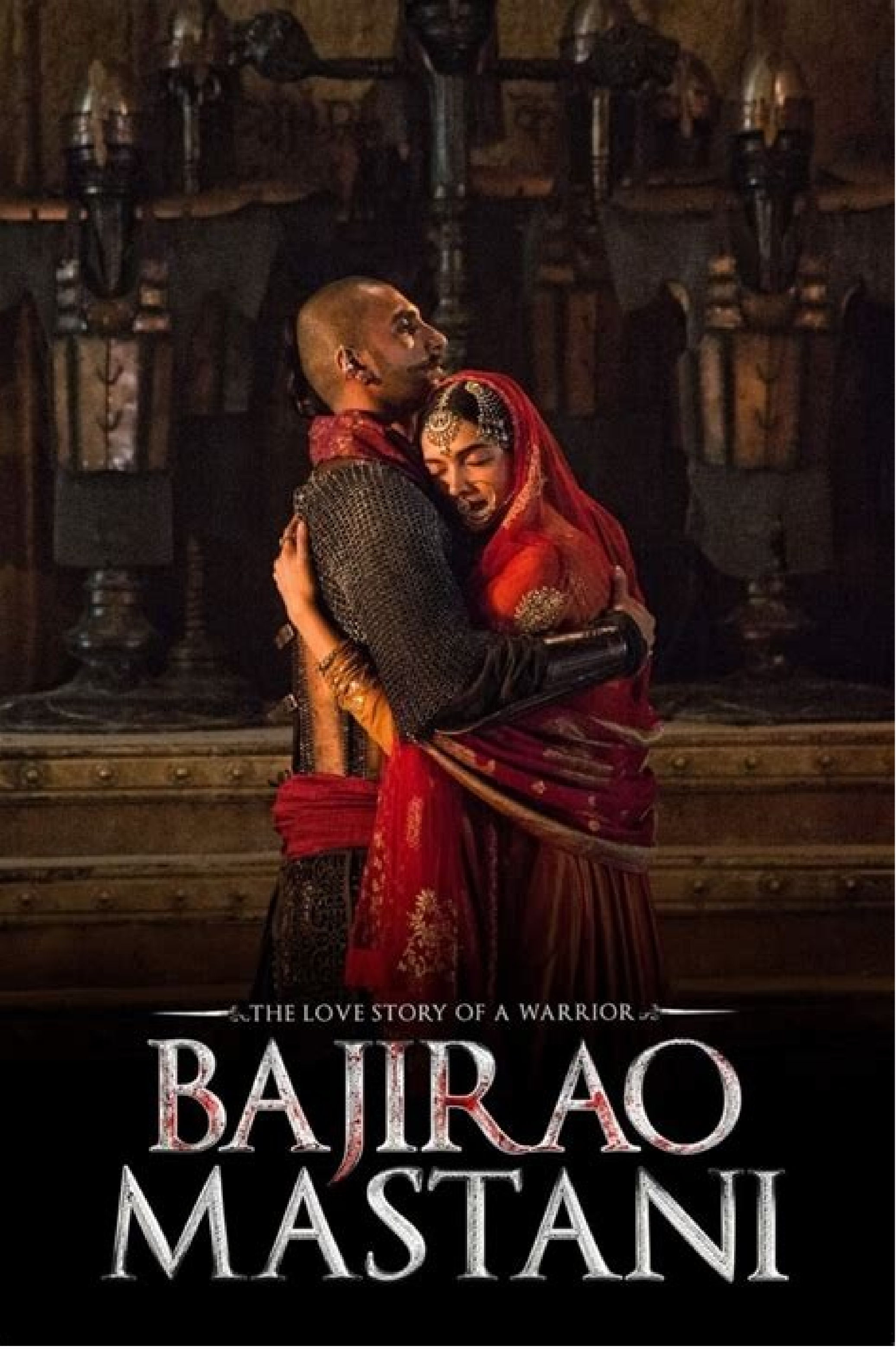


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When The Simpsons premiered on Disney+, fans were disappointed the original versions of the first 20 seasons were not available in their original standard television format. Disney is working on it so you can watch the classic Simpsons episodes the way they aired in the '90s. In the meantime, there are still 10 seasons of Simpsons in HD that look beautiful on Disney+ and they include some all time classics. The Simpsons went to Costa Rica in HD in season 31 | TCFFC The first 10 seasons of The Simpsons always get the most attention in retrospectives, and it's hard to top episodes like "Bart Sells His Soul" or "Lisa the Vegetarian." This HD streaming issue could be the perfect opportunity to discover latter year Simpsons episodes. As the writing staff rotated and the show evolved with the culture and TV landscape, The Simpsons did some landmark episodes in the last 10 years. Since they're already in HD, give these episodes a try on Disney+. "Brick Like Me" and "To Courier With Love" show off 'The Simpsons' in HD These two episodes are visual marvels. Season 25's 20th episode, "Brick Like Me," is an all LEGO episode of The Simpsons showcasing bold high-def animation, and a timely spoof of The LEGO Movie. "To Courier with Love," season 27, episode 20, sees The Simpsons visit Paris in a high definition animated depiction of the city of love. "The Girl Code" saved The Simpsons from their own tweets The Simpsons had already tackled social media when Lisa invented an app in "The D'oh-cial Network." That season 23 episode tackled the craving for validation on social media, and people neglecting their real lives. This episode takes it exponentially further. Lisa Simpson | Fox In season 27's 10th episode, Lisa invents an app that can predict the consequences of any post on social media. In world where filmmakers and TV creators started getting fired for old tweets, this was prescient and relevant. In real life there is no app that can warn you not to post something. The Simpsons just pointed out that we all need to think before we tweet. "The Ned-Liest Catch" brought Ned and Edna together Ned Flanders and Edna Krabapple get together in the season 22 finale. This became a cliffhanger and fans got to decide whether they would stay together in the next season. They decided yes, revealed in the briefest of animated inserts in the following season premiere, until Marcia Wallace passed away and they retired her character. Ned and Edna (Nedna to shippers) were perfect for each other. Edna never had luck in love, and Ned lost many of his loves, first his wife in a tragic T-shirt cannon accident, Christian rock star Rachel Jordan and movie star Sara Sloane. It wasn't always easy for Ned and Edna given Ned's conservative beliefs and Edna's liberal lifestyle, but they were both better for accepting each other. "Homer the Whopper" tackled comic book movies Comic Book Guy is one of the best Simpsons characters. He's voiced by the great Hank Azaria, and when The Simpsons began he was more of a reflection of the sarcastic Generation X-er, and he would be critical of the show itself in meta commentary. Within a decade, Comic Book Guy came true as online personalities emerged with his traits, and no irony. So an episode based on Comic Book Guy creating a comic book is great. Homer Simpson | Fox In the 21st season premiere, Comic Book Guy creates Everyman and Hollywood turns it into a movie. Homer lands the role because of course he does. Homer gets every job in every episode. This was a great spoof of Hollywood's obsession with comic book movies back in 2009. Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg wrote it, as they were working on The Green Hornet. Rogen voices a personal trainer who fails to keep Homer in superhero shape. "The Simpsons" did triple duty on 'Steal This Episode' This episode hits Hollywood hard. First, The Simpsons try to go see Radioactive Man Re-Rises, Apparently Radioactive Man got rebooted but nobody liked it, so this was the debut to return to the original franchise. That actually came true with sequels like Halloween and Terminator: Dark Fate. The Simpsons even did their own legacy sequel episode with Season 28's "Kamp Krustier" which you can also watch on Disney+. The Simpsons | Fox Then Homer complained about the cost of going to the movies, which had only gotten worse in the years since this episode. But the main plot of the episode is that Homer starts a pirate movie theater illegally downloading movies. Homer represents the silliest and most egregious of pirate culture in an episode that's both relevant to the state of the movie industry and its audience, but also points out how petty it is. "The Burns Cage" was a 'Simpsons' episode for equality Smithers officially comes out in this landmark Simpsons episode. For most of its run, The Simpsons had implied Smithers was gay. He said, "Women and seamen don't mix," dreamed of Mr. Burns, discussed his choice of lifestyle and even sang with the Village People. It was always innuendo though. The Simpsons supported Smithers by allowing him to be out and proud in season 27, episode 17. That doesn't make finding a partner any easier, but it was a loving episode for Smithers that celebrated his sexuality. "The Simpsons" predicted the immigration crisis in "Coming to Homerica" The 20th season finale of The Simpsons tackled immigration right when the issue was heating up. A single episode managed to encapsulate the entire debate. People from Ogdenville start moving to Springfield. At first they welcome their new neighbors. Then the Ogdenvillians start taking jobs that Springfieldians don't want to do. Marge Simpson | Fox Pretty soon there are no jobs left for Springfield and they start blaming Ogdenville immigrants. Springfield actually puts up a wall to keep Ogdenville out. The Simpsons are probably tired of predicting the future at this point. 1080p and 1080i - one letter, big argument When is HD not HD? It's a question that is causing huge discussion after a controversial Sony blog talked about 1080i support for 'nearly HD' sets. Currently, to qualify as HD in the UK, sets must be 720p or 1080i, with so-called Full HD or True HD sets having 1080p. HD BurnoutSo when Burnout Paradise designer Simon Phipps wrote on the Sony blog: "Plus heaps more, including: 1080i support for PlayStation 3 owners with "almost HD" sets", it sparked something of a reaction. "Really appreciate the 1080i support, but calling 1080i TVs "almost HD" is a real dumb move- just because you don't like it doesn't make it a real HD res. My 1080i CRT tv will blow the doors off 75% of the LCDs out there in the picture quality department," posted one commentator. Telly wars "That said, the HDTV specification is 1080i or 720p — BOTH are full high definition, BY DEFINITION. Neither is "not quite HD". I love my 1080i CRT HDTV compared to almost every 720p LCD screen I've ever seen and anyone else who owns one can probably tell you the same. Do some research before venting next time — 1080i IS HD. Real HD. The HDness. Completely HD..." posted another. Are we beginning to see an HD telly class war - with the Full HD crowd smugly grinning at the poor old HD Ready lot? It's certainly prompted a bit of a debate. Microsoft has released a handful of free games for its new Zune HD, but these games, developed in-house, come with a catch: ads. You'll have to watch either a static or video advertisement while the game starts up. That could take as long as 30 seconds for Chess, Ars Technica reports, and 17 seconds for Goo Splat. The other available games are Hexic, Sudoku, Space Battle 3, Shell Game . . . Of the Future, and Texas Hold 'Em. Two utility apps, Calculator and Weather, are also available, but they don't show ads during start-up. As MacDailyNews notes, we shouldn't be at all surprised to see Microsoft infusing — or maybe "plunking," in this case — advertisements into its entertainment devices. "We are going to be an advertising company, and we are going to be a devices company," Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer said during a 2007 financial analyst meeting. ". . . We are hell-bent and determined to allocate the talent, the resources, the money, the innovation, to absolutely become a powerhouse in the ad business." We've seen this happen elsewhere in Microsoft's Entertainment and Devices