



# STARSHIP Q STAR

## PRESS KIT



**Meegan May & Lauren Anderson**  
*So Nice Productions*

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*The award-winning Australian sci-fi-comedy fiction podcast is now a short animated series!*

# Starship Q Star

**Like:** If Star Trek and the L Word had a weird hilarious baby.

**Logline:** When a tone-deaf space agency sends the “first all non-men crew” on a PR mission to Mars, they inadvertently end up the last six humans in the universe. Lead by Co-Captains (and exes) Aurelia and Sim, STARSHIP Q STAR follows this extremely queer crew on their quest across the galaxy to find a new home.

**Podcast launch date:** 08 December 2022

**Animated shorts launch date:** 07 Feb 2024

**Genre:** Queer sci-fi comedy

**Podcast Format:** 6 x 30min episodes

**Animation Format:** 3 x 3min episodes

**Rating:** Explicit / M15+. Recommended for mature audiences.

**Origin:** Independently produced in Melbourne (Naarm), Australia

**Created by:** Meegan May & Lauren Anderson

**Podcast Chart Overview:** Gaining over 3k downloads in its first week alone, the show has been **featured by Spotify and Apple Podcasts Australia twice**, peaking at **#1 on the Fiction charts** here. We have also hit #1 in Comedy Fiction over 60 countries including the UK, Ireland, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand.

**Podcast Festivals/Awards Highlights (more on p. 5):**

- **FINALIST** in the Signal Awards for Best Writing (Fiction)
- **WINNER:** Audio Fiction World Cup 2023
- **WINNER:** Sydney Web Fest - Best Fiction Podcast
- **WINNER:** New Jersey Web Fest - Outstanding Comedy (Podcast)
- **WINNER:** LA Webfest - Best Comedy (Podcast)
- **WINNER:** LA Webfest - Best Director (Podcast) for Lauren Anderson

## FIND US

**Listen on:**

[Apple Podcasts](#)  
[Spotify](#)

**Watch on:**

[ABCTV & iView YouTube](#)

**Official Website:** <https://starshipqstar.com>

**TikTok:** [@starshipqstar](#)

**Instagram:** [@starshipqstar](#)

**Tumblr:** <https://starshipqstar.tumblr.com/>

**YouTube:** [@starshipqstar](#)

**Twitter/X:** [@starshipqstar](#)



#1   
in Fiction

Listen on  
Apple Podcasts

# OVERVIEW

Created by co-writing queer couple Meegan May & Lauren Anderson, STARSHIP Q STAR is a full cast sci-fi comedy starring some of Melbourne's hottest comedic and acting talent. Independently produced to global chart success and awards, the podcast was recently chosen for the ABC & Screen Australia's Fresh Blood initiative to produce animated episodes based on the series.

When exes and Co-Captains AURELIA and SIM are charged with a historic mission - the 'first all non-men crew' to go to Mars - they are desperate to declare 'mission complete' and never see each other again. But when they find out that Earth has been destroyed, they must work together to lead their very queer crew across the galaxy in search of a new home.

Loosely based on the real-life NASA proposal of all-female teams for long haul space missions to prevent sex and pregnancy (perhaps a little bit misinterpreted in the media...), the crew of the Starship Q Star don't quite manage to avoid this... Rule-obsessed soldier Sim and free-spirited scientist Aurelia must navigate old feelings and new Co-Captaining challenges. Turns out job sharing with your ex ain't easy - especially when they're one sixth of the entire human population.

With the lothario Medical Officer MO, cocky ace pilot DUSTY, and eccentric teen-genius engineer SOLARIS; the team are eventually joined by the last man alive, BOB, a sweet but clueless botanist who was accidentally left behind on the flailing Mars colony.



Fan art of the show

Together they adventure from planet to planet encountering enticing new worlds, strange creatures, and bizarre civilisations. An increasingly complicated queer love web emerges as the crew of the Starship Q Star give in to their human urges with each other and aliens alike. But when the crew finally think that they've found their new home, they discover a strange beacon, signalling them from across the galaxy..

