

The Guide What We Do In The Shadows



The Guide to What We Do in the Shadows is an exploration into the hilarious and unique world of vampires living in the modern age, as depicted in the mockumentary film and the subsequent television series. Created by Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi, both of whom are known for their distinctive comedic styles, "What We Do in the Shadows" blends supernatural elements with deadpan humor, resulting in a cult classic that has garnered a dedicated fanbase. This article will delve into the origins of the franchise, its characters, themes, and the cultural impact it has made since its debut.

Origins of What We Do in the Shadows

Film Release

The original "What We Do in the Shadows" film was released in 2014 and quickly gained acclaim for its fresh take on the vampire genre. The film is set in Wellington, New Zealand, and follows the lives of four vampire roommates: Viago, Vladislav, Deacon, and Petyr. Shot in a mockumentary style reminiscent of "The Office," the film captures their mundane daily lives, interactions with humans, and struggles to adapt to contemporary society.

Transition to Television

In 2019, the franchise expanded with the release of the television series of the same name on FX. The show, set in Staten Island, follows a new group of vampires who face similar challenges in their attempts to navigate the modern world. The series has maintained the original film's humor while introducing new characters, story arcs, and a broader exploration of vampire lore.

Main Characters

The characters in "What We Do in the Shadows" are one of its greatest strengths, each bringing a unique personality and comedic style to the story. Here's a closer look at the main characters from both the film and the TV series:

Film Characters

1. Viago (played by Taika Waititi)

- The charming and polite vampire who is often the voice of reason among his friends. Viago struggles with modern technology and maintains a love for traditional vampire customs.

2. Vladislav (played by Jemaine Clement)

- A former dark lord with a flair for the dramatic. Vladislav is often egotistical and has a penchant for seducing women, though he often finds himself in awkward situations.

3. Deacon (played by Jonathan Brugh)

- The youngest vampire in the group, Deacon is rebellious and often tries to prove his worth. He has a soft spot for humans and occasionally breaks vampire rules.

4. Petyr (played by Ben Fransham)

- A centuries-old vampire who resembles a classic Nosferatu figure. Petyr is mysterious, often silent, and embodies the traditional traits of a vampire.

TV Series Characters

1. Nandor the Relentless (played by Kayvan Novak)

- The protagonist of the series, Nandor is a former warrior from the Ottoman Empire and tries to assert his leadership among his peers.

2. Laszlo Cravensworth (played by Matt Berry)

- A flamboyant and extravagant vampire married to Nadja. Laszlo is known for his humorous antics and love of music.

3. Nadja (played by Natasia Demetriou)

- A strong-willed vampire who is independent and fiercely loyal to her husband, Laszlo. Nadja has a complicated relationship with her human familiar.

4. Colin Robinson (played by Mark Proksch)

- A "energy vampire" who drains energy from people by being boring and tedious. His character adds a unique twist to the traditional vampire trope.

Themes and Humor

"What We Do in the Shadows" excels at blending humor with deeper themes, often reflecting on societal norms and the human experience through the lens of supernatural beings.

Contrasting Old vs. New

A recurring theme in both the film and the series is the juxtaposition of ancient vampire traditions with modern-day life. The vampires often struggle to adapt to contemporary society, leading to humorous misunderstandings and situations. For instance:

- Technology: The vampires' inability to use modern devices such as smartphones and computers often leads to comedic moments, showcasing their outdated perspectives.
- Dating: The vampires' attempts at dating in the modern world often result in awkward encounters, highlighting the challenges of romance across different eras.

Friendship and Loyalty

At its core, the series emphasizes the importance of friendship and loyalty. Despite their flaws and comedic rivalries, the vampires share a strong bond and often come together to support one another in various predicaments. This theme resonates with audiences, as it mirrors real-life relationships, albeit in a supernatural context.

Cultural Impact

The impact of "What We Do in the Shadows" on popular culture has been significant, influencing various aspects of the entertainment industry.

Genre Reinvigoration

The franchise has revitalized the vampire genre, moving away from the brooding, serious portrayals commonly seen in traditional vampire media. By introducing humor and relatable characters, it has opened the door for a new wave of supernatural comedies.

Critical Acclaim

Both the film and television series have received critical acclaim for their unique storytelling and character development. The TV series, in particular, has garnered several awards and nominations, including Emmy nominations for its writing and performances.

Merchandising and Fandom

The franchise has inspired a dedicated fanbase, leading to merchandise such as clothing, collectibles, and fan art. Conventions and fan gatherings often feature discussions and celebrations of the series, further solidifying its place in pop culture.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "What We Do in the Shadows" stands out as a remarkable blend of humor, horror, and heart, appealing to both vampire enthusiasts and general audiences alike. Through its clever writing, memorable characters, and unique approach to storytelling, it has carved a niche for itself in the world of entertainment. Whether through the original film or the expanding television series, the comedic misadventures of these vampires remind us that even the most immortal beings face the trials and tribulations of everyday life. As the franchise continues to grow, it leaves a lasting legacy that will likely influence future generations of storytellers and comedians.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the premise of 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

'What We Do in the Shadows' is a mockumentary comedy series based on the 2014 film of the same name. It follows the mundane daily lives of four vampire roommates living in Staten Island as they navigate modern life and their supernatural quirks.

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

The main characters include Nandor, the energy vampire Colin Robinson, the seductive Nadja, and the ancient vampire Laszlo. Each character brings their unique personality and comedic style to the show.

How does 'What We Do in the Shadows' blend comedy with supernatural elements?

'What We Do in the Shadows' cleverly combines comedy with supernatural elements by placing traditional vampire lore in absurd, everyday situations, allowing for humor that arises from the contrast between their powers and their mundane challenges.

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

The series explores themes of friendship, cultural differences, and the struggles of adapting to the modern world, all while maintaining a comedic tone that highlights the absurdity of the characters' predicaments.

Has 'What We Do in the Shadows' received any awards or critical acclaim?

Yes, 'What We Do in the Shadows' has received critical acclaim and several awards, including Emmy nominations, for its writing, performances, and unique take on the vampire genre.

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