




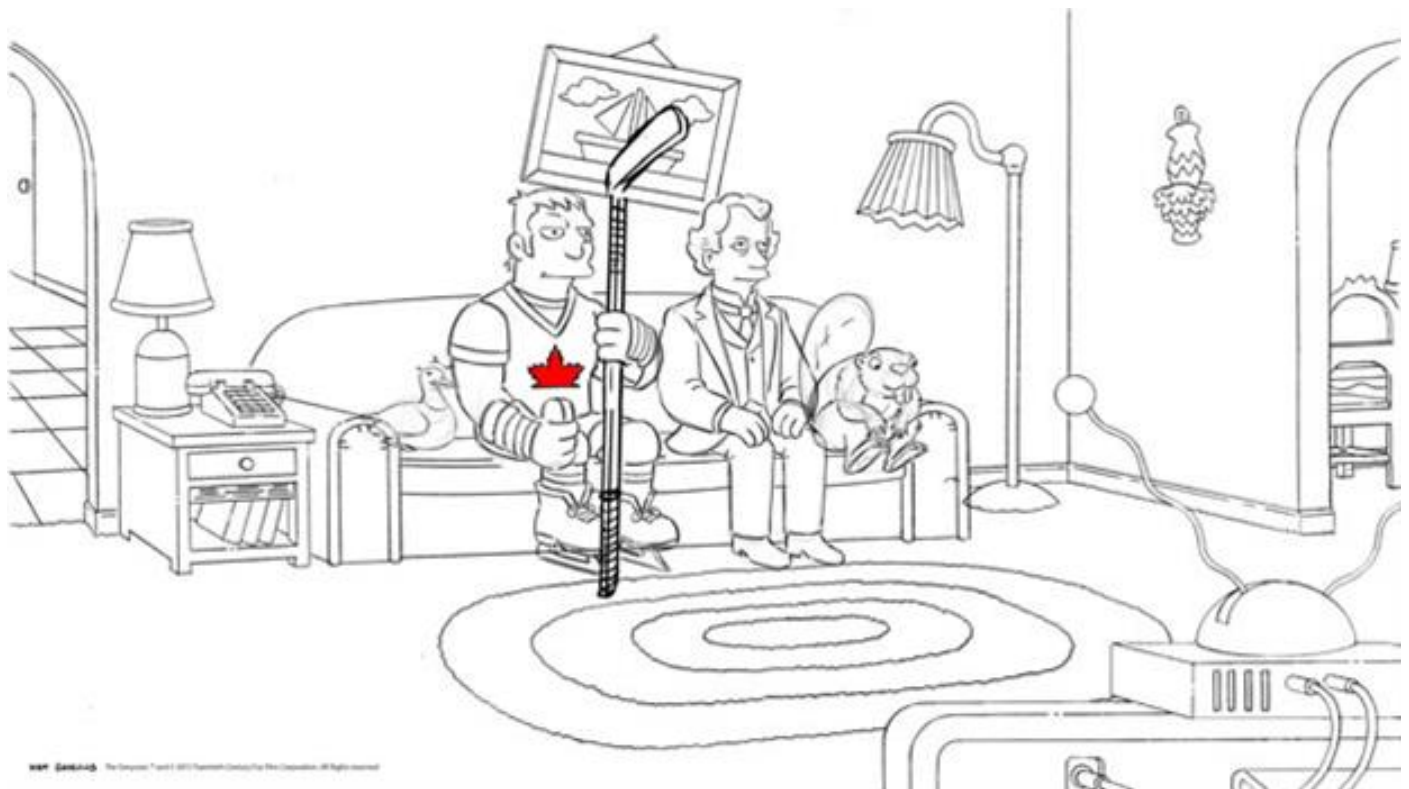
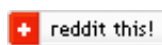
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'Simpsons' Super Fan Featured In Finale

By KATE MORAWETZ

5/17/2013 at 2:47 PM ET



Ray Savaya didn't realize that his lifelong love for *The Simpsons* would eventually lead him to be featured as a writer on the show, but after winning the animated show's Couch Gag contest, the super fan's dreams have become a very exciting reality.

"It's been unreal," Ray told *ET Canada*. "Words can't express how incredible this has been."

Winning a coveted spot to write the iconic couch gag that appears at the beginning of each *Simpsons* episode, Ray, who owns every season on DVD and bonded with his best friend over the series, was also treated to a table read and tour of Fox studios.