STARSHIP Q STAR is about finding connection in an isolated universe – and seeing the destruction of Earth as a great opportunity to find a new way of doing things. And on a ship of raging queers with two ex-girlfriends at the helm... what could possibly go wrong?

The cast and crew across the podcast and animated series represent an intersection of diverse creatives, with a particular focus on queer and gender diverse artists.

The STARSHIP Q STAR podcast was supported by the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the animated series was produced by So Nice Productions with support from the ABC and Screen Australia



The cast & crew

# Podcast Credits

## CAST

**AURELIA:** ANNIE LUMSDEN  
**SIM:** ANDREA MENDEZ  
**MO:** LENA MOON  
**DUSTY:** SUNANDA  
**SOLARIS:** ISHA MENON  
**BOB:** SCOTT LIMBRICK  
**COMPUTER:** MEEGAN MAY  
**GENERAL SWAN / COMPUTER EPISODE 5:**  
BEN RUSSELL

[Read bios and more on our website!](#)

## CREW

**CO-CREATORS/WRITERS:** LAUREN ANDERSON & MEEGAN MAY  
**DIRECTOR:** LAUREN ANDERSON  
**PRODUCER:** MEEGAN MAY @ SO NICE PRODUCTIONS  
**EPISODE 4 SCRIPT CO-WRITTEN BY:** LENA MOON  
**SOUND ENGINEER:** DARIUS KEDROSS  
**SOUND DESIGNER:** DARIUS KEDROS, SONIC STATE DESIGN  
**RECORDED & MIXED AT:** THE GARDEN STUDIOS, MELBOURNE  
**EDITORS:** LAUREN ANDERSON & MEEGAN MAY  
**ORIGINAL MUSIC:** JACK LEWIS  
**COVER ART:** KATE MOON

# Animation Credits

## CAST

**AURELIA:** ANNIE LUMSDEN  
**SIM:** ANDREA MENDEZ  
**MO:** LENA MOON  
**DUSTY:** SUNANDA  
**SOLARIS:** ISHA MENON  
**BOB:** SCOTT LIMBRICK  
**ADDITIONAL VOICES:** MEEGAN MAY, LAUREN ANDERSON, DARIUS KEDROS

## CREW

**CO-CREATORS & WRITERS:** MEEGAN MAY & LAUREN ANDERSON  
**DIRECTOR:** LAUREN ANDERSON  
**PRODUCER:** MEEGAN MAY  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** LAUREN ANDERSON & MEEGAN MAY @ SO NICE PRODUCTIONS

**WRITERS ROOM:** LAUREN ANDERSON, SCOTT LIMBRICK, MEEGAN MAY, LENA MOON, SUNANDA

**LEAD DESIGNER:** KATE MOON  
**DESIGNER:** NITARA NOWRUNGSAH

**STORYBOARD ARTIST:** JESSICA 'TOBY' TOBIN

**LEAD ANIMATOR:** CHARLOTTE BIRD-WEBER  
**ANIMATORS:** JESS HUNT, MART SANDS, DOM VALENCIA, JALE SOYSAL  
**CLEAN AND COLOUR SUPERVISOR:** JESS HUNT  
**CLEAN AND COLOUR:** CHERYL FANG, ALLEGRA FENTON-MENZIES, GABBY POH, MEG TUTEN  
**ADDITIONAL ANIMATION:** ALLEGRA FENTON-MENZIES, CHERYL FANG  
**ADDITIONAL CLEAN AND COLOUR:** LAUREN ANDERSON & MEEGAN MAY

**EDITOR:** LAUREN ANDERSON  
**COMPOSITING AND VFX:** MEEGAN MAY  
**SOUND ENGINEER & SOUND DESIGN:** DARIUS KEDROS @ SONIC STATE DESIGN  
**RECORDED AND MIXED AT:** THE GARDEN STUDIOS, MELBOURNE  
**STARSHIP Q STAR OPENING AND CLOSING THEME BY:** JACK LEWIS @ CHAMPAGNE JACKET  
**ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY:** DARIUS KEDROS



# Awards/ Nominations

Starship Q Star has had a brilliant first season, picking up awards and nominations across the world!

