

ep #1: “Nostalgia” With Echo Williams

Transcript for ep #1: "Nostalgia" With Echo Williams

(Drumline Intro music plays)

Hi there, my name is Evangeline Johnson. Welcome to the Media Little League, where me and a guest trade two pieces of media that have yet to reach the big leagues of pop culture. With me today is...

Yeah, I'm Echo, Lynn, or Chaos, or anything. I go by so many names. Everyone knows me in this school as like five million different names. Each episode we pick a one-word theme based on the nicest interests of my guest. Echo, could you tell me what theme we picked and how it relates to your interests? I chose the topic of nostalgia because um, I, I've been rewatching a lot of my favorite shows and movies that I used to love when I was a kid. Especially, uh, Disney Channel shows like, um, Best Friends Whenever.

Right on. And yes, so with our theme of nostalgia, uh, we have picked two pieces of media to individually review and then Uh, come back and chat about. Um, and you gave me Best Friend Whenever. So Best Friend Whenever, my initial thoughts on it were that it feels weird that I've never watched this show before. It's, it's a show from, uh, it's like an older show. I think it started in like 2015. Um, and it's set in Portland, Oregon, which is where we are. Are you from here? Yeah, I was uh, born in La Grande, but I was raised here since I was six days old, so yeah.

Uh, effectively born here. Yes, so I felt it was strange because it's like, it's made in Portland, it feels like the kind of thing that, I don't know, I might have watched growing up. I personally love this show because one of the main characters' names is my dead name and I just freaked out when I found out about that so I just binge watched it every single day and like I

would not stop watching it. And plus, it was like the only show that I've actually watched when I was a kid that was set in Portland. And I also loved that because, hey, I live in Portland. I... Also have like, my name is also in the show. So I love this now. Yeah. Very direct connection.

Uh, so to briefly describe best friend whenever, um, it is the show about two, uh, I think high school. Yes. High school girls who gain the ability to time travel from their kooky science friend. Yes, so the main duo, Sid and Shelby, gain the ability to freely time travel whenever they touch each other and think of or say a time, which is a What I initially expected from the show was that the premise was not going to be anything more than like a fuel for comedy in some ways, but I feel like Going back and watching old Disney shows, you really see the touch of like older writers who are sort of laughing at their own material. Like, it's like, they're talking about how people would genuinely react to getting time travel powers and it's like, okay, so how do we like, Make this into a- like, the- the science kid is like, how do we make this into a discovery? How do like, get rich and powerful from this? Which I find funny. I find it funny all the- the weird little practicalities of time travel.

I also like how it's, it's got episodes where it's like very serious and it, but most of the episodes are funny and kooky and very like quirky. It can be a very serious, uh, show at times when it wants to be. When they were captured and, like, they were going to be tested on but they, like, It was like very serious and very uh, emotional towards the end which I honestly kinda don't really remember the end. Yeah. I just love old Disney channel shows. Yeah, I feel like, I only watch like the first couple of episodes, but I, I feel like the, the kind of show that there is, it's like, You know, aimed towards younger audiences and the mix of like sincerity and comedy is really sweet.

Um, like, you know, the first episode is all about like The two main characters going forward in time and realizing that they, like, lose their entire friendship because of an argument they had the day that they time traveled to the future. Which is like, you know, kind of a silly premise and like introduces the powers of the main characters. Uh, but it's also, you know, like very sweet and very sincere and they have to like recuperate and sort of come to an understanding. Uh, I agree with Eve, it's, yeah. So overall, how would you, if you had to give this show a numbered rating on any scale you'd like, what would you give it? I'd give it a nine out of ten because it's... It's a very good show and I've grown up with it but there's like some jokes that I don't get or I don't think are like funny or like stuff like that and some of the scenes are just stupid in my opinion. And sort of been in this show, but it's still like a really good show overall.

Right on. My personal scale for all ratings is out of seven. I would give it a five out of seven. I really enjoyed it. I feel like I didn't really grow up. on that kind of show, like, Disney Channel stuff. I was always more like a Cartoon Network kid. You know, it was a very sincere and sweet, uh, show.

So, moving on to the piece of media that I shared with you, we are now discussing, uh, Hello from the Hallowoods. Uh, what was your initial impression of it? It was pretty, um, good. It's not something that I would like watch every day, but it would be like something I would put on in the background when I'm like cleaning my room or just like something to listen to. I liked all the characters. Uh, yeah, it's just not something I would watch on a regular basis. Do you want to give a brief summary of what you remember, like, about the structure of the show? Well, I'll just say, I, this show to me, I feel like it fits into the theme of nostalgia because it is very nostalgic to me. Um, but also it's specifically, like, the

themes of the show are about a, a changing world. Like, the, the core premise is that there's this, like, magical change that has affected the entire world and, like, Human society has sort of crumbled and there are new sort of magical creatures roaming the earth.

Um, and it's a lot of, like, reflecting on what has been and, like, characters trying to grip on to what they once had and, like, Um, one of the main characters is this, like, undead sort of, like, leftover remnant of a very, like, powerful, uh, witch sort of character. So it's just like, to me, the, the way it connected to our, our theme was in like holding on to what has been lost. Uh, and also because it is literally very nostalgic to me as a show that I've listened to. It does kind of gives me like, um, old, not really old, but like Cartoon Network kind of vibes. Or like, um, kind of like if Disney XD and, um, Cartoon Network had like a baby, like this show would be on it.

