

( \* LEGION OUTPOST II SUPPLEMENTAL )

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by  
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Superman  
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# The Many Faces Of Superman

by John L. Censullo

The concept of Superman had its roots in the fertile imaginations of two young boys in Cleveland, Ohio: writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster. In January 1933, Siegel and Shuster published a story called “The Reign of the Superman”, about an ordinary man who is corrupted when endowed with super-powers, for the third issue of their fanzine, *Science Fiction*. Soon afterward, they produced a “Superman” comic book, changing the character from a villain into a hero, with the hope of selling the concept to a publisher. When they were rejected, Shuster tore up the only copy of the magazine, although Siegel was able to save the cover. The following year, in the Summer of 1934, they tweaked the concept and produced a “Superman” newspaper strip, which they also shopped around. Although they were unsuccessful in the latter two endeavors, they had unwittingly sowed the seeds for something far greater.



In late 1937, Harry Donenfeld, the new owner of Detective Comics Inc., contacted M. C. Gaines at the McClure Syndicate, looking for material for the first issue of his new magazine, tentatively called *Action Funnies*. Gaines had on his desk a very crude newspaper strip proposal, Siegel and Shuster’s “Superman”. Neither Gaines nor the McClure officials cared much for the feature. In fact, it was only after being prodded by his assistant Sheldon Mayer, who saw great potential in the concept, that Gaines even suggested the strip to Donenfeld. The material was sent to editor Vincent Sullivan, who chose it for the cover feature. Finally, on April 18th 1938, Superman was introduced to the public in the first issue of **Action Comics**, cover dated June 1938.



Over the decades, comic books have featured a number of different incarnations of the Man of Steel. The golden age Superman was Kal-L of Krypton, a world whose inhabitants all possessed super-powers on their homeworld. His birth parents were Jor-L and Lara, his foster parents were John and Mary Kent, and his arch-enemy was the scientist Alexei “Lex” Luthor.

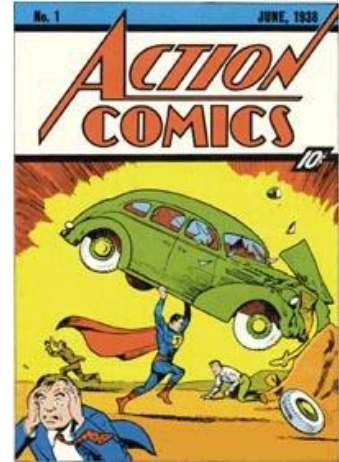
The silver age Superman was named Kal-El, and his Kryptonian race only gained powers under the rays of a yellow sun or in Earth’s lesser gravity. Unlike his predecessor, this version began his career as an adolescent named Superboy. His birth parents were Jor-El and Lara, his foster parents were Jonathan and Martha Kent, and his greatest foe was the scientist Alexis “Lex” Luthor.



The current version of Superman is similar in many ways to the silver age version, with the most notable differences being the removal of the “Superboy” aspect of his teen years, his foster parents Jonathan and Martha Kent still being alive, and his nemesis Lex Luthor being revamped as a billionaire businessman. (It appears as if this Luthor’s formal first name is simply “Lex”, and is not short for anything.)

Over his sixty-five year history, Superman would be featured in numerous magazines published by Detective Comics Inc. (later renamed National Periodical Publications Inc., and then DC Comics Inc.) including, but not limited to:

**Action Comics #1-803 plus Annual #1-9, Superman v1 #1-423 plus Annual #9-12 and Special #1-3, New York World's Fair Comics #1-2, World's Best Comics #1, World's Finest Comics #2-70, Superman Family #184-215, The Man Of Steel #1-6, Adventures Of Superman #424-616 plus Annual #1-9, Superman v2 #1-193 plus Annual #1-12 and Special #1, Superman: The Man Of Steel #1-134 plus Annual #1-6, and Superman: The Man Of Tomorrow #1-15.**



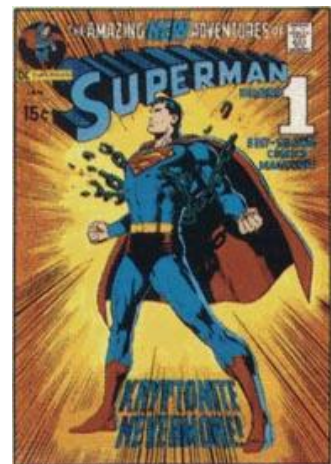
He also teamed-up with other heroes, most notably with Batman, in the majority of the issues of **World's Finest Comics #71-323** and in all issues of **DC Comics Presents #1-97** plus **Annual #1-4**.



Superman was also a supporting character in a number of spin-off series, such as **Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen #1-163**, **Showcase #9-10** (starring Lois Lane), **Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane #1-137**, **Supergirl v1 #1-10**, **Daring New Adventures Of Supergirl #1-13**, **Supergirl v2 #14-23**, and **Superman Family #164-222**.

As Superboy, he starred in **More Fun Comics #101-107**, **Adventure Comics #103-315, 453-458**, **Superboy v1 #1-197**, **Superboy Spectacular #1**, **Superman Family #191-198**, **DC Super-Stars #12**, and **The New Adventures Of Superboy #1-54**.

Superman was also featured in a number of team books. The golden age Superman was a member of the Justice Society of America, which had features in **All Star Comics #3-74**, **Adventure Comics #461-466**, and **DC Special #29**. The silver age Superman was a member of the Justice League, beginning in **The Brave And The Bold #28-30** and continuing into their own series, **Justice League Of America**. As Superboy, he was also a member of the Legion of Super-Heroes, co-starring with them in numerous magazines, including **Adventure Comics #247, 267, 282, 290, 293, 300-380**, **Action Comics #378-387**, **Superboy v1 #98, 125, 147, 173, 188, 195, 197-230**, **Superboy & The Legion Of Super-Heroes #231-259**, and **Legion Of Super-Heroes v2 #260**. The current version of Superman often appears as a member of the new Justice League in their series, **JLA**.



