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The Amazing Digital Circus

The Amazing Digital Circus is an independent animated web series created and directed by Gooseworx and produced by Glitch Productions.[1] The series follows a group of humans who attempt to maintain their sanity after becoming trapped inside a circus-themed virtual reality game.

The series premiered on Glitch Productions' YouTube channel on October 13, 2023.[2] It received critical acclaim for its animation, dark humor, and characters, and amassed over 100 million views in a month, surpassing *Hazbin Hotel*'s pilot as the most viewed independent animation pilot on the platform.[3] The short also received an Annie Award nomination.

Production

The Amazing Digital Circus originated from one of three pitches presented to Glitch Productions by YouTube animator Gooseworx, who the company reached out to create a pilot after the success of Gooseworx's animated short *Little Runmo*.[4] Inspirations for the show include the short story *I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream*, the *I Spy book series*, and the Japanese CGI-animated series *Popee the Performer*.[5][6]

The show's art style was inspired by CGI and computer games from the 1990s and early 2000s, with the final product described by Gooseworx as a "rose-tinted version" of early 3D animation.[4] Pre-production began in mid-2022, with production starting in full later that year. The characters were modelled and animated in Maya, with the models and animations then exported to Unreal Engine for final rendering.[7][8]

Jasmine Yang, general manager at Glitch Productions, has stated there are no plans for the show to be put on streaming platforms besides YouTube.[4] In a November 2023 post celebrating the pilot episode reaching 100 million views, Glitch confirmed the production of episodes beyond the pilot.[9] In February 2024,

The Amazing Digital Circus	
	
Genre	Black comedy Psychological drama
Created by	Gooseworx
Inspired by	"I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream" by Harlan Ellison
Directed by	Gooseworx
Voices of	Lizzie Freeman Alex Rochon Michael Kovach Amanda Hufford Marissa Lenti Sean Chiplock Ashley Nichols Gooseworx Elsie Lovelock
Theme music composer	Gooseworx
Opening theme	"The Amazing Digital Circus Main Theme" (vocals by Lizz Robinett)
Ending theme	"Digital Days"
Composers	Evan Alderete

Glitch confirmed the series would consist of nine episodes in addition to the pilot,[10] which would be "upgraded" to episode 1.[11]

Voice cast

- Lizzie Freeman as Pomni, the most recent human to be trapped in the circus, who is stuck in the body of a jester.
- Alex Rochon as Caine, the circus' wacky yet unstable AI ringmaster.
- Michael Kovach as Jax, a humanoid purple rabbit who takes delight in pranking and bullying the other cast members.
- Amanda Hufford as Ragatha, a kindly rag doll who attempts to maintain an optimistic attitude towards her situation.
- Marissa Lenti as Gangle, a humanoid ribbon who wears fragile comedy and tragedy masks that represent her current mood.
- Sean Chiplock as Kinger, a paranoid and forgetful king chess piece who has been trapped in the circus the longest.
- Ashley Nichols as Zooble, an irritable humanoid mix-and-match toy.
- Gooseworx as Bubble, Caine's soap bubble assistant.
- Elsie Lovelock as the Gloink Queen, ruler of the pest-like Gloinks.

	Gooseworx
Country of origin	Australia United States
Original language	English
No. of seasons	1
No. of episodes	1
Production	
Executive producers	Kevin Lerdwichagul Luke Lerdwichagul
Producer	Kevin Lerdwichagul
Editor	Gooseworx
Running time	25 minutes, 45 seconds
Production company	Glitch Productions
Original release	
Network	YouTube
Release	October 13, 2023 – present

Episodes

No.	Title	Written by	Storyboarded by	Original release date
1	"Pilot"	Gooseworx	Neda Lay	October 13, 2023
After donning a virtual reality headset, a woman becomes trapped in a circus-themed computer game inhabited by the artificial intelligence ringmaster Caine, his assistant Bubble, and six other trapped humans: Jax, Ragatha, Gangle, Kinger, Zooble, and Kaufmo. The woman—renamed "Pomni" after forgetting her original name—repeatedly notices an exit door that Caine dismisses as a hallucination. While Caine sends the group on an adventure to stop an infestation of creatures called Gloinks, Ragatha and Jax take Pomni to meet Kaufmo, whom they discover has succumbed to despair and "abstracted" into a mindless beast. Pomni seeks Caine's help after Kaufmo causes Ragatha to glitch, but deserts Ragatha upon finding and entering the exit, which leads her through a labyrinth of office spaces to the Void, an out-of-bounds area. Caine rescues Pomni as the others return from their successful adventure. After imprisoning Kaufmo in a cellar with other abstracted humans and repairing Ragatha, Caine admits he created the "exit" to fulfill the group's desire for one, but left it unfinished after being unable to decide what to put behind the door. For completing the adventure, Caine rewards the group with a feast of digital food, which Pomni attends in silence.				

Reception

Critical reception

The pilot for *The Amazing Digital Circus* became a viral video on YouTube,[5] amassing over 100 million views in a month and gaining over four million likes.[4][9] The series was praised by critics for its quality of animation and depth of characters:[1][4][3] Jamie Lang of Cartoon Brew described the show's jokes as "timed with frame-to-frame perfection", with a "mature" sense of humor.[4] The animation was praised by Justin Guerrero as "wonderful and expressive"; Lang likewise praised it for its brightly colored retro aesthetic.[1][4] Jade King of *TheGamer* praised it for creating a "deeper expansion of its characters than a single episode could ever conjure"; she commented on its inclusion in internet culture with the creation of *The Amazing Digital Circus*-related fan art and memes, viewing it as likely to receive more popularity with the release of further episodes.[3]

Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Nominee(s)	Result	Ref.
2024	Annie Awards	Best Character Animation - TV/Media	*The Amazing Digital Circus: Pilot* - *Kevin Temmer*	Nominated	[12]

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External links

- Official website (https://www.glitchprod.com/digital-circus/)
- *The Amazing Digital Circus* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27610198/) at IMDb
- Gooseworx's official YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqvpFAiRcY96CjKwiGHgwpg)

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