Really? Sorry. Yeah, um, it's, yeah, it's something that just, like, reminds my brain, like, oh, this show would belong, like, It has like the, it kind of reminds me of old Disney XD shows, but at the same time, Cartoon Network type of vibes. It's kind of like, like Gravity Falls, if that's what you're thinking of. Yeah. Yeah, like it's very like woodsy, like I think it's it takes place somewhere in the Pacific Northwest. There's very sort of like subtle mystery elements. I think I think that makes sense. Yeah. Yeah, I also like how, like, everything is, like, magical, woodsy, like, in the old deep dark woods type, um, setting, uh, yeah, it's, Yeah, I'm glad you, you liked parts of it, yeah. Yeah. Well, overall, what would you give Hello from the Hallowoods in any numbered rating? I'd give it a six and a half out of ten, mainly because, like, I like the art style, I like most of the characters, I like the setting and stuff, but it's still, like, not something I would watch every single day or, like, Or like, I won't watch it like, while eating my food or something.

It's like, still something I'd put on in the background and would like, Listen in on some things, but it's still not something I would watch every single day like I do with best friends whenever. Um, wonderful. I would give it a six out of seven. I love this show. I haven't listened to it in a little bit. There's a number of episodes I need to catch up on, but I don't know. It's just, it's nostalgia and it's having something to listen to while you're out in the world. I enjoy it. Yeah. Um, and I appreciate your thoughts and feelings on it. Yeah. And thanks so much for joining me. Thank you and you're welcome. I appreciate coming here and actually getting some new stuff to listen and watch too. Yeah, you know, it's great to share these sort of nichier media interests that we might have as students in this world. Yeah. Well, thank you so much again for joining me, Echo, and thanks so much for listening.

(Drumline Outro music concludes)

ep #2: “Compassion” With Thurstan Miner

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(Drumline Intro music plays)

Hi there, my name is Evangeline Johnson. Welcome to Media Little League, where me and a guest trade two pieces of media that have yet to reach the big leagues of pop culture. With me today is... Thurston Miner.

For each episode, we pick a one-word theme based on my guest's interests. Thurston, could you tell us the theme we picked and how it relates to your interests? We picked the theme, we picked the theme, compassion, as it... It's something that I value quite a lot and also there's a lot of media I really love and my favorite show is what really brought out the- So your favorite show, um, being the show that you gave to me. Suggested, yes. So could you tell me a little bit about Kid Cosmic?

Kid Cosmic. Yes, that show, I started it when I was younger, I discovered it close to when it came out, just kind of like I had a gut feeling to watch it really, even though I didn't see, I didn't think it would be fun. At first, but after watching it, I got quite invested in the characters and just the setting in general. It was really fun. Um, it also just has one of my favorite superhero casts of all time because it feels so unique and I just, and then near the end, especially at the ending, the way they just, the characters, again, show compassion, um, and really, like, use that as a method to bring out the, like, to actually connect to things, and it was such a great twist, too. Yeah, absolutely.

Could you, for those who don't know that much about Kid Cosmic, just give like the elevator pitch for what the show's about? So the show is basically about this kid who finds these stones of cosmic power... That,

uh, he glues to hex nuts as rings. He doesn't really, he kinda, he's obsessed with superheroes, he's a kid who loves comics. And thinks these rings will give him powers. So he kinda messes around with them and eventually finds out he can fly while wearing one of them. And soon he, along with a teenager working at a, working at their mom's cafe, a grandpa who can turn into multiple people, the teenager can also summon portals, And a six- and a four-year-old who can grow to the size of a skyscraper. And finally, with a cat who can see the future, team up to kind of just fight aliens looking for the stones. The cosmic stones of power. Who are just invading Earth and stuff.

Indeed. This team being the Kid Cosmic and the Local Heroes. Yes. Kid Cosmic and the local heroes. My experience with Kid Cosmic was very much a, an interest in it as like a piece of sort of animated nostalgia, like. Oh. I love animation. I've always loved animation and I really thought the art style was very unique. Yes. It's sort of based loosely on like Comics. Comics and older cartoons. Um, and it has sort of like a limited animation style in some places and a little bit more like complexity in others.

Like characters will sort of like bounce very quickly between two poses, but sometimes things will be very like smooth and buttery. And I, I really enjoyed the aesthetics of the show, which is what sort of drew me to it. Yeah, I, again, I was really only drawn in by just a weird gut feeling thinking, you know what, what the heck, I have nothing else to watch. Sort of fated to be. Yeah.

So season one was very much like the story of the main character who is just named Kid. Yeah, there's no other name. I don't think anyone has actually found out. No, I think that's his name. I don't think they ever created a official one. Yeah, it's just Kid, um, or The Kid sometimes. Uh,

or Kid Cosmic. Yeah, or Kid Cosmic for officials. He is sort of this like very, he eventually is painted as sort of a tragic character, but he initially comes off as just a very like kind of ADD, like very high energy kid who very much wants to be a superhero.

Yes, it reminds me of my younger self. I always wanted to be a superhero when I was a kid, actually. I think that's what drew me into Kid in the first place when I first started watching as well, was the fact that, hey, I wanted, I was a lot like this kid. My dream was to become like a superhero, because I always grew up on Marvel, um, On the Marvel shows. Yeah.

You know, one time I was like maybe eight and I was watching a cartoon or something and I was on my couch and I was like, I'm going to do a Spider-Man move. I'm going to do it right now. And I jumped and sprained my ankle so bad on the other end of the couch. Uh, like one arm to the other. It was, uh, it was a lot. That's amazing. Yeah. Um, so superhero shows affect us all in these ways. Uh, and Kid sort of over the course of the show has this perspective of like, I need to be a superhero to sort of prove that I'm Yes. Worth this position, like worth the respect and admiration of my peers.

And by the end of the first season, he sort of has a turning around point. Yeah, the turning around point was specifically when he started realizing the aliens were after a specific stone when Earth Force Enforcement Force, the uh, Basically, Earth Force Enforcement Force, which was run by a foiled kid, um, the biker in black, who had a very similar thing, except with Power Rangers, I presume. And he gave these military guys the suits, and they're beating up the aliens. And Kid realizes each alien is only going after the stone that has a very similar notice to their powers. Say, the small little, um, puffball creature that

can grow to the size of a skyscraper, just like our four-year-old Rosa. And he realizes they are after a stone that connects to them, a stone that probably was from their home world after like going through a comic that kind of relates to that.

