

what we do in the shadows parents guide

****What We Do in the Shadows Parents Guide: Navigating the Supernatural Comedy****

what we do in the shadows parents guide is an essential resource for parents who want to understand the popular TV series and film franchise before deciding if it's appropriate for their family. With its blend of supernatural elements, dark comedy, and sometimes mature themes, "What We Do in the Shadows" can be a bit confusing for parents trying to gauge what their kids might be exposed to. This guide aims to clarify the show's content, tone, and suitability while offering insights into its humor and themes.

Understanding "What We Do in the Shadows"

"What We Do in the Shadows" started as a mockumentary film directed by Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement, which cleverly parodied vampire lore. It later expanded into a television series that follows the daily lives of a group of vampire roommates living in modern-day Staten Island. The show combines horror elements with comedy, presenting traditional vampire myths in a hilarious and often absurd light.

Why Parents Should Be Informed

While the show might seem like a straightforward comedy, it contains content that might not be suitable for younger audiences. It includes supernatural violence, adult language, and occasional sexual references, all of which contribute to its unique style but can be sensitive topics for kids. Understanding these elements helps parents make informed decisions about when and if their children should watch the series.

Content Overview for Parents

Themes and Humor Style

The humor in "What We Do in the Shadows" is largely satirical and dark, often poking fun at vampire clichés and supernatural tropes. The characters, though supernatural beings, deal with mundane problems like paying rent, dating, and friendship. This juxtaposition creates a quirky, offbeat comedy that appeals mainly to adults and older teens.

Parents should note that the show's jokes often include sarcasm and ironic takes on horror themes, which might go over younger viewers' heads or, conversely, might be too mature for them.

Language and Dialogue

Language in the series is peppered with occasional strong language and slang. While it's not excessively vulgar, it leans toward a PG-13 or TV-MA rating depending on the episode. This means younger children might encounter words or phrases that parents might prefer to explain or avoid.

Violence and Supernatural Elements

As a vampire show, "What We Do in the Shadows" features some scenes of blood, biting, and other supernatural violence. However, these scenes are usually presented in a comedic, exaggerated manner rather than graphic or realistic horror. The violence is more cartoonish than terrifying, intended to amuse rather than scare.

Still, parents should be aware that certain episodes contain moments that might be intense for sensitive children, such as creatures attacking or characters getting injured.

Sexual Content and References

The series includes some sexual innuendos and references, often used for comedic effect. These are generally subtle rather than explicit but contribute to the show's mature tone. Parents concerned about sexual content might want to preview episodes or be prepared to discuss these topics if their teens watch the show.

Age Appropriateness and Recommendations

Suitable Age Groups

Based on content, "What We Do in the Shadows" is best suited for teenagers and adults. Generally, the show is recommended for viewers aged 15 and older due to language, humor, and thematic elements. Younger children are unlikely to understand the satire and may find some scenes unsettling.

Watching Together as a Family

For parents interested in sharing the show with their teen viewers, watching together can be a great way to ensure understanding and provide context for some of the more mature jokes. It also opens the door for discussions about supernatural fiction, humor styles, and the difference between real-life and fantasy violence.

Comparing the TV Show vs. the Movie

The original 2014 movie has a similar tone but is somewhat more concise and less episodic. Both versions share the same comedic approach and supernatural themes. Parents may find the movie easier to preview quickly to assess suitability before allowing children to watch the series.

Tips for Parents Considering "What We Do in the Shadows"

1. Preview Episodes Beforehand

Taking 20-30 minutes to watch an episode or two will give parents a solid sense of the show's tone, language, and content. This helps avoid surprises and ensures the material aligns with family values.

2. Discuss the Satire and Humor

Explaining the nature of satire and parody can help teens appreciate the show's cleverness without misinterpreting the content as glorifying violence or inappropriate behavior.

3. Set Viewing Boundaries

If allowing teens to watch alone, parents might consider setting limits on how many episodes can be watched at once or encouraging breaks to discuss any confusing or mature content.

4. Use Parental Controls Where Necessary

Streaming platforms often provide parental control options to restrict access based on ratings. Using these can help manage what younger family members can watch.

