

So this video is proudly sponsored by Dollar Shave Club. You can watch to the end of the video to find out why.

Cici-Reg-a

“Reg”ular

So one of the most popular requests that I've gotten since I started my Fallen Titans series would be for me to cover content creators like Philip DeFranco, Epic Rap Battles of History, Game Grumps... For some reason. And while I certainly get that the core enjoyment that many get from this series is more about hearing me talk about Youtubers generally, but to me, I still think that most of these Youtubers aren't worth talking about because they're basically all the same story. Youtuber starts doing a thing, they do virtually the same thing for ten years. They become multi-millionaires but keep making videos to sustain themselves through the boredom that is life.

However, there is one creator who has managed to find popularity over and over again through the years who I do find enough of an interest in to make a video about. That being, Neil Cicierega. Now, many of you will go into this video either not knowing much about Neil, or not being entirely aware of the scope of his career. And that's interesting to me, because I can guarantee that even if you have never heard his name, you almost certainly know his work.

This is a man that has had consistent and repetitive success on this site, and he's built up each project not with the momentum of his past or the size of his name, but on the inherent caliber of his content.

When I imagine people watching this video, the image that comes to my mind is people sort of going, “Oh, that was him? Wait, that was him too? WAIT! How many things did this one person do?”

Well, a lot really. Let's talk about it.

[Title card: The beginning.]

Shot of Quinton sipping a drink. He looks up.

Q: “Old Godzilla was hoppin' around -- Tokyo city like a big playground -- when suddenly Batman burst from the shade, and hit Godzilla with a bat grenade.”

The Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny was a song created by Neil Cicierega under the pseudonym of 'LemonDemon,' a title designed to annoy anyone trying to read it out loud for the

first time. The song is about a mass conflict taking place between numerous icons of pop-culture. It's often celebrated as one of the best hits of the early internet because of how well it has aged -- most of the figures featured in this song are still respected today, these jokes still considered to be funny.

Our culture has had a WWE-like fascination with discussions on who-would-beat-who in pop-culture for a very long time, and long before mainstream movies and tv shows were going out of their way to appeal to this fantasy, Neil Cicierega managed to pull it off with one joke song.

[clip]

The Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny was a huge hit. It was initially uploaded to Newgrounds, where it did well, but someone eventually ripped it from there and posted it to Youtube, where it did even better. It became a top request for the Doctor Demento show, which is a big deal because a lot of comedian musicians who make it start off by being featured there.

The Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny is still remembered by a large number of people. In fact, many would say that it's a defining landmark in their memories of the early internet. A normal person would make one colossal hit that redefined the public vision of the internet and of pop culture, and then he would lay low for a while. Neil Cicierega was not a normal person.

Remember Potter Puppet Pals?

[clip]

Yea, same guy.

So in basically all of the 21st century, Harry Potter has been a big deal. Even trying to find words to figure out the scope for which Harry Potter is popular almost feels impossible, which I think is itself a good representation of how redundant that sentiment even is. It got to the point that as more Harry Potter stories were released every few years, there would be weird lapses in the cultural understanding of the franchise. Potter Puppet Pals was a series that attempted to capitalise off of this by creating a downsized parody. Vast and epic characters were whittled down to basic gimmicks and personality flaws, delicate situations with high tension were replaced with scenes like this:

[clip]

And so on, and so-forth.

The biggest video in the series was 'The Mysterious Ticking Noise,' which featured numerous Potter characters raping over a ticking sound coming from an unclear source.

[clip]

Potter Puppet Pals was an instant hit with both people who barely knew anything about the franchise and fans who found themselves enjoying the nostalgic simplicity of the series. As the Harry Potter books and movies continued to get darker and edgier, with fewer and fewer beloved characters surviving to the end, Potter Puppet Pals remained exactly as apparently innocent as many remembered the first film, being while still standing out in terms of writing and comic timing.

[clip]

The entire time that Potter Puppet Pals was being created, Neil was also working on other projects. He had continued to do work under the title of LemonDemon, releasing numerous albums over the years. One of my personal favourite obscure songs that he has released has been “Jaws,” about the classic film of the same name.

[clip]

But in terms of songs released by LemonDemon after The Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny, one song stands out amongst all other.

[Brodyquest]

Brodyquest is a tribute to actor Adrien Brody which features an animation of Brody’s “regular day,” where he walks all around the Earth before flying into the sun and consuming all of reality. Brodyquest has been a hit not only because of the brilliant and iconic music video, which by all accounts probably inspired the Shooting Stars meme, but also because of the amazingly catchy song. I’ve used Brodyquest a few times in the background of my Youtube videos, and that’s partially because I think the lackadaisical nature of the Brodyquest medley is the perfect representation of Youtube culture and the Youtube lifestyle. It’s a tune that proudly jolts “I’m marching along, wherever my path leads me, and I hope it’s not off a cliff.”