- **Awards:**

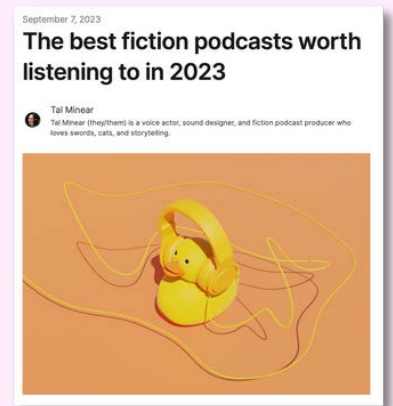
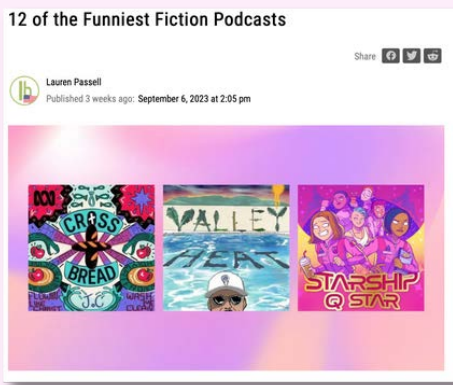
- **Audio Fiction World Cup 2023:** Winner
- **Signal Awards** - Silver Winner for Craft - Best Writing (Fiction)
- **Austin Film Festival** - Semifinalist in AFF Script Competition for Fiction Podcasts
- **Australian Writers' Guild & Audible** - Shortlisted for their 'On Air' Podcast writing competition
- **LA Webfest** - Best Comedy (Podcast) and Best Director (Podcast)
- **New Jersey Web Fest** - Outstanding Comedy (Narrative Podcast)
- **Sydney Web Fest** - Best Fiction Podcast
- **Minnesota Webfest** - Best Comedy Podcast, Best Comedic Performance in a Podcast - Annie Lumsden
- **New Zealand Web Fest** - Best Podcast Writing Fiction
- **Baltimore New Media Webfest** - Best LGBTQ Content
- **Hollywood Series (Asia Web Awards)** - Best Sound Design



- **Official Selection:** Cusco Webfest, LA Webfest, Apulia Web Fest, New Jersey Web Fest, NZ Web Fest, Minnesota WebFest, Baltimore New Media Webfest, Sydney Web Fest, Bilbao Seriesland, Rio Webfest, Hollywood Series (Asia Web Awards)

