



Figure 1: Harley Quinn – DC Comics

2 The “Great Adult Animation Boom” is in Full Swing

From mind-bending sci-fi comedies like *The Midnight Gospel* to dramatic, action-based mini-series like *The Liberator*, to comic book inspired shows like *Harley Quinn*, adult animation has entered a period of rapid growth and genre diversification. The streamers, broadcasters and cablers have caught on — there are over 100 new adult animated series on order. That’s a whopping 100% increase from a year ago. The upcoming series includes a whole new class of video game spinoffs, TV series reboots, and anime-inspired productions that will significantly expand the audience for adult animation. I am calling this phenomenon ‘The Great Adult Animation Boom.’

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Figure 2: John Evershed, CEO High Concentrate



1. About the Author

John Evershed is the head of High Concentrate LLC, a company specializing in the research, packaging, development, sale of animated TV series and movies for adult audiences. Evershed is the founder and former CEO of Mondo Media, producer and distributor of animation for young adults where he launched and programmed a Mondo branded OTT channel on WarnerMedia's VRV platform, and generated over 6 billion views on YouTube.

Evershed executive produced multiple TV series including **Gary and His Demons**, currently airing on the Syfy channel, **Happy Tree Friends** on MTV International and **The Mondo Animation Hour**, a mini-block, that aired on the El Rey Network. Evershed has won multiple awards in his capacity as Executive Producer including **Dick Figures: The Movie**, winner of the Berlin Film Festival Best Animated Movie for Adults and **Happy Tree Friends**, winner of an Annie for Best Animated TV Series for Adults.

Evershed serves on the boards and consults with entertainment and technology companies including **Chonky** (crowd-based entertainment financing), **Trioscope** (hybrid live action animation studio), **ZikVid** (digital video platform), **Mellow Manor** (animation festival), and **Mondo Media** (multi-platform animation channel and library).

For consulting on adult animation or help with packaging, development and selling, please contact us at the email address below. High Concentrate is always looking for IP (original books, comic books, video games, podcasts, etc.) to develop and take to market. We are also looking for finished product including English and foreign language series and movies. Please do not submit treatments, scripts, pitches, etc. without reaching out first and signing a submission release.

Contact jevershed@highconcentrate.com

2. Sources

This white paper is not for sale and is intended to be a free snapshot for anyone with an interest in the adult animation industry. This document is for personal use and nothing in it should be re-published without permission from the author. All the information in this white paper was gathered from published material and general industry knowledge. I have attributed sources wherever possible. The contents of this report are one person's analysis of the market for adult animation. I have made an honest attempt to evaluate the market and back up my positions with as much data as I can gather. Anyone with different points of view are encouraged to contact me regarding any position in this paper, because you might be right! My hope is to keep things interesting and avoid problems that I see with market analysis broadly – especially in the entertainment field – where press releases get regurgitated with statistics that miss important trends due to disruption, shifts in technology, and evolving consumer tastes.

The Adult Animation Database

The data in this report is a snapshot of the market as of Feb 21, 2021. The numbers, where not attributed to a source, are derived from [The Adult Animation Database](#). The database is maintained by High Concentrate on a daily basis and we make it free for anyone interested in visiting the site.



Figure 3:
Gary and His Demons
– Syfy

3. What This Report Covers

This is the second edition of the Adult Animation White Paper, which covers 2020 and provides an outlook for 2021. The report focuses exclusively on adult animated TV series — mostly quarter, half and occasionally hour-long series. These shows are typically written and produced in English. This research is limited to shows that are currently airing as well as shows that are in development or production. It does not cover library material except where noted. This document does not cover animated movies for adults. (It's a relatively short list.) While the report does cover Japanese anime treatments of Western IP and Western animation produced in interpretations of anime styles, it does not cover anime more broadly. This white paper does not attempt to cover any children's animation, which is both a distinct and considerably larger market. The buyers covered in this report are streaming platforms, networks, cable, and digital distributors. Many series share multiple production partners, making it difficult to attribute any one show to any one production company. Where possible, the report attempts to attribute all producing entities to each series.



Figure 4:
The Midnight Gospel
- Netflix

4. Sponsorship

As opposed to charging for this research report, I elected to go the sponsorship route to make it as widely available as possible. **I am grateful to our sponsor, Toon Boom Animation**, for their financial support in producing the Adult Animation White Paper. Any opinions expressed in this white paper are strictly those of the author and do not reflect those of the sponsor.

Toon Boom Animation are the developers behind **Harmony** and **Storyboard Pro**. Harmony is the industry's leading 2D animation software, while Storyboard Pro is ideal for independent creators and production teams to layout stories and hit the ground running in production. Fully-featured 21-day trials are available to download at toonboom.com.



Harmony20

Storyboard^{PRO}20

5. Summary of the State of the Adult Animation Industry

1. QUANTITY OF UPCOMING ADULT ANIMATED SERIES DOUBLES.

Over the past year, the total number of upcoming adult animated TV series grew from 50 to 103.

2. ANIMATED COMEDY HAS UNOFFICIALLY REPLACED LIVE ACTION SITCOMS.

Young adults prefer animated comedy over live action sitcoms.

3. REBOOTS AND SPINOFFS, from *Good Times* to *Masters of the Universe*, comprise a disproportionately large crop of upcoming adult animated reboots and spinoffs.

4. ANIME is in demand. Sony acquires Crunchyroll from WarnerMedia while Netflix and HBO Max continue to buy new anime at a rapid clip. The line between the Western and Japanese animation continues to blur.

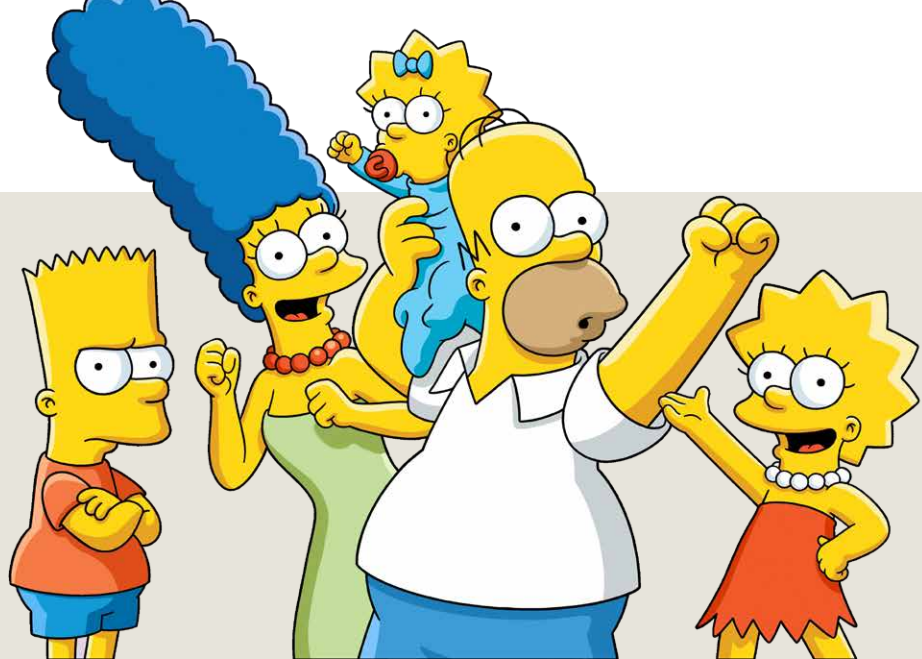
5. VIDEO GAMES exploded on the scene with 15 new video game IP inspired series in production, up from 2 last year. Many of these adaptations will be produced as anime or in an anime style.



Figure 5:
Archer - FX

6. **COMIC BOOKS** are another fertile source of inspiration for adult animated series, although proportionately not as dominant a source of IP as it is for live-action adaptations.
7. **SCI-FI COMEDY CROSSOVERS** are over-represented in the current and upcoming crop of adult animated series.
8. **THE STREAMERS**, especially Netflix, are by far and away the most active buyers of adult animation, accounting for 50% of all new projects in development or production.
9. **NETFLIX** is the most aggressive buyer in the adult animation space with 22 new series on order.
10. **FOX** is the only major broadcast network actively airing adult animation. The channel continues to ramp up development and production of new series.
11. **CABLER'S APPETITE FOR ADULT ANIMATION CONTINUES TO GROW.** Most cable channels targeting 18-34s with scripted programming have ordered at least one adult animated series.
12. **YOUNG ADULTS** watch less traditional TV. In percentage terms, the amount of time 18-34-year-olds as a whole spent watching traditional TV in Q1 2020 dropped by about 15.3% from the previous year.¹
13. **PACKAGING IS ESSENTIAL.** Most buyers are looking for fully-formed packages with proven writers, artists and voice talent leaving fewer opportunities for quirky, off-beat series.
14. **DIGITAL** remains uncertain. Quibi's quick rise and demise leaves only Facebook Watch and YouTube Premium as limited active digital buyers of adult animation.

Figure 5:
The Simpsons
- Fox



6. Adult Animated Comedy

One could argue that the enduring popularity of the adult animated sitcom is due in large part to the massive popularity of one show: **The Simpsons**. The yellow family from Springfield proved that the time-tested formula works. From **Family Guy** to **South Park**, animated sitcoms are some of the most enduring and valuable franchises in the history of television. However, consumer acceptance of animation as a medium is widening to include new genres, including action, horror, and drama. Adult animated comedy isn't going away any time soon, but things are about to get a lot more interesting. Here's why...

In 2017, **Rick and Morty** surpassed **Modern Family**, and **The Big Bang Theory** to become the most-watched comedy across all of television.² The adult animated sitcom has proven to be more durable than the live-action sitcom, which has fallen out of favor. The three act sitcom structure, with one main plot and two subplots, is designed to maximize a limited, twenty-two minute, commercial-laden half hour experience. These restrictions have fallen away with the proliferation of ad-free subscription services becoming the primary platform of choice for 18-34s.

2 Vulture - Rick and Morty Is Now the No. 1 TV Comedy Among Millennials, Oct 4, 2017

“Somewhere along the way, animated comedy replaced live action sitcoms as millennials preferred medium for consuming comedy.”

Somewhere along the way, animated comedy replaced live action sitcoms as millennials’ preferred medium for consuming comedy. Live-action comedic TV series are becoming as rare as live-action comedic movies. Do a Google search for the most popular live-action comedy TV series. It will call up a list of series that are no longer in production — shows like **Arrested Development**, **Community** and **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**. Do the same for adult animated series and it’s almost all current series — shows like **South Park**, **Bob’s Burgers**, and **Archer**. There are a total of 60 new comedic adult animated series accounting for 60% of upcoming adult animated series.



Figure 6:
Rick and Morty
- Adult Swim

Figure 7:
Animation Domination
Block - Fox



7. Fox's Animation Domination

Fox is the only broadcast network committed to adult animated comedy, with two massive animation franchises — **The Simpsons** and **Family Guy**. In 2019, Fox Corp. purchased Bento Box Entertainment, the studio behind the long-running **Bob's Burgers**, as it sought to strengthen its adult animation brand.

After a five-year hiatus, Fox's Sunday night Animation Domination returned in September 2019. The programming block exclusively features prime-time animated sitcoms and includes **The Simpsons**, **Family Guy**, **Bob's Burgers**, **Duncanville**, **Bless the Harts**, and **The Great North**. Fox is in the midst of a major expansion of its animation portfolio, with 14 new series in development. Daniel Weidenfeld (**The Eric Andre Show** and **China, IL**) is Fox's senior VP of animation and oversees all animated production and development, both for the network and third parties. According to Weidenfeld, "Animation is a key part of our business; we are really looking to growing our slate and potentially even adding another hour of animation on our schedule in a targeted section of the year."³

Fox Entertainment's President Michael Thorn said earlier this year, "We are looking to take our legacy and build on it." He added: "Part of that is tied to our programming goals and our Fox Entertainment goals in terms of having an ownership stake in those animated series. When they work, they work extremely well financially as well."⁴ It will be interesting to see which of these upcoming series stick and whether the Fox expands beyond its Sunday night slot.

³ Deadline – Fox's Michael Thorn On Net's Animation Expansion & Future Of The Simpsons, Bob's Burgers & Family Guy, Jan 7, 2020

⁴ Comicbook – "Greater Good" Animated Workplace Comedy in the Works at Fox From American Dad Co,Creator, Nov 10 2020

“Animation is a key part of our business; we are really looking to growing our slate and potentially even adding another hour of animation on our schedule in a targeted section of the year.”

Fox works almost exclusively with experienced writing teams and world-class voice talent. Their shows, on the whole, are targeted at an older, wider audience than Netflix or Adult Swim. The palette and style of all the family sitcoms are so similar that, from a distance, it can be difficult to tell them apart visually. (See image at top of page 12.) **The Simpsons** characters are arguably the most abstract and there’s a trend towards realism that makes each subsequent series a little harder to differentiate from what came previously.

Fox’s Animation Domination block is a little too safe for young adults who tend to gravitate to the darker cynicism of **Rick and Morty** and **Bojack Horseman**. It’s worth noting that **The Simpsons** and **Family Guy** were relatively controversial when they first aired on Fox. Most great comedy is at least a little dangerous – especially early in a show’s incarnation. Bart Simpson seems harmless now but he was considered a bad boy in the early days of the series, and Seth MacFarlane was pretty notorious for pushing boundaries. HBO Max’s **Harley Quinn** is a good example of a comedy series that is finding new buttons to push. Adult Swim’s comedic series have always been the most experimental and young adults have rewarded them with ratings.

Fox is still the number one broadcast network with the 18-34 demo, but, like all broadcasters, they’re fighting an inexorable decline in their 18-34 ratings. Fox has stated they are committed to finding their next animated franchise, and from the looks of their upcoming line-up they have made the determination that they need to diversify the block beyond the family sitcom.

Fox’s last two functional/dysfunctional family sitcoms **Bless the Harts** and **The Great North** haven’t received a lot of attention since their launch and rank 50th and 51st in the most-popular adult animated series ranking. Fox was able to introduce a third hit with **Bob’s Burgers**, but you wonder how far that formula can be pushed.

To Fox's credit, they stuck with **Bob's Burgers**. According to Bouchard, in the early days of **Bob's Burgers**, "[the Fox execs] weren't necessarily seeing it in the numbers, but they were hearing about it from their friends and from their kids and from social media."⁵ It's not clear if Fox will have the same patience with their new series — especially with the volume of upcoming projects looking for a home on the block.

"When Loren Bouchard first introduced Bob's Burgers to Fox, it was a story about a family of cannibals."

When Loren Bouchard first introduced **Bob's Burgers** to Fox, it was a story about a family of cannibals. Coming from the Adult Swim school of irreverence, Bouchard thought he had to push boundaries to get Fox to buy his show. Fox, however, convinced him to abandon the humans-eating-other-humans angle and focus on the family and character dynamics.

The line-up of upcoming shows looks more adventurous: **Crag Banyon PI**, a series currently in development, "follows the supernatural adventures of an alcoholic ex-cop and current private investigator, as he solves cases in an alternate noir, otherworldly reality." **Housebroken**, another upcoming Fox series, is about "an anthropomorphic therapy dog, who explores human dysfunctions and neurosis by applying her knowledge of psychiatry through leading a group of other anthropomorphic neighborhood animals in group therapy sessions."⁶ These log lines don't sound very "Foxy."

Fox ordered two new series — one from Dan Harmon (**Rick and Morty**), and an one-hour animated drama project from Jeff Davis (**Criminal Minds**) so they're clearly in the mood for breaking out of the family sitcom mold. Something tells me that if Bouchard pitched the cannibal angle for **Bob's Burgers** to Fox in early 2021, he might have ended up making a very different show.

