



Skibidi Toilet

Skibidi Toilet is a machinima web series created by Alexey Gerasimov and released through YouTube videos and shorts on his channel *DaFuq!?Boom!* (/dəˈfʌkˈbuːm/). Produced using Source Filmmaker, the series follows a war between human-headed toilets and humanoid characters with electronic devices for heads.

Since the first short was posted in February 2023, *Skibidi Toilet* has become viral as an internet meme on various social media platforms, particularly among Generation Alpha. Many commentators saw their embrace of the series as Generation Alpha's first development of a unique internet culture. The show has a wide range of licensed products, and Gerasimov is "in talks" with Adam Goodman and Michael Bay for a film and television series adaptation.

Plot

The series depicts a conflict between singing human-headed toilets—the titular "Skibidi Toilets"—and humanoids with CCTV cameras, speakers, and televisions in place of their heads. The Skibidi Toilets, led by "G-Toilet", overtake humanity. Warfare soon develops between the toilets and the alliance of Cameramen and Speakermen. Each kind of the alliance has a colossal version of themselves, termed "Titans". The Titan Speakerman is infected with a mind-control parasite developed by the toilets' second-in-command and chief strategist, "Scientist Toilet", causing the Titan Speakerman to turn on the alliance. The alliance is expanded to include a species of TV-headed humanoids, and, with their help, Titan Speakerman is eventually cured.

As the military of both sides continue to advance technologically, the Titans attempt to hunt down G-Toilet. Though their combined powers are occasionally a match for his abilities, his legions intervene each time, allowing him to escape. After a strike mission on the toilets' secret underground laboratory, the Scientist Toilet is finally defeated, but only one member of the team survives, a Cameraman called

Skibidi Toilet



Thumbnail of the first episode depicting one of the titular Skibidi Toilets

Genre	<u>Machinima</u>
Created by	Alexey Gerasimov (DaFuq!?Boom!)
Country of origin	<u>Georgia</u>
<u>No.</u> of seasons	25
<u>No.</u> of episodes	77

Original release

Network	<u>YouTube</u>
Release	7 February 2023 – present

Plungerman. Having met a mysterious human seemingly involved in the creation of the toilets, the Plungerman is assassinated as a loose end. Meanwhile, fractures between the Skibidi Toilets and the "Astro Toilets", a mysterious splinter faction of powerful extraterrestrial toilets, erupt into violence, and the alliance and Skibidi Toilets enter into a makeshift alliance against their common enemy.

Production

Skibidi Toilet is produced by Alexey Gerasimov (Russian: Алексей Герасимов, born 1997 or 1998),^[1] also known by his alias "Blugray" or the name of his YouTube channel, "DaFuq!?Boom!"^{[2][3]} He lives in Georgia and has been learning animation since 2014.^[note 1] His channel has seen prior hits; his video *I'M AT DIP* accumulated over 45 million views by July 2023, for example.^[2]

The first episode of *Skibidi Toilet* was released on 7 February 2023 (UTC), with an 11-second runtime.^[14] The video, titled "skibidi toilet", depicts a toilet with a man's head coming out of it singing a song that prominently features the word "skibidi".^[15] Every episode is produced using Source Filmmaker, a free Valve-published 3D computer graphics software, often used to create and edit clips and movies online.^[5] Some assets used in the series are taken from video games such as Half-Life 2 and Counter-Strike: Source.^[4] The Skibidi Toilet in the first episode, for example, features the head model of a Civilian (Male_07) from *Half-Life 2* (pictured above).^[16]

An unlicensed^[6] mashup of the songs "Give It to Me" by Timbaland^[1] and "Dom Dom Yes Yes" by Bulgarian artist Biser King,^[12] created by TikTok user @doombreaker03,^[17] appears in early episodes as the Skibidi Toilets' theme, and is later invoked as their battle cry.^[1] In 2024, the two songs' publisher Universal Music Group issued copyright complaints against the full version of the mashup, causing some videos featuring the mashup to be taken down.^[6] "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" by Tears for Fears is featured in some videos as the resistance forces' theme.^[18]