Brodyquest is perhaps one of the most important things to happen to Neil Cicierega’s career. Because it introduced his work and by some accounts his audience... to remix culture.

[clip]

Artists other than Neil would soon start taking Brodyquest and combining it with other songs to create new experiences, a phenomenon that Neil embraced years later when he released a megamix of the best examples to his channel.

[clip]

It was perhaps this phenomenon which inspired Neil to start working on a series of remixes of his own.

In 2014, Cicierega would release Mouth Sounds, an album filled with mashups and remixes, to his website for free. The main gimmick of the album was it combining numerous tracks with Smash Mouth's All Star.

[clip]

Neil would continue this trend, later releasing Mouth Silence, set in an alternate universe where Smash Mouth never existed, and Mouth Moods. By all accounts, the most popular creation to come out of these albums was 'Bustin'.

[clip]

Bustin has been described as "Like the Ghostbusters theme, but from an alternate universe." Presumably a universe where Huey Lewis was never born.

You know that thing... Where you hear a song, and you really like it, and then it plays in your head for a couple days... But when you go back and listen to it again, you realise that the song has actually changed while it was playing in your head?

The songs featured on the Mouth Trilogy are the version of these hits that play exclusively in your memory.

[clip]

The Mouth Collection is fantastic because it's mostly made out of songs that we all know by heart, and in changing those tunes just enough to shock the listener, it makes us re-evaluate where their value lays. I have never payed more attention to things like lyrical depth more than I have when I hear them remixed like this.

[clip]

Now I'll be the last to admit that these albums are certainly somewhat of an acquired taste, but I personally love the experience of sitting through these. They're my go-to for when I'm doing the dishes or just pacing around, trying to plan out my next video. Because they help me think. They help me fantasize, and they frankly help me dream.

In general, once I stopped to figure out exactly who Neil Cicierega was and what he had done, I was shocked to discover how much of an impact on my life he actually has had. The work of this man, which might initially seem like nothing more than a pile of obscure one-hit-wonder internet

memes, had a huge impact on not only the sort of media I enjoyed, but also how I have viewed and consumed pop-culture.

The scholar of our time recently said in a 127-character real-time book:



And if there's any indication of the validity of Yeezy's words, it's Neil Cicierega.

A man who has spent the past ten years on the internet creating massive pieces of art, who has brought himself to relevancy a way that no one else has. Not by making his audience infatuated with his face or his tone of voice, but by making them fall in love with his individual pieces of art, over and over again. By making them think about how they view the world around them, even if it's in ways that they might not notice.

And because of that, I honestly respect Neil Cicierega more than most internet celebrities that I've followed over the past ten years. What we've talked about today has just been the cliffnotes of his long and fascinating career into animation, storytelling, and music; and I honestly can't put into words how excited I am to see where this man goes next.

fades

Alright, so today's episode has been sponsored by Dollar Shave Club. I was actually really excited that I was able to get these guys on-board as a sponsor, because I've actually been a Dollar Shave Club subscriber for a few months ago.

A lot of you are probably wondering why I would need a Dollar Shave Club membership if I have a beard, to which I say that... I still shave, I just don't shave all of my head.

Shaving is still an extremely important step to grooming yourself, even if you're able to grow a beard. Look, I'm fond of facial hair. But in the past when I've used facial hair as an excuse not to try... Eehhhhh, I've turned out looking like Hagrid. There's a reason that neckbeard is an insult.

But an additional point to make is that Dollar Shave Club isn't a company exclusively about shaving, they're a business dedicated to making you look like you look and feel good. They're got toothpaste, body wash, hair products, basically everything you could need to take care of yourself every day. You gotta keep yourself well-groomed, and Dollar Shave Club is the place to do it.

Alright, so if you go to DollarShaveClub.com/Qreview, you're gonna find the Daily Starter Kit, which Dollar Shave Club is giving away for a limited time at the low price of \$5. This is going to come with an Executive Razor and trial-sized versions of some of the more popular Dollar Shave club products -- Shave Butter, Body Wash, and One Wipe Charlies.

Let me tell you guys something, I've been shaving since the seventh grade. I've been doing this a long time, let's just say. And I have never had a better shaving experience outside of Dollar Shave Club. They're that good. And I am so happy that they have chosen to support this channel, and that I have been able to tell my audience about their amazing service.

This offer is exclusively available at [Dollar Shave Club dot com slash q review](https://DollarShaveClub.com/qreview) That's Dollar Shave Club dot com slash q-r-e-v-i-e-w".

That's all you need.