5 The Hollywood Reporter - 'Bob's Burgers' Originally Featured a Family of Cannibals and Other Secrets Revealed in THR's Oral History, May 19, 2016

6 Deadline - Fox Orders 'Housebroken' Animated Comedy Series Starring Lisa Kudrow From Sharon Horgan, Clea Duvall, Jennifer Crittenden, Gabrielle Allan & Kapital, Dec 19, 2019

Figure 8:
Bob's Burgers



Fox's Current Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and Other Work)	Studio(s)
<i>Bless the Harts</i>	Family Sitcom	Emily Spivey (<i>Up all Night</i> , <i>SNL</i>)	Titmouse, Inc., Jessebean, Inc., Lord Miller Productions, Fox Entertainment, 20th Television
<i>Bob's Burger</i>	Family Sitcom	Loren Bouchard (<i>Dr. Katz</i> , <i>Professional Therapist</i>)	Bento Box Entertainment, Wilco Productions, Buck & Millie Productions, 20th Television
<i>Family Guy</i>	Family Sitcom	Seth MacFarlane (<i>American Dad</i> , <i>The Cleveland Show</i>)	Fuzzy Door Productions 20th Television
<i>The Great North</i>	Family Sitcom	Wendy Molyneux, Lizzie Molyneux and Minty Lewis, Loren Bouchard (<i>Bob's Burgers</i>)	Bento Box Entertainment, Double Molyneux Sister Sheux, Wilco Productions, Fox Entertainment, 20th Television
<i>The Simpsons</i>	Family Sitcom	Matt Groening, (<i>Futurama</i> , <i>Disenchantment</i>)	Gracie Films, 20th Television, Distributor, 20th Television (1989–2020), Disney–ABC Domestic Television (2020–present)

Fox's Upcoming Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and Other Work)	Studio(s)
<i>Clue</i>	<i>Spinoff from boardgame</i>	TBA	Entertainment One, Bento Box
<i>Cocky</i>	Comedy	Jack Amiel and Michael Begler (<i>The Knick</i>)	Fox Entertainment, Bento Box
<i>Crag Banyon PI</i>	Supernatural Mystery Comedy	Shane Black (<i>Lethal Weapon</i> , <i>The Predator</i>), David Silverman (<i>The Simpsons</i>)	Fox Entertainment, Bento Box
<i>Demi-God</i>	Hybrid Animated Live Action	Katie Greenway (<i>The Millers</i> , <i>Bella and the Bulldogs</i>)	Fox Entertainment
<i>The Greater Good</i>	Work place comedy	Mike Barker (<i>American Dad</i>), Stoney Sharp (<i>Comedy Bang! Bang!</i>)	Fox Entertainment
<i>Housebroken</i>	Anthropomorphic therapy dog	Jennifer Crittenden (<i>The Simpsons</i> , <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> , <i>Seinfeld</i> , <i>Veep</i>), Clea DuVall, Gabrielle Allan	Kapital Entertainment, Merman, Bento Box Entertainment, Fox Entertainment
<i>Lil Kev</i>	Story of Kevin Hart as a young boy	Kevin Hart (comedian), Michael Price (<i>The Simpsons</i>) and Matt Claybrooks (<i>Everybody Hates Chris</i>)	20th Century Fox TV, Lionsgate
Name TBD	Jermaine Fowler Project based on growing up in Maryland	Jermaine Fowler creator, writer EP (<i>Superior Donuts</i>)	Fox Entertainment
Name TBD	Dan Harmon Project	Dan Harmon (<i>Rick and Morty</i> , <i>Community</i>)	Fox Entertainment, Bento Box
Name TBD	Jeff Davis One Hour Drama Project	Jeff Davis (<i>Criminal Minds</i>)	Fox Entertainment, Bento Box
<i>Ocean Village</i>	Florida Apartment Building Comedy	Daniel Katz (<i>Deep Space 69</i> , <i>Trip Tank</i> , <i>Like Share Die</i>)	Bento Box, Look Mom Prod.
<i>Prince Wawa</i>	Original about a Merman	Tim Baltz, Lilly Sullivan (<i>Cobra Kai</i>)	Sony Pictures TV
<i>Shell Beach</i>	Original Comedy	Tyler, The Creator (musician) & Lionel Boyce & Davon Wilson (<i>Adult Swim's Loiter Squad</i>)	Fox Entertainment and Bento Box
<i>The X-Files: Albuquerque</i>	X-Files "B-team" comedy spinoff	Chris Carter (<i>X-Files</i>) Rocky Russo and Jeremy Sosenko	20th Television, Fox Entertainment, Bento Box

Figure 9: BoJack Horseman - Netflix



8. Netflix's Unbridled Ambition for Adult Animation

By 2028, Netflix will spend \$26 billion per year on content, up from \$17 billion in 2020.⁷ Netflix has literally said out loud that they want to go head-to-head with Disney. As a result, they're making an enormous financial commitment to animation to back up their fighting words.

"Netflix was born in Silicon Valley. Early on, BoJack's numbers signaled to Netflix that adult animation was the perfect 'hack' to attract young adult audiences."

Netflix is home to **BoJack Horseman**, one of the first original series to premiere on the streamer in 2014, one year after **House of Cards**. Netflix aired the last of 77 episodes before it put Bojack out to pasture in the beginning of 2020. GQ magazine praised the show as one of the best of the decade, and IndieWire ranked **BoJack Horseman** as the greatest animated television series of all time. The show has been praised for its realistic take on depression, trauma, addiction, self-destructive behavior, racism, sexism, sexuality, and the human condition. The series received numerous accolades, including four Critics' Choice Television Awards for Best Animated Series, three Annie Awards and two Writers Guild of America Awards. It also received three Primetime Emmy Award nominations, including two for Outstanding Animated Program. This is a long way of saying that **BoJack Horseman** was an important series for Netflix.

7 Fortune - Netflix will spend over \$17 billion on content in 2020: Analyst, Jan. 16, 2020

It's not unusual for animation to help put channels (or in this case a streamer) on the map. Fox was on the brink of shuttering when **The Simpsons** first started to gain traction and helped turn Fox into the 4th major network, while **Beavis and Butt-Head** was one of the first non-music, breakout shows for MTV. **South Park** has been credited with saving Comedy Central from the brink of oblivion. Netflix was born in Silicon Valley. **BoJack Horseman's** numbers signaled to Netflix that adult animation was the perfect "hack" to attract young adult audiences.

Figure 10:
Big Mouth - Netflix



Netflix has a multi-tiered strategy aimed at locking in Netflix as the definitive home for adult animation:

- **Volume** — Announced at least 24 new original series in development or production.
- **Quality** — Sourcing packaged projects from top tier writers, voice talent and animation studios.
- **Production Capacity** — Signed a 171,000 square foot lease for an animation studio in Burbank.
- **Titmouse** — Signed a first look with Titmouse, the most prolific adult animation studio.
- **Anime** — Signed deals with several key Japanese studios.
- **Video Games** — Loading up on new animated series based on video games.
- **Comedy** — Appears to be targeting Adult Swim as the new home for adult animated comedy.
- **Non-Comedy Genre** — More adventurous than most of their competition in their appetite for non-comedy dramatic series.

Netflix's adult animation division is headed up by Mike Moon. Tonally, Netflix animated series are wide ranging. This is unlike Adult Swim, which tends towards a quirkier, more irreverent-branded house feel. The addition of the video game-based series and anime will only serve to expand what defines Netflix animation. Streamers are more algorithmically driven than cable channels, so they can afford to be more eclectic in their choices than a branded block like Adult Swim or Animation Domination that rely heavily on cross promotions, branding and ratings. Netflix gravitates towards packaged originals from proven teams and studios, and branded IP with major footprints, like their upcoming video game-based series, anime series, reboots and spinoffs.



Figure 11:
Love, Death and Robots
- Netflix

Netflix is also home to **Love, Death and Robots**, the animation showcase anthology series featuring animation from world-class creators and studios. The show is presented by Tim Miller and David Fincher. **Love, Death and Robots** clearly signals the direction that adult animation is heading – that is more dramatic genre projects. One has to believe there will be a breakout from this series.

Figure 12:
F is for Family
- Netflix



Netflix Comedy

Netflix current originals are primarily comedies, including Nick Kroll's **Big Mouth**, comedian Bill Burr's **F is for Family**, Matt Groening's **Disenchantment** and **The Midnight Gospel** from Duncan Trussell and Pendleton Ward. Netflix's upcoming comedies include **Agent King**, featuring Elvis Presley as a spy; **Captain Fall**, from the creators of **Norsemen**; and **Human Resources**, a spinoff from **Big Mouth**.

Figure 13:
Disenchantment
- Netflix



Netflix Anime

Netflix's anime effort is headed by John Derderian, director of Japan and Anime. Derderian has made public statements about Netflix's long-term commitment to anime: "We're going to partner with studios for five years, ten years, so they can take that money to have certainty of revenue and invest in space and tools and people," and, "We're in an anime boom, but we're not investing in boom-or-bust cycle." According to Derderian, demand for Japanese animation is especially high in Southeast Asia, Europe and Latin Americas.⁸ Netflix now has deals with several Asian studios including Naz, Science Saru, and Mappa (producing LeSean Thomas's upcoming **Yasuke** series) in Japan and Studio Mir in South Korea. According to Cartoon Brew, Netflix "has pushed hard into the anime space in recent years, challenging dedicated services like Crunchyroll and Funimation. It has previously struck non-exclusive partnerships with Japanese studios Production I.G, Bones, Anima, Sublimation, and David Production. In February, it partnered with six Japanese creators to develop anime shows."⁹

Netflix Video Game Based Animated Series

Netflix is doubling down on video game inspired animated series, including **The Cuphead Show!**, **Overwatch**, **Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness**, **Shadowlands: Afterlives**, **Splinter Cell** and **Tomb Raider**. Many of these series based on game franchises will be produced as anime or in an anime style. (See our chapter: ['Is It Still Anime If It's Not Produced in Japan?'](#)).

8 Bloomberg - Netflix bets on animation to battle Disney, Apple in streaming wars, Nov 6, 2020

9 Cartoon Brew - Netflix Strikes Partnerships With Four Animation Studios From Japan And Korea, Oct 24, 2020

Netflix's Current Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and Other Work)	Studio(s)
<i>Big Mouth</i>	Coming of Age Sitcom	Nick Kroll (<i>Kroll Show</i> , <i>The Oh</i> , <i>Hello Show</i> , <i>The League</i>)	Danger Goldberg Productions, Good at Bizness, Inc., Fathouse Industries Titmouse, Inc.
<i>Blood of Zeus</i> (formerly <i>Gods and Heroes</i>)	Action Anime	Charley Parlapanides, Vlas Parlapanides (<i>Death Note</i> , <i>Immortals</i>)	Powerhouse Animation Studios
<i>Bojack Horseman</i> (last season)	Sitcom, Tragicomedy, Black comedy, Surreal humor, Comedy-drama, Satire	Raphael Bob-Waksberg (<i>Undone</i>)	Tornante Television, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine
<i>Castlevania</i>	Drama, Dark fantasy Action, Adventure Horror, Anime	Warren Ellis, (<i>Transmetropolitan</i> , <i>Global Frequency</i>)	Frederator Studios, Powerhouse Animation Studios, Shankar Animation, Project 51 Productions Mua Film,
<i>Disenchantment</i>	Sitcom Black Comedy Medieval Fantasy	Matt Groening (<i>The Simpsons</i>) Josh Weinstein (<i>The Simpsons</i>)	The ULULU Company Rough Draft Studios
<i>F is for Family</i>	Sitcom Comedy Satire	Bill Burr (comedian actor) and Michael Price (<i>The Simpsons</i>)	Wild West Television, Loner Productions, Big Jump Productions, King of France Productions, Oasis Animation, Gaumont Animation
<i>The Liberator</i>	War Drama – mini-series	Jeb Stuart (<i>Die Hard</i> , <i>Fugitive</i>)	A&E Studios, Unique Features Trioscope Studios
<i>Love Death + Robots</i>	Anthology, Science fiction	Tim Miller (<i>Deadpool</i>)	Blur Studio, Netflix Studios
<i>The Midnight Gospel</i>	Science fantasy, Surrealism Dark, Comedy Adventure, Psychedelic	Pendleton Ward, <i>Adventure Time</i> and comedian Duncan Trussell	Oatmeal Maiden Titmouse, Inc.
<i>Paradise PD</i>	Crime, Action, Black Comedy, Surrealism Animated Sitcom	Waco O'Guin (<i>Brickleberry</i>) Roger Black (<i>Yucko the Clown</i>)	Damn! Show Productions, Bento Box Entertainment, Odenkirk Provissiero Entertainment
<i>Seis Manos</i>	Martial arts Supernatural Action, Anime	Brad Graeber, Álvaro Rodríguez	Powerhouse Animation Studios, Viz Productions
<i>Trailer Park Boys: The Animated Series</i>	Mockumentary Sitcom Black comedy Crime comedy	John Paul Tremblay, Robb Wells, and Mike Smith.	Sunnyvale Productions, Swearnet Pictures, Entertainment One Television
<i>Tuca and Bertie</i> Note: heading to Adult Swim	Sitcom, Surreal humor Slice of Life	Lisa Hanawalt (<i>Bojack Horseman</i>)	The Tornante Company, Brave Dummy, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine

Netflix's Upcoming Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and Other Work)	Studio(s)
<i>Agent King</i>	Comedy	Priscilla Presley, John Eddie, Mike Arnold (Archer)	Sony Pictures Animation
<i>Blue Eye Samurai</i>	Action Adventure	Michael Green and Amber Noizumi	NA
<i>Captain Fall</i>	Comedy	Jon Iver Helgaker and Jonas Torgersen (Norsemen)	NA
<i>The Cuphead Show!</i>	Comedy based on video game	Chad and Jared Moldenhauer	StudioMDHR and King Features Syndicate
<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Action – Anime based on Cyberpunk 2077 video game	Hiroiyuki Imaishi (<i>Kill la Kill</i> , <i>Promare</i> , and <i>Gurren Lagann</i>)	Studio Trigger
<i>Diablo</i>	Fantasy Horror – Anime based on video game	Andrew Cosby (<i>Hellboy</i> , <i>Eureka</i>)	Blizzard
<i>DOTA: Dragons Blood</i>	Fantasy – Based on video game – anime	NA	Studio Mir
<i>Entergalactic</i>	Musical	Kid Cudi (recording artist)	Khalabo Ink Society
<i>Farzar</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Roger Black & Waco O'Guin (<i>Paradise PD</i>)	Odenkirk Provissiero Entertainment, Bento Box Entertainment
<i>Godzilla: Singular Point</i>	Action	Atsushi Takahashi	Bones and Orange
<i>Good Times</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Carl Jones, (<i>The Last O.G.</i> , <i>The Boondocks</i> , and <i>Black Dynamite</i>)	Fuzzy Door
<i>Heaven's Forest</i>	Fantasy – Epic	Warren Ellis (<i>Castlevania</i>)	Powerhouse Animation
<i>The House</i>	Comedy – Dark	Emma de Swaef and Marc James Roels (<i>This Magnificent Cake</i> , <i>Oh Willy</i>)	Nexus Studios
<i>Human Resources</i>	Comedy - (spinoff from <i>Big Mouth</i>)	Nick Kroll (<i>Big Mouth</i>), Andrew Goldberg, Mark Levin, Jennifer Flackett, and Kelly Galuska	Brutus Pink
<i>Inside Job</i>	Comedy	Shion Takeuchi (<i>Gravity Falls</i>)	Netflix Animation
<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	Action – Anime based on movie	Brian Duffield (<i>Underwater</i> , <i>Spontaneous</i> , <i>Love and Monsters</i>) is writing and exec producing.	Powerhouse Animation
<i>Magic: The Gathering</i>	Fantasy based on card game	NA	NA
<i>Masters of the Universe: Revelation</i>	Fantasy – Based on TV Series	Kevin Smith (<i>Clerks</i> , <i>Jay and Silent Bob</i>)	Jetlag Productions, Mattel, Powerhouse Animation
<i>Mulligan</i>	Comedy	Tina Fey (<i>SNL</i> , <i>30 Rock</i>) and Robert Carlock (<i>30 Rock</i>)	3 Arts Entertainment, Bento Box Entertainment and Universal Television

Netflix's Upcoming Adult Animated Series [con't]

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and Other Work)	Studio(s)
<i>Overwatch</i>	Fantasy – Anime based on video game	Nick van Dyk	Blizzard
<i>Q-Force</i>	Comedy	Sean Hayes and Todd Milliner, Mike Schur, (Parks and Recreation) Gabe Liedman (Brooklyn Nine-Nine, PEN15)	Fremulon, Universal TV, 3 Arts
<i>Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness</i>	Fantasy – based on World of Warcraft video game	NA	TMS Entertainment
<i>Splinter Cell</i>	Spy Thriller – Anime based on video game	Derek Kolstad (John Wick)	Ubisoft
<i>Tomb Raider</i>	Action – anime based on video game	Tasha Huo, (<i>The Witcher: Blood Orange</i>)	Legendary

Figure 14: Beavis and Butt-Head - Viacom



9. Comedy Central Makes a Hard Pivot

Comedy Central is shifting their original programming focus from live-action to animation. As part of this effort, ViacomCBS announced that they are rebooting **Beavis and Butt-Head**, **Ren and Stimpy**, and **Jodie**, a **Daria** spinoff, while at the same time closing down many of their live-action series. Upon the news of Comedy Central cancelling **Tosh.0**, Daniel Tosh quipped, “I look forward to doing an animated reboot of my show on MTV in 25 years.”¹⁰

It will be a challenge for ViacomCBS to reboot series like **Beavis and Butt-Head**. Most comedy does not age particularly well. For those old enough to remember, try re-watching the last episode of **M.A.S.H.** A staggering 106 million people watched that episode, which was the most ever in the history of television.¹¹ It may trigger an out-of-body response — as in, was I the same person who actually liked that show?

*“Upon the news of Comedy Central cancelling **Tosh.0**, Daniel Tosh quipped, “I look forward to doing an animated reboot of my show on MTV in 25 years.”*

For the record, Viacom had already tried rebooting both **Beavis and Butt-Head** and **Ren and Stimpy**. Neither of these reboots were well received and, if anything, attracted generally negative reviews from die-hard fans. One assumes ViacomCBS will start to develop new original series to build up around these reboots. Will they keep enough powder dry to invest in new content and give themselves enough

¹⁰ HITC – Is TOSH.O Cancelled? Fate of the Comedy Central Series Explained, Sep. 16, 2020

¹¹ Washington Post – 106 million People Watched M.A.S.H.” finale 35 years ago. No Scripted Show Since Has Come Close, Feb. 28, 2018

runway to make it all work? Personally, I hope I am proven wrong and this approach works. It would be wonderful to have another serious adult animation buyer in the market. Viacom is also looking for homes for other animated projects based on IP from the Viacom vault. Its **Clone High** series, for example, is heading for HBO Max.