"Dom Dom Yes Yes" gained popularity in 2022 through the viral videos of Turkish TikToker @yasincengiz38 dancing to the song with platters of food.^{[10][5]} TikTok user Paryss Bryanne parodied this meme, complementing it with her style of jerky acting with rapid cuts. Gerasimov cites her adaptation as one of the inspirations for *Skibidi Toilet*.^[4] In an interview, he said he was also inspired by recurring nightmares involving toilets.^{[19][20]} Ultimately, Gerasimov said that *Skibidi Toilet*'s backbone is the other machinima videos created using sandbox game Garry's Mod, which were popular in the late 2000s and number in the thousands.^[19]

In the show's early days, Gerasimov uploaded at least two videos weekly, and at times, even daily,^[19] though the time between episodes has since been extended to improve quality,^[8] and video lengths have increased. Since YouTube's recommendation algorithm tends to prefer frequent uploaders, the initial upload schedule may have helped the show go viral.^[14] As of January 2024, the series is reportedly being investigated by the Russian police for its alleged harm to children, following a report made by a Moscow resident.^{[8][21]} In April 2024, the videos were presented to the legislative assembly of Saint Petersburg as a demonstration in an annual children's safety report.^[19]

The show contains numerous references to video games, such as G-Toilet having the face of the G-Man, a character from the Half-Life video game series. The Speakermen's oft-performed dances are from the battle royale game Fortnite.^[1]

Business Insider called the series "an endless arms race as both the toilets and their foes [produce] stronger fighters".^[18] Technology website *Wired* credited the show's minimal use of dialogue for removing language barriers and aiding in the show's global popularity.^[19] *The New Yorker* argued that whereas early episodes of the series were short in time frame and relied on jump scares from the Skibidi Toilets in the endings, later episodes were longer and often lack the signature "skibidi" song.^[22]

Reception and influence

Popularity

Skibidi Toilet's audience is predominantly Generation Alpha, those born since the early 2010s. While the series does not appear on YouTube Kids, an app designed for children under 13, it is popular among elementary school students.^[1] Kim Kardashian's 11-year-old daughter gave her a necklace reading "Skibidi Toilet".^[23] Some members of older generations have called the show "brain rot",^[24] while other internet users argue Generation Z had its share of bizarre memes.^[25]

Skibidi Toilet has sparked its audience to create fanworks, such as games, fan fiction, and art,^[1] as well as the Generation Alpha slang "skibidi", which has no established definition.^[26] The series has found its way into internet memes and Instagram videos.^[1] One TikTok meme nonsensically swaps some words in song lyrics with Generation Alpha slang, including *skibidi*, for humorous effect.^[27] Viral videos have surfaced where children sit inside containers and mimic the toilets.^[1]

Fans have expanded on the show's lore by making analysis videos and giving their theories in YouTube's comment section.^[19] There are *Skibidi Toilet* games on Roblox, a game platform, the two largest of which attract millions of players each month.^[3]

In 2021, *DaFuq!?Boom!* had around one million subscribers.^[14] By November 2023, YouTube videos associated with *Skibidi Toilet* had accumulated over 65 billion views. On TikTok, the #skibiditoilet hashtag garnered 23 billion views by July 2024.^[14] In December 2023, the channel *DaFuq!?Boom!* had amassed 37 million subscribers, experiencing rapid growth that, on occasion, had surpassed growth of MrBeast, the most subscribed channel on YouTube. *The Washington Post* called it "the biggest online phenomenon of the year".^[1]



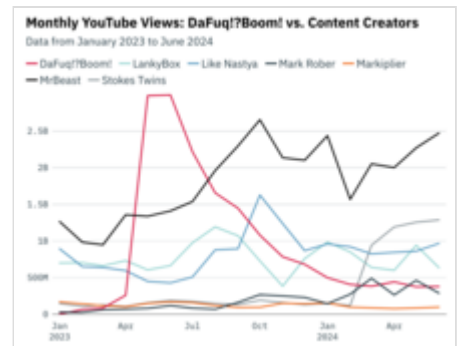
Skibidi Toilet cosplayers during the Corso de Corsos celebration of Cochabamba

