



The Guild: Season Four DVD Review

Felicia Day's groundbreaking web series continues with all new adventures in gaming.

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If you're not on board the Guild bandwagon by now, there's probably no point in explaining the phenomenon to you. Either you get it or you don't. Four seasons in and the production values haven't increased much, a lot of the acting is still awkward and many of jokes are only funny if you're familiar with the social aspects of MMORPGs, particularly World of Warcraft. If you can get past those issues, [The Guild](#) remains one of the most endearing and impressive online series ever made.

In Season 4, Codex (creator-writer-producer [Felicia Day](#)) has to deal with the consequences of the Season 3 finale, in which she hooked up with Fawkes (recurring guest star [Wil Wheaton](#)), the leader of the rival guild Axis of Anarchy. She quickly finds out that what she interpreted as the beginning of a relationship, he considered a one-night stand. To save face with her guild, she asks him to pretend to be her boyfriend and he agrees, only after figuring out that their relationship breeds discontent among the members of the Knights of Good. Codex also struggles with a malfunctioning computer, which leads her to accepting a job that's, in gamer terms, way above her level. In exchange for time on the manager's computer, she promises to drum up business online for the struggling theme restaurant Cheesy Beards.



Meanwhile, the rest of the guild – which includes Vork (Jeff Lewis), Zaboo (Sandeep Parikh), Tink (Amy Okuda), Clara (Robin Thorsen) and Bladezz (Vincent Caso) – is fighting over the acquisition of a customized in-game guild hall. It's a costly vanity item, so the group decides that the player who earns the most gold will get to design it. Hijinks ensue as the members try to outdo each other with their money-making schemes. Vork's attempt to corner the commodities market in the game also opens the door for the return of Zaboo's mom, whom we first met as the big boss of Season 1.

Most of the fun moments in Season 4 are provided by Day and Wheaton (plus an amusing cameo by Simon Helberg of Big Bang Theory and Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog). These professional actors stand out head and shoulders above the rest of the cast. Wheaton obviously enjoys playing bad guys these days, just look at his appearances on Big Bang Theory and Leverage, and his chemistry with Day is evident.



Unfortunately, I find myself liking this supposedly evil character far more than any of the others who are supposed to be on the side of good. By now I was hoping to see some growth or even some likable qualities in the guild members, but with the exception of Zaboo (who has gone from creepy stalker to merely annoying hanger-on) their personality disorders don't seem to be mellowing out at all. Were it not for the adorable Day at the center of it, I would have given up on The Guild long ago.

Just as with the past seasons, the value of this DVD release will vary from user to user. The Guild has always been free to watch online, so casual viewers may find it hard to justify buying the DVD for just 12 short episodes. Then again, those episodes may not be available forever, and if you want to go back and watch them in the future, the DVD may be the only way to go. There are also some great special features included here – like commentaries with the cast and crew, production featurettes, a table read, a gag reel and a download of the script – that give some added value to this release. In addition to those, you'll find the Bollywood-inspired "Game On" music video and a making-of featurette about it.



Some advances have been made in the video and sound quality, though the presentation is still far from high tech. The picture is much more polished, without the soft haze that plagued earlier episodes. Digital flaws like edge enhancement and jagged edges have also been kept to a minimum. Sound is also clearer, presented in a limited stereo track. It's great if you're watching on your computer screen and listening through headphones, but in a large home-theater environment don't expect anything spectacular.

Coming up in Season 5, a gaming convention most likely inspired by the cast's experiences at Blizzcon. Here's hoping for continued improvement. See you there!