

= Off the Air ( TV series ) =

Off the Air is an American anthology television series created by Dave Hughes for Adult Swim . The series is presented without explanation or narration as a showcase of surreal footage arranged around a single loose theme ( expressed in the episode title ) and blended without pause into a single continuous presentation .

Hughes , a former employee of MTV Animation , first pitched it to Mike Lazzo at Adult Swim after producing a video mixtape for the network 's 2010 Carnival Tour event . As a result of its 4 a.m. graveyard slot and small selection of episodes , the series remains relatively unknown on the network , but has been received positively and dubbed a cult phenomenon by critics and Adult Swim itself .

= = Synopsis = =

The series is presented without explanation or narration as a showcase of surreal footage ? animations , short films , music videos , viral videos , film and TV clips , stock footage and morphing psychedelic imagery ? arranged around a single loose theme ( expressed in the episode title ) and blended without pause into a single continuous presentation .

= = Production = =

Series creator Dave Hughes first started working for Adult Swim in 2003 after an eight @-@ year stint with MTV Animation , where he had edited series such as Beavis and Butt @-@ head and Celebrity Deathmatch . Hughes , who saw Adult Swim " slipping away from its more experimental roots " as it got popular , had the concept for Off the Air in mind before , but never thought he would be the one to make it . While living in New York , 120 Minutes , Concrete TV , Liquid Television and Night Flight were among some of the experimental programming that exposed him " to a whole new world of ideas , music and people that I just didn 't see anywhere else on television . "

Hughes first pitched the series to the network through Mike Lazzo at Adult Swim sometime after late 2009 , after producing a video mixtape that would be projected behind musical performers for the network 's 2010 Carnival Tour event . He compiled footage for the mixtape using the Prelinger Archives , as well as various online sources , and applied visual effects to them " until you didn 't quite know what you were looking at . " He originally imagined for it to exist as a " bizarre collection " of Internet and archival footage intertwined with clips from Adult Swim shows , " set to good music . " He ultimately had to omit the latter material , however , as the network would still have to acquire licenses for their own series in derivative works . He found that once they were gone , " the show really opened up . "

In putting an episode together , Hughes seeks clips " with some kind of truth or integrity to them " , opting for both viral videos in addition to ones with fewer view counts . Tracking down licensees for clips proves to be the most difficult aspect of the process , he stated , with co @-@ producers Cody DeMatteis and Alan Steadman assisting him in pursuit of material hard to obtain . When asked if getting consent for other 's work posed a challenge , Hughes noted it to be helpful working under the " Adult Swim banner " , with only a few artists responding with reluctance . He wrote that each piece of the episode is treated with protection , not " trying to exploit anyone or make fun of anything or anybody . "

Each episode is edited using Final Cut Pro , along with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe After Effects for further manipulation ( often employing data @-@ moshing techniques ) . Hughes observed a large portion of producing episodes to stem from " finding the right music to go with the visuals , or vice versa " , and found transitions to " really help keep it moving . " Likewise , Hughes digressed from Liquid Television 's use of longer segments in order to make the series a " larger event rather than a series of smaller events " , and found visual effects and transitions to be " a huge part " of his theory in making an episode .

A compilation of videos that were once considered to be featured in the first season had been

published on the network 's official blog . These videos , extending into its second season as well as hosting various other supplemental material , have since been published onto Network Awesome . A compilation of material from the first season and additional shorts was given a theatrical release at Cinefamily on August 25 , 2012 , which Hughes attended .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

Its pilot episode , " Animals " , premiered on Adult Swim on New Year 's Day 2011 at 4 a.m. ; it was broadcast twice in a row , back @-@ to @-@ back . Episodes have continued to air in this time slot ? considered a graveyard slot in broadcast programming ? and as a result of this and its small selection of episodes , the series remains relatively unknown on the network . However , Austin McManus of Juxtapoz noted word of mouth to be " gradually spreading " about it . He and the network also described the show as a cult phenomenon . Two specials have been produced : " Dan Deacon : U.S.A. " , broadcast July 6 , 2013 , consists of surreal footage of American landscapes , with music from the last four tracks of the album America by Dan Deacon . A second special ? the second season episode " Nightmares " played in reverse ? aired after Halloween night on November 1 , 2014 .

It has received positive critical reception , with McManus conducting an eight @-@ page interview and profile of Hughes in appreciation of the series . The magazine had previously published a special issue centered on the network and its shows in July 2012 , but overlooked Off the Air , presenting an " opportunity to shed a little insight and background on an extraordinary unique show . " Speaking from the first time he watched it , McManus praised it for not being " your typical try @-@ too @-@ hard @-@ to @-@ be @-@ weird production . " In Adweek , Sam Thielman ranked it second place out of 18 other programs on the network . He tied it with the network 's parody infomercial specials and wrote that it was " in the same category as King Star King among things that are so cool and strange that they look like they should probably be part of a video installation in an art gallery somewhere . "

For Neon Tommy , Jeremy Fuster called it " a dark , unspeakable corner of television where no light can reach and only the sleepless and drug @-@ addled dare to venture . " Amanda McCorquodale of the Miami New Times joked that , for artists featured on the show , " nothing compares to the prestige of sharing a network with Tim & Eric and Brak , right ? " Ultimately , she saw it as the " already bizarre network 's foray into out @-@ there visual experimentation . " Writing for The Fader , Matthew Trammell regarded it as " when things get really interesting . " PQ Ribber of The Overnightscape Underground dubbed the series a " modern version " of Liquid Television and called it " really kinda spiffy , and trippy , and cool . " Casper Kelly sought inspiration from the show during the production of his short film for the network , Too Many Cooks .

Ratings @-@ wise , several episodes have surpassed one million views according to Nielsen Media Research . Hughes added that he follows the series ' ratings when it occurs to him , but does not receive further analytics . He found it to trend on Twitter during the weeks of its airing , and likes viewing user 's statuses regarding it . In particular , he enjoys reactions from people who wake up to it after falling asleep to the network , and judged from the online response that its audience would be " pretty young , late teens , early 20s " and " strangely positive and engaged . " The network has broadcast praise of the show written by viewers in the form of bumpers , often hinting at further episodes being produced . Episodes have been distributed to sites like YouTube , while a continuous online stream of the show was launched by the network on September 5 , 2014 . On December 19 , 2014 , the show 's Facebook page announced that additional exclusive material will be added to the livestream .

= = Episodes = =

= = Explanatory notes = =

