Bigipedia

Bigipedia is a comedy sketch show broadcast on BBC Radio 4 that first aired between 23 July and 13 August 2009 . A second series of four episodes began on 12 July 2011 . The show 's storyline revolves around " Bigipedia " , a fictional website broadcast on radio and parody of Wikipedia , the online encyclopedia . The series mocks Wikipedia and other aspects of the Internet . The BBC Press Office described the show as , " a unique experiment in ' broadwebcasting ' " . The series was created by co @-@ star Nick Doody , who also co @-@ writes the show with Matt Kirshen and a wider team of writers . It is produced by Pozzitive Productions .

Critics have given Bigipedia positive reviews . The series was marketed by the BBC as " The Sunday Format for the online age " , and critics have given Bigipedia favourable comparisons with its predecessor . The quality of the writing has also been praised . However , a few critics have expressed reservations about the way the show is presented . The first series of Bigipedia was made available to purchase as a download from Audible.co.uk from 1 December 2009 . The second series was made available to purchase as a download from AudioGo from 5 December 2011 .

Plot

Bigipedia is a website broadcast on the radio . Like Wikipedia , it contains articles and discussion pages about a range of different subjects , which can be edited by anyone . Among the similarities are articles , discussion pages , disambiguation pages , featured articles , a news section and a " Did you know ? " section for new articles . The articles cover a range of fictional celebrities , bands , films , television series , products and a running gag series of articles on anthropomorphic animal characters from Uruguayan safety campaigns .

Bigipedia differs from Wikipedia in some ways . For example , Bigipedia includes puzzles and competitions , sells its own software , has a range of screensavers , and a section for children called Bigikids , which has had different names in the past which have all had to be changed for different reasons . For example , the name changed from Kidipedia " due to a misunderstanding " , Hanging at the School Gates " for reasons you may have seen in the news " and Underage Fun " due to a copyright infringement " .

Also , while Wikipedia does not have advertising , Bigipedia does and is also sponsored by a fictional wine @-@ like drink called " Chianto " which is referred to as " this horrific drink " . The Bigipedia article on Chianto says : " Over the years it has been sold as a hair remover , self @-@ defence spray , hair restorer , and to farmers as a humane way of killing chickens ? by putting it into the pig 's feed and leaving the gate open . By morning not only were the chickens killed , but often plucked , too . "

The first series ended with Bigipedia attempting to take over the world , having crushed a rebellion in the Philippines and feeding nanobots into the heads of anyone listening to the programme . At the start of the second series , Bigipedia acknowledges that the original Bigipedia , dubbed Bigipedia 1 @.@ 0 suffered from " security and sentient omniscience issues " and apologises for , " the temporary cyber enslavement of 88 % of mankind and the forming of a BigiHuman hybrid hivemind centred in the Philippines " , in an incident they refer to as " The Glitch " . The site has been updated and is now known as Bigipedia 2 @.@ 0 .

The second series begins with reports of a gigantic Chianto slick in the Gulf of Mexico , a parody of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill . At the end of the series , a mix of white and red Chianto in the slick result in the creation of a Chianto " ovum " , which hatches at the bottom of the sea as a monstrous party @-@ animal being called the Chianto Leviathan , which makes its way to the Bigipedia servers in Mexico . The Leviathan attempts to gain all the world 's knowledge by accessing the system . The programme ends with Bigipedia playing " prerecorded programmes " while they attempt to stop the Leviathan .

Production

The series was originally conceived by Doody , who was working with producer David Tyler on another BBC Radio 4 comedy series , Armando Iannucci 's Charm Offensive . Doody attended a meeting where people were discussing new ideas for radio shows , and Kirshen suggested the idea , and both he and Kirshen wrote the full proposal . Radio 4 liked the idea and a pilot was made . Tyler went on to produce and direct Bigipedia .

Doody and Kirshen describe the show as " writing @-@ heavy " . Doody said in an interview with the British Comedy Guide : " Compared to most radio shows , it 's incredibly dense , material @-@ wise , and very fast @-@ moving . I think Matt and I would like some of it to be even faster , but sometimes people who 've heard the pilot say things like , " It 's almost too much . " I really like that . I like that it 's something you kind of need to hear twice to catch everything . When we got the series , I honestly didn 't know where we 'd come up with the material of the quality we were determined to keep up . "

Some of the sketches in Bigipedia are inspired directly by articles on Wikipedia . Kirshen said in the same interview : " There 's a ' Bee Whisperer ' in Episode 3 that came from clicking the " Random article " link on Wikipedia . I don 't remember what the page we got was , but about three logical leaps later we landed on that idea . "

It was revealed by Doody on his Doubling Up podcast with Rob Heeney that there was an extended edition of " The Line " sketch , which he broadcast on the show .

= = Reception = =

The reviews of Bigipedia have been mainly positive . Before the series began , Scott Matthewman in The Stage compared Bigipedia to The Sunday Format , saying : " Indeed , the comparison even makes it into the BBC 's own press notes . Will this version , which takes the mickey out of online communication , deserve the comparison ? That 's something we 'll have to wait and see . " Chris Maume in The Independent on Sunday also commented that there are references to Spinal Tap , On the Hour and Brass Eye .

Elisabeth Mahoney in The Guardian said that she liked the Chianto running gag , while Gillian Reynolds from the Daily Telegraph commented positively on Bigipedia saying it was , " the first late @-@ night comedy in ages that has made me laugh , about computers and why I 'm scared of them , about vile TV shows and meaningless commercials . Written by Nick Doody and Matt Kirshen , performed with zest by a sparkling cast . Bound to become a cult . " Reviewing the second series Elizabeth Day in The Observer described Bigipedia as , " a hilariously mad portrayal of information overload in the computer age . "

Clare Heal in the Sunday Express gave a mixed review , saying that while she found it amusing , it was too similar to the Internet saying , " The programme 's only failing was that on occasion it was a little to [sic] reminiscent of the real Internet , ie a virtual ocean full of morons willing to shout loudly about things even (or perhaps especially) if they know nothing about them . You wouldn 't want more than half an hour of Bigipedia , no matter how amusing it is . "

= = Episodes = =

= = = Series 1 = = =

= = = Series 2 = = =