Figure 15:
Ren & Stimpy
- Viacom



Viacom's Current Adult Animation Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Studio(s)
South Park	Comedy	Matt Stone, Trey Parker (<i>Team America</i> , <i>World Police</i> , <i>Book of Mormon</i>)	Celluloid Studios (1997) Braniff Productions (1997–2006) Parker-Stone Productions (2006–07) South Park Studios (2007–) Comedy Partners

Viacom's Upcoming Adult Animation Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Studio(s)
Beavis and Butt-Head	Comedy Reboot	Mike Judge (<i>Silicon Valley</i> , <i>King of the Hill</i>)	TBD
Clone High	Comedy Reboot	Phil Lord, Christopher Miller (<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> , <i>The Lego Movie</i>) and Bill Lawrence (<i>Scrubs</i>)	For HBO Max
Jodie	Comedy (Daria Spinoff)	Grace Edwards (<i>Insecure</i> , <i>Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt</i>)	TBD
Ren & Stimpy	Comedy Reboot	John Krisfalusi	TBD

Figure 16: Rick and Morty - Adult Swim



10. WarnerMedia: HBO Max, Adult Swim & DC Comics

HBO Max, Adult Swim, and DC Comics are the three key components to WarnerMedia's adult animation strategy. HBO Max now has a landing page to help viewers find their favorite adult animation more easily. The hub includes Crunchyroll, Studio Ghibli, Looney Tunes, Cartoon Network and Adult Swim. Suzanna Makkos is HBO Max's EVP of Original Comedy and Adult Animation. [Michael Ouweleen](#) is the President of [Adult Swim](#). Adult Swim, Cartoon Network's adult animation block, is home to **Rick and Morty**, the most-watched comedy series for 18-34s on television. DC Comics is home to some of the world's most-valuable superhero characters, including **Batman** and **Superman**. HBO Max paid \$500M for the streaming rights to Viacom's **South Park** franchise that will serve as the cornerstone of their adult animation strategy. HBO Max also invested an estimated \$1 billion (phew) for the animation rights to Roald Dahl's books.

Warner Brothers has a sizable world-class animation production capacity between Warner Brothers Animation, Cartoon Network Studios, and Williams Street. Sam Register is the president of Warner Bros. Animation, Warner Digital Series and Cartoon Network Studios. This scale will be important because all the third party studio's capacity will be stretched thin with the surge in demand for adult animation. HBO Max will continue to mine the DC vaults for IP that translates into adult animated series. HBO Max has a bona fide hit with critics and fans in **Harley Quinn**, a DC Universe character. The SVOD is expanding to 18 new upcoming adult animated series from its 3 current series (**Close Enough**, **Harley Quinn** and **Young Justice**).

I have to believe that in the long run, WarnerMedia will abandon Adult Swim as a cable channel to focus on becoming the adult animation producer and programmer for HBO Max. I can't see how any young adult-facing cable channel can survive cord-cutting: This is the case across all the major entertainment companies that are increasingly structuring their businesses around their streaming platforms.

For reasons I don't understand, WarnerMedia sold Crunchyroll to Sony. Crunchyroll is a successful standalone SVOD with 3 million paying subscribers and arguably would have been a reliable anime feeder into HBO Max. I am not sure what anime will be left for HBO Max or Adult Swim if Sony (Crunchyroll) and Netflix continue to aggressively lock up anime output from Japan. As I mentioned elsewhere in this white paper, I fully anticipate doing a comprehensive analysis of anime next year and by that time some of these open questions will become clearer.



Figure 17:
Close Enough
- HBO Max

HBO Max's Current Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Studio(s)
<i>Close Enough</i>	Surreal Comedy	J. G. Quintel, Sean Szeles, Matt Price, Calvin Wong	Cartoon Network Studios
<i>Harley Quinn</i>	Black comedy Surreal comedy Superhero Crime	Justin Halpern, Patrick Schumacker, Dean Lorey	Warner Bros. Animation DC Entertainment Yes, Norman Productions, Ehsugadee Productions
<i>Young Justice</i>	Action Adventure Science fiction Superhero Teen drama	Brandon Vietti Greg Weisman	DC Entertainment Warner Bros. Animation

HBO Max's Upcoming Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Studio(s)
<i>10-Year Old Tom</i>	Comedy	Steve Dildarian (<i>The Life and Times of Tim</i>)	Tomorrow Studios, ITV Studios
<i>Aquaman: King of Atlantis</i>	Superhero Mini-Series	James Wan (<i>Saw</i> , <i>Insidious</i>)	Warner Bros. Animation
<i>Batman: The Animated Series</i> (rumored reboot)	Superhero	TBD	TBD
<i>The Boondocks</i> (Reboot)	Comedy Sitcom	Aaron McGruder	Sony Pictures Animation
<i>Chinos</i>	Original Comedy Sitcom	Eddie Huang	Color Correct
<i>Clone High</i>	Comedy Reboot	Phil Lord, Christopher Miller (<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> , <i>The Lego Movie</i>) and Bill Lawrence (<i>Scrubs</i>)	MTV Entertainment Studios
<i>Cover</i> (in development)	Espionage thriller	Brian Michael Bendis and David Mack	Rooster Teeth Studios
<i>Fired on Mars</i>	Workplace Comedy starring Pete Davidson	Nate Sherman and Nick Vokey	Warner Bros. Animation
<i>Game of Thrones</i> (anime rumor)	Fantasy based on the TV series	TBD	TBD
<i>Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai</i>	Fantasy spinoff from a movie	Tze Chun	Warner Bros Animation
<i>Hello Paul</i> (In development)	Comedy about a neurotic cat Pete Davidson to voice	Sean Solomon (AOK, Lucas Bros Moving Co., Animation) Domination High-Def	NA
<i>Keeping Up With the Jones's</i>	Sitcom	Hugh Davidson (<i>Mike Tyson Mysteries</i>)	WB Animation

HBO Max's Upcoming Adult Animated Series [cont'd]

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Studio(s)
Obi (in development)	Comedy	Obi Arisukwu and Arthur Harris (<i>The Last OG</i>).	Studio 71
<i>The Prince</i>	Royal Family Political Satire	Gary Janetti (<i>Family Guy</i> , <i>Will and Grace</i>)	Bento Box Entertainment, 20th Television
<i>Santa Inc.</i>	Seasonal Comedy starring Seth Rogen and Sarah Silverman	Alexandra Rushfield (<i>Shrill</i> , <i>Parks and Rec</i>)	Point Grey Pictures
Uncanny Valley (in development)	Sci-Fi Comedy	Ed Helms (<i>The Office</i> , <i>The Daily Show</i>) with creators/executive producers Brendan Walter and Greg Yagolnitzer	Universal Television, Electric Picture
<i>Velma</i>	Scooby-Doo Spinoff starring Mindy Kaling (<i>The Office</i>)	Charlie Grandy, (<i>The Daily Show</i> , <i>SNL</i> , <i>The Office</i>) Howard Klein, (<i>Carnivàle</i>), Sam Register	Warner Bros. Animation
<i>Young Love</i>	Drama based on the Oscar winning short	Matthew A. Cherry (<i>Hair Love</i>) and Carl Jones (<i>Boondocks</i>)	Sony Pictures Animation

Adult Swim's Current Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (other work)	Studio(s)
<i>12 Oz Mouse</i>	Surreal Comedy	Matt Maiellaro (<i>Aqua Teen Hunger Force</i>)	Williams Street, Radical Axis (series), Awesome, Inc. (special)
<i>Ballmastrz: 9009</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Christy Karacas (<i>Superjail</i>)	Titmouse, Inc., C.C.K. Rad (Season 2), Williams Street
<i>JJ Villards Fairytale</i> s	Horror Comedy	J.J. Villard (<i>King Star King</i> , <i>Chestnuts Icelolly</i> , <i>Monsters Vs. Aliens</i>)	Villard Film, Cartoon Network Studios, Williams Street
<i>The Jellies</i>	Sitcom	Tyler, The Creator (musician)	Bald Fade Productions, Augenblick Studios, Whalerock Industries, Williams Street
<i>Lazor Wulf</i>	Comedy	Henry Bonsu, with Daniel Weidenfeld	Titmouse, Inc. (Pilot), Bento Box Entertainment (season 1), 6 Point Harness (season 2), Williams Street
<i>Momma Named Me Sheriff</i> (Mr. Pickles)	Animated sitcom Dark comedy	Will Carsola and Dave Stewart	HotHouse Productions, Day by Day Productions, Williams Street
<i>Primal</i>	Fantasy, Horror, Action	Genndy Tartakovsky (<i>Dexter's Lab</i> , <i>Samurai Jack</i> , <i>Star Wars: Clone Wars</i>)	Cartoon Network Studios, Williams Street, Studio La Cacherie
<i>Rick and Morty</i>	Sci-fi Comedy	Justin Roiland (<i>Solar Opposites</i>), Dan Harmon (<i>Community</i>)	Williams Street, Harmonious Claptrap, Starburns Industries (seasons 1-2), Justin Roiland's Solo Vanity Card Productions!, Rick and Morty, LLC. (season 2-3), Green Portal Productions (season 4)

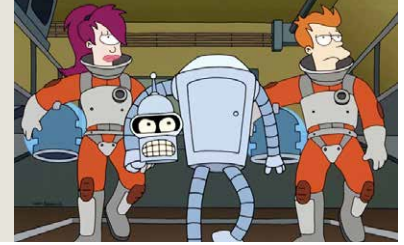
Adult Swim's Current Adult Animated Series [cont'd]

Show	Description	Creator(s) (other work)	Studio(s)
<i>Robot Chicken</i>	Sketch Comedy	Seth Green and Matthew Senreich along with co-head writers Douglas Goldstein and Tom Root	ShadowMachine Films (2005–2012) (seasons 1–5), Stoopid Monkey, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios (2012 present), (season 6–present) Sony Pictures Digital (2005–2012) (seasons 1–5) Sony Pictures Television (2012–present) (season 6–present), Williams Street
<i>Tigtone</i>	Fantasy Comedy	Andrew Koehler and Benjamin Martian	Titmouse, Inc., Babyhemyth Productions, Williams Street
<i>The Shivering Truth</i>	Comedy, Surreal, Sketch	Created by Vernon Chatman (<i>Wonder Showzen</i>) and directed by Chatman and Cat Solen	ShadowMachine (season one), HouseSpecial (season two), PFFR, Williams Street
<i>Squidbillies</i>	Black Comedy	Jim Fortier and Dave Willis (<i>Aqua Teen Hunger Force</i>)	Williams Street
<i>Tender Touches</i>	Soap Opera Parody	David Bonawits, (<i>Fish Center Live</i>) Lauren Payne, and Maxime Simonet	Six Point Harness (season 2), Awesome, Inc. (season 3), Williams Street
<i>The Venture Bros. (last season)</i>	Comedy	Christopher McCulloch (<i>Tick</i>)	Astro Base GO!, NoodleSoup Productions (2003–04), World Leaders Entertainment (2006–10), Titmouse, Inc. (2011–2018), Williams Street
<i>Yolo: Crystal Fantasy</i>	Comedy	Michael Cusack	Princess Pictures, Williams Street

Adult Swim's Upcoming Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Works)	Studio(s)
<i>Birdgirl</i>	Comedy spinoff from <i>Harvey Birdman</i>	Produced by Susan Shipsky and directed by Rich Ferguson–Hull (<i>Harvey Birdman, Ugly Americans</i>)	ME Productions, Awesome Inc.
<i>Blade Runner: Black Lotus</i>	Anime series based on movie	Shinji Aramaki, Kenji Kamiyama (<i>Ultraman, Ghost in the Shell</i>)	Sola Digital Arts
<i>Teenage Euthanasia</i>	Dystopic coming-of-all-ages comedy	Alissa Nutting (<i>Made for Love</i>) and Emmy-Nominated Producer Alyson Levy (<i>Shivering Truth</i>)	Augenblick
<i>Tuca and Bertie</i>	Comedy (formerly Netflix)	Lisa Hanawalt (<i>BoJack Horseman</i>)	The Tornante Company, Brave Dummy, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine

Figure 18: Futurama - Fox



11. Sci-Fi Comedy Crossovers

There is a rich animated sci-fi comedy tradition that includes some of the all-time most popular adult animated series — shows like **Futurama**, **Gravity Falls** and **Invader Zim**. Creators have gravitated towards these sci-fi comedy hybrids because they are an easy way to present more complex themes and, by their nature, push the boundaries of the imagination. My prediction is that sci-fi comedy crossovers are transitional and will be a gateway to more ambitious dramatic adult animation. Comedic sci-fi is a flexible platform for storytellers to tell funny, complex stories packaged in a way that is relatively easy for audiences to enjoy and for buyers to greenlight.

“Sci-fi comedy crossovers are transitional and a gateway to more ambitious dramatic adult animation.”

The stories are about almost anything and can take place almost anywhere in the universe. They explore the human condition and the more ambitious ones (like **Rick and Morty** and **The Midnight Gospel**) pose existential questions about our existence from a unique point of view, with all the strengths inherent to classic science fiction. Although comedy plays less of a role in most science fiction literature, sci-fi premises are a reoccurring platform for animated comedy series.

Figure 19:
Solar Opposites
- Hulu



My expectation is that this will change as Western audiences (and the rest of the world) increasingly accept animation as a vehicle for any kind of story. Japanese audiences have already made this transition. Japanese anime can cover anything from fighting robots to romance to a retired yakuza boss adjusting to life as a stay-at-home dad. There's no reason why the rest of the world will not get to the same place.

Current animated sci-fi comedy series include **Rick and Morty**, **Solar Opposites**, **Final Space**, **Star Trek: Lower Decks**, **Close Enough** and **The Midnight Gospel**. These series consistently command some of the largest audiences for adult animation — especially **Rick and Morty**. There's a lot of shared genes amongst these series — many of them have hired current and former **Rick and Morty** writers. Upcoming sci-fi comedies include the spinoff **X-Files: Albuquerque**, and **Chronicles of Frank**.

Figure 20:
Final Space - TBS



Current Sci-Fi Comedy Adult Animated Crossovers

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Close Enough</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	J. G. Quintel (<i>Regular Show</i>)	HBO Max	Cartoon Network Studios
<i>Devil May Care</i>	Comedy	Douglas Goldstein (<i>Robot Chicken</i>)	Syfy	Psyop, Titmouse
<i>Final Space</i>	Space Opera Comedy Drama	Olan Rogers (comedian)	TBS	ShadowMachine, Jam Filled Entertainment, Star Cadet New Form Digital Conaco (S1-2) Studio T (S1)
<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad: Origins</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Kelsey Stephanides	Syfy	Cartuna
<i>The Midnight Gospel</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Pendleton Ward (<i>Adventure Time</i>) and Duncan Trussell, comedian	Netflix	Oatmeal Maiden Titmouse, Inc.
<i>Rick and Morty</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Justin Roiland (<i>Solar Opposites</i>), Dan Harmon (<i>Community</i>)	Adult Swim	Williams Street Harmonious Claptrap Starburns Industries (seasons 1-2) Justin Roiland's Solo Vanity Card Productions! Rick and Morty, LLC. (season 2-3) Green Portal Productions (season 4)
<i>Solar Opposites</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Justin Roiland (<i>Rick and Morty</i>) and Mike McMahan (<i>Star Trek: Lower Decks</i>)	Hulu	Solo Vanity Card Productions!, Important Science, 20th Television
<i>Star Trek: Lower Decks</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Mike McMahan (<i>Solar Opposites</i>)	CBS All Access	CBS Eye, Animation Productions, Secret Hideout, Important Science, Roddenberry Entertainment, Titmouse, Inc.
<i>Wild Life</i>	Comedy	Adam Davies Dylan Dawson Alex Plapinger	Syfy	Nice Try, Octopie, Network Valparaiso Pictures, TZGZ Productions

Upcoming Sci-Fi Comedy Adult Animated Crossovers

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Buyer	Studio(s)
2051	Sci-Fi Comedy – Animated Workplace Comedy	Mo Mandel (<i>Comedy Knockout</i>), Jason Fuchs (<i>Wonder Woman</i>)	Amazon	3 Arts Entertainment
<i>The Black Hole</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Dino Stamatopoulos (Creator, <i>Moral Orel</i>) and Michael Waldron (Producer, <i>Rick and Morty</i>)	Syfy	Starburn Industries
<i>The Chronicles of Frank</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Chris Osbrink (Writer/Director, <i>Trip Tank</i>)	Syfy	ShadowMachine
<i>Farzar</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Roger Black & Waco O'Guin (<i>Paradise PD</i>)	Netflix	Odenkirk Provissiero Entertainment and Bento Box Entertainment
<i>Fired on Mars</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy starring Pete Davidson	Carson Mell and Dave Sirus (<i>King of Staten Island</i>) based on a short by Nate Sherman and Nick Vokey	HBO Max	TBA
<i>The Hospital</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy – Dark	Natasha Lyonne, (<i>Orange is the New Black</i>) Maya Rudolph (SNL, <i>Idiocracy</i>)	Amazon	Animal Pictures
<i>The Pole</i>	Comedy	Matthew Bass (<i>Future Man</i>) and Theodore Bressman (<i>Future Man</i>). Mark Gordon (Producer, <i>Ray Donovan</i>)	Syfy	Yeti Farm Creative
<i>Psycho Psalms</i>	Stop Motion Dark Comedy Sci-Fi	David Braun and Nicholas D'Agostino	Syfy	Open The Portal, Tractor Pants
<i>Uncanny Valley</i> (in development)	Sci-Fi Comedy	Ed Helms (<i>The Office</i> , <i>The Daily Show</i>) with creators/executive producers Brendan Walter and Greg Yagolnitzer	Universal Television, Electric Picture	<i>Uncanny Valley</i> (in development)
<i>X-Files: Albuquerque</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Chris Carter (<i>X:Files</i>), Rocky Russo, Jeremy Sosenko, (<i>Paradise PD</i>)	Fox	Bento Box

Figure 21:
Magical Girl Friendship
Squad - Syfy



12. Syfy's TZGZ Block and Short Format Pipelines

TZGZ is a late night programming block that first premiered in April 2019 on Syfy. Expanding Syfy's programming into original adult animation has been a priority for NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment according to President Chris McCumber, who oversees USA Network and Syfy. The block features animated series aimed at adult audiences with a focus on “animated comedy, which has to have some tie to science fiction, horror, and fantasy.”¹² The block's name is derived from the letters of the alphabet that come after those in Syfy's name.