And so he goes down to try to help them. He says this phrase during this whole situation. The words, heroes help, not hurt. Which was first uttered by Papa G in a bit more of a throwaway line earlier on. And I just, that, those words specifically resonated with me a lot. And I think that really is a great way of showing what Cade realized. Yeah, just realizing that. Hey, these guys aren't here to steal the stones, they're here to get them back because they belong to them. And we should help them, not hurt them. Absolutely. Yeah, it's a really nice conclusion.

They sort of like befriend these five aliens after saving them and getting the rings back. The second season focuses a lot on Joe as well, this time instead of Kid, and it's more Joe's season about becoming a leader. Yes, Jo being the, the teenage waitress who can create portals. Um, it does feel like she sort of takes the protagonist role in season two as they are Uh, so the aliens that were going after the stones in season one were characters who all had their planets destroyed by being called Erodious. Erodious. Erodious. The planet killer. And each of them, basically after meeting the Kid Cosmic and the local heroes, went to go fight Erodious. And at the end of season one, the sort of like ending season stinger, uh, was that... Four of the five aliens had died, uh, and the one with teleportation powers came back to the diner where the main cast lived. Uh, to ask for their help in finding now thirteen cosmic stones and beating Erodious.

Coincidentally, there are thirteen patrons in the diner. Which we do get glimpses of them earlier on in the first season which are more

background characters like Joe's mom or Rose's parents or um, the biker lady, not the biker in black but a different biker lady. Yes. The, the various patrons of the diner and characters that live in the sort of stretch of, uh, New Mexico. Yeah, somewhere, it looks like it's somewhere in Mexico, somewhere like that. And indeed, this cast, uh, is now in space. Uh, they've been teleported to space to go, uh, prepare to fight Erodious, and that's sort of what season two is about. Yes. Is this character Joe taking on the position of team leader and sort of militantly preparing to fight a planet-destroying godlike entity.

Yes, which happens to be a living planet in of itself. Indeed. That is just going around and breaking things apart. You know, when I first saw Erodus, I had a big feeling that Erodus was going to be like a pure death metaphor. It reminded me of an old Transformers cartoon that was like that. The Transformers movie had this like annihilating planet monster that they were all fighting who was just sort of like this Maybe, you know, like, Galactus situation. Yeah, Galactus. Just not really, like, maliciously destroying, but just hungry.

Yeah, I had a similar thought. I was like, oh, when I first realized it was a planet killer, not just like an actual planet that is killing other planets. I realized, whoa, and I kind of thought, you know, it's interesting, it feels like some kind of nature sort of thing where it's, It's not actually wanting to, not wanting per se, but it's not actually like consciously doing this. It's just. Floating around in space and with its presumably giant gravitational field sucking in these planets and growing itself with these planets. Just naturally becoming bigger and more deadly. Absolutely. Um, and that, that sort of did end up being the case that it was, like, not particularly a person.

It wasn't like a, a malicious entity, but it was a little bit more complicated than just this, like, Metaphor for annihilation or weather. Yeah, which is expanded upon more in season two, or season three, season three specifically, to get into Erodus' past. Indeed. But in season two, I feel like season two is sort of like The meatiest season? It has a lot going on. Yeah, it does. Um, and it really, it follows Joe as this character who's kind of being influenced by the alien that sent them to space. Queen Jean. Queen Jean. Who is, you know, uh. She's a leader of her own planet.

Yes. She's a queen and she's a very ruthless queen. A global dictator who is very friendly, uh, but also is sort of like manipulating this, or like. Influencing. Influencing this child. This teenage girl. Teenager to, you know, become like a ruthless, uh, murderer and fight a planet. And I think it's a, it's, it's harsh. It's a, it's a different vibe from the very like cozy first season. It was so cozy in the first season. No, it's interesting, at the start it's Kid who's most insistent on getting this done, getting, finding the Stones of Power, um, and that leads into Fantos who captures Kid and that's his big break in starting this whole mission.

Later on, though, it kind of turns into Jo's obsession instead of Kid's obsession, where Jo is obsessed with trying to get the stones so she can defeat Herodias. And, like, Kid, of course, still wants to do that, but he's much more chill about it. And actually, one of my favorite moments is seeing this lesson, like, seeing Kid's lesson in season one really shown when Herodias eventually destroys another planet of really little people. And they, um, go to Moe's Oasis, the closest place, and it's as a home of safety. And Mo, um, which is Joe's mom, uh, Joe's mom. No, Mo is the grandma. Joe's mom, uh, Flo, tries to, oh, they all have O's at the end. I just realized that. Flo, um, Jo's mom, tries to help them out, like, like, gives them rooms, um, in the, like, nearby oasis, like, there's a little building right next to it, I think, and gives them, like, little rooms and Sets

up a small city with play blocks and Kid is also very insistent on doing this.

He's very helpful and like the whole team too. It's just, I love that moment so much because it really shows Kid's progress and then it shows Joe Influence Jo is getting from Queen Jon where she's much more aggressive and just trying to get things done, but all of them are just trying to get the people to safety. The fracture sort of finally cements itself when Jo proves herself in mortal combat against a gladiator fighter named Krosh. Crosh, yes. Um, Crosh the unconquerable who is in fact conquered. They had a stone of power that let them not feel pain. Mm-hmm. Yes, also, as a reminder, this whole time they're introducing eight new powers.

Yes, there's the fire and ice stone, the speed stone, a pain stone, which allows you to store up pain and then use it as like an attack, which they all give out to the patrons of the diner and stuck chuck. Ugh. Um, indeed. But as she sort of beats this, uh, champion, she, uh, befriends her, befriends Krosh, And decides that the people at the diner are very, very good at helping and being kind with refugees and whatnot. Yeah. Uh, and that she and Krosh are very, very good at uh, brutal combat.