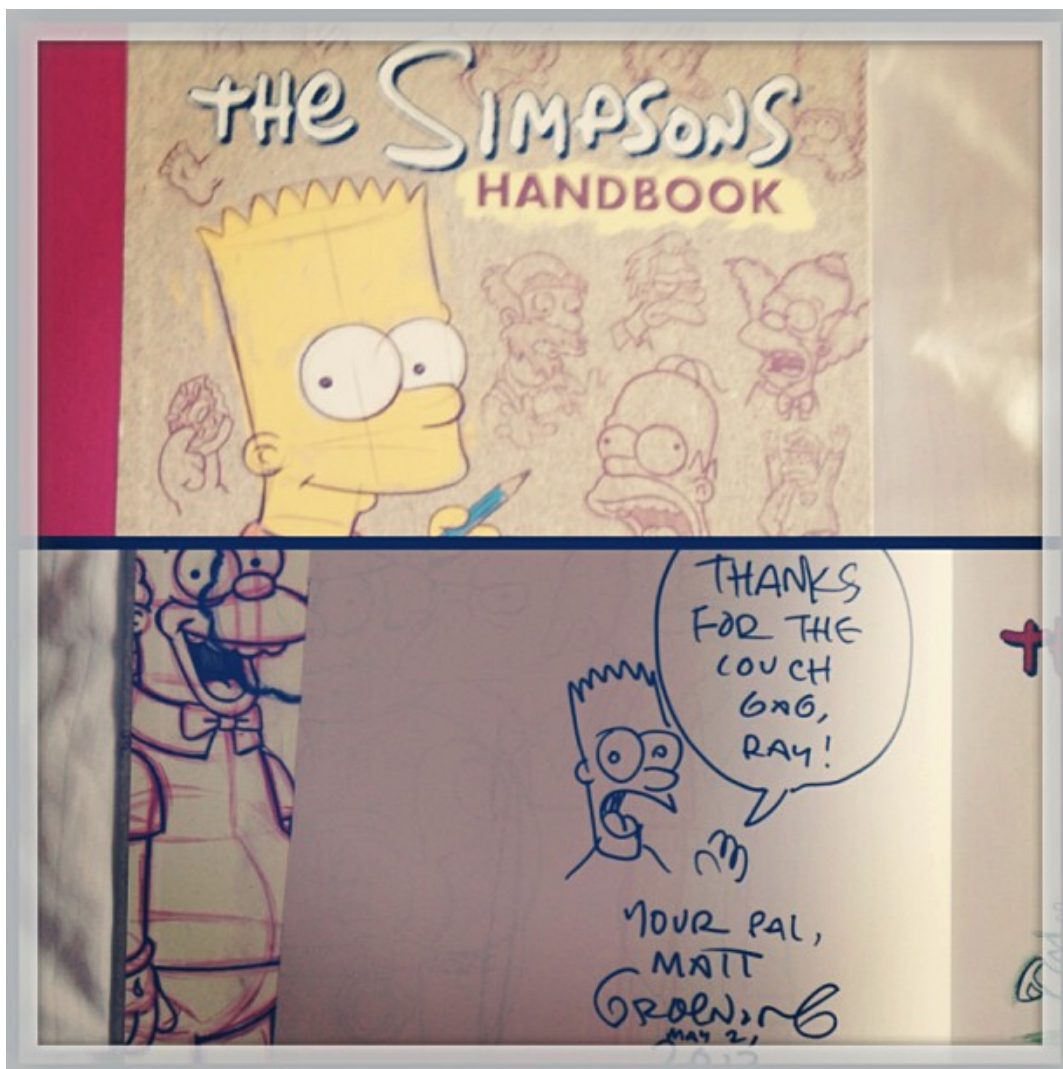
"I watched the whole table read and at the beginning they said my name and everyone started



Ray taking a Homer sized bite at Universal Studios.
Photo: Ray Savaya

clapping," Ray recalls. "The fact that they acknowledged me was such a huge moment." The only thing that could have topped an applause at a *Simpsons* table read? Meeting "God" of the *Simpsons* world as Ray calls him, Matt Groening.

"I didn't know what to say, I was shaking," he says of meeting Groening. "He signed my *Simpsons* Season 1 DVD, he gave me a *Simpsons* animation book, which he signed and he also signed my script. That was hands down one of the highlights of my life, meeting the creator of my favourite show."



I didn't know what to say, I was shaking," Ray says after meeting "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening. Photo: Ray Savaya

Ray also got to sit down with Yardley Smith, the actress who voices Lisa Simpson, and got a special Twitter shout-out after!



Ray & his best friend. Photo: Ray Savaya

After the table read, Ray and his best friend got to tour around Fox studios, eventually ending up at *The Simpsons* animation desks where the pair got to see Ray's couch gag come to life.

"That was pretty incredible. It's way better than I thought it would be," Ray told us. Elaborating, he says "they've made it much funnier. They added a lot of humor to it, that was a nice touch. The animators took it a step beyond to make it the best it could be."

If you haven't checked out [The Simpsons webpage](#), then here is Ray's winning pitch for the couch gag: *The Simpsons run into their living room and a Canadian Loon, John A. Macdonald, a hockey player, and a Canadian Beaver are already sitting there. The Simpsons squeeze in to sit with them. Maggie replaces her*

pacifier with a hockey puck and sucks.

Seems pretty patriotic right? Ray says, that was the whole idea. "I've never seen a Canadian couch gag," he says "I figured that if John A. Macdonald was in there, [people would] know a Canadian came up with that."

Watch Ray meet the creators of *The Simpsons* below and be sure to tune in to watch Ray's winning couch gag on *The Simpsons*' season finale, airing on Global Sunday, with two new episodes airing


back-to-back at 8 p.m. ET/PT and 8:30 p.m. ET/PT!

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