According to *Tubefilter* rankings, by the end of April 2023, *DaFuq!?Boom!* entered the 50 most viewed YouTube channels in the U.S., at 33rd place. By June, the channel had gained five billion views, making it the most viewed YouTube channel in the U.S. that month.^[28] On 24 July 2024, the channel had 17 billion total views, with 16.3 billion views from February 2023 to June 2024. The channel's views have since declined, with only 374.1 million views in May 2024.^[14]

Tubefilter's editor Sam Gutelle noted that the channel was formerly largely under the radar except for a few "animation diehards in the meme community".^[28] *The Daily Dot*'s offshoot publication *Passionfruit* suspected the popularity of the series was due to how the "designs combined a simple, cute style with

more uncanny elements", citing other popular characters like Sans and Siren Head.^[17]

Skibidi Toilet was referenced on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, with a short parody animation depicting President Joe Biden as a Skibidi Toilet, dubbed "Skibidi Biden". *Kotaku* called the joke "the worst thing Stephen Colbert's ever done".^[29] One of the 250 snowplows of the Vermont Agency of Transportation was named "Skibidi Scooper", chosen by the Albany Community School.^[30]



Monthly viewcount comparison with other popular YouTubers^[note 2] from the *Variety* magazine^[14]

Critical reception

The lifestyle magazine *Dazed* called *Skibidi Toilet* "frenetic, unpredictable, funny and at times genuinely unsettling."^[5] Yahoo!'s *In The Know* compared its animation style to that of a mobile game, with "choppy movements and exaggerated facial expressions".^[31] *Cartoon Brew*, an animation-focused website, wrote that while *Skibidi Toilet* "may look rough around the edges compared to major studio fare [...] there is no question that Gerasimov is a filmmaker who understands pacing, camerawork, sound design, and how to tell a story."^[2]

Many publications highlighted a viral tweet in which Twitter user @AnimeSerbia called the series Generation Alpha's Slender Man.^{[5][4]} *Insider* said the series exemplifies the start of a new generation gaining prominence, using the relationship between millennials and Gen Z as an example,^[32] a claim that *Indy100* repeated: "[Gen Z] will be facing the same mocking and ridicule they dished out to Millennials".^[7] *News.com.au* wrote that the series "is a timely reminder that Gen Alpha are on the horizon".^[33]

The Washington Post noted the series' uniqueness in creating a narrative entirely out of short-form videos and YouTube's ability to stay relevant while competing with TikTok.^[1] In a guest piece for Ryan Broderick's newsletter *Garbage Day*, Adam Bumaz said the series leans into "weird internet aesthetics", creating a nostalgic element.^[34] *Business Insider* echoed this stance, remarking on the series' use of old video game assets.^[18] An article by theatre firm *The Civilians* argued the series reflects Generation Alpha's fear of surveillance and dehumanization.^[35] Likewise, Laura Glitsos et al. argued the Cameramen represent the constant recording and 'sousveillance' Generation Alpha feels. They contend the series showcases the dystopia brought by the "monstrous digital", raising discussions about artificial life and environmental destruction.^[36]

Several parental websites^[1] and Indonesian newspapers^{[37][38][39]} claimed that *Skibidi Toilet*'s violence and bizarre visuals may have a harmful effect on young children, dubbing it "Skibidi toilet syndrome" (Indonesian: *sindrom Skibidi toilet*). *The Guardian* dismissed such claims as a "moral panic".^[8] *The Daily Telegraph* called on regulators to mandate age restrictions on online videos similar to the film industry, citing *Skibidi Toilet*'s perceived violence.^[40] But *Wired* wrote that while violence is constant, it is limited to "cartoonish explosions and punches".^[19] *Common Sense Media* rated the series suitable for age 14 and above.^[41]