The TZGZ block very neatly fits into my thesis about the importance and popularity of sci-fi comedy crossovers. There are currently four original series in production (***Magical Girl Friendship Squad***, ***Wild Life***, ***Hell Den*** and ***Devil May Care***) and six series in various stages of development. They also license ***Futurama*** and Mondo/Blue Ant's ***Gary and His Demons***.

I am a proponent of Short Format Pipelines, like TZGZ. This model has worked well for programmers in the past. Comedy is so dependent on voice and POV that the only way to find successful shows is to start small, with a high volume of short pilots, and then get behind the projects that show signs of traction. Using short format pipelines, I was able to find IP like ***Happy Tree Friends***, ***Dick Figures*** and ***Gary and His Demons*** — all of which scaled into successful TV series and movies.

12 Deadline - Syfy Ramps Up Animation Push With First Original Series & Pilot Orders For New TZGZ Block, Jan. 17, 2020

This time-tested model has also worked for Fred Seibert during his stint at Hanna Barbera, where he produced 28 short films that eventually became hits, including Genndy Tartakovsky's **Dexter's Laboratory**, David Feiss' **Cow and Chicken** and **I Am Weasel**, Van Partible's **Johnny Bravo**, John R. Dilworth's **Courage the Cowardly Dog**, and Craig McCracken's **The Powerpuff Girls**.

I look forward to seeing what shows break out of the TZGZ pipeline.

Current Adult Animated TZGZ Block Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (and prior/other work)	Studio(s)
<i>Devil May Care</i>	Dark Comedy	Douglas Goldstein (<i>Robot Chicken</i>)	PSYOP, Titmouse
<i>Hell Den</i>	Sketch Comedy	Sean Cowhig ,Neil Garguilo, Brian James O'Connell, David F. Park, Justin Ware	Dr. God Productions, Rafael Raffaele Entertainment, Shout! Studios, TZGZ Productions
<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad</i>	Magical Girl Comedy	Kelsey Stephanides	Cartuna, TZGZ Productions
<i>Wild Life</i>	Sitcom	Adam Davies	Nice Try., Octopie Network, Valparaiso Pictures, TZGZ Productions

Upcoming Adult Animated TZGZ Block Series

Show	Description	Creators (and prior/other work)	Studio(s)
<i>The Black Hole</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Dino Stamatopoulos and Michael Waldron	NA
<i>The Chronicles of Frank</i>	Comedy	Chris Osbrink	NA
<i>Plutonians</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	NA	NA
<i>The Pole</i>	Comedy	Matthew Bass and Theodore Bressman	Yeti Farm Creative
<i>Psycho Psalms</i>	Dark Comedy – Stop Motion	David Braun and Nicholas D'Agostino	Open The Portal, Tractor Pants
<i>The Summoner</i>	Comedy	Charlie Hankins (New Yorker Cartoonist)	Stoopid Buddy Stoodios

Figure 22: Good Times - HBO Max



13. Blasts From the Past: Reboots and Spinoffs

Viacom isn't the only network turning to reboots: CBS Television's **Star Trek: Lower Decks** is currently the one on-air spinoff, but there are at least 18 other announced reboots or spinoffs in development or production. Many of these are spinoffs from some of the most valuable franchises in the entertainment industry including **Game of Thrones**, **Godzilla**, **Blade Runner**, and **King Kong**. Others are spinoffs from classic animated and live action series, including Viacom's reboots like **Beavis and Butt-Head** and **Ren & Stimpy**. There are multiple upcoming animated spinoff series based on live-action series, like **X:Files** and the sitcom **Good Times**.

"The benefit of the animated spinoff is that streaming services can broaden their big-name content without treading on the toes of the live-action originals"

It will be interesting to see how far these animated spinoffs veer from their source material. It's difficult to see, for example, a straight handling of the **Good Times** sitcom as an animated series. Unless it's meant to be ironic, the voice of that show will seem antiquated for today's audiences. They are going to have to do something very different from the original to make it work.

Comedy Central's reboot mania, on the other hand, appears to be motivated by the ratings success that Adult Swim and Netflix have had with adult animation, and possibly as a pivot in reaction to the decline in popularity of live-action comedy. (Or they gave up on the challenge of finding new hit comedies.)

Craig Elvy, writing for Screen Rant, makes an excellent observation about the animated spinoff phenomenon: It's a lower risk way of extending IP than big budget features or series. According to Elvy, "The benefit of the animated spinoff is that streaming services can broaden their big-name content without treading on the toes of the live-action originals — and usually at a lower cost. The more projects exist simultaneously under a single franchise umbrella, the more the overall brand risks being diluted. This phenomenon can be seen with **The Walking Dead** and its three current live-action shows. But the medium of animation offers natural separation. **Jurassic World** fans can enjoy **Camp Cretaceous** as both a show in its own right and an extension of the wider dinosaur universe, but those who find no merit in the spinoff can easily stick to live-action. A poorly-received animated spinoff is far less likely to damage the brand than a live-action one."¹³



Figure 23:
Masters of the Universe:
Revelation - Netflix

13 Screen Rant, Why So Many Franchises Are Getting Animated Spinoff Shows, Jan 28, 2021

Current Adult Animated Reboots and Spinoffs

Show	Description	Creators (and prior/other work)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Star Trek: Lower Decks</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy Spinoff	Mike McMahan (<i>Solar Opposites</i>)	CBS All Access	CBS Eye, Animation Productions, Secret Hideout, Important Science, Roddenberry Entertainment, Titmouse, Inc.

Upcoming Adult Animated Reboots and Spinoffs

Show	Description	Creators	Buyer	Studios(s)
<i>Batman: The Animated Series</i>	Reboot of the classic animated series (rumor)	TBD	HBO Max	TBD
<i>Beavis and Butt-Head</i>	Comedy Reboot	Mike Judge (<i>Silicon Valley</i> , <i>King of the Hill</i>)	Viacom	TBD
<i>Birdgirl</i>	<i>Harvey Birdman</i> Spinoff	Paget Brewster	Adult Swim	Awesome Inc.
<i>Blade Runner: Black Lotus</i>	Action Anime based on the movie	Shinji Aramaki and Kenji Kamiyama	Adult Swim	Sola Digital Arts
<i>The Boondocks</i>	Reboot	Aaron McGruder (original creator)	HBO Max	Sony Pictures Animation
<i>Clone High</i>	Comedy Reboot	Phil Lord, Christopher Miller (<i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> , <i>The Lego Movie</i>) and Bill Lawrence (<i>Scrubs</i>)	HBO Max	TBD
<i>Good Times</i>	Sitcom Spinoff	Carl Jones (<i>The Boondocks</i> , <i>Black Dynamite</i>) Tracy Morgan (<i>The Last O.G.</i>)	Netflix	Act III, Unanimous Media (Steph Curry), Fuzzy Door (Seth MacFarlane)
<i>Human Resources</i>	(spinoff from <i>Big Mouth</i>)	Nick Kroll, Andrew Goldberg, Mark Levin, Jennifer Flackett, and Kelly Galuska	Netflix	Brutus Pink
<i>Game of Thrones</i> (rumor)	Spinoff from <i>Game of Thrones</i> Series	TBD	HBO Max	TBD
<i>Godzilla: Singular Point</i>	Action Anime based on movie	Atsushi Takahashi	Netflix	Bones and Orange

Upcoming Adult Animated Reboots and Spinoffs [cont'd]

Show	Description	Creators	Buyer	Studios(s)
<i>Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai</i>	Fantasy Spinoff from Gremlins feature	Tze Chun	HBO Max	Amblin Television Warner Bros. Animation
<i>Jodie</i>	Comedy (<i>Daria</i> Spinoff)	Grace Edwards (<i>Insecure</i> , <i>Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt</i>)	Viacom	TBD
<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	Action Anime, Spinoff from King Kong movie	Brian Duffield (<i>Underwater</i> , <i>Spontaneous</i> , <i>Love and Monsters</i>) is writing and exec producing.	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation
<i>Masters of the Universe</i>	He Man Spinoff	Kevin Smith (<i>Clerks</i>)	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios
<i>Ren & Stimpy</i>	Comedy Reboot	John Krisfalusi	Viacom	Spümcø (seasons 1 and 2) Games Animation (seasons 3–5) Nickelodeon Animation Studio
<i>Tuca and Bertie</i>	Reboot	Lisa Hanawalt, (<i>Bojack Horseman</i>)	Adult Swim (formerly Netflix)	The Tornante Company, Brave Dummy, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine
<i>Velma</i>	Scooby-Doo spinoff	Charlie Grandy, Howard Klein, and Sam Register	HBO Max	Warner Bros. Animation
<i>X-Files: Albuquerque</i>	Comedy Spinoff from X-Files TV Series	Chris Carter (<i>X-Files</i>), Rocky Russo, Jeremy Sosenko, (<i>Paradise PD</i>)	Fox	Bento Box

Figure 24: Avatar: The Last Airbender - Netflix



14. Is It Still Anime If It's Not Produced in Japan?

Avatar: the Last Air Bender, a 12-year old Nickelodeon series, blew up on Netflix and exceeded everyone's expectations with the longest-consecutive run on the streamer's top 10 TV series chart — ever since the service began promoting their daily top 10s. At the same time, Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, the show's original creators abandoned a highly anticipated live-action spinoff due to creative differences with Netflix. Netflix announced that despite the creators' departure, they were proceeding with the live-action spinoff. It is not clear if this will impact the possibility of new animated episodes for the franchise.

“Epic, serialized, anime-style story-telling like Avatar that appeal to all ages might be one of the formulas for success for future adult animated series.”

According to Collider's Rafael Motamayor: “Avatar sat at the perfect intersection between serious, adult storytelling and goofy yet fun children's entertainment, and it knew when to lean one way over the other.”¹⁴ Epic, serialized story-telling like **Avatar: The Last Air-Bender** that appeals to all ages might be one of the keys to success for future adult animated series. **Avatar: The Last Airbender** could still become a key franchise for Netflix. It's a big enough world and there's clearly an appetite for the property. **Avatar: The Last Airbender** is a Burbank-produced series that is clearly inspired by Japanese anime.

14 Collider, How A 15-Year-Old Cartoon Remained the Most Successful Netflix Show of the Summer, July 17, 2020

Figure 25:
Seis Manos
- Netflix



Anime-inspired, Western-produced hybrids like Avatar could become a category unto itself and potentially challenge traditional Japanese-produced anime. Many of the newly announced video game adaptations and spinoffs have been announced as anime productions.

There are, however, limitations to how quickly the Japanese anime production companies can respond to the surge in demand for anime. According to Roland Kelts, writing for Nikkei Asia, “Japan’s anime industry has been plagued for years by adverse conditions: long hours in cramped studios, razor-thin profit margins, and domestic labor shortages.” Kelts goes on to explain: “Japan’s anime industry has been reluctant to embrace global standards in digital, computer-generated 3D imagery, adhering instead to a 2D model of visual art, much of it hand-drawn by employees crammed into tiny open-air cubicles, surviving on instant noodles and sometimes sleeping under their desks. The environment is as antiquated as company policy: working from home does not compute.”¹⁵

“There is a very real ceiling to Japan’s ability to quickly ramp up to meet the demand for anime.”

The reliance on hand-drawn paper animation is, of course, a large part of the appeal of Japanese anime. But these limitations, coupled with Japanese COVID employment

15 Nikkei Asia, Japan's anime studios fall victim to coronavirus disruptions, May 20, 2020

restrictions and the increased competition between locally financed anime and international buyers like Netflix and Crunchyroll, would indicate to me that there is a very real ceiling to Japan's ability to quickly ramp up to meet the demand for anime series.

This is where I believe Western-produced anime inspired productions will start to play a role. Companies like Texas-based Powerhouse Animation (**Castlevania**, **Seis Manos**, **Blood of Zeus**) are realizing the benefits of producing these types of series using more efficient modern Western production pipelines.

There needs to be a word to describe western produced anime. I am going to take a shot at coining 'gaibume,' which is a portmanteau of the Japanese words for 'outside' and 'anime.'

The global anime market is valued at over US \$24 billion with roughly half coming from domestic Japanese sales and the other half from international. Today's English language adult animation market is a fraction of Japan's. By my estimates, today's adult English language animation market is in the single digit billions. It's largely a domestic market but it is growing rapidly.

The 2019 Association of Japanese Animation Annual Report explains that "the global adult animation market has historically been Japan's monopoly, but if this trend [towards Western produced anime] shifts into high gear, Japan's dominance may be threatened."¹⁶

Japan's animation industry is right to be concerned, although there will always be a rabid fandom for authentic Japanese anime. The major opportunity for Western animation producers is for adult animation to expand into more genre and dramatic story-telling. Dramatic series account for the majority of the original content spend on the streaming platforms. If Western-produced anime can start to tap into the streamer budgets for drama, it will expand the adult animation market dramatically over the next 10 years.

Here's a handful of notable upcoming anime or anime-inspired productions:

Figure 26:
Blade Runner: Black Lotus
- Adult Swim Crunchyroll



Blade Runner: Black Lotus is a co-production between Crunchyroll and Adult Swim, in partnership with Alcon Television Group. Based on the classic sci-fi movie, the series is being produced in Japan.

Figure 27:
Godzilla Singular Point
- Netflix



Godzilla Singular Point is an upcoming Japanese anime TV series based on the Godzilla franchise. Directed by Atsushi Takahashi, the series is scheduled to air in April 2021.

Figure 28:
Cyberpunk: Edgerunners
- Netflix



Cyberpunk: Edgerunners is one of several video game adaptations that will be produced as an anime series. Anime appears to be the style of choice for video game spinoffs.

Figure 29:
Splinter Cell
- Netflix



Splinter Cell – Netflix and Ubisoft teamed up to produce an anime series adaptation of the video game. Derek Kolstad, (John Wick) to write and produce. 2 season, 16 episode order.

Current Adult Animated Anime-Inspired or Anime Based on Western IP

Show	Description	Creators	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Blood of Zeus</i> (formerly <i>Gods and Heroes</i>)	Action Anime	Charley Parlapapides Vlas Parlapapides	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios
<i>Castlevania</i>	Drama, Dark fantasy Action, Adventure Horror, Anime	Warren Ellis, (<i>Transmetropolitan</i> , <i>Global Frequency</i>)	Netflix	Frederator Studios, Powerhouse Animation Studios, Shankar Animation, Project 51 Productions, Mua Film
<i>Dragons Dogma</i>	Adventure, Dark Fantasy, Anime	Shinya Sugai	Netflix	Sublimation
<i>Seis Manos</i>	Martial arts Supernatural Action, Anime	Brad Graeber, Álvaro Rodríguez	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios, Viz Productions

Upcoming Adult Animated Anime-Inspired or Anime Based on Western IP

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Blade Runner: Black Lotus</i>	Action Anime based on movie franchise	Shinji Aramaki and Kenji Kamiyama	Adult Swim, Crunchyroll	Sola Digital Arts
<i>Diablo</i>	Fantasy Horror – Anime	Andrew Cosby (<i>Hellboy</i> , <i>Eureka</i>)	Netflix	Blizzard
<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Action – Anime based on <i>Cyberpunk 2077</i> video game	Hiroyuki Imaishi (<i>Kill la Kill</i> , <i>Promare</i> , and <i>Gurren Lagann</i>)	Netflix	Studio Trigger
<i>Dantai</i>	Original, Afro-futuristic science fiction series	Idris Elba	Crunchyroll, Adult Swim	TBD
<i>DOTA: Dragons Blood</i>	Fantasy – Based on video game, anime	NA	Netflix	Studio Mir
<i>Game of Thrones</i> (rumor)	Fantasy – Anime spinoff from TV series	TBD	HBO Max	TBD
<i>Godzilla: Singular Point</i>	Action – spinoff from movie	Atsushi Takahashi	Netflix	Bones and Orange
<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	Action Anime, Spinoff from King Kong movie	Brian Duffield (<i>Underwater</i> , <i>Spontaneous</i> , <i>Love and Monsters</i>) is writing and exec producing.	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation
<i>Overwatch</i>	Fantasy – Anime based on Overwatch video game	NA	Netflix	Blizzard
<i>Splinter Cell</i>	Spy Thriller – Anime spinoff from video game	Derek Kolstad (<i>John Wick</i>)	Netflix	Ubisoft
<i>Tomb Raider</i>	Action Anime	TBD	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation

Figure 30: Invincible - Netflix



15. Drawing from Comics and Graphic Novels

Comics and graphic novels naturally extend themselves to animated series.

