

BILL NYE THE SCIENCE GUY

Fact Sheet

PBS Series

BILL NYE THE SCIENCE GUY was an Emmy Award-winning educational television program, hosted by Bill Nye. Each of the 100 episodes taught a specific topic in science to a preteen audience. KCTS, Seattle public television, and Buena Vista Television (now known as Disney-ABC Domestic Television) produced the show.

Bill's TV persona was a tall and slender scientist wearing a lab coat and a bow-tie. He mixed the serious science of everyday things with fast-paced action and humor. Each show began with Bill walking onto the set, called "Nye Labs", which was filled with scientific visuals (including many "of science" contraptions announced dramatically, such as "The slingshots of Science!") relevant to the topic of the show. Each show was a mock music video in the "Soundtrack of Science" by "Not That Bad Records," substituting a scientific roundup of the episode for the lyrics to a popular song. Each show ended with Bill explaining his departure in a clever description of an activity or topic. Another popular member of the cast was the announcer Pat Cashman.

Outreach Campaign

NSF Proposal – Outreach Extensions wrote the outreach, community engagement section of KCTS' proposal to the National Science Foundation. The project was awarded a \$1.5 million grant.

Pilot Project – Outreach Extensions designed and implemented a pilot project that offered science activities linked to the television show to after-school programs. In collaboration with the Los Angeles Educational Partnership, Outreach Extensions created 40 activities based on state science curriculum standards. A second outreach partner, LA's Best, implemented the activities in after-school programs in association with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Students enjoyed the hands-on activities, and teachers praised the program for its creativity and effectiveness in teaching science.