- **Nominations:**

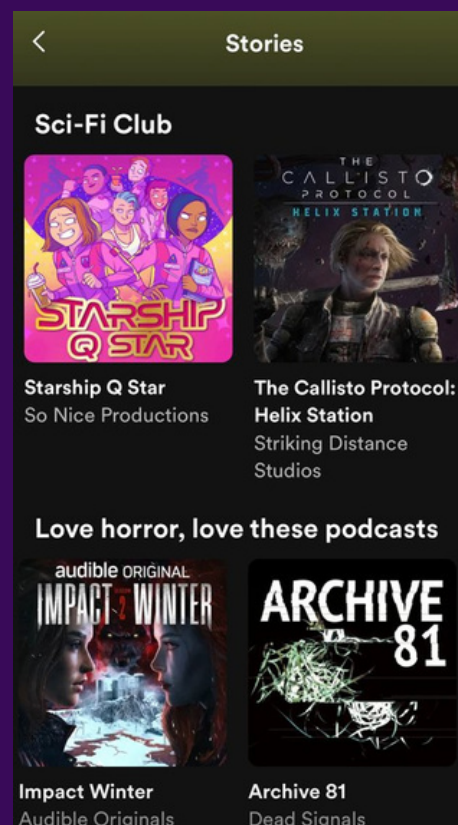
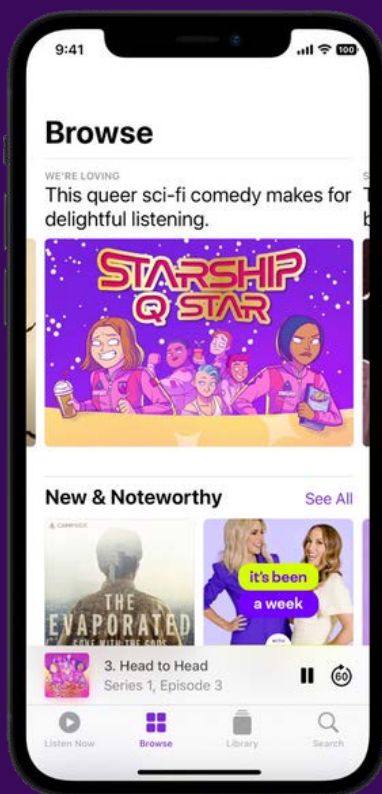
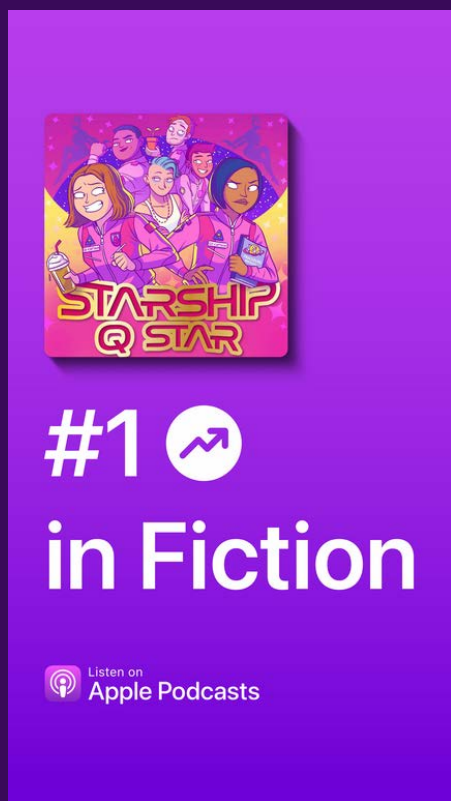
- **Australian Writers Guild AWGIE Awards** - Nomination for Best Audio - Fiction
- **Apulia Web Fest** - Best Fiction Podcast (Narrative)
- **Minnesota Webfest** - Best Original Score in a Podcast
- **New Jersey Web Fest** - Best Ensemble Cast (Narrative Podcast) and Best Series Premise.
- **New Zealand Web Fest** - Best Podcast Series Fiction
- **Bilbao Seriesland** - Best Scripted Podcast
- **Rio Webfest** - Best Podcast (Fiction), Best Cast (Podcast)



# In The Press

- [‘The best fiction podcasts worth listening to in 2023’](#) by Tal Minear for **Descript.com**
  - *“Starship Q Star is raunchy and hilarious... The writers aren’t afraid to embrace the weird and wild, and it benefits the listening experience. They don’t limit themselves to the comedic, though – there are hopeful and touching moments as well... Starship Q Star also shines in its unapologetic depiction of the queer experience, messy relationships, hopeful longing, and all the good things that come out of it.”*
- [‘12 of the Funniest Fiction Podcasts’](#) by Lauren Passell for **Lifehacker.com**
- [‘The Best New Queer Podcasts of 2023’](#) @ **QueerPodcasts.net**
  - *“Starship Q Star is a fast paced, laugh out loud romp through the galaxy... Starship Q Star is an entertaining and well produced podcast that features a talented cast, where the writing is sharp, queer and very funny.”*
- [‘12 LGBTQIA+ Fiction Podcasts You Should Listen To This Pride Month \(And Really All-Year-Round\)’](#) @ **Buzzfeed**
- [‘Awgie Award Nominations’](#) by Silvi Vann-Wall @ **Screenhub**.
- [‘New Australian TV & streaming shows in 2024’](#) by Silvi Vann-Wall @ **Screenhub**
  - *“There’s plenty of great Aussie TV coming our way – here are ScreenHub’s most anticipated Australian shows of 2024.”*
- [‘ABC and Screen Australia announce teams for Fresh Blood 3’](#) @ **IF**

