



CBS' 'The Big Bang Theory' to End After Season 12

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CBS' The Big Bang Theory will finally come to an end after next season, the show's 12th. By the time Sheldon, Amy, Leonard, Penny, Howard, Bernadette and Raj take their final bows, the show will have produced 279 episodes, making it the longest-running multi-camera series in TV history.

"We are forever grateful to our fans for their support of The Big Bang Theory during the past twelve seasons. We, along with the cast, writers and crew, are extremely appreciative of the show's success and aim to deliver a final season, and series finale, that will bring The Big Bang Theory to an epic creative close," said Warner Bros. Television, CBS and Chuck Lorre Productions in a joint statement.

As of summer press tour, CBS Entertainment President Kelly Kahl said the network was negotiating with Warner Bros. to bring the show back past season 12, which the network secured last year in a two-year deal. But on Wednesday, Kahl released a statement saying, "The Big Bang Theory has been the defining comedy of its generation. All of us at the network take exceptional pride in this series that uniquely combines creative genius, commercial ratings success, cultural influence and characters who became so popular, they are easily known by just one name. We're incredibly grateful for our partnership with Warner Bros., Chuck Lorre Productions and a brilliant cast and crew that has made

such a 'big bang' and lasting legacy on the television landscape."

The show will debut its final season on Monday, Sept. 24, before moving to its regular time period on Thursday, Sept. 27. It will end its run in May 2019, with what is sure to be a hugely-watched episode of television.

The Big Bang Theory premiered on CBS in 2007 and in syndication in 2011, where it's been the top off-network sitcom throughout its run. Last fall, CBS and Warner Bros. launched a spin-off, Young Sheldon, telling the story of Sheldon Cooper (Jim Parsons) and starring Iain Armitage in the title role.

Throughout its run, The Big Bang Theory has accrued 52 Emmy nominations and 10 wins to date, although the show has never won for outstanding comedy series, and seven Golden Globe nominations. Parsons has won the Emmy for outstanding lead actor in a comedy four times.

It's also boasted a wide array of guest stars, including Laurie Metcalfe as Sheldon's mother, Christine Baranski as Leonard's extremely uptight mother, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Bob Newhart, Wil Wheaton, Mark Hamil, George Takei, Lavar Burton, Sarah Gilbert, Stan Lee, Dr. Stephen Hawking and many more mostly drawn from the gang's super fandom of things such as Comic-Con, Star Trek, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings and all things traditionally nerdy.

The Big Bang Theory is executive produced by Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro and Steve Holland. The series stars Johnny Galecki, Parsons, Kaley Cuoco, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar, Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch. The Big Bang Theory is produced by Chuck Lorre Productions, Inc., in association with Warner Bros. Television.

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