But Superman's appearances aren't limited to only comic books. He has also starred in cartoons, movies, radio programs, television shows, newspaper strips, novels, and more. On the pages that follow, I will attempt to summarize these various aspects, touching only briefly on the comic book material.

### COMIC BOOKS (PRE-CRISIS DCU):

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman of Earth-2	Action Comics #1 - Crisis On Infinite Earths #12, The Kingdom #1-2	1938-1986, 1999
Superboy of Earth-1	More Fun Comics #101 - Legion Of Super-Heroes v3 #12	1945-1985
Superman of Earth-1	Action Comics #241 - Crisis On Infinite Earths #10	1958-1986
Superman of an unnamed parallel Earth	Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane #43	1963
Ultraman of Earth-3 (villain)	Justice League Of America #29 - Crisis On Infinite Earths #1, Animal Man #23-24	1964-1985, 1990
Superboy of an unnamed parallel Earth	Superboy v1 #116	1964
Superboy of an unnamed parallel Earth	Superboy v1 #117	1964
Superman of an unnamed parallel Earth (villain)	World's Finest Comics #148	1965
Superman of an unnamed parallel Earth	Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane #57	1965
( Mr. Might of Earth-12	Showcase #62,63,65, Inferior Five #1	1966-1967 )
Superboy of Earth-12	Inferior Five #6	1968
Superman of Earth-12	Showcase #63, Inferior Five #6,10	1966-1968
( Supergirl of an unnamed parallel Earth	Adventure Comics #387	1969 )
Karkan the Mighty of an unnamed parallel Earth	Superboy v1 #183,188, Superboy v3 #61	1972, 1999
( Ultraa of Earth-Prime	Justice League Of America #153,158, 167-170,201	1978-1982 )
Superboy of Earth-Prime	DC Comics Presents #87 - Crisis On Infinite Earths #12	1985-1986
Overman of an unnamed parallel Earth (villain)	Animal Man #23-24	1990
Sunshine Superman of an unnamed parallel Earth	Animal Man #23-24	1990
Superman of Earth-D	Legends Of The DCU: Crisis On Infinite Earths #1	1999
various Superboys and Supermans featured in "Imaginary Stories"	Superman v1 #19 - Action Comics #583	1942-1986

**COMIC BOOKS (EARTH-SIGMA DCU):**

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman	Crisis On Infinite Earths #11 - Action Comics #582	1986

**COMIC BOOKS (EARTH-OMEGA DCU):**

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superboy of the Pocket Universe	Hex #10 - Superboy v3 #8	1986-1994
Superman	Booster Gold #6 - Zero Hour: Crisis In Time #0	1986-1994
Ultraman of Qward (villain)	Justice League International Quarterly #8	1992
( Superboy, the clone	Adventures Of Superman #500 - Zero Hour: Crisis In Time #2	1993-1994 )
( Ultraa of Almerac	Justice League International Quarterly #13, Justice League Europe #65, Justice League America #90	1993-1994 )

**COMIC BOOKS (EARTH-ZERO DCU):**

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman	Zero Hour: Crisis In Time #0 - present	1994-present
( Superboy, the clone	Zero Hour: Crisis In Time #0 - present	1994-present )
Ultraman of the anti-matter universe Earth (villain)	JLA: Earth-2 hardcover - Adventures Of Superman #605	1999-2002

**COMIC BOOKS (FUTURE TIMELINES):**

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman of 2956	Action Comics #215	1956
Superman of 2965-2967	Superman v1 #181, Action #338-339, World's Finest Comics #166	1965-1967
Superman of 2020-2021	Superman v1 #354-355,357,361,364,368,372	1980-1982
Superman of 2999	Superman v2 #136-138	1998
"Kingdom Come" Superman	Kingdom Come #1-4, The Kingdom #1-2	1996-1999
"DC One Million" Superman of the 853rd century	JLA #15 - Hourman #13	1998-2000
"DC One Million" Superman Prime	DC One Million #1 - DC One Million 80-Page Giant #1,000,000	1998-1999
"DC One Million" Superman Dynasty	DC One Million #1 - DC One Million 80-Page Giant #1,000,000	1998-1999

### COMIC BOOKS (ALTERNATE REALITIES):

Name	Appearances	Dates
various Superboys and Supermans featured in "Elseworlds" stories	Kamandi: At Earth's End #4 - Superman: Red Son #3	1993-2003
various Superboys and Supermans featured in "Hypertime" stories	The Kingdom #2	1999
"Tangent" Superman	Tangent Comics / The Superman #1	1998
"Just Imagine" Superman	Just Imagine Stan Lee With John Buscema Creating Superman #1 - Just Imagine Stan Lee With John Cassidy Creating Crisis #1	2001-2002

### COMIC BOOKS (INTER-COMPANY CROSSOVERS):

Name	Appearances	Dates
various Superboys and Supermans featured in "inter-company crossovers" (DC Comics crossovers with Marvel, Dark Horse, Image, etc.)	Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man #1 - Superman/Tarzan: Sons Of The Jungle #3	1976-2002
Amalgam Universe's Super Soldier (merger of Superman and Captain America)	Super Soldier #1, Super Soldier: Man Of War #1	1996-1997
Amalgam Universe's Spider-Boy (merger of Superboy and Spider-Man)	Spider-Boy #1, Spider-Boy Team-Up #1	1996-1997