Harley Quinn, the DC comic-book based series, is a breakout hit. Advancing to its third season and well-received by both critics and fans, the dark comedy is moving from DC Universe (now focused exclusively on digital comics) to its new home on HBO Max. This category accounts for about 10% of the upcoming adult animated TV series.

Some of the more notable upcoming series include **Invincible**, an hour-long, 2D superhero series from Robert Kirkman, creator of **The Walking Dead**, produced by Atomic Cartoons. “The superhero space in film and television is extremely crowded, so I thought that one way to make [**Invincible**] stand out and be more unique would be to have it in animated form,” said Kirkman.¹⁷

“The superhero space in film and television is extremely crowded, so I thought that one way to make ‘Invincible’ stand out and be more unique would be to have it in animated form,” said Kirkman.

Hulu is producing two other comic based series, including the comedy **M.O.D.O.K.**, a Marvel, stop-motion series from Stoopid Buddy Stoodios, and **Hit Monkey**, another Marvel property. Live action TV series adaptations of comic books have surged in the wake of live action features on the SVODs. There are a number of upcoming comic-based projects and it is an important source of IP for adult animation but not at the scale of live-action adaptations. It appears that Hulu is the most committed to comic-based adult animated series, although I believe this to be a large enough category to work on many channels and streamers.

¹⁷ Los Angeles Times - Why TV’s next Golden Age might come thanks to adult animation, Nov 23, 2020

Figure 31:
M.O.D.O.K. - Hulu



Current Comic-Book Inspired Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Harley Quinn</i>	DC Comics Black comedy Surreal, Comedy, Superhero, Crime	Justin Halpern Patrick Schumacker Dean Lorey	HBO Max	Warner Bros. Animation DC Entertainment Yes, Norman Productions Ehsugadee Productions
<i>Young Justice</i>	Action Adventure Science fiction Superhero Teen drama	Brandon Vietti Greg Weisman	HBO Max	DC Entertainment Warner Bros. Animation

Figure 32:
Hit Monkey - Hulu



Upcoming Comic-Book Inspired Adult Animated Series

Show	Description	Creator(s) (Other Work)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Aquaman: King of Atlantis</i>	DC Comics	James Wan (<i>Saw</i> , <i>Insidious</i>)	HBO Max	Atomic Monster and Warner Bros Animation
<i>Batman: The Animated Series</i> (rumored)	D.C. Comics	NA	HBO Max	NA
<i>Condorito</i>	Comedy – Based on Comic	NA	NA	Anima, Lunes
<i>Cover</i> (in development)	D.C Comics	Brian Michael Bendis and David Mack	HBO Max	Rooster Teeth Studios
<i>Depardieu Only Knows</i>	Comedy – based on graphic novel	Based on story by Gerard Depardieu	NA	Toon Factory
<i>Invincible</i>	Drama Superhero from Image Comics	Robert Kirkman (<i>The Walking Dead</i>)	Amazon Prime Video	Skybound
<i>Hit Monkey</i>	Marvel Comics	Josh Gordon and Will Speck	Hulu	Marvel Studios
<i>Hungry Ghost</i>	Dark Horse, horror anthology	Based on story by Anthony Bourdain (chef, author, TV personality)	Sony optioned	Sony Pictures Animation
<i>M.O.D.O.K</i>	Marvel Comedy, Science fiction, Superhero	Jordan Blum and Patton Oswalt (comedian, <i>King of Queens</i>)	Hulu	Marvel Studios, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios
<i>What If?</i>	Marvel Comics, Anthology, Superhero	A.C. Bradley	Disney +	Marvel Studios

Figure 33: Castlevania – (Konami) Netflix



16. Why Video Games are the New IP Gold Rush

There are a staggering 10 new video game inspired adult animated series in the works. That's up from two on-air video game based series in 2020: **Castlevania** and **Alien Isolation – The Digital Series**. Netflix has ordered at least nine of the upcoming video game based series. New adult animated series based on video games now account for at least 10% of all the upcoming adult animated series. Many of these video game series will be adapted as anime or anime inspired projects.

The quantity of upcoming TV series based on video games and audience's willingness to embrace adult animation make this genre a potentially explosive new category.

According to Brandon Katz, writing for Observer: "When the Marvel Cinematic Universe films took the entertainment world by storm and became the highest-grossing film series in box office history, the franchise success propelled a cataclysmic shift in pop culture: it transformed geek culture into cool culture." Yohan Varella, CEO of accounting marketing agency Epic Firms, stated: "This prowess alone obliterated the interest gap between teenage boys and middle-aged moms (and everyone else in between) and is now dragging another IP sleeping giant into the battle for film and TV watchers' dollars—the video game industry—which generated more revenue than the film and music industries combined."¹⁸

There's a generation of video game players who have grown accustomed to in-game cinematics. As a result, there's built-up pressure from these massive gaming communities to see their favorite characters come to life in longer, linear formats. However, adapting games into movies has been historically fraught with peril, with most movies negatively received by critics and fans alike.

18 Observer – Video Games Will Soon Be Hollywood's Next Great IP War, Dec 23, 2020

Figure 34:
The Witcher - Netflix



More recently however, Netflix's **The Witcher**, a live-action dramatic series based on the video game (and Andrzej Sapkowski's novels), became the most in-demand TV show in the world. This bodes well for the new class of video game inspired animated series. The quantity of upcoming TV series based on video games and audience's willingness to embrace adult animation make this genre a potentially explosive new category.

The list of upcoming games includes some major franchises with massive global footprints including **League of Legends**, **World of Warcraft**, **DOTA**, **Cyberpunk 2077**, **Diablo**, **Overwatch** and **Resident Evil**.

Figure 35: Resident Evil:
The Infinite Darkness –
(Resident Evil, Capcom)
Netflix



Figure 36: Diablo –
(Diablo, Blizzard)
Netflix



Figure 37: Overwatch –
(Overwatch, Blizzard)
Netflix



Figure 38: Arcane
(League of Legends)
– Riot Games



Figure 39:
DOTA Dragons Blood
(DOTA) - Netflix



Figure 40:
Shadowlands Afterlives
(Blizzard, World of
Warcraft) - Blizzard



Figure 41:
Cyberpunk: Edgerunners
(Cyberpunk 2077)
- Netflix



Figure 42:
The Cuphead Show!
- Netflix



One of the video game inspired projects I am looking forward to is **The Cuphead Show!**. Based on the video game **Cuphead**, the characters are designed with a rubber hose art style similar to the work of Fleischer Studios in the 1930s. **The Cuphead Show!** is an upcoming American-Canadian animated series for Netflix, produced by StudioMDHR and King Features Syndicate, and animation from Lighthouse Studios in Ireland. Dave Wasson (director on **Mickey Mouse Shorts**) is the executive producer on the project with co-executive producer Cosmo Segurson (director on **Rocko's Modern Life: Static Cling**).

Current Adult Animated Series Based on Video Games

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Castlevania</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Mike McMahan (<i>Solar Opposites</i>)	CBS All Access	CBS Eye, Animation Productions, Secret Hideout, Important Science, Roddenberry Entertainment, Titmouse, Inc.
<i>Alien Isolation – The Digital Series</i>	Sci-Fi Horror	Jeff Juhasz	IGN	Reverse Engineering Studios (RES), TitraFilm Dvgroup, 20th Century Fox, IGN

Upcoming Adult Animated Series Based on Video Games

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Arcane</i>	League of Legends Spinoff, Fantasy Sci-Fi	NA	TBD	Riot Games, Fortiche Productions
<i>ARK: The Animated Series</i>	Action Adventure spinoff from the video game	Jay Oliva (<i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns</i> , <i>Justice League: The Flashpoint Paradox</i>)	TBD	Studio Wildcard
<i>Captain Laserhawk: A Blood Dragon Vibe</i>	Spinoff from video game	Adi Shankar	TBD	TBD
<i>The Cuphead Show!</i>	Comedy	Chad and Jared Moldenhauer	Netflix	StudioMDHR and King Features Syndicate
<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Action – Anime based on Cyberpunk 2077 video game	Hiroyuki Imaishi (<i>Kill la Kill</i> , <i>Promare</i> , and <i>Gurren Lagann</i>)	Netflix	Studio Trigger
<i>DOTA: Dragons Blood</i>	Fantasy – Based on video game, anime	NA	Netflix	Studio Mir
<i>Diablo</i>	Fantasy Horror – Anime	Andrew Cosby (<i>Hellboy</i> , <i>Eureka</i>)		Blizzard
<i>Overwatch</i>	Fantasy – Anime based on Overwatch video game	NA	Netflix	Blizzard
<i>Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness</i>	Based on the Horror Video Game from Capcom	Hiroyuki Kobayashi	Netflix	TMS Entertainment and animated by Quebico
<i>Shadowlands: Afterlives</i>	World of War Craft Game	NA	Ginx	Blizzard Entertainment
<i>Splinter Cell</i>	Spy Thriller – Anime spinoff from video game	Derek Kolstad (<i>John Wick</i>)	Netflix	Ubisoft

Figure 43: Primal - Adult Swim



17. The Rise of Dramatic “Non-Comedy Genre Shows”

Dramatic “non-comedy genre shows” like Netflix’s **Castlevania**, Adult Swim’s **Primal** and Amazon Prime’s **Undone** have all gained enough traction to warrant new season orders. To understand the importance of this development, you have to look at the breakdown of spending on the streaming services. The vast majority of spending is on scripted dramatic series. If adult animation can carve into a fraction of this budget, it will open the door to a significant amount of production dollars for studios that make this transition.

Trioscope’s **The Liberator**, a hybrid-live war drama mini-series, stayed on Netflix’s top 10 most-watched list for three weeks in late 2020. **The Liberator** tells the story of a ragtag unit of soldiers on a march to liberate prisoners from the notorious Dachau concentration camp. It’s another series that signals that adult audiences are increasingly accepting of animation as a serious, dramatic, story-telling medium.

Figure 44:
Undone -
Amazon Prime



According to reporting from Nellie Andreeva and Denise Petski for Deadline, “An animated version of **Game of Thrones** may be headed to HBO Max. The streamer is kicking the tires on a potential animated drama series in the world of **Game of Thrones**. The project is believed to be in very early, exploratory stages, and there is no concept or creative team on board.”¹⁹

“Almost all of the upcoming video game, comic-book and western anime series are in the ‘non-comedy genre’ category. This new era will be the single largest shift in the history of adult animation.”

Figure 45:
The Liberator
- Netflix



Figure 46:
Game of Thrones
- HBO Max



Figure 47:
Idris Elba, Dantai -
Crunchyroll,
Adult Swim



Sony-owned Crunchyroll announced in early 2021 that the streamer is partnering with Idris and Sabrina Elba to produce **Dantai**, an original anime series. The series is described as an “Afro-futuristic science fiction series ... set in a city where the rise of biotechnology has created an ever-widening gap between the haves and have-nots. Two rising stars from either side of this divide are pitted against each other in a story that will ultimately explore equality and kinship within a corrupt society.”

Almost all of the upcoming video game, comic-book and western anime series are in the ‘non-comedy genre’ category. This new era will be the single largest shift in the history of adult animation since **The Simpsons** showed adult audiences that cartoons were more than just kids content.

¹⁹ Deadline ‘Game Of Thrones’ Animated Drama Series Eyed At HBO Max, Part Of Suite Of ‘GoT’ Projects Explored By WarnerMedia, Jan 27, 2021

Current Adult Animated Non-Comedy Genre Series

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Castlevania</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Mike McMahan (<i>Solar Opposites</i>)	CBS All Access	CBS Eye, Animation Productions, Secret Hideout, Important Science, Roddenberry Entertainment, Titmouse, Inc.
<i>The Liberator</i>	War Drama – mini-series	Jeb Stuart (writer <i>Die Hard</i> , <i>Fugitive</i>)	Netflix	A&E Studios, Unique Features Trioscope Studios
<i>Primal</i>	Fantasy, Horror, Action	Genndy Tartakovsky (<i>Dexter's Lab</i> , <i>Samurai Jack</i> , <i>Star Wars: Clone Wars</i>)	Adult Swim	Cartoon Network Studios, Williams Street, Studio La Cacherie
<i>Seis Manos</i>	Martial arts Supernatural Action, Anime	Brad Graeber Álvaro Rodríguez	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios, Viz Productions
<i>Undone</i>	Drama	Raphael Bob-Waksberg and Kate Purdy	Amazon Prime	The Tornante Company, Boxer vs. Raptor, Submarine, Amsterdam Hive House Project
<i>Blood of Zeus</i>	Fantasy, Adventure	Charley and Vlas Parlapánides	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation, Asia Minor Pictures

Upcoming Adult Animated Non-Comedy Genre Series

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Alien Isolation – The Digital Series</i>	Sci-Fi Horror, Video game spinoff	Jeff Juhasz	IGN	Reverse Engineering Studios (RES), TitraFilm Dvgroup, 20th Century Fox, IGN
<i>Arcane</i>	League of Legends Spinoff, Fantasy Sci-Fi	NA	TBD	Riot Games, Fortiche Productions
<i>ARK: The Animated Series</i>	Action Adventure spinoff from the video game	Jay Oliva (<i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns</i> , <i>Justice League: The Flashpoint Paradox</i>)	TBD	Studio Wildcard
<i>Batman: The Animated Series</i> (rumor)	DC Comic Superhero	NA	HBO Max	NA
<i>Captain Laserhawk: A Blood Dragon Vibe</i>	Spinoff from video game	Adi Shankar	TBD	TBD
<i>Cover</i> (in development)	espionage thriller based on D.C. Comic	Brian Michael Bendis and David Mack	HBO Max	Rooster Teeth Studios

Upcoming Adult Animated Non-Comedy Genre Series [cont'd]

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Action – Anime based on Cyberpunk 2077 video game	Hiroiyuki Imaishi (Kill la Kill, Promare, and Gurren Lagann)	Netflix	Studio Trigger
<i>Dantai</i>	Original Afro-futuristic science fiction series	Idris Elba	Crunchyroll, Adult Swim	TBD
<i>Diablo</i>	Fantasy Horror – Anime	Andrew Cosby (<i>Hellboy</i> , <i>Eureka</i>)		Blizzard
<i>Game of Thrones</i> (rumor)	Spinoff from TV series	TBD	HBO Max	TBD
<i>Godzilla: Singular Point</i>	Anime spinoff from Godzilla movie	Atsushi Takahashi	Netflix	Bones and Oranges
<i>The Havana Job</i>	Original Drama	Greg Nichols, Michael LeSieur	NA	Trioscope Studios
<i>Heaven's Forest</i>	Fantasy Epic	Warren Ellis	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation
<i>Hit Monkey</i>	Action, based on DC Comic	Josh Gordon and Will Speck	Hulu	Marvel Animation
<i>Hungry Ghosts</i>	Horror, Based on Dark Horse Comic	Anthony Bourdain	Sony	Sony Pictures (optioned)
<i>Invincible</i>	Drama Superhero Based on Comic	Robert Kirkman	Amazon Prime Video	Skybound, Image Comics
<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	Action Anime, Spinoff from King Kong movie	Brian Duffield (<i>Underwater</i> , <i>Spontaneous</i> , <i>Love and Monsters</i>) is writing and exec producing.	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation
<i>Magic: The Gathering</i>	Fantasy Based on the card game			
<i>Masters of the Universe</i>	He Man Spinoff	Kevin Smith (<i>Clerks</i>)	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios
<i>Overwatch</i>	Fantasy – Anime based on Overwatch video game	NA	Netflix	Blizzard
<i>Pantheon</i>	Sci-Fi	Craig Silverstein (<i>Turn: Washington's Spies</i> , <i>Nikita</i>)	AMC	AMC Studios, Titmouse
<i>Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness</i>	Based on the Horror Video Game from Capcom	Hiroiyuki Kobayashi, (Capcom game producer)	Netflix	TMS Entertainment and animated by Quebico
<i>Shadowlands: Afterlives</i>	Baed on World of Warcraft Game	NA	Ginx	Blizzard Entertainment
<i>Splinter Cell</i>	Spy Thriller – Anime spinoff from video game	Derek Kolstad (<i>John Wick</i>)	Netflix	Ubisoft

Upcoming Adult Animated Non-Comedy Genre Series [cont'd]

Show	Description	Creator(s)	Buyer	Studio(s)
<i>Tomb Raider</i>	Action – anime based on video game	Tasha Huo, (<i>The Witcher: Blood Orange</i>)	Legendary	<i>Tomb Raider</i>
<i>Woman in the Book</i>	Original Drama, Latinx	Daniel Persitz and is written by Eva Gonzalez Szigriszt and Pamela Garcia Rooney. Jeanette Moreno King will serve as director and will work with Jeanette Jeanenne.	Facebook Watch	Starburn Industries
<i>Young Love</i>	Drama based on the Oscar winning short	Matthew A. Cherry (<i>Hair Love</i>) and Carl Jones (<i>Boondocks</i>)	Sony Pictures Animation	<i>Young Love</i>



18. Production Technology

The release of the Epic Games **Unreal 5 Engine** attracted a lot of attention in 2020. It looks like an increasingly important tool for creating linear content. It's pretty easy to envision fully-animated or hybrid-animated series being produced using the Unreal Engine. One problem remains though – capturing the nuance of human performances using 3D characters on a TV budget. This remains a big enough challenge, one has to assume, that there's a lot of energy being invested in figuring out how to overcome this problem.