Yes. And decide together to uh, steal kind of the rings from all of the patrons of the diner, uh, and head to Erodius themselves to go punch a planet to death. Yeah, cause at the time, you know, Joe is noticing that, like, Joe is trying to, with Krosh's help, train the team to fight Erodius. But the problem is the team just, they're not fighters really. They're not directly like meant for combat. I mean, sure. They've got Rose who's a big four year old. They can definitely destroy something, but they're more focused on just being chill people.

Um, which is something they like point out is that they're not fighters. They're just people trying to help out the world, like help out the world in what Ways they can. That whole going on, Joe gets annoyed that they can't get the team to actually fight and they decide to steal the stones with Krosh's help. Um, getting, giving Krosh a multiplication stone and having three Krosh's handed out a few stones each. Indeed. So this goes very well and is totally fine. In that Krosh, uh, Does fine at punching the moon for a minute, the giant planet. Yep. Um, and then decides, this is very hard. Uh, what if I betray this person? Uh, Krosh. Steal the stones. Absolutely. Yeah. Krosh steals the stones, I think, except for the portal stone. I think Joe had that one still, but. Indeed. Yeah, steal, like, it's like, you know what, I'm just gonna steal these stones and head back to my Life fighting in this dramatic death pit, which is where Joe found them and beat them up initially. Yes, Krosh's words were basically like, the pit was where I was loved. I spent my whole life there. You took everything from me. Uh, such a heel turn. Uh, I loved her. She was iconic.

Yeah. Uh. And then they get, uh, just killed outright by Fantos. Full murder. Like, just straight up. They are dead. They just died out of nowhere. It was... So unexpected. The show can get out of nowhere so dark. Absolutely. Just on a dime and then immediately flip back to its all cozy nature. It's crazy. Uh, like in season one when Rosa kills a- Yeah, when Rosa kills like a whole, uh, army on- Uh, Rosa being the four-year-old with the giant powers.

Yeah, Rosa picked them all up in a, like, silo or something and threw all these aliens into space and then later on we're in a ship and we see them passing by. And Rosa's like, oh, they're sleeping. It's just so tragic. A dark moment for sure. Yeah. Local heroes. So, Fantos, we didn't really talk about him. No, we haven't mentioned him yet, but he's kind of the big

villain besides Erodius. He's like the big threat going on since... He's kind of, he's the big counter.

He's trying to steal the stones back since he's a big erodeous fanboy, which is really funny to me. Uh, I like Fantos, he- I do too. He is a- a horrible man, just- Oh, he is despicable, really. But not even in like a villainous way, he just feels disgusting. Yeah. It's a good way to put it. Just sort of viscerally uncomfortable. He, he's a big collector of all things Erodius. He's a big fan of the Planet Killer. Uh, he's sort of like a Thanos riff, like. Yeah, he's collecting these stones, um, but except he's too lazy to actually take over the world. He says it himself, that's, it's just too boring to take over the world and said he wants to expand his erroneous collection. Right. And by the end of season two, he shows up, murders Krosh, R.I.P., to a very cool character, and steals all the stones from Joe.

Uh, who is able to, like, last minute alert the, the rest of the main cast that she totally screwed up and that she's very sorry and that Fantos is here to, uh, ruin everything. Yeah, and Jo got sent through the portal into, like, weird dusty world, I believe. Um, she, I believe the order of events is that she portaled briefly to talk to Kid. Yeah. And then she like bantered with Fantos for a minute who was like, I'm gonna destroy your diner.

That's. Yeah. Uh, he portals an entire planet to go the, he portals Erodius to go up here next to the diner. He then sends Joe away, uh, gone, and it's kind of an all-hope-is-lost moment. Yeah, and this is probably my favorite part of season two, which is where, um, for context, in season one there was this alien, uh, He was the delivery driver of the Stones, but he got shot down and crash landed on Earth, and that's how Kid found the Stones, was next to a destroyed spaceship. And this alien was lost from his family and was taken in by the, was

taken by the biker in black and probed. But he's eventually freed with the help of Chuck and uh, Tuna, I think. But Flo helps bring him home, which is established. Early on in season two. And then we see him again doing a delivery where he finds Joe. And upon realizing, oh, the diner would be destroyed. The diner, which saved him, brought him back to his family. He alerts a lot of the, a lot of other people who have been helped by Flo. Which is another big lesson in compassion here, uh, because with the phrase, uh, it's a longer phrase. Do you remember it?

The, the, there is a diner code. Yeah. Like secret recipe, quote unquote. Right. The secret recipe. It's like. Teaspoon of love or something. Teaspoon of love, tablespoon something. Uh, I can find it. Yeah, basically, it was a little poster that Flo's grandma, Mo, put up as Mo's secret recipe, which was... More just, like, compassion. And Jo realizes that all this help that her mom has done, for example as well, taking in those refugees, Has been helping a lot more people.

It's been in, like, bringing people together instead of just her harsh leadership. And we see this with all the, like, a bunch of different ships from her diner coming in to help out the, to, like, try to stop Herodias from destroying this lovely diner. Which is really nice, and I think that was such a sweet scene. It's so sweet that they summon all their alien friends to fight a planet. It's also the funniest scene ever to me because what happens is they've been fighting this planet with these like magical cosmic stones or whatever. And then the real thing that really kicks Erodius in is, okay, well let's just call up our buddies with laser guns and bombs. Yeah. They just explode Erodius and it's so much more effective than the rings.

It is, it really is. I mean, the rings were effective, but it's so funny, like, yeah, these guys just have laser ships. I mean, sure, if it was just one

armada of these guys, it wouldn't do much, but with all of them coming together like that, That weird mob boss group who, um, who Flo was catering or that, or the camper vans. Um, by the way, I did pull up the thing for Flo's secret recipe. It's a cup of compassion, a teaspoon of tenderness, an ounce of understanding mixed with care and kindness.