### COMIC BOOKS (PARODIES AND DERIVATIVES):

Name	Appearances	Dates
EC Comics' Superduperman	Mad #4	1953
Marvel Comics' Hyperion of the Squadron Sinister	Avengers v1 #69 - Squadron Supreme #8	1969-1986
Marvel Comics' Hyperion of the Squadron Supreme	Avengers v1 #85 - Squadron Supreme: New World Order #1	1971-1998
Marvel Comics' Wundarr/Aquarian	Fear #17 - Spider-Man Team-Up #6	1973-1997
Marvel Comics' Gladiator of the Imperial Guard	X-Men v1 #107 - Marvel Universe: The End #1	1977-2003
Image/Maximum/Awesome's Supreme by Alan Moore	Supreme v2 #41 - Supreme The Return #6	1996-2000



### COMIC BOOKS (CARTOON ADAPTATIONS):

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman in the Justice League of America	Limited Collectors' Edition #C-41 featuring the Super Friends, Super Friends #1 - 47	1975-1981
Superman in the Justice League of America	Super Powers v1 #1 - 5, Super Powers v2 #1 - 6, Super Powers v3 #1 - 4	1984, 1985, 1986
Superman	Superman & Batman Magazine #1 - 8, plus Annual #1 (by Welsh Publishing Co.)	1993-1995
Superman	Batman Adventures v1 #25	1994
Superman	Superman Adventures #1 - 66, plus Annual #1 and Special #1	1996-2002
Superman in the Justice League	Adventures In The DC Universe #1,12,18	1997-1998
Superman	Batman & Superman Adventures: World's Finest #1	1997
Superman in Justice League Unlimited	Batman Beyond v2 #21	2001
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League Adventures #1 - present	2002-present

### COMIC BOOKS (MOTION PICTURE ADAPTATIONS):

Name	Appearances	Dates
Christopher Reeve's Superman	All New Collectors' Edition #C-62 featuring Superman: The Movie	1979
Christopher Reeve's Superman	Superman II: The Adventure Continues [DC Special Series #25]	1981
Christopher Reeve's Superman	Superman III Movie Special #1	1983
( Helen Slater's Supergirl	Supergirl Movie Special #1	1985 )
Christopher Reeve's Superman	Superman IV Movie Special #1	1987
( Shaquille O'Neal's Steel	Steel: The Official Comic Adaptation Of The Warner Bros. Motion Picture #1	1997 )

### COMIC BOOKS (TELEVISION SHOW ADAPTATIONS):

Name	Appearances	Dates
Gerard Christopher's Superboy	Superboy v2 #1 - 18, The Adventures Of Superboy #19 - 22, Superboy v2 Special #1	1990-1992
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville: The Comic #1, Smallville #1 - present	2002-present

## NEWSPAPER STRIPS:

It didn't take long for Superman to make his way out of the constraints of the comic book and into other media. On Monday, January 16th 1939, the McClure Syndicate began publishing a daily **Superman** strip. The introductory story arc lasted for 12 days. A Sunday strip was added ten months later on November 5th 1939. One of the most notable contributions this strip made to the Superman mythos, was the revelation that Superman's home planet was called Krypton and that his parents were named Jor-L and Lora. The feature lasted until 1966.



A second **Superman** strip was published from 1977 to 1982. Following that, it was merged into **The World's Greatest Superheroes** strip, which continued until 1984.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman of Earth-2A	Superman	1939-1966
Superman of Earth-1A	Superman	1977-1982
Superman of Earth-1A in the Justice League of America	The World's Greatest Superheroes	1978-1982
Superman of Earth-1A in the Justice League of America	The World's Greatest Superheroes Present Superman	1982-1984

## NOVELS (COMIC BOOK ADAPTATIONS):



In 1942, a Random House novel entitled **The Adventures Of Superman** by George Lowther was published. Lowther begins his story on the planet Krypton with Jor-el trying to warn the Council of One Hundred that Krypton is doomed. They, of course, think he is mad, so Jor-el places his infant son into a prototype of the rocketship that he had been developing to save his people and blasts the child into space just before the planet self-destructs. This story names Superman's foster parents for the first time. They are Eben and Sarah Kent, a childless couple, upon whose pasture the rocketship crashes.

When Clark Kent grows up, he eventually goes off to Metropolis to see Perry White about a job at the Daily Planet. In order to assess what kind of reporter Clark would make, Perry sends him to a seacoast town in Maine to investigate rumors of a ghost ship. After Clark's first report indicates that something odd is indeed going on, Perry sends Lois to join him in order to have an experienced reporter on the scene. What Clark finds, and how he and Superman deal with the supernatural and with enemy agents, makes up the remainder of the novel.

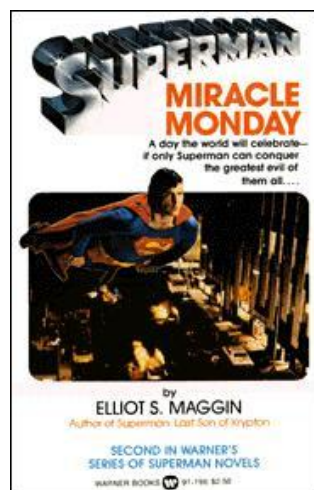


In 1978, Warner Books published a novel entitled **Last Son Of Krypton** by Elliot S. Maggin. It was released in the U.S. on the same day as the opening of **Superman: The Movie**. Curiously, the earlier British edition contained a few additional pages that were cut out of the U.S. edition and other foreign versions.



The book begins with a bit of the history of Krypton, and then continues with some details of Jor-El's past. Following the destruction of Krypton, Albert Einstein is visited by a navigational pod from Jor-El which instructs him to go to Smallville and pick up an alien baby. Believing he would not make a very good parent, Einstein instead chooses a couple from Smallville, Jonathan and Martha Kent, to adopt the child.

