

= Live Forever as You Are Now with Alan Resnick =

Live Forever as You Are Now with Alan Resnick is a television special written , created and directed by Alan Resnick and Ben O 'Brien for Adult Swim . The special is presented as a parody of self @-@ help infomercials , advertising a four @-@ step program for creating a digital avatar that acts a backup of its host . The special is hosted by Alan Resnick as himself , and is presented by Dan Deacon . Both , along with O 'Brien , are members of the Baltimore @-@ based art collective Wham City , who co @-@ produced the episode under their video production division , AB Video Solutions .

The special aired on December 24 , 2013 at 4 a.m. on Cartoon Network 's late @-@ night programming block , Adult Swim . The special was viewed by 926 @,@ 000 viewers and received a Nielsen household rating of 0 @.@ 7 . Critical reception was positive , with both the humor and the performances receiving praise .

= = Summary = =

Alan Resnick (portrayed by himself) , an emerging young tech expert and innovator , is introduced to the viewer . He tells the audience of his four @-@ step program to create a digital avatar that acts as a backup of its host , granting " the secret to eternal life " . He tells the audience of his past : two years ago , Resnick was banished to his couch after getting into a lovers ' spat with his wife , Janet . He dreamt of himself in a foggy meadow with an attractive , nude young woman (portrayed by " MKNZ ") who calls for him to engage in sex . He initially refuses , but then changes his mind , but before they are able to do so , he is shot with a gun by a nameless man (Ben O 'Brien) , which totally destroys his face . This gave him the idea to come up with a way to digitally back himself up . Two months pass , and he is able to create a " exact digital copy " of himself who calls himself " Teddy " (for unknown reasons) . " Teddy " , a floating avatar head , acts as the co @-@ host for the remainder of the program , often interrupting Resnick 's speech to talk about his " wife " .

Resnick goes on to explain the four steps behind his process :

Subjects are instructed to look in a mirror every night for five hours and observe their facial features , sketching what they recall while in the dark ; subjects are then instructed to hang up said drawings around their house .

The subject comes over to Resnick 's house , where blindingly bright patterns are projected into their eyes and face while they spin around . These patterns will be " queered " by their head form , generating three @-@ point axes , which are then " booleaned " to generate a three @-@ dimensional mesh of their head . Resnick then goes on to explain the " uncanny valley " , which leads him into his third step :

The avatars are put through a series of intensive " skin stress tests " , including " ball tests " , " wiggle tests " and " durability and tear testing " .

Resnick comes into his subjects ' house for two months to analyze their interests and personality types ; he will ask " hundreds of personal questions " involving friends , furniture , romance , animals , food , events and touch . All the information will be scanned into the USB flash drive of the subject 's computer , which makes the " brain " of their avatar .

Various testimonials are then given ; a widower and " textbook salesman " Ryan Syrell (Steve Izant) tells of the reconstruction of his wife Morgan and the creation of his own avatar . Jordan Card , an elderly woman , shows off her digital avatar , who insists that their room " is too cold . " Chester Gwazda (Caynen Couture) , a young bedridden boy , says that it was his mother 's (Michelle Word) idea , and that he would rather play football than go boogie boarding with his avatar . Concluding his seminar , Resnick thanks his audience and " Teddy " , who speaks again of the love for his wife , shown to be a pink morphing sphere . A frustrated Resnick scolds his creation and informs the audience that his avatar is autonomous , and that he is being manipulative and disappointing . He reminds the viewer to purchase his program through the following informational screen .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

The series was originally developed as a comedy sketch by Alan Resnick , as part of his comedy tours with the Baltimore @-@ based art collective Wham City , best known for their work with Dan Deacon . The skit , first conceived in 2009 and roughly modeled after TED Talks , features Resnick telling the audience how to create a complete digital backup of himself . Long @-@ time associate Ben O 'Brien co @-@ produced , directed and edited the special along with Resnick . In addition , both co @-@ produced the episode under their video production division , AB Video Solutions . Resnick , along with set decorator Emma Alamo , transformed Resnick 's house into the set of the special .

The collective had pitched a Wham City television sitcom to Adult Swim before , but according to Resnick , the network insisted that " no one would ever watch more than one episode . " Resnick named Mr. Show with Bob and David , The Kids in the Hall and the Upright Citizens Brigade as influences on the special . Dave Hughes , creator of the series Off the Air , who had discussed with the group about developing a series , took note of Resnick 's sketch and helped the collective develop it into an infomercial . After airing the special , Wham City featured the skit for their comedy tour of New York City . Resnick informed Network Awesome that they will probably not produce any more fake infomercials , and that O 'Brien is working with the network to create something that viewers will " stumble on unintentionally . "

= = Broadcast and reception = =

Live Forever as You Are Now with Alan Resnick aired on December 24 , 2013 at 4 a.m. on Adult Swim . It was the third in a series of infomercial parodies broadcast by the network , succeeding Broomshakalaka and For @-@ Profit Online University . The early @-@ morning timeslot was chosen since infomercials usually air during such hours . The special was published onto Adult Swim 's YouTube channel the same day . The special was viewed by 926 @,@ 000 viewers and received a Nielsen household rating of 0 @.@ 7 , meaning that approximately 0 @.@ 7 percent of households with a television watched it . A web chat allowing users to converse with " Teddy " was created for the network 's website .

The special has received positive critical reception . In talking about Resnick with regards to the special , Baltimore City Paper 's Baynard Woods wrote that it " combines the traditional kind @-@ of @-@ creepy positivity of the infomercial host with the creepy techno @-@ utopian positivity of a TED Talk 's technologist . " He ultimately opined that the humor derived from " the disconnect between what Resnick claims ? that his avatar is a complete backup of himself ? and the reality that it is not at all like him and is , in fact , extremely limited . " Ezra Lefko of What Weekly , another Baltimore @-@ based publication , praised the special . In particular , he expressed his approval of seeing " success and national exposure for these talented artists . " Lea McLellan of Mountain Xpress called it " hilarious " and " a good representation of their bizarre comedic stylings . "

= = Explanatory notes = =