# Podcast Chart Highlights

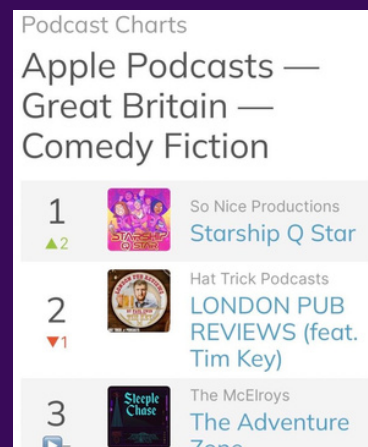
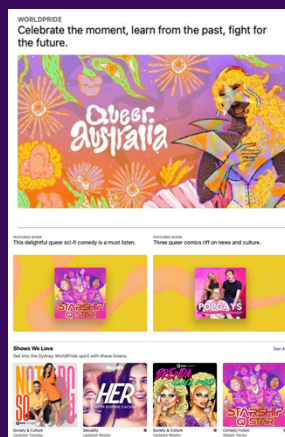
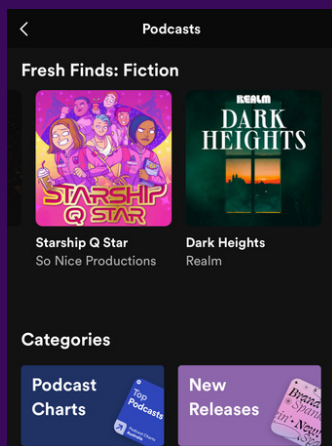


Since its release, Starship Q Star has rocketed up the podcast charts around the world, hitting #1 in Comedy Fiction in over fifty countries, and the Top 10 or better in the Fiction chart in over 50 countries including #1 in Australia.

Highlights include:

- #1 in Fiction - Apple Podcasts Australia
- #2 in Fiction - Apple Podcasts South Africa
- #3 in Fiction - Apple Podcasts Canada
- #1 in Comedy Fiction - Apple Podcasts Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and over 50 more countries!

We were also very grateful to be featured by Apple Podcasts Australia NZ on release in December 2022 and for WorldPride in February 2023, as well as Spotify ANZ in February 2023 under 'Fresh Finds: Fiction' and September in 'SciFi Club'.





# Podcast Reviews

"I can't believe I haven't yet YELLED FROM THE ROOFTOPS about how much I LOVE @starshipqstar but I do. I love it so much.

Raunchy, slapstick, sapphic science-fiction comedy at its finest, this show dares to ask: what if Mission to Zyxx was about really horny lesbians?"

— [Ella Watts, co-creator of DOCTOR WHO: REDACTED \(BBC Sounds\)](#)

Starship Q Star is a breath of fresh air. Imagine The L Word did a brief but unforgettable crossover with Star Trek, and you're somewhere in the right ballpark. This is by far the most a podcast has made me laugh out loud in a very long time. The writing itself is hilarious, but the delivery of the comedy in this show is what does it for me. This wonderfully queer cast is stock full of perfect comedic timing, each actor lending a unique voice to this cast of loveable and messy characters. It's full of queer culture in-jokes, and has found a perfect balance between futuristic sci-fi and a grounded present-day feel to the characters and their jokes (the misogynistic General in particular had me in tears laughing). There are only a few episodes out at the moment, but I'm genuinely so excited to hear more from this show, it's becoming a fast-favourite already.