Years later, after the baby has grown to manhood and established himself as Superman, Lex Luthor steals some of Albert Einstein's papers from Princeton! When the papers are in turn stolen from Lex by the Master, an evil conqueror from another planet, Lex must team up with Superman to save the universe.



In 1981, Warner Books published a second novel entitled **Miracle Monday** by Elliot S. Maggin.

The story features Kristin Wells, a 29th century history student who is so fascinated with one of the unsolved mysteries of Superman's 20th century adventures that she makes a journey into the past and discovers the secret of the interplanetary holiday, Miracle Monday. Not only does she discover the joyful holiday's secret origin, but she actually figures prominently into that origin herself.

Kristin Wells was later reintroduced in the comic books, in **DC Comics Presents Annual #2** and **#4**, where she adopted the costumed identity of Superwoman. She also appeared in the last Imaginary Story in **Action Comics #583** and in Hypertime in **The Kingdom: Planet Krypton #1**.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman of Earth-2B	The Adventures Of Superman by George Lowther	1942
Superman of Earth-1	Last Son Of Krypton by Elliot S. Maggin	1978
Superman of Earth-1	Miracle Monday by Elliot S. Maggin	1981
Superman of Earth-Omega	The Death And Life Of Superman by Roger Stern	1993
"Kingdom Come" Superman	Kingdom Come by Elliot S. Maggin	1998

### NOVELS (CARTOON ADAPTATIONS):

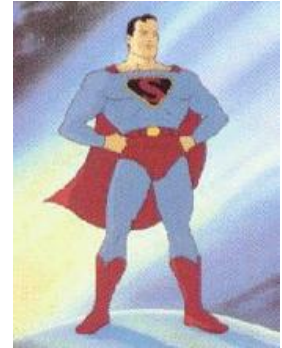
Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book One: Secret Origins by Michael S. Teitelbaum	2002
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book Two: In Darkest Night by Michael Jan Friedman	2002
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book Three: Wings Of War by Michael Jan Friedman	2002
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book Four: The Gauntlet by Louise Simonson	2002
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book Five: Red Justice by Michael S. Teitelbaum	2003
Superman in the Justice League	Justice League, Book Six: Wild At Heart by Louise Simonson	2003

### NOVELS (TELEVISION SHOW ADAPTATIONS):

Name	Appearances	Dates
Dean Cain's Superman	Lois & Clark: A Superman Novel by C. J. Cherryh	1996
Dean Cain's Superman	Lois & Clark, Book One: Heat Wave by Michael Jan Friedman	1996
Dean Cain's Superman	Lois & Clark, Book Two: Exile by Michael Jan Friedman	1996
Dean Cain's Superman	Lois & Clark, Book Three: Deadly Games by Michael Jan Friedman	1996
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville Book One: Strange Visitors by Roger Stern	2002
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville Book Two: Dragon by Alan Grant	2002
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville Book Three: Hauntings by Nancy Holder	2003
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville Book Four: Whodunnit by Dean Wesley Smith	2003
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book One: Arrival by Michael Teitelbaum	2002
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book Two: See No Evil by Cherie Bennett & Jeff Gottesfeld	2002
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book Three: Flight by Cherie Bennett & Jeff Gottesfeld	2002
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book Four: Animal Rage by David Cody Weiss & Bobby J.G. Weiss	2003
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book Five: Speed by Cherie Bennett & Jeff Gottesfeld	2003
Tom Welling's Clark Kent	Smallville (Young Adults Series) Book Six: Secrets by Suzan Colon	2003

## ANIMATED CARTOONS:

Paramount Pictures produced seventeen **Superman** cartoons, the first nine were by Fleischer Studios and the last eight by Famous Studios. All seventeen cartoons were originally released in movie theaters from 1941 to 1943. The first episode was "Superman" (a.k.a. "The Mad Scientist"), which debuted on September 26th 1941. The last episode was "Secret Agent", released on July 30th 1943. Superman was voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer.



Filmation Associates produced a television cartoon called **The New Adventures Of Superman** for one season, starting on September 10th 1966. Two Superman cartoons bracketed one Superboy cartoon. The next season renamed the show **The Superman-Aquaman Hour Of Adventure**. The third and final season saw yet another name change, to **The Batman-Superman Hour**. Superman was again voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer, and Superboy was voiced by Bob Hastings.



On October 7th 1972, Clark Kent appeared in an episode of Filmation's **The Brady Kids** entitled "Cindy's Super Friend". Clark was voiced by Keith Sutherland.



Beginning in 1973, Superman appeared as a member of Hanna-Barbera's Superfriends, a simplified version of the Justice League. The **Super Friends** cartoon debuted on September 8th 1973, and lasted one season. After a few years of reruns, it returned on September 10th 1977 for another season as **The All New Super Friends Hour**. The next year, on September 9th 1978, the heroes returned in both **Challenge Of The Superfriends** and **Superfriends**, each

lasting one season. On September 22nd 1979, they returned for another season as **The World's Greatest Superfriends**. Beginning September 13th 1980, **Superfriends** returned for three additional seasons. **Superfriends: The Legendary Super Powers Show** debuted on September 8th 1984, and lasted for one season. The final season in the series was called **The Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians**, which debuted on September 7th 1985. Superman was voiced by Danny Dark.



Ruby-Spears Productions' **Superman** cartoon debuted on September 17th 1988 and lasted for one season. Thirteen half-hour shows consisted of one Superman adventure, and one short supplemental segment (a feature called "Superman Family Album" that chronicled Clark Kent's life from childhood to his public debut as Superman). Superman was voiced by Beau Weaver.