Yeah, and I just, it's another one that I like a lot. Uh, what a sweet show. So, the Erodius is partially destroyed by bombing, but Fantos is still around, he is still being dangerous. Dangerous, uh, man-child. Dangerous manchild. Details here get actually a little fuzzy for me. Yeah, me too. I don't remember what happened to the spaceships, but I think Erodius actually did end up, er, like, they did, he did, uh, get the big thing to go to the diner to try to destroy it. Right. He does succeed, but Flo and the team do get the little people first off out of there.

Mm-hmm. And then Queen John tries to, or Queen John, no, Queen John's the one who saves the little people, I believe. Yes. And then Erodius sends all the local heroes into a portal somewhere. Uh, Fantos does. Fantos, Fantos, right. Fantos sends them away, the diner is destroyed. And they wake up on Earth with no stones. Yes. With Erodius coming straight towards Earth. Yes. They have another all is lost moment, quite a few in this season finale, but pull themselves together and find in kids' pockets a bunch of cosmic stones. Yes, that have fallen because Erodius is full of cosmic stones. Indeed.

Entirely made of them, I guess. Yes, pretty much. Except for the specific stones that were lost. Right. But they, they collect these stones and they have a pretty interesting maneuver here. Could you remind me what that was? I actually remember this pretty clearly. They managed to find a bunch of goo stones. That was one of the powers turned into goo. And

they also find a bunch of, um, growth stones, a bunch of like size stones and like, I think a portal stone as well.

Plus maybe give or take one or two others, but those were the important ones. And so they decide to come up with a plan after realizing Kid can burrow through the ground with the goo stone after he gets caught in a little crack. They decide to teleport back to Erodus on the portals, all in, like, very different spots to get as much damage around as they can, and then they grow in size and turn into goo and start burrowing through Erodus to blow him up from the inside out. And with that, that causes Herodias to break apart into pieces, blow off, get destroyed, um, before he can reach Earth. And then all the cosmic stones start sprinkling all over Earth.

Indeed. And we are left off with a Powerpuff Girls reference. Yeah, so they obliterate Erodus with the power of slime. Uh, we arrive back on Earth. Yes. The, the local heroes become in this state like, uh, proper superheroes. Yeah, the global heroes now. The global heroes. After being recruited from a weird government. And now becomes much more of a classic superhero TV show where they all become official heroes to get powers. The show has such weird vibes at this point. Truly bizarre. The show sort of, you know, treats its characters very much like humans to a certain extent. It's like these are like, you know, people from... Just a random little place in a desert.

It's just middle-of-nowhere people. They, you know, constantly make mistakes. They're, like, very fallible. That's especially a big point in season one is that they are making so many mistakes that they're also growing from these mistakes. They're, like, learning. Uh, season three is not like that. Not at first. They are superheroes. Full, true to form. They have catchy witticisms. They're very, very good at everything they do.

Uh, and it's, it's off-putting. It is. It feels a little weird and things feel out of nowhere. There's Atlantis all of a sudden. Indeed, they, uh, go on a sort of long tangent where they're searching for this 14th stone. All the time, meanwhile, Joe and Papa G are kind of, something's off, they think something's off about this whole thing.

Mm-hmm. Specifically Joe, who after sort of going through this, uh, bizarre, like abstract series of adventures, Decides to head off and portals away from the group to go find whatever is going wrong. She goes to dig through the government organization that they're all working for. This is happening, of course, while Kid and the local heroes are fighting in a mech battle. Yes. The villain from season one, the trucker. Biker in black. The biker in black. Who now has a giant bike mech. And Joe, uh, finds in this giant, like, computer terminal, um, a bunch of comic books.

Yes, I remember that. And these comic books are all the characters they have previously defeated, this, like, goo creature or this guy who could grow in size. Finding these, um, comic books she realizes like these are the experiences we're having. Like this is what we are playing out in this space. And recognizes they are nowhere real. This is a false reality. Yeah, Joe, while the other dudes are fighting the biker, Joe goes to the main, like, lobby area of the building they've been residing in and find out that everyone just frozen in place. They're not moving. They're artificial looking. Mm-hmm. And realizes this is not the earth they thought it was. This isn't real. And she is stopped.

There is a force that prevents her from going any further and telling the rest of the people that the world is fake. It is Papa G. Yes. Uh, the mentor figure of the group and the, the old man who can multiply himself. Multiplying old man. Yes. Old man, many men. Uh, that's his superhero

name. He, uh, attempts to stop Joe. The, uh, now, like, they have a full fight. Yes. Which also one of the coolest action sequences I've seen in a while, um, with such creative uses of both of their powers, honestly, and really shows off how Joe did still learn how to fight in season two.

Oh, very much so. Um, she in fact nearly kills Papa G by throwing him off of a skyscraper. Yes. But does save him with a portal. Of course. And they basically talk about like, Papa G doesn't want to tell Kid because he doesn't really know how to handle the emotional trauma that Kid is going through. It's actually been a pattern that Papa G does lie to Kit quite often. Indeed. More of a white lie, but still lies, and oftentimes it doesn't work out as well as he thinks in season one. He dressed up as a bunch of robots because Kid, while all the other teams were getting wins and like constantly doing great in fights, Kid was messing around. Kid wasn't doing great. So Papa G tried to lift him up by pretending to be fake robots that were invading and Kid managed to Quote, unquote, beat them. But he found out later through Chuck, um, an evil alien that was trapped in their, uh, minivan, that they, that the Papa G was faking.

And then here it is again, Papa G, yet again, lying to Kid. Absolutely. I think a lot of this is a very like, strong, uh, emotional core to this show. Like the, this relationship between Papa G and Kid. Yes. Of sort of like enabling Kid's uh, obsession with superheroes because uh, Kid has lost his parents. It has lost his parents, which was, uh, and you know, Papa G, um, also probably lost them too, of course. Right. But he has to also try to support Kid, so he has to do that. He's trying his best to help Kid, but um, you know, Kid has gone through a lot, so it's still hard for him to do that.

