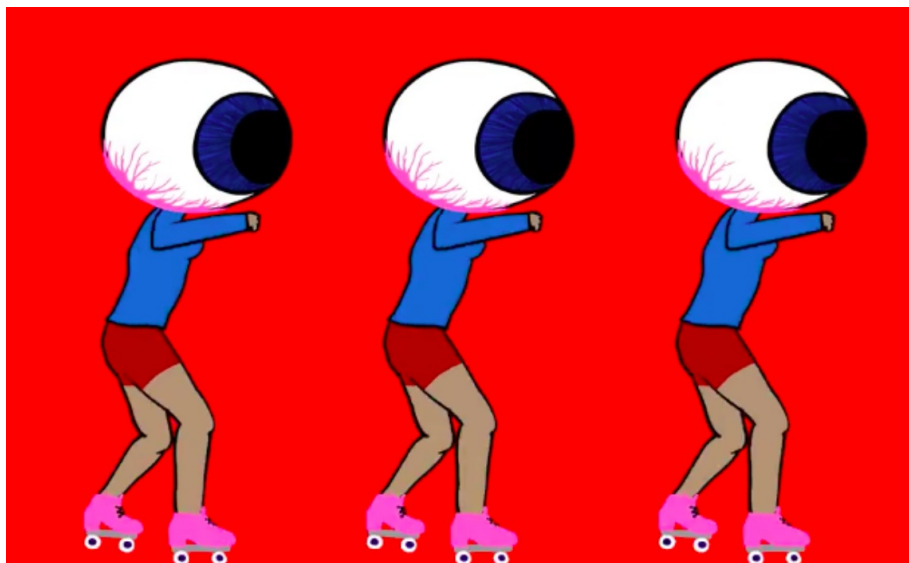


Fund This: 'The Eyeslicer,' Perhaps The Weirdest Series Out There, Seeks A Second Season



Welcome to the **Fund This** column! Each week, we'll look at a planned web series or other online video project currently in search of funding on crowdfunding sites. We'll tell you what the series is all about and explain why it is worth your money. Do you have a project that's currently being crowdfunded? Contact us to let us know and we may feature it in upcoming installments and check out previous installments right here.

Project Name: *The Eyeslicer*

Asking For: \$32,000 via **Kickstarter**

Amount Raised Thus Far (At Time Of Post): \$5,367

Days Remaining In Campaign (At Time Of Post): 28

Description: If you're the kind of person who finds the state of online entertainment to be staid and just not weird enough, then I have the crowdfunding campaign for you. Head on over to Kickstarter, where Dan Schoenburn and **Vanessa McDonnell** are looking for financial backing in order to create a second season of their variety show/live act/weird

internet thing, titled *The Eyeslicer*.

The Eyeslicer first arrived back in 2016 (it was funded on Kickstarter then, too) as a canvas on which it stars and creators could play out a series of strange scenes. It's hard to say what exactly *The Eyeslicer* is about, but if you watch some of the show's first season (which featured notable weird movie people like David Lowery and **Amy Seimetz**), it will speak for itself. Warning: it's not for the faint of heart.

For season two, Schoenburn and co. are looking to put together a "weirder, darker, more ambitious" collection of ten episodes that will comment on where our modern society is headed. Fund this one at your own risk.

Creator Bio: McDonnell has produced several projects around the New York City area. Schoenbrun, meanwhile, used to work at Kickstarter, where he focused on outreach to the film community.

Best Perk: A contribution of \$75 will get you a VHS copy of the *Eyeslicer* Halloween special. Yes, VHS. No, I don't think it's available on Betamax.

Why You Should Fund It: We've had an eye on Schoenbrun since 2014, when we picked up another one of his projects, *collective:unconscious*, in this column. He has a knack for making weird, provocative and tends to get interesting people to work with him. The first season of *The Eyeslicer*, for example, received significant praise around the internet thanks to its bold approach to content creation. What else do Schoenbrun and McDonnell have in store? To find out, we'll have to help make season two of their show a reality.

Got a crowdfunding campaign you'd like to see featured in *Fund This*? Be sure to contact us [here](#).