On September 6th 1996, Warner Brothers kicked off their new animated **Superman** feature with a 90 minute special, "The Last Son Of Krypton", composed of the first three episodes. The series lasted three seasons, with the second and third being part of **The New Batman/Superman Adventures**. Superman was voiced by Tim Daly.



On November 11th and 18th 2000, a future version of Superman appeared as a member of Justice League Unlimited in a two-part episode of **Batman Beyond** entitled "The Call". The aged Superman was voiced by Christopher McDonald.

Currently, Superman appears in Cartoon Network's **Justice League** cartoon, which debuted on November 17th 2001. Superman is voiced by George Newbern.



Superman also appeared recently in Warner Brothers' **Static Shock** episode entitled "Toys In The Hood" on May 3rd 2003. Superman was again voiced by George Newbern.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer	Paramount/Fleischer's Superman	1941-1943
Superman voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer	Filmation's The New Adventures Of Superman	1966-1968
Superboy voiced by Bob Hastings	Filmation's The Adventures Of Superboy	1966-1968
Clark Kent voiced by Keith Sutherland	Filmation's The Brady Kids, "Cindy's Super Friend"	Oct 7, 1972
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Super Friends	1973
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's All-New Super Friends Hour	1977
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Superfriends	1978
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Challenge Of The Superfriends	1978
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's World's Greatest Superfriends	1979
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Superfriends	1980-1981, 1983
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Superfriends: The Legendary Super Powers Show	1984
Superman voiced by Danny Dark	Hanna-Barbera's Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians	1985
Superman voiced by Beau Weaver	Ruby-Spears' Superman	1988
Superman voiced by Tim Daly	Warner Brothers' Superman and The New Superman Adventures	1996-2000
( Supergirl stands in for Superman	Warner Brothers' Batman: Gotham Knights, "Girls' Nite Out"	Oct 17, 1998 )
Superman voiced by Christopher McDonald	Warner Brothers' Batman Beyond, "The Call", featuring Justice League Unlimited	Nov 11, 2000, Nov 18, 2000
Superman voiced by George Newbern	Cartoon Network's Justice League	2001-present
Superman voiced by George Newbern	Warner Brothers' Static Shock, "Toys In The Hood"	May 3, 2003
Superman voiced by Michael Daingerfield	Cartoon Network's Krypto The Superdog, "Krypto's Scrypto"	Mar 25, 2005



## LIVE ACTION - RADIO SHOWS:

Before he provided the voice of Superman in the Fleischer **Superman** cartoons, Clayton "Bud" Collyer portrayed the Man of Steel on a radio program called **The Adventures Of Superman**. The show began on the Mutual Network on Monday, February 12th 1940, with "The Baby From Krypton". The character of Superman was absent from the first episode, however Bud Collyer played other roles in the story of Krypton's destruction.



In this version of Superman's origin, Krypton is a giant planet orbiting on the opposite side of Earth's sun. The baby Kal-L grows to manhood during his journey to Earth, emerging from his rocketship as a full-grown adult in the second episode. On the advice of the first humans he encounters, Kal-L assumes the guise of Clark Kent and applies for a job as a newspaper reporter to better study the human race. By the end of the second episode, the mild-mannered Clark Kent is hired by editor Perry White (called "Paris White" in the earliest audition shows).

In the seventh episode, Superman meets the Daily Planet's veteran reporter, Lois Lane. The twenty-eighth episode, which aired April 15th 1940, features the first appearance in any medium of copyboy Jimmy Olsen. It was also in the radio program that, for the first time anywhere, fans learned of the existence of a substance called kryptonite, long before it appeared in any comic book.



Bud Collyer played Superman and Clark Kent through June 17th 1949 on Mutual and ABC. Michael Fitzmaurice took over as ABC's Superman on June 5th 1950, and played the role for the revived final season. Superman finally left the radio airwaves on March 1st 1951.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer	The Adventures Of Superman	Feb 12, 1940- Jun 17, 1949
Superman voiced by Michael Fitzmaurice	The Adventures Of Superman	Jun 5, 1950- Mar 1, 1951



## LIVE ACTION - 1940 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR:

Superman appeared in person on **Superman Day**, July 3rd 1940, at the New York World's Fair. This was the first public appearance of Superman in full costume, and a live Superman radio broadcast was given from the fairgrounds. On this very first Superman costume, the name *SUPERMAN* was inscribed in the upper part of his chest emblem. The man in the costume was actor Ray Middleton, who later starred in such Broadway hits as *South Pacific* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. "Superman Day" was the brainchild of publicist Allen "Duke" Ducovny, held in part to promote DC's **New York World's Fair Comics #2**.



Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by Ray Middleton	1940 New York World's Fair	Jul 3, 1940

## LIVE ACTION - MOVIE SERIALS/MOTION PICTURES:



In 1948, Columbia Pictures released a 15 chapter serial called **Superman** into the movie theatres, starring Kirk Alyn as the lead character. The series was credited as being adapted from the radio program, and it did contain such radio show creations as the Daily Planet, kryptonite, and the characters of Perry White and Jimmy Olsen, but the origin of Superman presented here was straight out of the George Lowther novel.

In the first chapter, "Superman Comes To Earth", it is revealed that Krypton is the home of a race of super-humans. The planet is governed by a council, led by a man named Ro-zan. One of the council members, a scientist named Jor-el, plans to build a fleet of spaceships to rescue the population of Krypton from destruction, but he is unsuccessful, saving only his son.

Here, Clark Kent's foster father is named Eben Kent, but his foster mother's name is never revealed. The serial itself centers upon Superman's battle against the evil Spider Lady, who is plotting to rule the Earth.