So he's just trying to like help Kid by Like, try to keep these fantasies going so a kid can still feel happy. As he sort of like expresses this to Joe,

Joe says, got it. Uh, well, I'm not gonna help you. I'm not gonna like go against you and tell Kid, uh, you need to tell Kid. You absolutely have to do this. You have a responsibility to him. Uh, especially before, uh, I think it was also especially before something tries to keep him here. Uh, and the fear that they have is that Kid will find his parents in this fantasy realm. Uh, terrifying. Joe goes off to tell the rest of the group that the world is fake. Yeah. Meanwhile, Papa G and Kid are trying to, um, or, well, Kid is trying, is, is thinking that the business they're working for has some evil plan going on and is, like, fighting against the people working there.

Indeed. Kid has fully bought into the fantasy, but in a very funny way where he thinks, you know, there is a conspiracy, but it's, it's our conspiracy. It's like, uh, the, the government we're working for has hidden the 14th stone from us. So let's, let's go and find that. Uh, and the whole time Papa G is just, like, sort of tormented by, like, does he want to tell Kid the truth or does he want to just let another adventure slide? Like, can he let this stop? Yeah, he's, like, thinking is it, like, he's having this moment where it's, like, a devil on his shoulder but with his clones, actually. Mm-hmm. It's a really like a clever little literary tool to have him literally like split apart and like have different parts of himself talk to himself. And Joe, uh, tells the rest of the group very successfully. They are completely bought in. Um, and to try various sort of comic book methods to escape from the fantasy realm.

And, and they are not succeeding in any of them, sadly. Indeed. Jo can't portal out of this realm and Rosa just, uh, can't grow out of the realm either. She bumps into the moon. Truly the most fun cartoon thing to happen is a character being huge and bumping their head against the moon. Yeah. Indeed, so we see Kid and Papa G basically reaching like the end of their 14th stone adventure. Um, and Papa G is too tortured. He is

not fast enough to prevent Kid from seeing his parents. So messy. Uh, this, like, horrible apparition, um, of his parents being like, no, we were alive the whole time. We were working for the secret government. You just had to prove yourself to, to come find us. And then another amazing moment. Um, comes up with Papa G actually realizing like, no, this is, this is BS. Um, kid does not have to earn his parents' love. And it was like pointing out all the flaws and what they were saying. Again, my favorite point being like, no, you don't, you don't earn. Kid doesn't have to earn your love. You love him anyway. And like, then I think Joe shows up to you and they like say, like yell out that, yeah, this is fake. And all that stuff. And I just think that was such a cool moment.

They, like, the moment that Kid basically accepts that it's fake, he just says, like, I want to leave. And the entire fantasy crumbles. Which is really funny, as that's the one thing they didn't try, was just saying they wanted to leave. You know, there's no place like home. It's a fantasy realm that's supposed to adhere to their wishes. If they want to leave, they just ask. Yeah. There's a really horrifying credit sequence here where the robot character like sings a song while the universe is destroyed. Yeah, it's like fading out and then now they are trapped in space, but Queen Jeanne luckily has found them and teleports them back to a little planet sanctuary.

Uh, so we spend a little bit of time, we spend like an episode here in this refugee camp with the cast basically, most of them being like, we can't. Yeah, the only ones really trying to fight still are the younger ones, Kid, Joe, and Rosa, but um, Kid and Joe still can't figure out what to do. Indeed, and even when pushed, like, Kid basically says, even though I really want this, like, I'm not gonna risk your guys' lives just to have this fight, like. Yeah. So dark. Uh, the only person who is completely committed to fighting Erodious is the four-year-old Rosa.

With the help of a few little, with the help of the little people they saved before, three of them. Now when we say little people, by the way, we do mean little. Yeah, they are like the size of D&D miniatures, basically. And they are trying to, they, with the help of Rosa, steal an escape pod, go to Erodus, and get back the stone. This happens off screen and it's treated like a very heroic thing, but if a toddler in my life ran away from home, traveled to a planet killer, and came back with magic powers, I would be horrid. True, yeah. It was really funny, actually. But hey, uh, successful mission, the, the little, like, uh, Star Trek, the, the little guys, by the way, are based on Star Trek characters. Yeah. Um. I didn't know that, actually.

Oh, really? Yeah, yeah, the, have you seen Star Trek? No, that makes sense why I didn't know it. Um, but they are given like a military, they're part of a little military and they're like, given little rewards, they're given a little badge. Like, Star Trek characters look like. And then this. Oh, yeah, that makes sense. Yeah. And then, uh, the crew, after getting that, they do go back to actually fight Erodus, I believe. And they do. Uh, the last episode or two of the show is basically like, second to last episode of the show is basically just a really long fight sequence. Yes. A planet.

And they all also, um, gathered up more stones, I believe, because Herodias is made of stones, which they use to try to fight back properly with as well. Yes, most of the battle is just fighting Fantos. Fantos, yes, and a little bit of Herodias. Mm-hmm. Uh, Fantos has an overwhelming amount of power. I mean, he has all thirteen stones and it can actually wield them. Mm-hmm. Um... And he can, he specifically can use the, the stone that kid uses, which is the green telekinesis. Originally in season one thought to be flight, but it was actually kid just wanting to know how to fly. And that's the only thing. And that's what he used the telekinesis for until he learned it was telekinesis. Melokinesis.

Um, right, and that, uh, ended up being powerful enough to move the entirety of Erodious. Yeah. Erodious. Truly horrifying. However, uh, Fantos wins. Fantos straight up beats them. And also, uh, there was this one moment, I believe, that was Actually horrifying in which Fantos destroys a bunch of rocks that fall all over Papa G who I believe was searching for a stone or something. Uh, he was digging into the planet, uh, trying to destroy it.

