

what we do in the shadows guide

What We Do in the Shadows Guide

What We Do in the Shadows is a mockumentary-style comedy series that has captivated audiences with its unique blend of humor, supernatural elements, and clever character development. Based on the 2014 film of the same name by Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi, the show presents a hilarious and often absurd take on vampire lore through the lives of four vampire roommates living in Staten Island. This detailed guide will explore the key elements of the series, its characters, thematic undertones, and why it has become a cultural phenomenon.

Overview of the Series

What We Do in the Shadows debuted on FX in March 2019 and quickly gained a loyal following. The series follows Nandor, Laszlo, Nadja, and energy vampire Colin Robinson as they navigate the complexities of modern life while dealing with their ancient curses and supernatural powers. Each episode combines traditional vampire tropes with modern-day quirks, creating a fresh and engaging narrative.

- Creators: Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi
- Premiere Date: March 27, 2019
- Network: FX
- Genre: Mockumentary, comedy, supernatural

Main Characters

The heart of What We Do in the Shadows lies in its quirky characters, each representing different facets of vampire mythology and human behavior.

Nandor the Relentless

Nandor, portrayed by Kayvan Novak, is a 750-year-old vampire who was once a fierce warrior in the Ottoman Empire. He is the de facto leader of the group but often struggles with his romantic feelings for the female vampire, Nadja.

- Characteristics:
- Loves traditional vampire customs
- Often naïve about modern human life
- Struggles with leadership responsibilities

Laszlo Cravensworth

Laszlo, played by Matt Berry, is a charismatic and sometimes selfish vampire who enjoys the pleasures of life, including music and women. He has a strong bond with Nadja, his wife, and is known for his flamboyant personality.

- Characteristics:
- Over-the-top sense of humor
- Enjoys experimenting with magic
- Has a deep love for Nadja, despite his antics

Nadja

Nadja, portrayed by Natasia Demetriou, is an assertive and cunning vampire who is deeply in love with Laszlo. She has a strong personality and isn't afraid to voice her opinions, often leading to comedic situations.

- Characteristics:
- Strong-willed and independent
- Has a knack for manipulation
- Holds a deep connection to her past life

Colin Robinson

Colin Robinson, played by Mark Proksch, is an energy vampire who feeds off the energy of others by boring them to death with mundane conversations. His unique abilities set him apart from traditional vampires, making him a unique addition to the group.

- Characteristics:
- Can drain energy by being tedious
- Often the source of dry humor
- Enjoys mundane social interactions

Supporting Characters

While the main characters are the focus, the series is enriched by a variety of supporting characters that add depth to the storyline.

- Guillermo de la Cruz: Nandor's devoted human familiar, played by Harvey Guillén. His character provides a human perspective and often finds himself in hilarious predicaments as he tries to navigate the vampire world.
- The Baron: A powerful vampire who visits the group, played by Doug Jones. His character adds tension and humor through his interactions with the main cast.
- Various Townsfolk: The series frequently features quirky Staten Island residents who interact with

the vampires, providing opportunities for comedic situations.

Thematic Elements

What We Do in the Shadows cleverly intertwines various themes, making it relatable and engaging for viewers.

Friendship and Loyalty

At its core, the series explores the dynamics of friendship and loyalty among the vampires. Despite their differences and comedic clashes, they support each other through various challenges, demonstrating that even supernatural beings can have strong bonds.

Identity and Acceptance

The vampires often struggle with their identities in a modern world. They face challenges that mirror those of contemporary society, such as acceptance and the quest for purpose. Guillermo's desire to become a vampire reflects this theme, showcasing the lengths one might go for acceptance.

Humor in Mundanity

The series thrives on humor derived from mundane situations. Whether it's dealing with human bureaucracies or engaging in petty squabbles over household chores, the vampires' reactions to everyday life provide endless comedic potential.

Episode Structure and Style

Each episode of What We Do in the Shadows follows a similar structure:

1. Introduction: The episode often begins with a mockumentary-style setup, where characters address the camera directly.
2. Conflict: A comedic conflict arises, often based on misunderstandings or the characters' supernatural abilities.
3. Resolution: The episode concludes with a humorous resolution, often leaving room for future storylines.
4. Subplots: Each episode typically includes subplots that showcase the individual quirks of the characters.

Signature Elements

- Mockumentary Style: The show employs a documentary format, allowing characters to break the fourth wall and engage directly with the audience.
- Supernatural Humor: The juxtaposition of ancient vampire lore with contemporary issues creates a unique comedic effect.
- Recurring Jokes: The series is known for its running gags, such as Nandor's inability to use modern technology and Colin Robinson's energy-draining antics.

Cultural Impact and Reception

Since its premiere, *What We Do in the Shadows* has received critical acclaim and a devoted fan base. Its unique take on vampire mythology and relatable humor have made it a standout series in the comedy genre.

- Critical Acclaim: The show has garnered numerous awards, including Primetime Emmy nominations for its writing and performances.
- Fan Community: The series has fostered a vibrant fan community, with online forums and social media platforms buzzing with discussions, fan art, and memes.
- Merchandising: The popularity of the show has led to a range of merchandise, including clothing, collectibles, and home decor inspired by the characters and themes.

Conclusion

What We Do in the Shadows is more than just a comedy about vampires; it is a rich tapestry of friendship, identity, and the absurdities of life. With its engaging characters, clever writing, and innovative style, the series continues to enchant audiences around the world. Whether you're a die-hard fan or new to the series, this guide provides a comprehensive look at the elements that make *What We Do in the Shadows* a must-watch. As the adventures of Nandor, Laszlo, Nadja, Colin, and Guillermo unfold, viewers can expect laughter, heart, and plenty of supernatural shenanigans.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'What We Do in the Shadows' about?

'What We Do in the Shadows' is a mockumentary comedy series that follows the mundane daily lives of four vampire roommates living in Staten Island, exploring their interactions with the human world and each other.

Who are the main characters in 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

The main characters include Nandor, Laszlo, Nadja, and energy vampire Colin Robinson, each representing different aspects of vampire lore and personality traits.

Is 'What We Do in the Shadows' based on a film?

Yes, the series is based on the 2014 film of the same name, which was co-written and directed by Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement.

How does the show incorporate humor?

The show uses absurdity, deadpan delivery, and situational comedy, often highlighting the vampires' outdated views and struggles to adapt to modern society.

What themes are explored in 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

The series explores themes of friendship, loneliness, immortality, cultural clash, and the mundane aspects of life, all through a comedic lens.

How has the show been received by critics and audiences?

The show has received critical acclaim for its writing, humor, and performances, earning several awards and nominations, including Emmy nominations.

Are there any spin-offs or related media?

Yes, there is a spinoff series titled 'Los Espookys,' which shares some of the same comedic sensibilities and is created by Julio Torres, Ana Fabrega, and Fred Armisen.

Where can I watch 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

The series is available for streaming on platforms like Hulu and FX, depending on your region. It's also available for purchase on various digital platforms.

Can you recommend any similar shows to 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

If you enjoy 'What We Do in the Shadows,' you might like 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine,' 'The Office,' or 'Parks and Recreation' for their similar mockumentary styles and humor.

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