Columbia Pictures followed up with another 15 chapter serial in 1950, **Atom Man vs. Superman**, with Kirk Alyn again in the lead role. Lex Luthor, disguised as Atom Man, threatens to devastate Metropolis with any number of devices, the deadliest of which is a disintegration machine. Luthor also stumbles onto Superman's primary weakness, kryptonite. In the end, Superman regains his strength and stops Luthor from laying waste to Metropolis with his latest machine, a sonic vibrator.

In November of 1951, **Superman And The Mole-Men**, starring George Reeves, was released into theatres. The story takes place in the small town of Silsby, where the local oil company is drilling what will become the world's deepest well. After the workers reach the six-mile point, four subterranean mole-men emerge from the well. Though basically harmless, the mole-men are regarded as a threat by the citizens of Silsby. Superman endeavors to protect the mole-men and convince the townsfolk of the folly of their blind prejudice.



Soon afterward, the decision was made to continue the adventures of Superman on the small screen. Filming for the first season of the television show began almost immediately, however the series wouldn't actually be broadcast until 1952.



**Superman: The Movie**, the first of four pictures starring Christopher Reeve, debuted on December 15th 1978. This film retells the story of the destruction of Krypton, Clark Kent's upbringing, and his initial battle with Lex Luthor as Superman.

**Superman II** was released on June 19th 1981, and featured three escaped villains from the Phantom Zone: General Zod, Ursa, and Non. In this film, Clark reveals his secret identity to Lois, and they plan on marrying, but in the end Clark concludes that the danger is too great and he wipes her memory of everything that had transpired.

**Superman III**, released on June 24th 1983, and **Superman IV: The Quest For Peace**, released on July 24th 1987, were the two final entries in this tetralogy.

Two other movies are loosely tied to the Superman mythos. The first is **Supergirl** starring Helen Slater, which was released on November 23rd 1984. The second is **Steel** starring Shaquille O'Neal, which was released on August 15th 1997.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by Kirk Alyn	Superman	? 1948
Superman played by Kirk Alyn	Atom Man vs. Superman	? 1950
Superman played by George Reeves	Superman And The Mole-Men	Nov ?, 1951
Superman played by Christopher Reeve	Superman: The Movie	Dec 15, 1978
Superman played by Christopher Reeve	Superman II	Jun 19, 1981
Superman played by Christopher Reeve	Superman III	Jun 24, 1983
( Supergirl played by Helen Slater	Supergirl	Nov 23, 1984 )
Superman played by Christopher Reeve	Superman IV: The Quest For Peace	Jul 24, 1987
( Steel played by Shaquille O'Neal	Steel	Aug 15, 1997 )

### LIVE ACTION - TELEVISION SHOWS:

Following the success of the 1951 movie **Superman And The Mole-Men**, a new television show was developed to continue the Man of Steel's adventures. George Reeves returned to the role of Superman, in 104 episodes of **The Adventures Of Superman**, which aired from 1952 to 1958.

Filming for the first season began in 1951, and the black-and-white episodes began airing on September 19th 1952. The first installment, "Superman On Earth", featured an origin story similar in nature to the previous renditions. Here, Krypton's ruling council was led by Ro-zan, an elderly statesman. Clark Kent's foster parents were named Eben and Sarah Kent, the same as in the George Lowther novel.

The first season ended with a two-part story called "The Unknown People", which was merely an edited version of the **Superman And The Mole-Men** movie. Color was introduced in 1955, with the start of the third season.





On January 14th 1957, George Reeves guest-starred as Superman on the **I Love Lucy** television show, in an episode entitled "Lucy and Superman". George Reeves, the actor, appears in costume at Little Ricky's birthday party, just in time to save a super-suited Lucy, who's stuck on the ledge outside her apartment.

**The Adventures Of Superman** ended in 1958, after six seasons. In 1959, at the age of 45, George Reeves was found dead in his home from a single gun shot wound. Some people speculated that Reeves was murdered, but his death was ruled a suicide. This was predicated on the fact that he was in a deep state of depression, caused by his inability to find acting work due to being typecast as Superman.

In 1958, a pilot was made for a new children's show called **The Adventures of Super Pup**. It was a parody of Superman, in which people of short stature dressed up in dog costumes. Billy Curtis, one of the mole-men from the movie **Superman And The Mole-Men**, played Bark Bent a.k.a. Super Pup. Bark worked as a reporter for Perry Bite. The damsel in distress was Pamela Poodle, and the evil villain was Professor Sheepdip. The series was never picked up, but bootlegs of the pilot do exist.



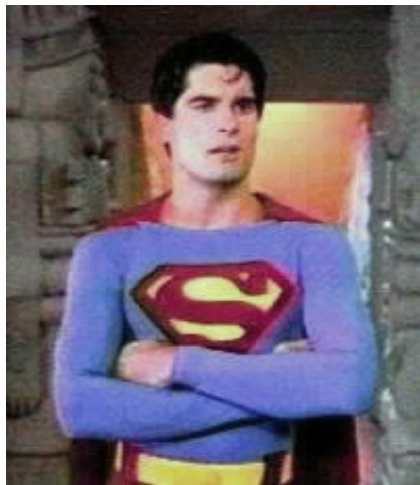
After production ceased on **The Adventures Of Superman** television show, the producers had hoped to continue their success with a new follow-up series. **The Adventures Of Superboy** was the result. The show featured a teenaged Clark Kent who lived at home with his parents and attended Smallville High School. Such comic book elements as the ever-suspicious Lana Lang, Police Chief Parker, the blinking signal lamp, and Superboy's secret laboratory were all incorporated into the series.