Yeah, and there's a moment where we think that Papa G might have just died there, because all the clones are gone and kids digging through the rubble, and we get a flashback sequence with a song I swear to god I can't find on Spotify, I was looking at everywhere. Um, that shows Kid, uh, right after his parents' death and Papa G trying to, um, like, Papa G and Kid trying to The kid trying to adjust, um, which he isn't really being agreeable and trying to do, but he's doing that. And then, uh, Papa G. Trying to help Kit out. And eventually they do start bonding over a bike and Papa G's old comics and all that stuff. Which is a really sweet flashback. It's really sweet.

It's, you know, very much the kind of flashback that would play right before a character dies. Yes. But Papa G is thankfully alive. Luckily, yeah. Um, however... Still not looking good. The planet's about to be destroyed. Uh, Fantos. Yes, Earth is about to be destroyed as Fantos decides to collect the entire group of local heroes like they are action figures. Yeah. Um, affixing them to his outfit, uh, and being, using the, the gigantic sized, uh, ring to grow to excellent heights. At this point, Fantos has basically given up his, like, obsession with Erodious and As he believes it's just like a lame planet that drifts around and occasionally destroys planets and intends to rocket it around the galaxy, uh,

destroying all that he pleases. And the first place he decides to go to was Earth, as he figures.

What a sense of irony. Um, facing true and total defeat, the local heroes, uh, are about to die when, uh, what exactly happened? I'm trying to remember. I think it might have actually been Erodius himself. That is right. I'm saying it like a newscaster. Yeah. That's right, Thurston. Uh, The ground underneath uh, underneath Fantos' feet, uh, turns into slime. One of the rings was slime. We didn't talk about the slime ring. We did mention it actually when, because that's how they destroyed Erodius previously.

Oh, right, right, right. In the fake world, but that doesn't actually work anymore because that was a fake world thing. The slime power is still useless. This show is meaty. Well, uh, slime appears under Erodius, uh, and- Fantos. Fantos. We're getting it. Uh, and sucks him into the core of the planet and kills him. Yes, and I think starts sucking in everybody else too, but I think Kid manages to actually grab onto the telekinesis stone and pull everybody, not a rhodius, Um, out of it. Also, yeah, I want to point out Erodius also, not Erodius, uh, Fantos.

Fantos also just straight up dies here. Yeah. Like, he's just straight up dead. Uh, hey, this is a kid's show. It's a kid's show, but it's really funny. There's just death that happens. And, you know, I, I, I think he deserved it. Oh, totally. Very glad that Erodius, uh, sort of like toilet drained him into the slime. Yeah, it was literally a toilet drain into the slime. Uh, very, very gross. So Kid takes this telekinesis stone and stops Erodius from moving. I keep saying Erodius. Yeah, erodeous. Erosion. Erosion, yes. Uh, from moving by just like halting the planet, but he can't. Yeah, but he's not as, he's not as skilled with the telekinesis stone as Fantos was. He's

not able to directly push it back. He's only able to prevent its movement towards Earth.

And Kid is basically like, we need to find the 14th stone. And then... Well, they find out about the 14th stone because Erodius uses the future sight stone, which the cat has had so far that... to show them a vision into the past this time in which erodeus was actually a healing planet but that was a that was a place that people would go to all the time to heal because it had the magical power to heal all injuries. But it was destroyed by a big meteor that came down and Herodias was left with only one stone left, which is the 14th stone of power. Now, they're struggling because they don't know where the 14th stone of power is, and that's what Herodias has been looking for.

Yes. He's been looking for the 14th stone. That's why he's been destroying all these other planets was in hopes of finding it. So yeah, we do find there's like sort of a mind to this planet. And the reveal is very interesting. We find out that it is Papa G's lucky necklace. Yeah, Papa G mentioned this previously in a little flashback about how when he was growing up he found this little, um, necklace that has been his lucky necklace. Uh, that's, that has, he, he actually fell down, like, got a bunch of injuries, but he managed to somehow survive, and he thanks the lucky necklace. Not from magical power, initially, even though technically it was. Which is how Papa G has actually survived for so long and that's how he survived the big rock stumbling was he had this healing stone and everything. Um, absolutely.

This is pretty tragic. Papa G is like, I'm not sure if I'm gonna live or die if I throw this stone away. He's like, what, 114 or something? Something like that. Yeah, and he's been living so long because of the stone. But

he's, uh, he says the, the sort of like refrain of the show, which is like heroes help, heroes are kind, and heroes sacrifice.

Yeah, like, heroes help, heroes like lend a hand, and heroes sacrifice, something like that. And throws the stone to Erodus. and which erodeus uh, starts like actually be like evaporating starts it feels like ascending in a way um, like finally free of this curse of being just a planet just searching And this also is when the stones start to, uh, the stones start not working. They start fizzling away as Erodus is too, which Joe is trying to get them all through a portal. Barely holding it up as Herodias' power is fading away, meaning the stone's power is fading away. And so, Kid's trying to reach out to Papa G, but Papa G, now losing the stone, Has grown old. Well, he is old, but he's finally, that age has caught up to him. He's got a bad back. He can barely walk.

And it shows Kid and Papa G reaching out their hand. And then it fades to black and cuts to, um, Kid. In a, like, little suit, the same one he had at, uh, after his parents' funeral. Mm-hmm. Cutting to all of them walking over. And they all have, and they all have their stones. We don't see Papa G. When I tell you I cried, um, I am serious. This is the only show that is, this is one of the only two shows that have made me cry. This show and Hitmonkey. Are the only shows that have made me cry within like five years. And then finally, Papa G rolls in on a wheelchair. I, dude, you have no idea how much that I- how terrified I was at that- before then. I was so scared that he was just gonna die because he was my favorite character too. It is heartbreaking. It was so emotional. The... I can't believe they get away with two death scares for the same character. I know, and it works. It worked. It's a pretty effective... Yeah. Like the first one was used to give away, show his backstory moment, but they then had that moment set up already. So they, it didn't intrude upon his almost death in the second part. And I think that was really clever. So,

with this, they're having a funeral for those who lost their lives to Erodious. They're having a funeral for all the, um, people who lost their lives to Erodious, and it's a really sweet moment. Indeed, and as this sort of happens, uh, the show really starts to wind down for its final episode. Yes, it has one episode left now, which is... More of a calming down episode. First off, the real government, not the biker in black, who, it was stated in the fake world that he was a rogue agent, and I, which, I don't, we don't know if that's true or not anymore, but a new military guy, people come down, say, Oh yeah, this will all be cleared up.

