

LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

OK COOL Co-Founder and Global Chief Creative Officer

We keep meeting like this.

Five years and five global offices later and we're buzzed to be bringing you another culture-defining annual trend report.

You know the drill. We're going big-brain on the internet and culture, because we're not in the habit of saying more of the same. Or the things old-school, big agencies have only just figured out. Anyone here still working with them?;)

At OK COOL, this is our moment to observe the taste and trajectory of culture so that when we put work into the world, we know people will bother to pay attention. Over the years, what's become clear is that this isn't a social media or platform report. We're not here to catalogue trends. We're here for the why. And we promise you, it's a better use of your time.

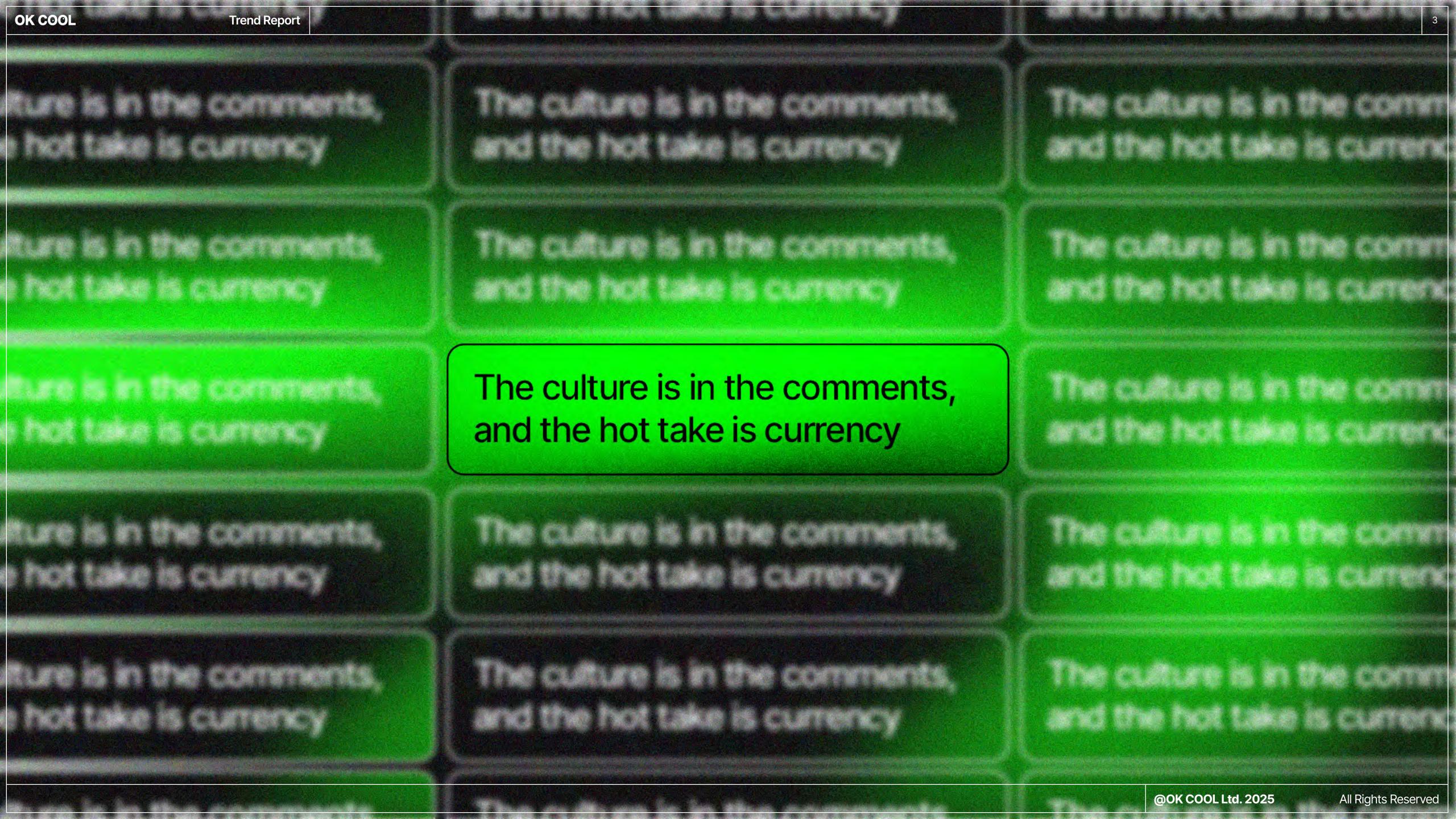
This is an examination of people and what thrills, captures attention, and defines conversation. A cultural state-of-play report. A temperature test on taste. A deep dive into the psyche of the people you most want to impress.