In 1961, Whitney Ellsworth produced and co-wrote the half-hour pilot episode, which featured John Rockwell as both Clark Kent and Superboy. The story involves the hero stopping some jewel thieves who have targeted Smallville, and restoring a son's faith in his father at the same time.

Ellsworth prepared twelve additional Superboy scripts which remain unfiled. In one episode, "The Box From Krypton", Superboy discovers a box from his destroyed homeland, which contains various Kryptonian devices. One of the devices is a projector that transports him to Dimension X, a concept which would later be revived in the form of the Phantom Zone.



On February 21st 1975, ABC aired a two-hour adaptation of the 1966 Broadway musical **It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's Superman!** as part of their Wide World of Entertainment. It starred David Wilson in the lead role. (More on the Broadway production in the pages that follow.)

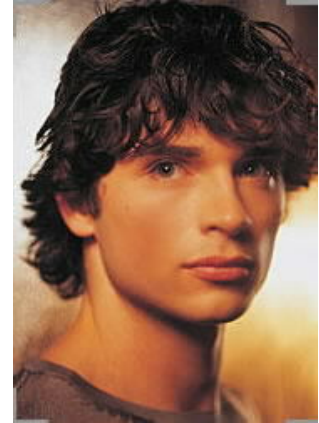


The Boy of Steel finally gained his own live action television show, **Superboy**, on October 8th 1988. John Haymes Newton starred as Superboy in the first of the show's four seasons. The second season began on October 7th 1989, with Gerard Christopher taking over the role for the remainder of the series. With the third season, the series was renamed **The Adventures Of Superboy**.



**Lois & Clark: The New Adventures Of Superman**, debuted on September 12th 1993, and lasted for four seasons. It starred Dean Cain as Superman and, as the title indicates, the series spent a lot of time developing the relationship between Lois and Clark. In fact, the couple married on October 6th 1996. The comic book version of Lois and Clark would marry three days later in a special one-shot, **Superman: The Wedding Album #1**.

The most current television series in the Superman mythos doesn't even feature Superman! **Smallville**, which debuted on October 16th 2001, stars Tom Welling as Clark Kent, a teenager trying desperately to control and understand his emerging powers. In this version, a youthful Jonathan and Martha Kent still discover the baby in a crashed spaceship, but the child's powers do not develop for another decade and a half. Other changes include the mutating effects of kryptonite on ordinary humans, the close relationship between Clark and Lex Luthor, cosmetic alterations to his best friend Pete Ross, and the introduction of a love triangle between Clark, Lana Lang, and Chole Sullivan.



Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by George Reeves	The Adventures Of Superman	1952-1958
Superman played by George Reeves	I Love Lucy, "Lucy and Superman"	Jan 14, 1957
( Super Pup played by Billy Curtis	The Adventures Of Super Pup (unaired pilot)	1958 )
Superboy played by John Rockwell	The Adventures Of Superboy (unaired pilot)	1961
Superman played by David Wilson	It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman! (adaptation of the Broadway musical)	Feb 21, 1975
Superboy played by John Haymes Newton	Superboy	1988-1989
Superboy played by Gerard Christopher	Superboy, The Adventures Of Superboy	1989-1990, 1990-1992
Superman played by Dean Cain	Lois & Clark: The New Adventures Of Superman	1993-1997
Clark Kent played by Tom Welling	Smallville	2001-present



**LIVE ACTION - BROADWAY MUSICALS:**

From March 29th 1966 to July 17th 1966, Bob Holiday played Superman in a Broadway musical at the Alvin Theatre called **It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman!**. The play was written by David Newman and Robert Benton, who would later collaborate on the scripts for the Christopher Reeve "Superman" movies. The music was written by Charles Strouse and Lee Adams. The plot involves Superman saving himself and Metropolis from a mad scientist, Dr. Abner, while coping with a bout of depression. Aiding the villain is Daily Planet columnist Max Mencken. As mentioned previously, this production was later adapted as a television special in 1975. The soundtrack was re-released on CD in 1992.



Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by Bob Holiday	It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman!	Mar 29 1966- Jul 17 1966

**LIVE ACTION - METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS, 1972:**



On January 21st 1972, Metropolis, Illinois held its first **Superman Day**. As part of the festivities, Reverend Charles Chandler, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Metropolis, played Superman, wearing an original George Reeves "Superman" costume. Chandler also taped an episode of **To Tell The Truth** where he was revealed as the "real" Superman in front of panelists Nipsey Russell, Kitty Carlisle, Gene Rayburn, Peggy Cass, and host Gary Moore.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by Charles Chandler	Metropolis, Illinois' 1972 "Superman Day"	Jan 21, 1972

## LIVE ACTION - FOREIGN FILMS:

The **Superman** movie filmed in Indian is a blatant rip-off of the 1978 U.S. film, stealing story elements, special effects footage, and music. The entire 150-minute movie is in Hindi with no subtitles. Although filmographies for Dharmender, who plays Superman's birth father, list this movie as being made in 1993, the best information suggests that it was actually released in 1987. What follows is a brief summary, based on a translation done by Stomp Tokyo Video Reviews, located at <http://www.stomptokyo.com>.



The story begins on Krypton, with Superman's father trying to convince the planet's ruling council that Krypton will soon explode. When the council refuses to listen, he decides to send his only son to Earth. The rocketship escapes just in time, and the baby lands on Earth, where he is found and adopted by an elderly couple. The couple names the child "Shekhar".

Shekhar, played by Puneet Issar, grows up and goes to college. He is quite taken by Gita, another student, but a man named K. K. Verma also has designs on the girl. Shekhar throws a party at the college to celebrate a visit by his father. At the party, his father speaks with Dr. Verma (who may or may not be the father of the younger Verma), the only other person who knows that Shekhar is adopted. Shekhar uses his super-hearing to eavesdrop and discovers the awful truth.