division. In July, Microsoft revealed that it would bring Silverlight-powered ads to Xbox Live. That means when you sign into the service, you might see some audio and video in the ads that appear on the dashboard. That little "enhancement" was more infuriating, because Xbox Live already costs \$50 per year, ostensibly in exchange for a commercial-free experience. As for the Zune HD ads, I'm torn. Thanks to the iPhone, I've generally come to accept that when a full mobile game (not a "Lite" version that teases a paid download) is free, there are going to be ads somewhere. The question becomes, would you rather watch an ad as the game loads, or see them while you play? In a 2010 survey, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) found that 80 percent of people with broadband Internet in the U.S. didn't know the speed of that broadband connection [source: Gurin]. In addition, some may be surprised to learn that they're only getting a fraction of their service's advertised maximum speeds. For example, your Internet service provider (ISP) might have you on a plan that says "up to 30 Mbps down" while you're really only getting download speeds of around 19 Mbps. Web sites like speedtest.net offer free tests for both the upload and download speeds of your Internet connection, but be cautious of some of the tempting "start" buttons in ads on the sites -- many are actually well-designed ads that look like they're part of the site's test mechanisms. Before you call your ISP about any discrepancies, remember that the plan you're on is based on a maximum value. Your actual results are affected by factors like your ISP's peak Web use times, the number of people sharing your line and your distance from the ISP's fiber pipeline. When it comes to streaming HD video, you'll need a broadband speed, or bitrate, that's capable of handling a progressive scan rate of 720p. Since your HD-capable screen is refreshing the screen 60 times per second, this means ensuring that all those video frames are received and ready to play before they're needed. Your computer or other device will cache all the incoming data and queue the video frames so they're ready for smooth playback. From there, determining the speed you'll need seems to be a matter of math. That math, though, requires some idea about the size of the video file. This depends on how the file is encoded, more commonly referred to as the file type. A one-hour 720p video in the MPEG-2 standard might be 2.7 GB while the same video in one of the newest video standards, H.264/Advanced Video Coding (AVC), could be almost 13 GB [source: Digital Rebellion]. Thus, differences in file size could be one explanation for why different Web sites have different speed recommendations for streaming their HD content. Suppose the video you're streaming is one hour long, and the file size for that video is 6 GB. While a broadband connection of up to 10 Mbps lets you easily stream a lot of video content online, you'll want 15 Mbps or more for this six-gigabyte HD video. Here's a quick look at the math: Approximate megabytes: 6 GB = 6,144 MB (1 GB = 1024 MB) Approximate megabits: 6,144 MB = 49,152 Mb (1 byte = 8 bits) Number of seconds per hour calculation: 60 x 60 = 3,600 Megabits per hour calculation: 49,152 / 3,600 = 13.65 Mbps When you're streaming HD content, also consider whether the connection jumps over a wireless router. If so, note that the connection speed could drop over the connection if the WiFi standard isn't fast enough. You'll want to avoid slower 802.11b connections, and the newest 802.11n is the ideal choice to keep up with faster broadband services. As with anything you do over your broadband connection, be sure to note whether your ISP will slow down or stop your service after reaching a certain bandwidth threshold. Some sites, such as Netflix, let you choose a lower playback quality to help you stay within those thresholds, even though it means giving up the higher definition. Also, make sure the hardware you're using isn't just HD-capable, but it has the processing power to cache and play video files in HD. For lots more information about your internet connection and streaming HD video, head on over to the next page.

