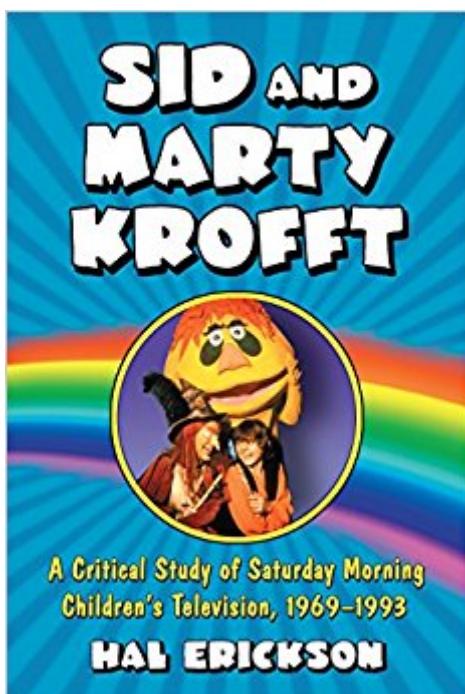


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# **Sid And Marty Krofft: A Critical Study Of Saturday Morning Children's Television, 1969–1993**



## Synopsis

H.R. Pufnstuf, Lidsville, Sigmund and the Sea Monsters, Land of the Lost: For a generation of children growing up in the late sixties and early seventies, these were some of the most memorable shows on Saturday morning television. At a time when television cartoons had lost some of their luster, two puppeteers named Sid and Marty Krofft put together a series of shows that captivated children. Using colorful sets and mysterious lands full of characters that had boundless energy, the Kroffts created a new form of children's television, rooted in the medium's earliest shows but nevertheless original in its concept. This work first provides a history of the Kroffts' pretelevision career, then offers discussions of their 11 Saturday morning shows. Complete cast and credit information is enhanced by interviews with many of the actors and actresses, behind-the-scenes information, print reviews of the series, and plot listings of the individual episodes. The H.R. Pufnstuf feature film, the brothers' other television work, and their short-lived indoor theme park are also detailed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

an informative read about the kind of Saturday morning entertainment I grew up on.

This is such a good book. It is in no way a "every thing they did was great" fan gush type book. It is a well written timeline of two people that shaped the values of kids of the 70's (myself included). No pictures just text. But if You wish to find out the reasons why Sid and Marty have endured all these years it is highly recommended.

Great for any Krofft or fans of Saturday Morning nostalgia.

Wonderful read that brought back memories

I especially loved reading about JOAN GERBER, the best voice over lady ever. I miss her every day and felt it was a gift to have known her.

The catalog of North Carolina publishers McFarland and Company is a veritable goldmine of works on often neglected corners of history and popular culture. Despite their no-frills design and the sometimes variable quality of the writing therein, the characteristic thoroughness, ambition and enthusiasm of McFarland's publications typically makes them worth their understandably (for a small publisher printing small editions of highly specialized texts) steep prices. Hal Erickson's *Sid and Marty Krofft: A Critical Study of Saturday Morning Children's Television, 1969-1993* is no exception. While Erickson's subtitle rather oversteps the actual content of the book--it is strictly limited to "Saturday Morning Children's Television" Krofft style, and a truly "critical study" of the Krofft oeuvre wouldn't skip so gingerly over the relationship of "H.R. Pufnstuf" to Vietnam-era drug culture, or ignore entirely, say, the peculiar sexual politics of "Sigmund and the Sea Monsters" (Sigmund being seduced by his brother in drag? A camp genie shacking up with a runaway sea monster and a half-naked "nephew," both underage?) or the Kroffts' general subversion of the mythic American nuclear family (aunts, babysitters, robots, even, but where are the parents? Marshall disappeared after a season of "Land of the Lost," Big Daddy and Sweet Mama were just plain abusive)--it is nonetheless an invaluable source of information and insight for any Krofft fan. David Martindale's *Pufnstuff and Other Stuff: The Weird and Wonderful World of Sid and Marty Krofft* (q.v.) may be less pretentious (Erickson hasn't quite mastered the academic pop culture studies style he attempts to mimic, and is prone to annoying Britishisms), and, certainly, better-illustrated (apparently, McFarland either couldn't or wouldn't print even a single illustration in its offering), but Erickson's

book more than complements it in its attention to the details, contexts, and significance of the Wonderful World of Sid and Marty Krofft. An extra star for effort ...

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