Exploring Related Themes and Cultural References

"What We Do in the Shadows" draws on a rich tradition of vampire lore, blending it with

modern life challenges. The show references classic vampire stories like Dracula and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, making it an interesting gateway for teens interested in supernatural fiction.

The series also touches on themes of friendship, identity, and belonging, albeit through a comedic lens. These themes can offer meaningful conversation starters about acceptance and navigating social groups.

The Appeal of "What We Do in the Shadows" for Different Audiences

For Adults

The witty writing, character development, and clever use of horror tropes make it a favorite among adult audiences who enjoy dark comedy and supernatural stories.

For Teens

Older teens who appreciate quirky humor and fantasy elements might find the show entertaining, especially if they're fans of vampire mythology or mockumentary-style shows.

Not Recommended for Younger Kids

Due to mature language, mild sexual references, and some scary scenes, the show is not suitable for children under 13. Parents should prioritize age-appropriate content for younger viewers.

Whether you're a parent curious about a new show your teen wants to watch or someone considering introducing the series to your family, this guide aims to provide clarity and helpful insights. "What We Do in the Shadows" offers a unique blend of humor and horror that, when approached with awareness, can be a fun and engaging viewing experience for the right audience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is 'What We Do in the Shadows' appropriate for children?

No, 'What We Do in the Shadows' contains mature content including violence, sexual themes, and strong language, making it unsuitable for children.

What age rating does 'What We Do in the Shadows' have?

The show is generally rated TV-MA, indicating it is intended for mature audiences aged 17 and older.

Are there any violent scenes in 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

Yes, the series includes comedic but sometimes graphic vampire-related violence which may be disturbing for younger viewers.

Does 'What We Do in the Shadows' contain strong language?

Yes, the show frequently uses strong and explicit language throughout its episodes.

Are there any sexual references or scenes in 'What We Do in the Shadows'?

Yes, the series contains sexual references and some scenes with adult themes.

Is there any content in 'What We Do in the Shadows' that parents should be aware of before allowing teens to watch?

Parents should be aware of the mature themes, including supernatural violence, sexual content, and strong language, to determine if it is appropriate for their teens.

Does 'What We Do in the Shadows' have any positive messages or educational content for younger viewers?

The show is primarily a comedy with supernatural themes and does not focus on educational content or positive messages for younger viewers.

Additional Resources

What We Do in the Shadows Parents Guide: Navigating the Vampire Comedy Series

what we do in the shadows parents guide serves as an essential resource for families and guardians seeking to understand the content and suitability of this popular television series. Adapted from the 2014 film of the same name, "What We Do in the Shadows" is a comedy-horror mockumentary that follows the lives of vampire roommates navigating the modern world. While the show has garnered critical acclaim for its wit and unique storytelling, parents often need clarity on its themes, language, and age-appropriateness before allowing younger viewers to engage with the series.

This parents guide aims to dissect the show's content elements, highlight potential concerns, and provide a balanced overview to assist in informed viewing decisions.

Understanding the Content of What We Do in the Shadows

At its core, "What We Do in the Shadows" blends supernatural horror with sharp comedic timing. The series chronicles the daily lives and supernatural antics of four vampires residing in Staten Island, New York. The humor often derives from their anachronistic behaviors, cultural misunderstandings, and the absurdity of their undead existence.

From a content perspective, the series incorporates elements typical of vampire lore—blood, supernatural violence, and dark themes—infused with parody and satire. The mockumentary style also employs direct-to-camera interviews and a fly-on-the-wall perspective, contributing to its unique narrative tone.

Language and Dialogue

Language in "What We Do in the Shadows" includes frequent use of mild to moderate profanity and occasional stronger expletives. The dialogue balances period-appropriate vampire speech with contemporary slang, often leading to humorous juxtapositions. Parents should be aware that some episodes contain explicit language which might not be suitable for younger audiences.

Violence and Gore

Given the show's vampire theme, depictions of violence are common. However, the series leans heavily on comedic exaggeration rather than graphic realism. Scenes may include bloodsucking, vampire fights, and supernatural battles, but these are typically stylized and not excessively gory. The violence is more cartoonish and absurd, designed to elicit laughs rather than fear or shock.

