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P-G TV writer **Rob Owen** blogs about television and the TV industry.

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'Daniel Tiger' preps for fall launch

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Poor Best

THURSDAY, 31 MAY 2012 11:06 | WRITTEN BY ROB OWEN



Production continues on **"Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood,"** the new PBS Kids series from the Pittsburgh-based Fred Rogers Company. A premiere date has not been announced but if PBS adheres to its usual pattern, the show will likely start on Labor Day.

When I stopped by the FRC office inside WOED in Oakland late last month, executive producer Kevin Morrison showed me segments from some of the completed episodes.

Read more after the jump. ...

Each half-hour episode will featured two, 11-minute animated stories featuring Daniel Tiger (son of Daniel Striped Tiger from "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood") and his friends (also descendants of the live-action show's Neighborhood of Make-Believe characters).

Between the two animated stories and after the second story, a live-action interstitial will air. While the cartoon portions are being produced in Toronto, the live-action segments (3-5 minutes per episode) are filmed in Pittsburgh.

Both animated stories adhere to a common theme (in the pilot episode, it's disappointment) and that theme, an element of the story or music from the episode is carried through to the interstitial.

In the episode where Daniel is disappointed after his birthday cake gets smushed when he shakes it around while carrying it home, the interstitial features a child, dressed in a red sweater like Daniel wears (with a Trolley emblem), making a cake with Gaynor Grant at Gaynor's School of Cooking on the Southside. Another interstitial includes an ode to the original "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" by revisiting the Crayola Crayon factory in Easton, Pa.

Here's a trailer from the series:



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