world where people manipulate the four elements— water, earth, fire, or air— through practices known as "bending." Premiered in 2005, the show had cultural references, art direction, characters, and humor that made the series a widespread success. Avatar the Last Airbender includes themes that are not often mentioned in such a popular series, such as war, genocide, imperialism, and more. This series would be great for any family to watch together and inspire a younger audience with the excellent storytelling.



Source: VanityFair.com

Source: Time.com

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST: BROTHERHOOD

Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood met a goal to create a faithful adaptation that directly follows the storyline of the original manga. Broadcasting in the USA in 2010, some loyal fans view this series as "the best anime of all time," with its intrinsic storytelling, amazing action, quirky comedy, romance, and a deep empathy for the characters. Follow Edward and Alphonse Elric living in a world where alchemy is used in everyday life and the brothers undergo some treacherous consequences to their actions. This series is a must-see for every anime fan and will not disappoint.



Source: CrunchyRoll.com

GRAVITY FALLS

Gravity Falls premiered in 2012 and features brother-and-sister Dipper and Mabel Pines on their wacky adventures with their Great Uncle Stan defending Gravity Falls from supernatural beings. The series has a linear storyline that is creative and fun. Kids and adults alike will enjoy watching the siblings bond and teach each other important life lessons- especially learning how to be yourself and not change for anyone else. I highly recommend this series when you need an uplifting and lighthearted mystery comedy for the whole family.



Source: Justwatch.com

NARUTO SHIPPUDEN

It is hard to mention anime without the notorious Naruto Uzumaki coming into the conversation. The series Naruto Shippuden broadcasted in the USA in 2009 and has exactly 500 episodes. Following the life of Naruto Uzumaki learning ninjutsu and taijutsu skills in the Ninja Academy, the storyline has a full roster of well developed characters that season the storyline to perfection. With films, games, and novels within the series- the show Naruto Shippuden is definitely a must-watch for every one of every age.