We made cell phones for a reason. It's a big hoax. Yeah, they hoaxify it. They're like, here's fifty billion dollars. Yeah, they give them a bunch of money for their silence and so everyone tries staying silent. They use the money to rebuild Mo's Oasis and then Kid is still, like, sad about the, about everything. He thinks it's a fake world again after seeing, um, one of the people in the, in season two from the fake world being there who was actually just projected into this. Because they were a, uh, inspector. They were a health inspector. And Kid thought they were actually a part of the big, like, organization.

But no, he just recognized them from being a health inspector. Um, Kid acts kind of like violently here. Yeah, he's, he's missing the hero fantasy he used to have. Indeed, and I sort of felt like, oh, this is like kind of a big regression for the character. Um, Um, as he like smashes up the, the tiles of the diner. Yeah. And then there's a very interesting moment where they're basically like, kid, what's wrong? Like, it's not like we forgot. It's just that it, it happened and you know, things change and kid is basically like, Yeah, but, you know, we spent a lot of time in space. Like, I don't need to be a hero, but, like, the world is meaningful and filled with wonder. He thinks that, like, the world should know about it. Yeah, and he actually started a comic, he was, like, starting to make comics about

his adventures, and that's what instigates this, really, is Joe telling him, like, the Val of Silence thing. And then kid goes up to the mountain, uh, which is where he was at first in season one back when he was sad and about losing the fight and losing the stones and right before he realized the aliens weren't actually evil aliens. Right. And then he sees a fire at the oasis. Um, he goes back and finds out that it was actually Chuck and I think Papa G or something, or someone else, Chuck and They were working on a radio, and then they sent out a message for aliens to come and visit, have food back at Moe's Oasis.

It takes all day for the aliens to reach, uh, the planet, but they do. They eventually do. They decide, you know what, we're not gonna, we're gonna, to hell with this valve silence thing, we're gonna call over our friends. Indeed. And I think on some level there's a funny little like, uh, what is it? Malicious competence thing there where it's like, well, technically that's in the letter of the law. I mean, it's not people on earth. Yeah, we're not telling anybody. We're just saying, hey, we're just putting out a signal, you know? Exactly. Um, and the show ends with this, like, very beautiful, uh, party situation with these aliens coming back.

I actually have the song on my playlist. Hmm. That they use. So yeah, it was, I think it was a really fun ending and it's my favorite show so far. I don't think it's the best show I've ever seen, but it's the show that's resonated with me the most and basically built up what my moral compass was for a good, uh, like two years. Yeah, uh, I think this show is really cute. Um, I, I liked it a lot. I think the ending really surprised me. I felt like, you know, it was, the show would have taken a chance to like judge Kid for his sort of outburst, but instead it's like, no, like, Yeah, no, they don't really have much time for that. No, I think, I actually think it was good. Like, Kid was right. Like, that was a part of his life and it was something like meaningful and worth caring about. So, on any scale, how

would you rate this show? Now, I do want to rate it a ten out of ten but I think I should go for like 8.5 to nine Okay. I still think it's a very high, it's a very good show. For you, it's a ten but for the world, it's a nine I wouldn't call it perfect by any means, but I think this show really resonated with me a lot, and I think it's really good, and I just love it. Uh, my scale, as always, is out of seven. Uh. Oh, out of seven? I'm terrible. I do out of seven. And I. I understand that. Uh, I like my seven scale. It's, it's always very opinionated. It stops people from going, uh, to number seven always for every single thing.

Thinking seven is average when no, that's like above average. Um, and I will give it a, uh, uh, ah, you know, I, I think this show is It has its moments of, like, dragging or, like, repetitiveness. Yeah, and season one could be a little slow. I've heard people complain about the pacing. I think season one is perfect. Oh, I love season one. Yeah, I think it's... I think season one's the best season out of the whole lot. I think it's like late season two where it gets a little bit like, like they fight Erodus twice. Yeah. Which is like, fine. Like, I think season three, like, season two was a fine ending. They could've, ah, it's okay. But you know, my desire for everything to be very cut, uh, is fine. I think this is a seven. I think this show is very, very well done and it's a very, it's like a show that I could see myself, like, Letting a kid watch.

Like, it's a good show. Oh, definitely. This is a great show for honestly all ages, I think. Anyone can really enjoy it. Absolutely. Sure, maybe some older audiences wouldn't love it as much, but I still love it. I'm a teenager. We hate everything. Mm-hmm.

(Drumline outro music begins)

This episode, me and Thurston got very nitty gritty with our discussion of Kid Cosmic. Things went on a little long, and as such we're splitting this episode into two parts. Uh, so we will see you soon with, uh, our discussion of the podcast Midnight Burger. Until then, this episode featured Evangeline Johnson as your host and Thurston Miner as our guest host. Our theme today was compassion, and with it we discussed Kid Cosmic, created by Craig McCracken, Lauren Faust, and Francisco Agones. For more information on the works discussed, please check out our shownotes. Thanks as always to McDaniels Drumline for providing the music for our show. Uh, next time we'll be back with discussion of Midnight Burger with returning guest host Thurston Miner. Thanks so much for listening. Cheers!

(Drumline Outro music concludes)

Tab 3