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YouTuber Convicted Of Hate Crime For Teaching Nazi Salute To Dog Raises £118,366 For Legal Appeal



Markus Meechan is not accepting his hate speech conviction without a fight. The Scottish YouTuber, known online as Count Dankula, needed just two days to raise £118,366 via GoFundMe. That total, which comes out to about \$164,925, will be used to fund Meechan's appeal of a March court decision that found him guilty of a hate crime after he taught his dog how to perform a Nazi salute.

In a 2016 clip, which was viewed more than three million times before it was taken down from Meechan's channel, the Scotsman taught his dog (a pug named Buddha) to perform the "heil" salute associated with Adolf Hitler's Nazi régime. Meechan also conditioned Buddha to react positively when he said the words "gas the Jews."

A Scottish court didn't find Meechan's joke very funny. Sheriff **Derek O'Carroll** convicted the YouTuber and punished him with an £800 (\$1,117) fine. After that sentence was announced, several YouTube stars, including Philip DeFranco and Jon Jafari, bemoaned the

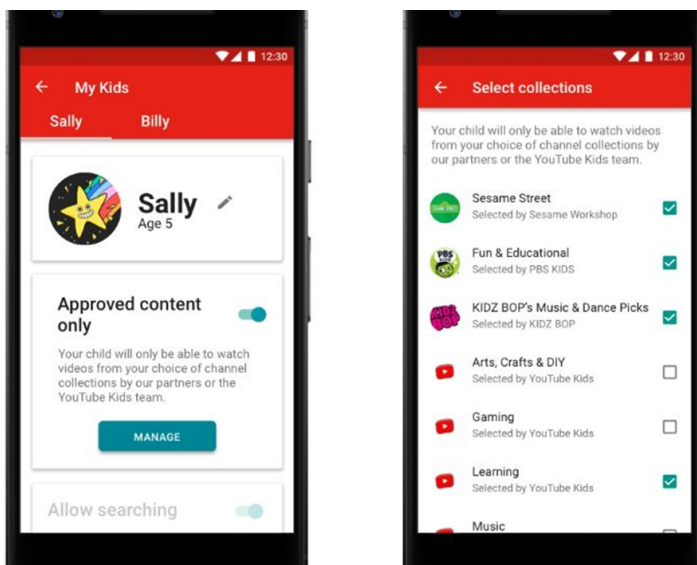
verdict and its implications regarding free speech.

Meechan also took issue with the decision. With his appeal, he hopes to prevent the court from establishing a dangerous precedent. “This conviction will be used as an example to convict other people over the things they say and the jokes they make,” he wrote on his GoFundMe page, “it sets a standard where courts will be able to willfully ignore the context and intent of a persons words and actions in order to punish them and brand them as criminals.”

Thanks to the generosity of his supporters, his legal fees for that appeal are now covered. We’ll see if his conviction is overturned — but in the meantime, he might want to be careful what other gestures he teaches his dog.

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YouTube Kids Amplifies Parental Controls, Including Ability To Whitelist All Videos, Channels



YouTube has introduced three new ways for parents to monitor the **YouTube Kids** app, which it says will roll out over the course of 2018. The updated tools arrive after a controversy dubbed '**Elsagate**' emerged late last year, during which a slew of inappropriate videos were discovered to be targeting children, leading to a purge of channels amid outcry by advertisers and a pledge on YouTube's part to do better.

In order to show that it has the interests of young viewers at heart, YouTube is rolling out this week an option where parents can limit viewing options for their kids to channels from YouTube-approved partners, such as **Sesame Workshop**, **PBS Kids**, and **Kidz Pop**. These partners will furnish content about arts and crafts, music, sports, learning, and more, YouTube says, enabling parents to rely on renowned content brands. The video giant says that it will add more partners over time.

A second option will give parents the ability to personally hand-select — or whitelist —

every single video and channel that their children are able to access. And lastly, YouTube Kids is adding even more security to its search-off feature. Going forward, when parents turn off the ability to search within the app, the YouTube Kids experience will automatically be limited to channels that have been verified by the YouTube Kids team, and will not include recommendations from the platform's broader ethos.

YouTube notes that parents who do not want access to the new features will be able to keep the current version of YouTube Kids. The app is currently used by 11 million viewers weekly.

"Kids love the recommended videos in the app — and parents have told us they are also interested in more ways to personalize the app for their specific style," said YouTube Kids' product director **James Beser** in a statement. "Throughout this year, we'll roll out a more robust suite of tools for parents to customize the YouTube Kids experience."

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