Gaming worlds and characters built in Unreal Engine port relatively easily into linear media. I would not be surprised if some of the upcoming video game to TV series adaptations are not built at least in part using the Unreal Engine. We are not talking about the expensive Mandalorian LED wall type productions that attracted a lot of attention but entire series being built using the Unreal Engine. **Zafari** for example, is a 2017 kid's show and was the first animated television series rendered entirely with the Unreal Engine.

Trioscope, on the other hand, has decided that there's no replacement for the subtlety of human performances so they're focusing on how to seamlessly integrate stylized live action performances into rendered environments.





19. Social and Mobile Streaming

Quibi quietly greenlit multiple adult animated series and promised to be an active new buyer, only to shutter after six months, stranding several projects.

Quibi's closure shut the door on almost all direct-to-consumer digital/mobile possibilities for adult animation, leaving only Facebook Watch and YouTube as active but limited digital buyers. My research is showing only one animated series heading for Facebook Watch. It's a Latinx, horror drama series called **Woman in the Book** starring Diane Guerrero (**Orange is the New Black**), developed by Crypt TV and animated by Starburns Industries.

There are a handful of children's publishers that have developed really large followings on YouTube, including Moonbug Entertainment (**Little Baby Bum**), the third most-subscribed channel on YouTube. These are typically relatively simple animations with nursery rhyme soundtracks. Some of the best performing videos can generate billions of views.



Figure 48:
Little Baby Bum
— Moonbug

Figure 49:
Hazbin Hotel
— A24



At the same time, YouTube has been removing ads from adult animated series if they're deemed too sexual or violent, which really limits adult-skewing animation and reduces the commercial viability of adult animation on the platform.

There have been exceptions, where shows originate on YouTube and get picked up as long form TV series. A recent project that has made this transition is **Hazbin Hotel**, created, directed, written and produced by the social media sensation Vivienne 'VivziePop' Medrano. The pilot was made entirely by freelance animators and is largely financed by Medrano's Patreon followers. A24, the film distribution company responsible for movies like **Uncut Gems**, is developing a series based on the pilot.

The recent success of **Hazbin Hotel** is a rare exception. At least a couple of series that I was personally involved with during my tenure at Mondo Media have made the jump from the internet to TV, including **Happy Tree Friends** (G4TV) and more recently **Deep Space 69** (Syfy). There are a number of other adult animated properties that made the jump, including **Ugly Americans** and **Annoying Orange**.

There are very limited opportunities to make money with scripted content on social video in general, and certainly not much room for expensive animation. This has been one of my personal great disappointments. Call me a masochist, but I still believe there's a pathway for adult animation on digital. It seems like such a natural fit for a direct-to-consumer play. VRV made a stab at adult animation but it quickly ran out of steam when they spread their investment out too thinly amongst too many non-animation channels. This is 20/20 hindsight, but I maintain that VRV would have been better to have focused their investment on Western-produced animation to become a direct-to-consumer, complimentary animation offering to Crunchyroll and a digital-facing competitor to Adult Swim.

Figure 50: Critical Role:
The Legend of Vox Machina
— Amazon Prime Video



20. Notable Upcoming Shows

Here are some of the noteworthy, upcoming, and hard-to-easily-categorize shows.

Critical Role: The Legend of Vox Machina is scheduled to release in summer/fall of 2021. The series — based on livestreamed Dungeons & Dragon games hosted by Matthew Mercer, along with fellow voice actors Ashley Johnson, Marisha Ray, Taliesin Jaffe, Travis Willingham, Sam Riegel, Laura Bailey and Liam O'Brien — raised a staggering \$14M on Kickstarter. Titmouse is producing and the series will air on Amazon Prime. Part of the appeal of the series on Twitch was the improv nature of the tabletop games, but **The Legend of Vox Machina** will be scripted by Jennifer Muro (*Onyx Equinox*).

Agent King, a Netflix series scheduled to release in 2021, should be interesting. Here's the logline: "Elvis trades in his jumpsuit for a jetpack when he joins a secret government spy program to help battle the dark forces that threaten the country." Fashion designer John Varvatos is custom-designing Elvis's wardrobe. I will be looking for Elvis in distressed leather Chuck Taylors.



Figure 51:
Agent King
— Netflix

Figure 52:
Santa Inc —
HBO Max



Comedy duo Sarah Silverman and Seth Rogen are teaming up to voice ***Santa Inc.***, a Christmas-themed animated comedy series for HBO Max. Lionsgate and Rogen's Point Grey Pictures are producing. The eight-episode half-hour series will be written by Alexandra Rushfield, an EP on Hulu's ***Shrill*** and co-EP on ***Parks and Recreation***. Will this series be the perennial adult equivalent to ***Elf***? I can think of many movies and TV specials but can't think of another Christmas-themed series.

AMC ordered ***Pantheon***, a one hour prime time sci-fi drama, based on Ken Liu's short stories, and loaded it up with an impressive voice cast, including Taylor Schilling (***Orange Is the New Black***), Rosemarie DeWitt (***Little Fires Everywhere***), Aaron Eckhart (***Midway***) and Paul Dano (***Escape at Dannemora***). Titmouse is producing. The first episode was scheduled to premiere in late 2020, so it is already a little late. This is a pure dramatic science fiction series (no comedy) so it's in a position to be a ground-breaking landmark series if it is successful.

Figure 53:
Ken Liu's novels





21. Opportunities in an Untapped Global Market

Foreign governments are beginning to demand that the American streamers start investing in locally-produced content, which will help create a diversity of voices on their platforms. Canada, for example, is demanding that the streamers invest \$635M in Canadian produced content by 2023.²⁰ One could assume other countries will implement similar regulations. If taken as a model for the rest of the world, it could add up to many billions of dollars being spent by the streamers on local content in the countries where they want to operate.

Because the streamers will be obligated to spend more on original content in the markets where they want to distribute, foreign animation studios might want to adopt the children's financing model and use the streamer's licensing fees coupled with tax credits (common in a lot of countries that produce animation) to finance international productions.

²⁰ Hollywood Reporter – Canada to Force Netflix, Amazon Prime to Pay for Local Content, Nov. 3, 2020

“Because the streamers will be obligated to spend more on original content, foreign animation studios might want to adopt the kid’s animation financing model and use the SVOD licensing fees coupled with tax credits to finance international productions.”

The problem is that many of the streamers will demand that they control all international markets. This might negate the opportunity for independent studios to structure deals where they retain ownership and finance their productions through pre-sales to select territories and preserve upside in unsold territories.

With the exception of Japanese anime and a handful of Canadian productions, my research shows very few international studios actively producing for the adult animation buyers (especially when compared to children’s animation). Because adult animation has been so dominated by culturally-specific US comedy (Fox sitcoms, Adult Swim, etc.), there’s been few doors open for foreign produced series.

The surge in demand for adult animation from domestic studios (many clustered in Los Angeles) has them all maxing out on their capacity. As demand for non-comedy genre series grows, and streamers are forced to start spending on local content in the markets where they want to operate, foreign studios can step in to fill the demand. Especially dramatic or genre series that are not US-specific comedy.

Alternatively, domestic animation studios might want to partner with live-action studios with high level talent networks (writing, voice, etc.) to jointly produce more ambitious dramatic projects that should increasingly gain acceptance in the market, if my assumptions about the growth in non-comedy genre animation play out over the next five years.

French studios are particularly well-positioned to take advantage of the increasing popularity of the style and the growth of dramatic animation as a category. Their creators grew up on a steady diet of anime and you can see it in their work.

22. Critical Role: a Case Study in Crowdfunding Animation

The clout and scale of the recent streamer launches and their massive content investments has overshadowed an area of entertainment financing that is quietly growing. I want to draw attention to crowdfunding, because I believe this is a legitimate and somewhat overlooked method for financing new productions. Any creator or property with a fandom would be well-advised not to overlook crowdfunding, and it is about to get more sophisticated than a simple Kickstarter raise.

“I want to draw attention to crowdfunding, because I believe this is a legitimate and somewhat overlooked method for financing new productions.”

Full disclosure, I am working with Chonky, a new platform that will support entertainment raises up to \$5M USD. Launching in Q2 2021, Chonky takes advantage of new FINRA/SEC rules that permits creators to raise project financing — much like Kickstarter, but instead of fans pledging money for rewards, they purchase shares and participate in the profit generated by the project once it goes to market.



Figure 54:
Dick Figures - Mondo

Way back in 2013 at the dawn of crowdfunding, I was proud to play a small role in a Kickstarter campaign for **Dick Figures: The Movie**, a 2D animated feature. Driven by the charismatic duo of Ed Skudder and Zack Keller and their 150 million views on YouTube, the pair pitched their hearts out on Kickstarter and raised a record-breaking \$313K at the time. We made the movie and it was profitable within the first 3 month of its release.

Figure 55:
Hazbin Hotel
— A24



More recently **Hazbin Hotel**, a musical comedy web series — created, directed, written and produced by Vivienne ‘VivziePop’ Medrano — raised enough money on Patreon to pay friends and freelancers to produce a short that generated 65 million views on YouTube. It was enough that A24 picked up the project as a television series.

Critical Role is an American web video series, in which a group of professional voice actors play Dungeons & Dragons in front of a livestreamed audience. The series has aired on various social video platforms since 2015. On March 4, 2019 Critical Role launched a Kickstarter campaign for a TV series that generated a staggering \$11.3M for an animated series based on the property. The campaign started as a raise for a single half hour for \$750K. Within 24 hours, they had raised \$4.3M. By the time they were done, they had raised enough to fund 10 episodes. It was one of the most quickly-funded campaigns in Kickstarter history, and was the most funded Kickstarter for TV and film projects.

“If you’ve got the patience and have the wherewithal to grow a low cost franchise ‘seed format’ (web comic, vlog, audio podcast, serialized fiction, etc.) there is a point where you can turn to crowdfunding for a long form linear show.”

Figure 56:
Critical Role:
The Legend of Vox Machina
- Amazon Prime Video



There are several key ingredients that led to **Critical Role**'s successful Kickstarter Raise:

1. **Critical Role** built a large audience for a dense, ever-evolving story. It is compelling content with a passionate audience: The series has amassed over 150 million views on YouTube. No longer considered a fringe pursuit, Dungeons & Dragons is the new cool, with **Critical Role**'s own campaign setting, **Explorer's Guide to Wildemount**, at the top of the Publishers Weekly's chart of best-selling hardcover nonfiction books.
2. The global board games market is anticipated to reach values of more than \$12B by 2023, growing at a CAGR of over 9% during 2017-2023.²¹ This seems like a natural counter response for young adults (with 24/7 screens in their faces) looking for face-to-face contact with their friends.
3. Animation is hugely popular with 18-34s. The streamers are all doubling down on adult animation — especially Netflix, Hulu and HBO Max. Adult Swim consistently attracts the largest cable audience of young adults.

According to reporting from Todd Spangler for Variety, the team initially pitched the idea to the major streamers and a few TV networks²². They thought it would be a slam dunk, with the scale of the audience they had built. There was some interest from the traditional buyers but mostly it was met with confusion. When they tried to describe the weekly show, the buyers just didn't get it.

²¹ Reportlinker, Board Games Market - Global Outlook and Forecast 2018-2023, Dec. 11, 2018

²² Variety — Critical Role Team, After Record-Breaking Fan Crowdfunding Response, Vows to Make 'The Best Goddamn Cartoon Anyone Has Ever Seen,' Mar. 8, 2019

Critical Role has shifted their windowing strategy as the social video landscape has evolved. Today it's a blend of Twitch, VOD and YouTube. The format is a weekly show that runs for three to five (and in some cases six) hours, and is streamed live on **Critical Role**'s Twitch channel on Thursdays. The VOD is made available for subscribers of **Critical Role**'s Twitch channel immediately after airing, before being uploaded to **Critical Role**'s YouTube channel the following Monday, where it can be watched for free.

The Legend of Vox Machina will be written by Jennifer Muro, and animated by Titmouse, Inc. (**Bigmouth**, **The Midnight Gospel**). The project is slated for release in summer/fall of 2021. It's interesting that Amazon Prime Video announced that they had acquired the streaming rights to **The Legend of Vox Machina**, and had commissioned 14 additional episodes. It seems to have come full circle. Amazon now understands that the social media footprint of **Critical Role** is large and meaningful. I am not sure why the **Critical Role** team felt it was safer to go with the streamer than to go back to Kickstarter. Maybe it was too fraught with uncertainty?

Does the 'starter' in Kickstarter imply that you can only raise money once before you grow up, or is it a well you can keep going back to for subsequent seasons or sequels? If Amazon eventually decides to cancel the series, maybe the cast behind **Critical Role** will take the animated series back to the social video platforms and start the process all over again. I'm looking forward to seeing how the new animated series turns out. Half of the fun of the live shows was their spontaneity, so hopefully some of that spirit will be preserved in the animated series.

23. The Great Adult Animation Boom

In summary, there are a total of 104 upcoming, adult animated series as of February 2021. That's more than a 100% increase from one year ago. The streamers now account for 50% of all the upcoming adult animated series. Netflix is the most active adult animation buyer accounting for roughly one quarter of all the upcoming series. HBO Max announced several new series in early 2021 and appear to be as bullish about adult animation as Netflix. Animated comedies, reboots, spinoffs, video games, comics and anime will all play a major role in what I am calling "The Great Adult Animation Boom" that is about to play out over the next decade. And Fox, the lone broadcaster in the adult animation game, has dramatically upped their orders for new scripts, pilots and series for their Animation Domination block with at least 14 announced new projects (currently 5 on-air series).

"Animated comedies, genre, reboots, spinoffs, video games, comics and anime will all play a role in what I am calling "The Great Adult Animation Boom"

ANIMATED COMEDY

Animated comedy has replaced sitcoms as young adult's preferred vehicle for comedy. Comedy Central is re-branding themselves as a home for adult animation and re-booting several Viacom classic animated series including **Beavis and Butt-Head**, **Ren & Stimpy** and **Jodie** a **Daria** spinoff. Fox has significantly upped up the volume of new series they're putting into development. It looks like Fox is stepping out of their family sitcom template judging from the orders they're placing for new series. Adult Swim still has more on-air adult animated comedy than any other channel or streamer but new series announcements appear to be slowing.

VIDEO GAMES

There are 11 new upcoming series based on video games – that's up from two a year ago. The list includes some of the most recognizable video game franchises like **Diablo**, **Splintercell**, **Overwatch**, **Tomb Raider** and **Cyberpunk**. Netflix is particularly focused on adult animated video game adaptations. Many of these will be made with anime-inspired art styles.

REBOOTS & SPINOFFS

There are 15 upcoming animated reboots and spinoffs. Many of these are spinoffs from some of the most valuable franchises in the entertainment industry including **Game of Thrones**, **Godzilla**, **Blade Runner**, and **King Kong**. Others are spinoffs from classic animated and live action series like Viacom's reboots or sitcoms or TV shows like **Good Times**.

COMIC-BOOK BASED SERIES

Series based on comic books are the underlying IP for several upcoming series and include **Invincible**, a rumored reboot of **Batman: The Animated Series** and an **Aquaman: King of Atlantis** mini-series. HBO Max will be the home for the DC Universe series like **Harley Quinn**, and Disney-owned Hulu will be the home for the upcoming Marvel adult animated series like **M.O.D.O.K.** and **Hit Monkey**. This could be another important adult animation category judging by the reception that **Harley Quinn** has received.

ANIME

Western animation studios like Powerhouse Animation (Austin, Texas) are producing what I am calling "gaibume" - that is anime produced in the US or jointly with US and Japanese partners. Powerhouse produces **Castlevania**, **Seis Manos** and the upcoming anime series **Kong: Skull Island** and **Tomb Raider**. More American/Japanese partnerships like **Blade Runner: Black Lotus** blur the line between animation and anime. The recent Crunchyroll (Sony) announcement of the Idris Elba sci-fi fantasy series **Dantai** is in keeping with this new trend. Many of the upcoming video game series will be produced as anime. It's clear that by the third edition of the Adult Animation White Paper, we will have to cover animation and anime as simply one category.

SCI-FI COMEDY CROSS-OVERS

Sci-fi comedy cross-overs are very much in vogue in 2021. The line-up of sci-fi comedy crossovers includes current series like **Rick and Morty**, **The Midnight Gospel**, and **Solar Opposites** and upcoming series like **X-Files: Albuquerque**. My theory is that the sci-fi comedy cross-overs are a gateway to more ambitious, dramatic storytelling.

NON-COMEDY GENRE

And finally, non-comedy genre (sci-fi, horror, drama, etc.) is where much of the growth in new audiences for adult animation will occur over the next decade. Not that animated comedy is going anywhere. There is a whole new crop of upcoming video game based series – many of these will be produced as anime or with anime-inspired art styles. This type of content will export well internationally because western audiences are ready for more ambitious animated story-telling and they will appeal to a wider audience than US-based comedic animation which has its own built-in limitations. I am reasonably confident that much of the non-comedy genre content will work but remain concerned that talent will be stretched thin and it's somewhat of an unproven category. If this push into more ambitious animated storytelling works, it will redefine adult animation.