Nonetheless, younger viewers sensitive to depictions of blood or vampire mythology might find some scenes unsettling. The presence of undead creatures and occasional dark humor related to death and immortality also underscore the need for parental discretion.

Thematic Elements

"What We Do in the Shadows" explores themes of friendship, identity, and adaptation to change, all portrayed through the lens of immortal vampires. The show frequently addresses social dynamics, loneliness, and the clash between ancient traditions and modern society. Some thematic content touches upon supernatural concepts such as immortality and death, which might be complex for younger viewers to grasp fully.

Additionally, the series includes occasional references to sexuality and adult relationships, portrayed with humor but sometimes involving suggestive content.

Age Appropriateness and Viewer Recommendations

Determining the appropriate viewing age for "What We Do in the Shadows" depends largely on the maturity of the child and the family's media guidelines. The series is generally rated TV-MA (Mature Audience), indicating it is intended for adults and older teens.

Why TV-MA?

The TV-MA rating reflects several content factors:

- **Language:** Frequent use of adult language and occasional strong expletives.
- **Violence:** Stylized but present supernatural violence and blood.
- **Sexual Content:** Mild sexual references and innuendos.
- **Thematic Complexity:** Dark humor, death, and existential themes.

These elements suggest that children under 17 may not be suitable viewers without parental guidance.

Comparisons to Similar Shows

For parents considering alternative supernatural comedies, comparing "What We Do in the Shadows" to shows like "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" or "The Vampire Diaries" can be informative. Unlike those series, which often blend drama with supernatural action, "What We Do in the Shadows" prioritizes humor and satire. However, it shares mature themes and occasional intense scenes.

Another comparison is the original 2014 film, which is more graphic and explicit in some scenes, making the TV series somewhat milder by contrast but still adult-oriented.

Potential Concerns for Parents

While the series integrates comedy to soften its darker elements, several factors warrant parental attention:

Exposure to Supernatural Horror

The presence of vampires, ghosts, and other supernatural entities may be frightening to sensitive children. The mockumentary style, while humorous, still depicts scenes of undead creatures and blood, which could be disturbing.

Language and Mature Humor

The show's humor often relies on adult themes, sarcasm, and sometimes crude language. Parents should evaluate whether their children are prepared for such content.

Sexual References

Though not explicit, the series occasionally includes innuendos and discussions about adult relationships. This content is subtle but may require parental contextualization.

Positive Aspects and Educational Value

Despite its mature themes, "What We Do in the Shadows" offers several positive elements that parents might appreciate:

- **Creative Storytelling:** The mockumentary format encourages critical viewing and appreciation for narrative structure.
- **Humor and Satire:** The series cleverly satirizes modern life, cultural norms, and historical references.
- **Character Development:** The vampires exhibit complex personalities, exploring themes of friendship, adaptation, and identity.
- **Social Commentary:** The show subtly critiques societal expectations and the absurdity of modern trends.

These aspects can stimulate thoughtful discussions between parents and older teens regarding media literacy and genre conventions.

Guidance for Co-Viewing

Parents who choose to watch "What We Do in the Shadows" with their teens might consider:

- Discussing the fictional nature of the vampire lore and supernatural elements.
- Clarifying the comedic intent behind the violence and dark themes.
- Exploring historical and cultural references embedded in the characters' backgrounds.
- Monitoring reactions to sensitive content and providing support if needed.

Such engagement can enhance the viewing experience and mitigate potential misunderstandings.

Streaming Availability and Parental Controls

The series is primarily available on streaming platforms such as Hulu and HBO Max, which offer parental control settings. Utilizing these tools can help families manage access and screen time.

Parents should also review individual episode content via parental guides on platforms like IMDb or Common Sense Media to identify specific episodes that may contain more intense material.

In essence, "What We Do in the Shadows parents guide" serves as a foundational tool for evaluating this unique blend of comedy and horror. While the series is best suited for mature audiences due to its language, thematic content, and supernatural elements, informed parents can make thoughtful decisions about when and how their families engage with this acclaimed show.

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