Adaptations and licensing

On 24 July 2024, it was announced that filmmakers Adam Goodman and Michael Bay were "in talks" with Gerasimov for a movie and television series adaptation of *Skibidi Toilet*.^[11] Goodman revealed that the adaptation may be a live-action/animation hybrid film, and that it may be stylistically similar to the *John Wick* and *District 9* franchises.^[16] The announcement was skeptically received: *The A. V. Club* said it would be difficult to "translate [...] Internet subculture into traditional formats",^[42] and *Gizmodo* wrote that a movie would have to be "unfathomably expensive to present an experience that's somehow 'deluxe' to its inspiration".^[43] The magazine *Complex* has commented that Bay would be a perfect filmmaker for the adaptation, citing his work in the *Transformers* film series.^[44]

The media company Invisible Narratives is run by Bay (chief creative advisor) and Goodman (CEO and founder). It has agreed to act as a brand licensing agency for Gerasimov. The company has made a licensing deal with Bonkers Toys, which is known for creating merchandise from YouTube content, to produce *Skibidi Toilet* toys.^[3] In 2024, Bonkers Toys released *Skibidi Toilet* mystery boxes and action figures in stores, including at Walmart.^[45] The National Electrical Contractors Association has been contracted to manufacture branded remote-controlled devices such as drones.^[3] American retailer Spirit Halloween has obtained a license to sell *Skibidi Toilet* costumes.^[46] The company said it encourages fan-run YouTube channels to create *Skibidi Toilet* content as long as attribution is present.^{[14][3]}

In late 2023,^[47] a Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) claim was filed against sandbox game *Garry's Mod*, allegedly by Invisible Narratives, which claimed to be on Gerasimov's behalf.^[48] Garry Newman, the creator of *Garry's Mod*, shared the alleged notice on Discord on 29 July 2024. It claimed *Garry's Mod* was using copyrighted *Skibidi Toilet* characters including "Titan Cameraman, Titan Speakerman, Titan TV man, and Skibidi Toilet" as well as that "There is absolutely no licensed Steam, Valve, Garry's Mod content related to *Skibidi Toilet*."^[49] Gerasimov later posted that he did not send the claim, and that he was trying to contact Newman. Newman later confirmed to *IGN* that he and Gerasimov had been in touch and the matter had been resolved.^{[50][47]} The United States Copyright Office shows the character "Titan Cameraman" as claimed by Invisible Narratives on 21 August 2023.^{[51][47]}

In December 2024, the video game *Fortnite* introduced characters and items from *Skibidi Toilet* as purchasable cosmetics, following a teaser tweet. The full bundle was priced at 2,200 V-Bucks, Fortnite's in-game currency, equivalent to approximately \$20 USD.^{[52][53][54]}



Michael Bay is planned to direct the film adaptation of *Skibidi Toilet*.



Company logo of Invisible Narratives

See also

- Elsagate, a YouTube controversy
- List of Internet phenomena

- Surreal humor
- Toilet humor
- YouTube poop, a genre of humorous mashups

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Notes

1. Sources differ on whether Gerasimov merely resides in Georgia^{[2][4][5][6][7]} or is actually of Georgian nationality.^{[8][9]} Some sources used the wording "from Georgia".^{[10][11][12]} According to [IrishStar.com](https://www.irishtar.com), he is originally from Russia and only moved to Georgia in 2019.^[13]

2. Wikipedia articles for the YouTubers in the graph: LankyBox, Like Nastya, Mark Rober, Markiplier, MrBeast, and Stokes Twins

External links

- Playlist of *Skibidi Toilet* (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-ZXraMeHBPJHXBhrNowJaQsl-yqtUg-tZ&si=bBbpWHhZlkqclz0Q>) on YouTube
 - DaFuq!?Boom! (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsSsgPaZ2GSmO6il8Cb5iGA>) – Alexey Gerasimov's YouTube channel
 - DaFuq!?Boom!'s YouTube stats (https://socialblade.com/youtube/c/da_fuqboom) – by Social Blade
 - *Skibidi Toilet* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27814427/>) at IMDb
 - *Dexerto* interview with Alexey Gerasimov (<https://www.dexerto.com/entertainment/dafuqboom-skibidi-toilet-interview-2194741/>)
 - "Attack of the Skibidi Toilets" (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/08/25/opinion/cartoon-sage-stossel-attack-of-the-skibidi-toilets/>) – editorial cartoon by Sage Stossel for the *Boston Globe*
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