STREAMERS

Netflix and HBO Max have the most aggressive adult animation strategies. Almost all of the other streamers have ordered adult animated series with the possible exceptions of Disney+ and Apple TV+ that remains focused on family programming. Disney is using Disney-owned Hulu as their home for more adult fare. You can find original series like **Solar Opposites** and **Crossing Swords** on Hulu. Amazon's current adult animated series include the critically acclaimed **Undone** and the highly anticipated comic book adaptation **Invincible**.

CABLE

All the cable channels that carry original scripted programming targeting young adults have adopted their own adult animation strategies. This includes cablers like Syfy's TZGZ block, AMC - **Archer** and the upcoming sci-fi drama series **Pantheon**, TBS - **Final Space** and **American Dad!**, and Showtime - **Our Cartoon President**. Cable's ratings are in decline but Adult Swim remains an important brand with its flagship series **Rick and Morty**.

STUDIOS AND TALENT

As a result of this unprecedented activity, the buyers are stepping up. According to *The Ringer*, CBS TV Studio's Katie Krentz "Every time I take a pitch out to sell, there's a new buyer. Oh, we're pitching we're pitching to Peacock. Oh, now we're pitching HBO Max. And that's been so wild. It used to just be taking it to three or four buyers. Now you have as many as 12 to 14 places you can be taking [a show] to."²³ The unprecedented demand for adult animated series is going to put pressure on animation studios. Is there enough talent to produce all of this new content? Will the product suffer as a result of the talent being spread too thinly across all of the projects that have been announced over the past year. Will some producers turn to international studios for help to address the need? Animation has benefitted from the availability of all the out of work writers and actors. Hopefully the world will return to normal sooner than later. Something that several of these upcoming adult animated projects will break out over the next two years and the talent that was attracted to adult animation during the COVID era will continue happily working with the new medium.

23 *The Ringer* - TV's Future Will Be More Animated, Sep 16, 2020

24. In Summary

There have been three major shifts on the pathway to consumer acceptance of adult animation since the early nineties.

Broadcast Phase 1990's

Up until Bart Simpson first rode his skateboard into our living rooms, animation was pretty much exclusively a kid's medium. Since that day, Fox has been playing by the rules that **The Simpsons** animated family sitcom established. This resulted in two of the largest TV franchises in the history of TV. It does appear however that Fox is starting to adapt to 18-34s' increasing interests in animated fare that's strays from the sitcom format. Fox is widening the dial out on the kinds of shows they are developing going forward. And, Fox is expanding their Animation Domination block because adult audiences have embraced animation as their preferred format for consuming comedy.

Cable Phase 2000's

Shortly after **The Simpsons** first aired, MTV kicked off the second era with shows like **Beavis and Butthead** and the ground-breaking **Liquid TV** anthology series, but for some reason, their animation efforts fizzled out. Ten years later, Cartoon Network needed something to prop up their late night ratings so they picked up the baton that MTV dropped and emerged as the go to channel for quirky, irreverent adult animation. To this day, Adult Swim still attracts the largest audiences of 18-34s of all the cable channels. **Rick and Morty** is the full realization of the cable phase but the series' popularity happened to coincide with young adult's abandonment of broadcast and cable in favor of the streaming services.

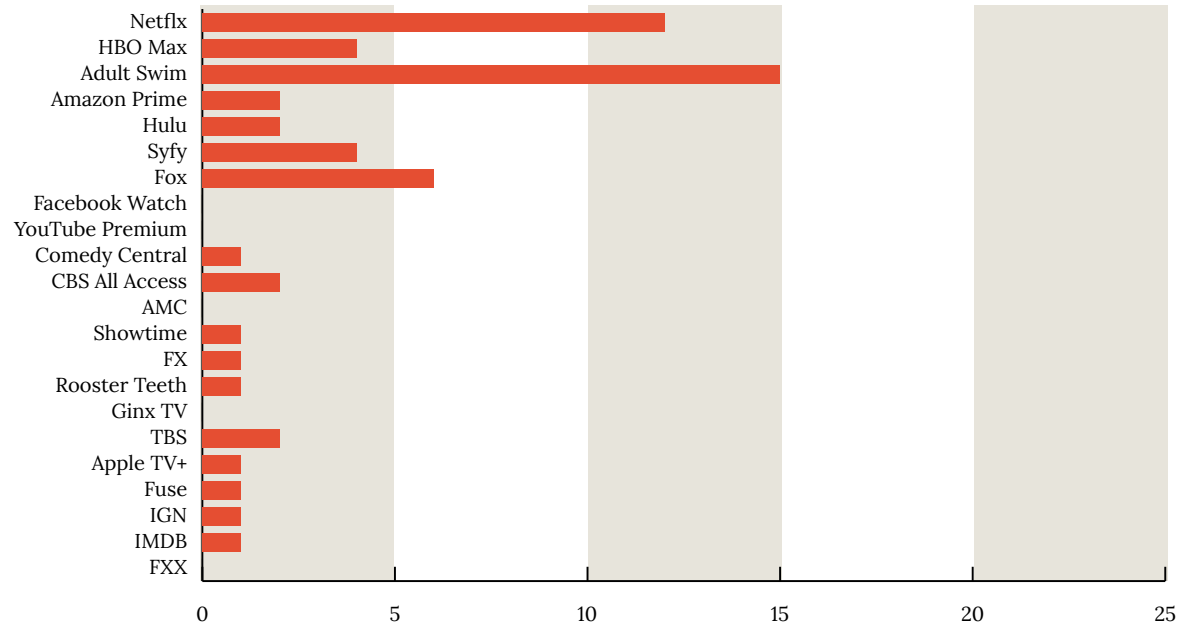
Streamer Phase 2020's

One year after Netflix's first original series **House of Cards** debuted and 10 years after Adult Swim launched, Netflix premiered a new, dark, animated comedy about a washed up horse. **BoJack Horseman** showed the Netflix programmers that the best way to "hack" into a young adult audience was adult animation. The streamers no longer needed to cram shows into 22-minute sitcoms with commercial interruptions. They're less expensive than most scripted live action series and they have more staying power. Streamers can afford to make shows for more niche audiences than the broadcasters or cablers. This shift has opened the doors to more ambitious story-telling – genre series, dramas, etc. that will have international appeal, which will be attractive to the streamers who all have global ambitions. The cultural influence of video games is seeping into adult animation. Netflix, in particular, has doubled down on this category. And, anime – either Japanese-produced or anime-inspired animation seems to be a strong stylistic influence for many of the upcoming video game based animated series.

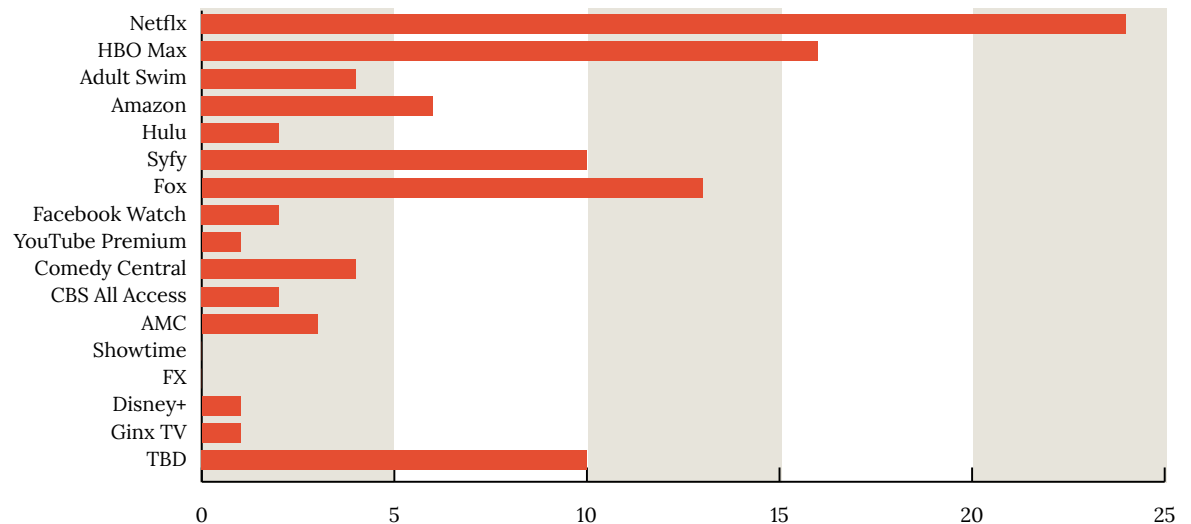
25. The Adult Animation Database

Note – for Complete Up To The Minute Data Visit: [The Adult Animation Database](#).

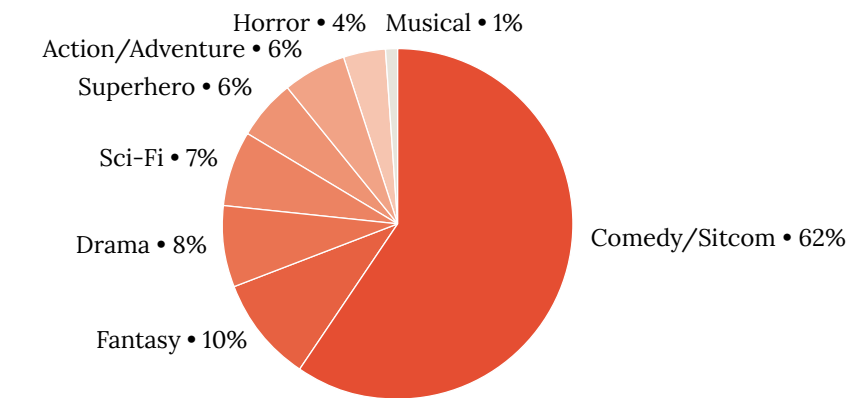
Current Original Animated Series – By Buyer (First Window)



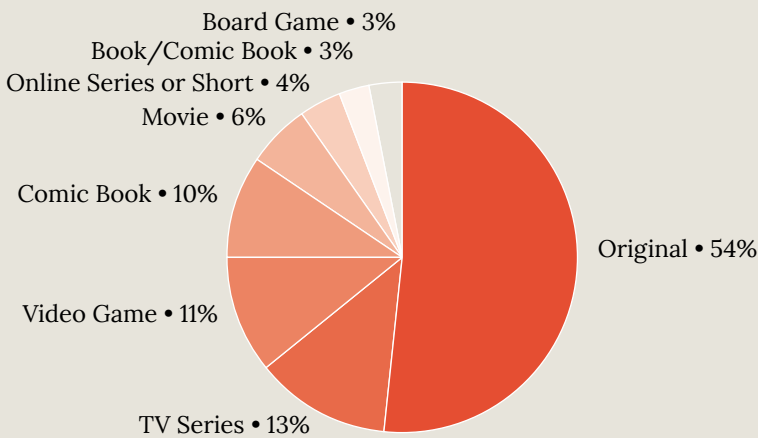
Upcoming Animated Series – By Buyer (First Window)



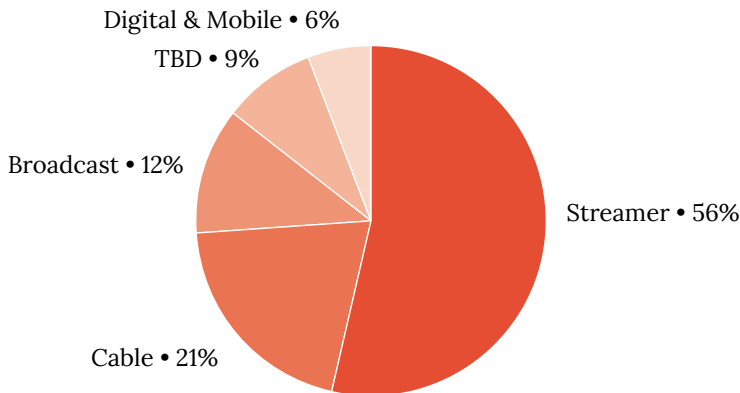
Upcoming Original Adult Animated Series – By Genre



Upcoming Original Adult Animated Series – By Source IP



Upcoming Original Adult Animated Series – By Buyer (1st Window)



For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit: [The Adult Animation Database](#).

Current Adult Animated Series – Ranked by Popularity*

*Blended scores based on data from IMDB and Rotten Tomatoes.

	Show	Genre	Buyer	Studio(s)	Blended Rank
1	<i>Primal</i>	Fantasy, Horror, Action	Adult Swim	Cartoon Network Studios, Williams Street, Studio La Cachette	9.5
2	<i>Rick and Morty</i>	Comedy, Sci-Fi	Adult Swim	Williams Street, Harmonious Claptrap, Starburns Industries (seasons 1-2), Justin Roiland's Solo Vanity Card Productions!, Rick and Morty, LLC. (season 2-3), Green Portal Productions (season 4)	9.3
3	<i>BoJack Horseman (last season)</i>	Tragicomedy Sitcom	Nefflix	Tornante, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine	9.1
4	<i>Undone</i>	Comedy, Drama	Amazon Prime	Tornante, Boxer vs. Raptor, Submarine Amsterdam, Hive House Project	9.1
5	<i>Young Justice</i>	Superhero	HBO Max	DC Entertainment, Warner Bros. Animation	9.1
6	<i>The Venture Bros. (last season)</i>	Comedy, Satire	Adult Swim	Astro Base GO!, NoodleSoup Productions (2003-04), World Leaders Entertainment (2006-10), Titmouse, Inc. (2011-2018), Williams Street	9.1
7	<i>Harley Quinn</i>	Superhero	HBO Max	Warner Bros. Animation, DC Entertainment Yes, Norman Productions, Ehsugadee Productions	8.9
8	<i>Trailer Park Boys</i>	Comedy Sitcom	Netflix	Trailer Park Productions (2001-2008), Topsail Entertainment (2001-2008), Showcase Television (2001-2008), Sunnyvale Productions (2014-present), Swearnet Pictures (2014-present)	8.7
9	<i>The Midnight Gospel</i>	Surreal Comedy	Netflix	Oatmeal Maiden, Titmouse, Inc.	8.8
10	<i>Archer</i>	Sitcom Parody	FX	Floyd County Productions, FX Productions	8.7
11	<i>Bob's Burgers</i>	Sitcom	FOX	Bento Box Entertainment, Wilo Productions, Buck & Millie Productions (Seasons 2-10) 20th Television	8.7
12	<i>Castlevania</i>	Horror Action Adventure	Netflix	Frederator Studios, Powerhouse Animation Studios, Shankar Animation, Project 51 Productions, Mua Film	8.7
13	<i>F is For Family</i>	Sitcom	Netflix	Wild West Television, Loner Productions, Big Jump Productions, King of France Productions, Oasis Animation, Gaumont Animation	8.7
14	<i>Blood Of Zeus</i>	Fantasy	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation Studios, Dongwoo, A&E	8.6
15	<i>Close Enough</i>	Surreal Sitcom	HBO Max	Cartoon Network Studios	8.6
16	<i>Big Mouth</i>	Coming of Age Sitcom	Netflix	Danger Goldberg Productions, Good at Bizness, Inc., Fathouse Industries, Titmouse, Inc.	8.5

Current Adult Animated Series – Ranked by Popularity* [cont'd]

*Blended scores based on data from IMDB and Rotten Tomatoes.

	Show	Genre	Buyer	Studio(s)	Blended Rank
17	<i>South Park</i>	Comedy	Comedy Central	Celluloid Studios (1997), Braniff Productions (1997–2006), Parker–Stone Productions (2006–07), South Park Studios (2007–), Comedy Partners	8.5
18	<i>Love, Death and Robots</i>	Animation Anthology	Netflix	Blur Studio, Netflix Studios, Variety of 3rd Party Studios	8.4
19	<i>Robot Chicken</i>	Sketch Comedy	Adult Swim	ShadowMachine Films (2005–2012) (seasons 1–5), Stoopid Monkey, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios (2012 present), (season 6–present) Sony Pictures Digital (2005–2012) (seasons 1–5) Sony Pictures Television (2012–present) (season 6–present), Williams Street	8.4
20	<i>The Shivering Truth</i>	Comedy Surreal Sketch	Adult Swim	ShadowMachine (season one), HouseSpecial (season two), PFFR, Williams Street	8.4
21	<i>Solar Opposites</i>	Comedy Sci-fi	Hulu	Justin Roiland's Solo Vanity Card Productions!, Important Science, 20th Television	8.3
22	<i>American Dad</i>	Comedy Sitcom	TBS	20th Television, 20th Animation, Underdog Productions, Fuzzy Door Productions	8.2
23	<i>The Simpsons</i>	Comedy Sitcom	FOX	Gracie Films, 20th Television	8.3
24	<i>Gary and His Demons</i>	Comedy Sitcom Horror	Syfy	Mondo Media, Solis Animation, Look Mom! Productions, Blue Ant Media	8.1
25	<i>Final Space</i>	Space Opera Comedy Drama	TBS	ShadowMachine (animation production), Jam Filled Entertainment (animation services), Star Cadet, New Form Digital, Conaco (S1–2), Studio T (S1)	7.9
26	<i>RWBY</i>	Sci-Fi Action Adventure	Rooster Teeth	Rooster Teeth Productions	7.9
27	<i>gen:LOCK</i>	Sci-Fi Action Adventure	HBO Max	Rooster Teeth Productions	7.9
28	<i>Family Guy</i>	Sitcom	FOX	Fuzzy Door Productions, 20th Television	7.8
29	<i>Central Park</i>	Musical Sitcom	Apple TV+	Bento Box Entertainment, Wilo Productions, Angry Child Productions, Brillstein Entertainment Partners, 20th Television	7.8
30	<i>Sugar and Toys</i>	Sketch Comedy Parody	Fuse	This is Just a Test, 245 Enterprises	7.6
31	<i>Disenchantment</i>	Fantasy Sitcom	Netflix	The ULULU Company, Rough Draft Studios	7.4
32	<i>The Jellies!</i>	Sitcom	Adult Swim	Bald Fade Productions, Augenblick Studios, Whalerock Industries, Williams Street	7.3

Current Adult Animated Series – Ranked by Popularity* [cont'd]

*Blended scores based on data from IMDB and Rotten Tomatoes.

