

# NICKELODEON AND WWE SUPERSTAR JOHN CENA PREPS TWO PROJECTS FOR 2018, INCLUDING HOST OF THE 2018 KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS

Additional Project Include: Cena Giving Voice to Original Villainous Role in Newly Reimagined Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

**SINGAPORE — 12 JANUARY 2018** — [Nickelodeon](#) announced that WWE Superstar John Cena is returning to host [Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards](#) for the second time, while also breaking new ground at the network with a first: Cena will get into character by lending his voice to an original villain named Baron Draxum in the brand-new 2D animated series Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (US-airing version), premiering late 2018.

“John Cena is one of the biggest stars in the world. Kids just love him, which makes him the perfect partner for these upcoming projects,” said Cyma Zarghami, President, Nickelodeon Group. “His blend of humor and originality brings a fresh voice to Nickelodeon both in front of the camera and behind.” Said Cena, “It’s an honor to come back a second time to host the biggest, slickest party of the year, the Kids’ Choice Awards. Not only do I get to be a cartoon character in the new Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles series, but I get to be a villain, too.”

Nickelodeon’s 2018 Kids’ Choice Awards will air in Asia on Monday, 26 March 2018 and celebrates kids’ favorites from across the worlds of film, television, music, pop culture, animation and more. With stunts and surprises at every turn, the show will return to the “Fabulous” Forum in Inglewood, Calif., and will be seen by kids around the globe on Nickelodeon channels in more than 170 countries and territories. Additional Kids’ Choice Awards news, including categories and presenters, will be announced in the coming weeks.

Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' newest villain, Baron Draxum, will be voiced by Cena in the US. Baron Draxum is an alchemist warrior mutant who seeks to turn all of humanity into mutants. In the US, Cena's reoccurring character will appear in the premiere episode and throughout the series, which follows the band of brothers as they encounter new mutants and villains and discover a mystical world they never knew existed beneath the streets of New York City.

The presenting International sponsor for the 2018 Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards is Heelys.

Nickelodeon's 2018 Kids' Choice Awards is produced by Nickelodeon Productions. Elizabeth Kelly, Michael Dempsey, Shelly Sumpter Gillyard and Jay Schmalholz are executive producers.

Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is co-executive produced by Andy Suriano (character designer, Samurai Jack) and Ant Ward (supervising producer, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) at Nickelodeon in Burbank, Calif. Veteran animation industry voice actor Rob Paulsen is voice directing the series.



## About Nickelodeon

Nickelodeon, now in its 38th year, is the leading entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The company includes television programming and production in the United States and around the world, plus special events, consumer products, digital, recreation, books and feature films. Nickelodeon's brands reach 1.1 billion cumulative subscribers in more than 170 countries and territories, via more than 80+ locally programmed channels and branded blocks. Outside of the United States, Nickelodeon is part of Viacom International Media Networks, a division of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIAB, VIA), one of the world's leading creators of programming and content across all media platforms. For more information or artwork, visit <http://www.nickpress.com>. Nickelodeon and all related titles, characters and logos are trademarks of Viacom Inc. For more information about Nickelodeon in Asia, visit [www.nick-asia.com](http://www.nick-asia.com).

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Sheila Lim

Management Associate, Communications, SEA

Viacom International Media Networks Asia

t: (65) 6420 7121 e: [sheila.lim@vimnmix.com](mailto:sheila.lim@vimnmix.com)

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