★★★★★

[Leanne Egan, Podchaser Review](#)

"I absolutely love the sense of humour and heart of Starship Q Star. Beautiful, clever, funny writing that also moves you in surprising ways. There are so many great one liners, but it is the depth of emotional feeling that Meegan May and Lauren Anderson bring to the story that sets it apart from other comedy podcasts.

Like the best classic sitcoms or adult cartoons, Starship Q Star has a great cast of characters that already feel like a comfortable pair of slippers. After two episodes I'm hooked. Can't wait to hear which part of the galaxy the Starship crew takes us next!"

-- [Gregory Erdstein, Director of Australian comedy film THAT'S NOT ME](#)



The image shows a screenshot of an Apple Podcasts review for the podcast 'Starship Q Star'. The review is from the user '@starshipqstar' and is a 5-star rating. The review text reads: 'When a space agency sends the "first all non-men crew" on a PR mission to Mars, they end up the last six humans in the universe. This well written queer show is sci-fi comedy at its finest.' Below the text is a small image of the podcast cover art, which features a group of diverse characters in space suits. The review is posted on the Apple Podcasts app, with the user's profile picture and name visible at the top.



# The Creators

Collaborating since 2017, in love since 2018 - together Lauren Anderson & Meegan May have written the award-winning comedy short THE GINGER CONSPIRACY and a short work for Theatre Works as part of the Green Room Award winning SHE IS VIGILANTE. Their first full length play, THE COUNTDOWN, was developed as part of a residency with Theatre Works.

Their creation STARSHIP Q STAR was shortlisted for the Australian Writers' Guild / Audible Podcast writing competition and receiving funding from Creative Victoria and the City of Melbourne. They were both chosen to take part in Co-Curious's STORIES FROM ANOTHER AUSTRALIA initiative, and are now overseeing the production of three animated shorts based on STARSHIP Q STAR.

As showrunners for STARSHIP, Lauren and Meegan have overseen the entire process from concept development to production and post.

## Lauren Anderson ([www.laurenanderson.com.au](http://www.laurenanderson.com.au))

Lauren Anderson is a writer and producer who works across scripted and unscripted television, the stage and audio. She is passionate about creating works that surprise, entertain, and explore emotion and heart in the most unexpected of places.

Her short films have won numerous awards including a nomination for the Iris Prize. Lauren has regularly worked in the writers' rooms of Guesswork Television since 2017 and has undertaken a Screen Victoria funded writers' placement with EndemolShine Banks. Lauren has written on comedy animation series KITTY IS NOT A CAT (season 2 and 3) and is regularly on an island creating twists as a senior creative producer on the award-winning AUSTRALIAN SURVIVOR.

## Meegan May ([www.meeganmay.com](http://www.meeganmay.com))

Meegan May is an emerging writer and former military intelligence analyst. A decorated ex-soldier and veteran of the Afghanistan conflict, Meegan spent nearly five years working in military intelligence. Her TV project VIEWERS, written during her MFA in screenwriting, was shortlisted in the Australian Writers' Guild's John Hinde Award and Final Draft's Big Break Competition among others. Her recent scifi pilot WATCHME found similar success in these contests in 2022.

Meegan has worked extensively in development, including as Assistant Scripted Development Producer at Seven Studios, and as a prolific writer's assistant including on projects for Netflix, Amazon Prime's DEADLOCH, and Disney +'s THE ARTFUL DODGER.

Meegan now works regularly as a writer and is the creator and writer of Quinn Original audio series COMPROMISED, starring Victoria Pedretti.