	Show	Genre	Buyer	Studio(s)	Blended Rank
33	<i>The Liberator</i>	Drama Action	Netflix	A&E Studios, Unique Features, Trioscope Studios	7.2
34	<i>Yolo: Crystal Fantasy</i>	Comedy	Adult Swim	Princess Pictures, Williams Street	7.2
35	<i>Dragon's Dogma</i>	Anime Dark Fantasy	Netflix	Sublimation	7.1
36	<i>Wild Life</i>	Comedy	Syfy	Nice Try, Octopie Network, Valparaiso Pictures, TZGZ Productions	7.1
37	<i>Ballmastrz: 9009</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	Adult Swim	Titmouse, Inc., C.C.K. Rad (Season 2), Williams Street	7.0
38	<i>Duncanville</i>	Sitcom	FOX	Bento Box Entertainment, Paper Kite Productions, Scullys Productions, 3 Arts Entertainment, Universal Television, Fox Entertainment, 20th Television	6.8
39	<i>Tigtone</i>	Fantasy Comedy	Adult Swim	Titmouse, Inc., Babyhemmyth Productions, Williams Street	6.8
40	<i>Tooning Out the News</i>	Political Satire	CBS All Access	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert	6.8
41	<i>Fundamentally Cynical</i>	Dark Comedy	Amazon Prime	BlackEye Productions, POW animations, Pow Animation Studio	6.8
42	<i>12 Oz Mouse (series return)</i>	Surreal Comedy	Adult Swim	Williams Street, Radical Axis (series), Awesome, Inc. (special)	6.6
43	<i>Squidbillies</i>	Black Comedy	Adult Swim	Williams Street	6.5
44	<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad: Origins</i>	Comedy	Syfy	Cartuna	6.5
45	<i>Tender Touches</i>	Soap Opera Parody	Adult Swim	Six Point Harness (season 2), Awesome, Inc. (season 3), Williams Street	6.4
46	<i>Alien: Isolation – The Digital Series</i>	Sci-Fi Horror	IGN	Reverse Engineering Studios (RES), TitraFilm, DVgroup, 20th Century Fox, IGN	6.3
47	<i>Momma Named Me Sheriff (Mr. Pickles)</i>	Sitcom	Adult Swim	HotHouse Productions, Day by Day Productions, Williams Street	6.2
48	<i>Hell Den</i>	Comedy	Syfy	Dr. God Productions, Rafael Raffaele Entertainment, Shout! Studios, TZGZ Productions	5.4

Current Adult Animated Series – Ranked by Popularity* [cont'd]

*Blended scores based on data from IMDB and Rotten Tomatoes.

	Show	Genre	Buyer	Studio(s)	Blended Rank
49	<i>Our Cartoon President</i>	Political Satire	Showtime	Spartina Productions, Licht Media Solutions, CBS Television Studios, Showtime Networks	6.1
50	<i>Bless the Harts</i>	Sitcom	FOX	Titmouse, Inc., Jessebean, Inc., Lord Miller Productions, Fox Entertainment 20th Television	6.1
51	<i>The Great North</i>	Sitcom	FOX	Bento Box Entertainment, Double Molyneux Sister Sheux, Wilo Productions, Fox Entertainment, 20th Television	6.1
52	<i>You're Not a Monster</i>	Comedy Horror	IMDb	Grammnet Productions, Bold Soul Studios, Ranker	6.0
53	<i>Star Trek: Lower Decks</i>	Sci-Fi Comedy	CBS All Access	CBS Eye Animation Productions, Secret Hideout, Important Science, Roddenberry Entertainment, Titmouse, Inc.	5.8
54	<i>Paradise PD</i>	Sitcom	Netflix	Damn! Show Productions, Bento Box Entertainment, Odenkirk Provissiero Entertainment	5.5
55	<i>JJ Villards Fairytale</i> s	Horror Comedy	Adult Swim	Villard Film, Cartoon Network Studios, Williams Street	5.4
56	<i>Lazor Wulf</i>	Comedy	Adult Swim	Titmouse, Inc. (Pilot), Bento Box Entertainment (season 1), 6 Point Harness (season 2), Williams Street	4.9
57	<i>Crossing Swords</i>	Sitcom	Hulu	Buddy System Studios, Tom Is Awesome, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios, Sony Pictures Television	4.4
58	<i>The Freak Brothers</i>	Sitcom	TBD	Starburns Industries, WTG Enterprises	0.0
59	<i>Cake</i>	Anthology Sketch	FXX	SLAQR, FXP	0.0
60	<i>Alpha Betas</i>	Comedy	YouTube		(too early to be measured)

Upcoming Series – (Alphabetical Order)

For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit [The Adult Animation Database](#).

	Show	Genre	Source	Buyer	Studio
1	10-Year-Old-Tom	Comedy	Original	HBO Max	Tomorrow Studios, ITV Studios
2	2051	Comedy – Workplace	Original	Amazon	3 Arts Entertainment
3	Agent King	Comedy	Original	Netflix	Sony Pictures Animation
4	Alien vs. Predator	Horror – Action	Movie – Spinoff	Netflix	NA
5	Alpha Betas	Comedy	Original	NA	Starburns Industries
6	Amberville	Comedy – Dark	Original	Amazon Prime	Annapurna
7	Arcane (League of Legends)	Fantasy	Video Game	NA	Riot Games, Fortiche Productions
8	ARK: The Animated Series	Action Adventure	Video Game	NA	NA
9	Aquaman: King of Atlantis	Superhero	Comic Book	HBO Max	Warner Bros. Animation
10	Batman: The Animated Series	Superhero	Comic Book	HBO Max	Warner Bros. Animation
11	Beavis and Butt-Head (Reboot)	Comedy	TV Series – Reboot	Comedy Central	3 Arts
12	Birdgirl	Comedy	TV Series – Spinoff	Adult Swim	ME Productions, Awesome Inc.
13	The Black Hole	Comedy	Original	Syfy	Starburns Industries
14	Blade Runner: Black Lotus	Sci-Fi	Movie	Adult Swim, Crunchyroll	Sola Digital Arts
15	Blue Eye Samurai	Action Adventure	Original	Netflix	TBA
16	The Boondocks	Comedy – Sitcom	TV Series – Reboot	HBO Max	Sony Pictures Animation
17	Captain Fall	Comedy	Original	Netflix	TBA
18	Chinos	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	HBO Max	Color Correct
19	The Chronicles of Frank	Comedy	Original	Syfy	Shadow Machine
20	Clone High (reboot)	Comedy – Sitcom	TV Series – Reboot	Comedy Central	Viacom

Upcoming Series – (Alphabetical Order) [cont'd]

For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit [The Adult Animation Database](#).

	Show	Genre	Source	Buyer	Studio
21	<i>Clue</i>	Drama - Mystery	Board Game – Spinoff	Fox	Entertainment One, Bento Box
22	<i>Cocky</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	Fox	Fox Entertainment, Bento Box
23	<i>Condorito</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Comic Book	TBD	Anima, Lunes
24	<i>Cover</i>	Superhero	Comic Book	HBO Max	Rooster Teeth Studios
25	<i>Crag Banyon P.I.</i>	Crime Drama	Book	FOX	TBD
26	<i>Critical Role: The Legend of Vox Machine</i>	Fantasy – Comedy	Board Game	Amazon Prime	Titmouse
27	<i>The Cuphead Show!</i>	Comedy	Video Game	Netflix	TBD
28	<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Sci-Fi	Video Game	Netflix	Trigger
29	<i>Dantai</i>	Sci-Fi Fantasy Anime	Original	Crunchyroll	Green Door Pictures, Pink Towel Pictures
30	<i>Depardieu Only Knows</i>	Comedy – Drama	Comic Book	TBD	Toon Factory
31	<i>Devil May Care</i>	Comedy	Original	Syfy	Syfy
32	<i>Diablo</i>	Fantasy – Horror	Video Game	Netflix	TBD
33	<i>Dota: Dragons Blood</i>	Fantasy	Video Game	Netflix	Studio Mir
34	<i>Dr. Havocs Diary</i>	Comedy	Online Series	Syfy	
35	<i>Dumb People Town</i>	Comedy	Original	YouTube Premium	Artists First
36	<i>Entergalactic</i>	Musical	Original	Netflix	Khalabo Ink Society
37	<i>Fairfax</i>	Comedy	Original	Amazon Prime	Titmouse
38	<i>Farzar</i>	Sci-Fi – Comedy	Original	Netflix	Odenkirk Provissiero Entertainment, Bento Box Entertainment, Fox Entertainment
39	<i>Fired on Mars</i>	Sci-Fi – Comedy	Original	HBO Max	TBA
40	<i>Game of Thrones (name TBD)</i>	Fantasy	TV Series – Spinoff	HBO Max	TBA

Upcoming Series – (Alphabetical Order) [cont'd]

For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit [The Adult Animation Database](#).

	Show	Genre	Source	Buyer	Studio
41	<i>Godzilla: Singular Point</i>	Action	Movie	Netflix	Bones and Orange
42	<i>Good Times</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	TV Series	Netflix	Fuzzy Door
43	<i>The Greater Good</i>	Comedy – Workplace	Original	FOX	FOX
44	<i>Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai</i>	Fantasy – Comedy	Movie – Spinoff	HBO Max	Warner Bros
45	<i>The Harper House</i>	Comedy	Original	CBS All Access	CBS Television Studios
46	<i>The Havana Job</i>	Drama	Book	NA	Tricscope Studios
47	<i>Hazbin Hotel</i>	Comedy	Online Series	TBD	A24, Vivziepop
48	<i>Heaven's Forest</i>	Fantasy – Epic	Original	Netflix	Powerhouse Animation
49	<i>Hello Paul</i>	Comedy	Original	HBO Max	TBA
50	<i>Hit-Monkey</i>	Action	Comic Book	Hulu	Marvel Animation
51	<i>The Hospital</i>	Comedy – Sci-Fi	Original	Amazon	Animal Pictures
52	<i>The House</i>	Comedy – Dark	Original	Netflix	Nexus Studios
53	<i>Housebroken</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	FOX	20th Century FOX, Kapital
54	<i>Human Discoveries</i>	Comedy	Original	Facebook Watch	ShadowMachine
55	<i>Human Resources</i>	Comedy	TV Series – Spin Off	Netflix	Brutus Pink
56	<i>Hungry Ghosts</i>	Horror	Comic Book	In Development	Sony Pictures Animation
57	<i>Inside Job</i>	Comedy	Original	Netflix	Netflix Animation
58	<i>Invincible</i>	Superhero	Comic Book	Amazon Prime	Skybound
59	<i>Jodie (Daria Spinoff)</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	TV Series – Spin Off	Comedy Central	Viacom Studios
60	<i>Keeping Up with The Joneses</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	HBO Max	WB Animation
61	<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	Action – Spinoff	Movie	Netflix	Tractor Pants, Powerhouse
62	<i>Lil Kev</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	FOX	20th Century FOX, Lionsgate

Upcoming Series – (Alphabetical Order) [cont'd]

For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit [The Adult Animation Database](#).

	Show	Genre	Source	Buyer	Studio
63	<i>Magic: The Gathering</i>	Fantasy	Card Game	Netflix	AGBO
64	<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad</i>	Comedy	Original	Syfy	NA
65	<i>Masters of the Universe: Revelation</i>	Fantasy – Epic	TV Series – Spin Off	Netflix	Jetlag Productions, Mattel, Powerhouse Animation
66	<i>Mega City Smiths</i>	Comedy – Drama	Original	AMC	Stoopid Buddy Stoodios
67	<i>M.O.D.O.K.</i>	Superhero	Comic Book	Hulu	Marvel Animation
68	<i>Mulligan</i>	Comedy	Original	Netflix	3 Arts Entertainment, Bento Box Entertainment and Universal Television
69	<i>Multifarious Maris</i>	Comedy	Original	Showtime	ShadowMachine
70	<i>The Multivorce</i>	Comedy – Sci Fi	Original	CBS All Access	CBS All Access
71	<i>Name TBA</i>	Drama	Original	FOX	Bento Box, 20th Century FOX
72	<i>Name TBA</i>	Comedy	Original	FOX	Bento Box, 20th Century FOX
73	<i>Oaklandia</i>	Comedy	Original	Amazon	NA
74	<i>Obi</i>	Comedy	Online Series	HBO Max	Studio 71
75	<i>Ocean Village</i>	Comedy – Sitcom	Original	FOX	FOX Entertainment, Bento Box and Look Mom! Productions
76	<i>Overwatch</i>	Fantasy	Video Game	Netflix	NA
77	<i>Pantheon</i>	Sci-Fi	Book	AMC	TBA
78	<i>The Pole</i>	Comedy	Original	Syfy	Yeti
79	<i>Plutoniams</i>	Comedy – Sci-fi	Original	Syfy	Brave Media, Yeti Farm
80	<i>Predator</i>	Sci-Fi – Action	Movie – Spinoff	TBD	TBD
81	<i>The Prince</i>	Political Satire	Original	HBO Max	20th Century FOX Television, Bento Box Entertainment
82	<i>Price Wawa</i>	Comedy	Original	Fox	Sony Pictures TV
83	<i>Psycho Psalms</i>	Comedy – Dark	Original	Syfy	Open the Portal, Tractor Pants
84	<i>Q-Force</i>	Comedy	Original	Netflix	Fremulon, Universal TV, 3 Arts

Upcoming Series – (Alphabetical Order) [cont'd]

For the complete up-to-the-minute list visit [The Adult Animation Database](#).

	Show	Genre	Source	Buyer	Studio
85	<i>The Ren & Stimpy Show</i>	Sltcom	TV Series – Spinoff	Comedy Central	Viacom
86	<i>Resident Evil: Infintie Darkness</i>	Drama	Video Game	Netflix	TMS Entertainment
87	<i>Ricky & Cricket</i>	Comedy	Original	Amazon	3 Arts
88	<i>Santa Inc.</i>	Comedy	Original	HBO Max	Point Grey Pictures
89	<i>Shadowlands: Afterlives (World of Warcraft spinoff)</i>	Fantasy	Video Game	Ginx TV	Blizzard
90	<i>Shell Beach</i>	Comedy	Original	Fox	FOX Entertainment, Bento Box
91	<i>Splinter Cell</i>	Drama – Suspense	Video Game	Netflix	Netflix Animation
92	<i>The Summoner</i>	Comedy	Original	Syfy	Stoopid Buddy Stoodios
93	<i>Superbago</i>	Superhero – Comedy	Original	In Development	Stoopid Buddy Stoodios
94	<i>Teenage Euthanasia</i>	Comedy	Original	Adult Swim	Augenblick
95	<i>Tomb Raider Anime Series</i>	Action	Video Game	Netflix	Anime Production TBA
96	<i>Jermaine Fowler Project – Name TBD</i>	Comedy	Original	FOX	FOX
97	<i>Tuca and Bertie</i>	Sitcom	TV Series – Reboot	Adult Swim	The Tornante Company, Brave Dummy, Boxer vs. Raptor, ShadowMachine
98	<i>Uncanny Valley</i>	Comedy	Comedy – Sci-Fi	HBO Max	TBA
99	<i>Velma</i>	Comedy	TV Series – Spinoff	HBO Max	Warner Bros Animation
100	<i>What If...?</i>	Superhero	Comic Book	Disney+	Marvel Animation
101	<i>Wild Life</i>	Comedy	Original	Syfy	TZGZ Project
102	<i>Woman in The Book</i>	Drama	Original	Facebook Watch	Starburn Industries
103	<i>The X-files: Albuquerque</i>	Comedy – Sci-fi	TV Series – Spinoff	FOX	20th Century FOX
104	<i>Young Love</i>	Drama	Online Series	HBO Max	Sony Pictures Animation, Lion Forge Animation

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Phew. If you made it this far you must be pretty dedicated. You may want to follow me on [LinkedIn](#) to read my most recent posts on adult animation.

And bookmark this [link](#) for the **Adult Animation Database**. The database is maintained daily and has all the latest data on current and upcoming adult animated series. If you haven't already, it's a good idea to connect with me on LinkedIn so I show up in your feed.

Please contact me at jevershed@highconcentrate.com if you are in need of consulting or have IP that you want help with packaging and taking to market. High Concentrate is also looking for finished adult animated TV series or movies. We are especially interested in animated foreign language movies or TV series and English language books, graphic novels or comics that are intended for adult audiences.