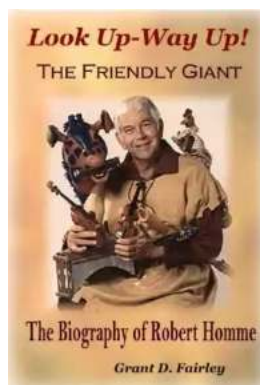


# The Friendly Giant: A Look Up Way Up into the Life of Robert Homme

Have you ever wondered about the beloved children's television show, "The Friendly Giant," and the man behind its magic? If you grew up watching this iconic Canadian program or are simply curious about the life of Robert Homme, the man who brought joy to millions of children, then this article is for you.

Robert Homme was born on November 28, 1919, in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Little did he know that his passion for music and storytelling would lead him to become one of the most beloved figures in Canadian television history.

The journey of Robert Homme's career began in radio. His warm baritone voice captivated listeners, and he became a popular radio host and announcer. However, it was in 1953 that he would embark on the adventure that would define his legacy.



## Look Up - Way Up! The Friendly Giant - The Biography of Robert Homme

by Grant D. Fairley(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 266 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 148 pages

Lending : Enabled

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## **Creating "The Friendly Giant"**

In collaboration with puppeteer and puppet builder, Rod Coneybeare, and producer Daniel McCarthy, Robert Homme co-created "The Friendly Giant." Premiering on CBC Television in 1953, the show quickly became a favorite among Canadian children.

What made "The Friendly Giant" so special was its unique blend of storytelling, music, and puppetry. Each episode followed a simple yet captivating format. The Giant, played by Homme, lived in a castle along with his sidekick Rusty the Rooster and a giraffe named Jerome. Together, they would engage with the young viewers and take them on imaginative adventures through storytelling and songs.

The show's iconic opening lines, "Look up... look waaaay up!" were etched into the minds of a generation. Homme's friendly and enchanting demeanor made children feel like they were visiting the castle themselves, fostering a deep connection between him and his young audience.

## **Connecting with Young Minds**

Robert Homme had a magical ability to connect with children in a genuine and empathetic way. He understood that speaking to children required simplicity and the recognition of their curiosity and desire for play.

Through his storytelling, Homme tackled important themes such as friendship, empathy, and imagination, providing children with valuable life lessons wrapped in entertaining narratives. His gentle and patient demeanor made children feel seen and valued, instilling in them a sense of self-worth.

## **Robert Homme's Legacy**

For over three decades, Robert Homme charmed children and adults alike with his captivating presence on "The Friendly Giant." The show became a cherished part of Canadian culture, with its influence extending far beyond its original broadcast.

Homme's dedication to inspiring young minds earned him numerous accolades and recognition. His impact on Canadian television was celebrated when he was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame in 1999.

Away from the television screen, Homme was involved in various philanthropic activities. He used his fame to raise funds and support charitable organizations, further contributing to the betterment of society.

## **The Last Encore**

Robert Homme's final appearance as "The Friendly Giant" aired in 1985, marking the end of an era. However, his legacy lives on in the hearts of those who grew up watching the show.

After his retirement, Homme spent his remaining years in Southern Ontario, enjoying a quieter life. He passed away on February 2, 2000, at the age of 80.

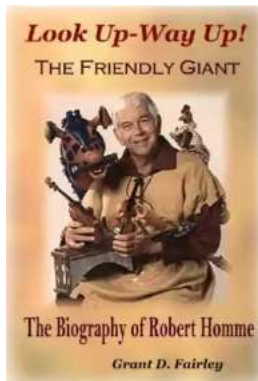
The spirit of "The Friendly Giant" and Robert Homme's impact on generations of children continue to inspire artists, storytellers, and educators alike. Today, the show's episodes can still be found, evoking nostalgia and reminding us of the power of genuine connection and the beauty of simplicity.

## **Wrapping Up**

Robert Homme, the man behind the giant, dedicated his life to bringing joy and enchantment to young minds. Through his storytelling and warm persona, he

created a timeless television experience that has left an indelible mark on Canadian culture.

So next time you hear someone say, "Look up... look waaaay up!" remember the man who made those words magical. Remember Robert Homme, the Friendly Giant.



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Stroll back to your childhood with this book on the life and career of one of television's most memorable and endearing characters - The Friendly Giant. This show was part of the lives of generations of children, parents and grandparents who would wait to see the boot, watch the castle draw bridge lower and choose a chair by the fireplace weekday mornings on the NET (now PBS) Network in the U.S. and later CBC television in Canada.

Memories of Friendly, Rusty, Jerome and the others will return as you read about this remarkable man and those who were a part of this great story.

Grant D. Fairley was one of those children who grew up watching Friendly in Windsor, Ontario. Years later, he made the trip to Grafton, Ontario to meet Bob Homme and begin work on this authorized biography. Their many interviews during his retirement and the opportunity to meet others in Bob's story are here now for you to share.

Readers say...

I just finished reading "Look Up - Way Up" and it was a delight. Grant Fairley has explored the world of Friendly and left the wonder intact!

Barbara from Lucan

I really enjoyed reading the book so much that every time I would finish reading each chapter in the book I just couldn't put it down...a very good read...

Aaron from Toronto

The book was very captivating and brought you to a place and time that was very special and imaginary. Thank you for letting me sit in that rocking chair by the fire again.

Jill from Brampton

I read it and enjoyed it very much. The second book I bought is for my sister - she will love it also.

Randall from Washington

In reading the book, it brought me back to time when my life was that of a child. No worries, no real problems, and a safe environment. The book is very easy and

enjoyable reading with some wonderful insights into Bob "The Friendly Giant" and his life. Well done!

Jack from Burlington

Your descriptions and the memories you included summoned up instant pictures in my mind. (you actually made me cry in one spot!) It was certainly a walk down memory lane with all your references to things from my childhood - the cartoons, the other children's programming (like Captain Kangaroo & Romper Room) - all came flooding back as I continued to read.

Karen from Petrolia

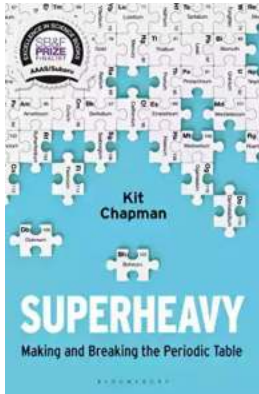
The charm and sincerity of "The Friendly Giant" are eloquently captured in this insightful and affectionate biography of the classic children's entertainer. Grant blends the fond memories of his own childhood as a faithful TV fan of "Friendly" with insights into what made Bob Homme the true giant he was.

Hal Sullivan, Editor Windsor Life Magazine



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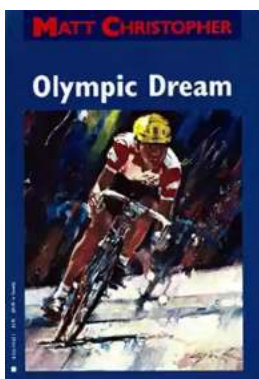
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