When Shekhar confronts his father with the information, the elderly man has a heart attack. Before he dies, Shekhar's father tells him where to find a device that was in the spaceship that brought him to Earth. Shekhar locates the Kryptonian device and, after creating the Fortress of Solitude, transforms into Superman.

Some time after graduation, Shekhar goes to Bombay and looks up Gita, who now works as a reporter for the Daily Times newspaper. Shekhar applies for, and is hired by the paper, and soon he and Gita become partners.

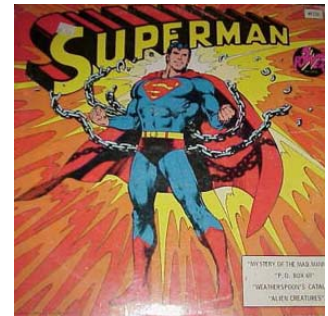
By this time, their old classmate K. K. Verma has become a crimelord. Verma has devised a plot that involves depopulating an area of India and selling it to a foreign country. Using a high-tech machine, he plans to set in motion disasters which will make the land uninhabitable. Mindful of Superman's potential interference with his scheme, Verma lures the hero to his lair, where he renders him harmless with a bit of Hindu magic derived from an amulet.

Eventually, Superman casts off the effects of the enchanted amulet and confronts Verma in his secret lair. When Superman discovers that Verma has already set his plan in motion, the hero stops the devastating earthquakes by reversing the flow of time. In the end, Superman rounds up Verma and his gang, handing them off to the police.

Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman played by Puneet Issar	Superman	1987?

### LIVE ACTION - RECORD ALBUMS:

From the 1960s through the end of the 1970s, Superman has also been featured in stories recorded on vinyl albums. Some are recordings of the Superman radio show starring Clayton "Bud" Collyer, while others are original tales produced specifically for this format. Unfortunately, I have very little information on this aspect of Superman's adventures, and thus can only present a list of the records I have actually found reference to.



Name	Appearances	Dates
Superman voiced by Clayton "Bud" Collyer	? Records (radio show recordings?)	1960s
Superman voiced by ?	Mark56 Records/Coca Cola (radio show recording)	1972
Superman voiced by ?	Little Power Records (2295,2299,2304,2600)	1975
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records (PR-28)	1975
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records/Peter Pan (8156,8169)	1975
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records (BR-514)	1976
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records/Peter Pan (8199)	1978
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records (PR-33,PR-34)	1978
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records (BR-520)	1978
Superman voiced by ?	Mark56 Records (radio show recording)	1978
Superman voiced by ?	Power Records/Peter Pan (8211)	1979

### EPILOGUE:

As you may have guessed, I've probably missed quite a bit of material. What I've presented here doesn't even touch on such things as coloring books, cereal premiums, promotional material, posters, toys, clothing, lunch boxes... the list goes on and on.

In addition, this article hardly discusses the derivative works: Supergirl, Superwoman, Power Girl, Krypto the Super-Dog, Streaky the Super-Cat, Beppo the Super-Monkey, Comet the Super-Horse, the Phantom Zone criminals, the residents of the bottled-city of Kandor, and much, much more.

Hopefully, though, you've gotten a sense of the magnitude of the Superman franchise. This is a character who has generated hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars in revenue for its owners over the last six and a half decades. However, those profits were significantly reduced on April 16th 1999, when DC Comics Inc.'s parent company, Time-Warner, lost half the copyright to Superman to the Siegel estate.

On or about December 4th 1937, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster had sold the rights to Superman to Detective Comics Inc. for a reported \$130, which included the copyright and a contract to supply the publisher with future Superman stories. On April 18th 1938, their character was featured on the cover, and in the first 13 pages, of **Action Comics #1**, using material they had created in 1934.

Siegel and Shuster made a decent living as comic creators, but were increasingly convinced that DC owed them more money, as the publisher was making millions on Superman comics and other merchandise. The creators sued DC in 1947 over issues related to Superboy, and the company settled with them for somewhere in the area of \$100,000 each. However, the case cost Siegel and Shuster their contracts with DC, as well as the creator credit in Superman comic books where it had appeared since the beginning.

It wasn't until 1978, thanks to the efforts of prominent comic creators, as well as pressure from DC's new parent company, Warner Communications, that the publisher relented, giving both creators a yearly pension which began at \$20,000 and increased with time until their deaths. Artist Joe Shuster passed away on July 30th 1992, and writer Jerry Siegel followed a few years later on January 28, 1996.

Recent changes in the copyright laws provide for a termination of grants of transfer of copyright. For any grant of transfer made prior to January 1st 1978, termination may be effected at any time during a 5-year period, which begins at the end of the 56 years from the date the copyright was originally secured. In the case of Superman, that period began on April 18th 1994. Also, according to the statute, eligible parties must give a 2-year notice of the termination, meaning papers had to be filed with the Copyright Office by April 18th 1997.

On April 3rd 1997, Jerry Siegel's wife, Joanne, and daughter, Laura Siegel Larson, filed the documents required to terminate the transfer of renewal copyright of Jerry's half of the property. Joe Shuster had no eligible heirs, meaning DC would maintain ownership of the remaining half. The effective date of termination was Friday April 16th 1999.

Barring any further changes to the copyright laws, DC Comics' rights to Superman will ultimately expire on April 18th 2033 (95 years for a business). The Siegel estate would presumably then own full copyright until January 28th 2066 (life of the creator plus 70 years), after which time the character becomes public domain. DC could maintain the various Superman trademarks indefinitely, provided they keep the trademarks active, but after 2033 this will become increasingly difficult, as they will be required to regularly publish works under the constraints of the Fair Use clause of the U.S. Copyright Act.