Settle in, scroll through, and step into the proverbial meeting room with OK COOL's biggest thinkers.

JOLYON VARLEY

OK COOL Co-Founder and Global Head of Brand

LIZ STONE



Another year, another OK COOL trend report, and you know the drill. We get into the weeds on, well, the whole of culture, content and the internet.

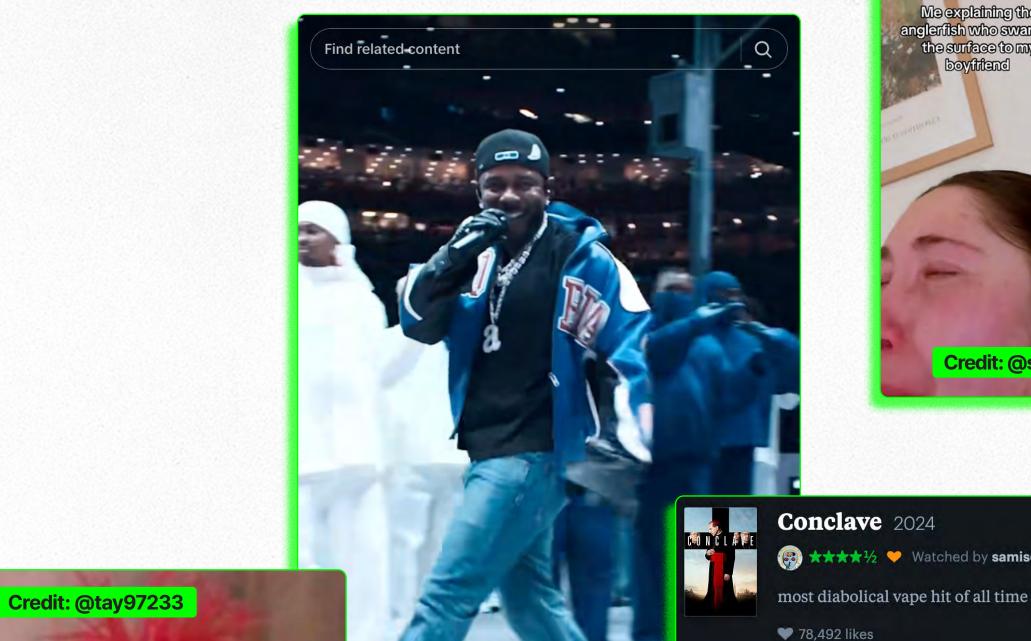
We're not listing trends, rather we're getting to the bottom of what thrills the audiences we're trying to impress. What motivates them on social and screen, but more importantly, what motivated them irl, in their everyday lives, and to spend their time, money and loyalty.

Last year, content got smart in the dumbest way possible. As we saw in Gatekeeping Information is SO Boomer Coded, class was in session with the TikTok-ification of education, empowering audiences to seek access in previously unimaginably entertaining ways. As content got clever and your audience got demanding, substance in content became a non-negotiable.

They're more informed, and subsequently they've got more to say. The comments section is lit up with the kind of cutting observations once reserved for brutal 90's editorial think pieces in The New Yorker.

We're deeping how high the bar for entertainment and connection is, who holds the power, and how to find your brand and perspective when the balance of influence lies in the detail.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



Me explaining the anglerfish who swam to the surface to my boyfriend

Credit: @savannahbellexoxo

My face when I daze out during a meeting and

someone says my name





BUT DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

As usual, we dipped into the mainframe and heard it straight from the source, 2700 of you to be exact, from across the world, across generations and experiences.

You're seeing it, too. Influence is going grassroots, conversation is king, and culture lives in our ability to remix and reinvent in a million different ways. Culture is crowdsourced.

DETAILS ON OUR SAMPLE:

WHERE THEY'RE FROM: 58% Western Europe, 21% North America, 13% Australia/NZ, 6% South America, 2% Asia/Eastern Europe.
WHO THEY ARE: 45% Millennials, 33% Gen Z, 16% Gen X+, 6% Gen Alpha.





Everyone has an opinion these days.

Over 70% of respondents believe we're living in a hot take economy.