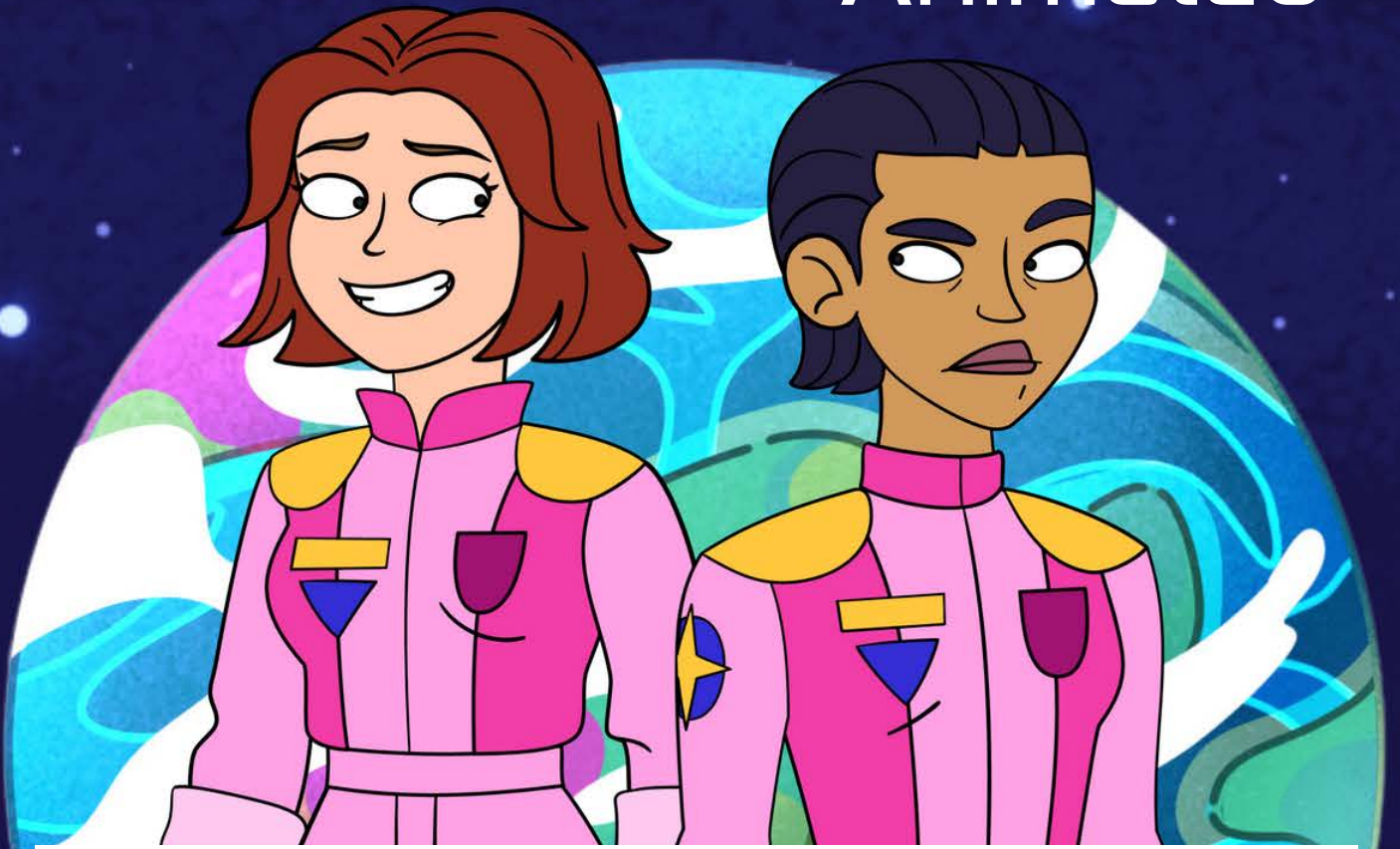
Meegan May & Lauren Anderson during development.



Lauren Anderson & Meegan May

# STARSHIP Q STAR

Animated



**Launching  
February 07!**