The hot takes are popping off:

"The people in the comment section are the real cultural critics."



Where is culture actually culturing?

Apparently it's IRL, TikTok and Instagram (although 32.9% said it's happening exclusively in the group chat).



We're creating spaces for the real ones, and they're influential af.

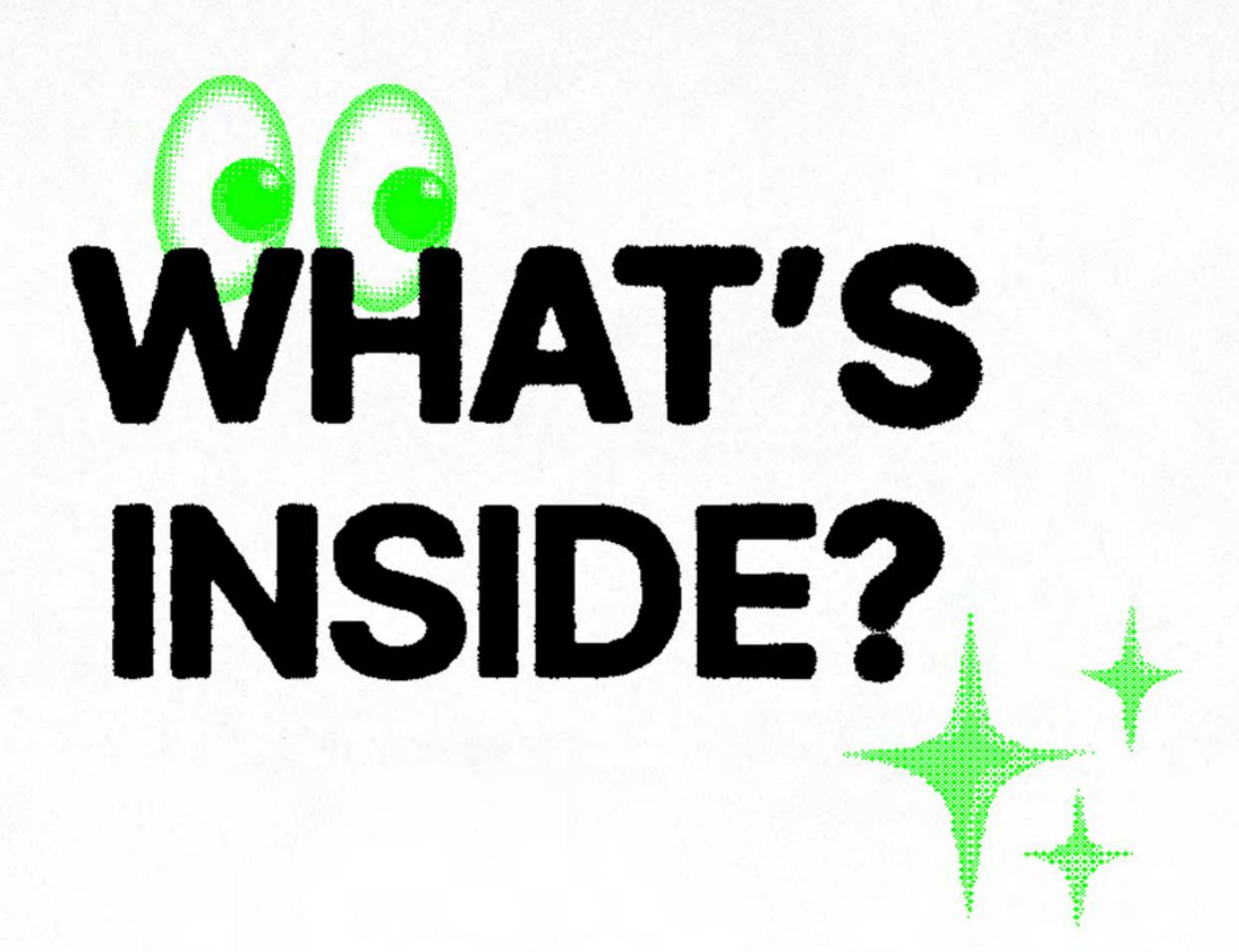
77% of ya'll are using Close Friends and Finstas, keeping the unhinged, unfiltered and NSFW moments for the real ones.



Overwhelmingly, the content you're enjoying most comes from creators, hot-take and opinion creators, podcasters and personalities. We're loving an opinionated diva. But NO ONE is funnier than the strangers in the comments section.

65% of you know that rn the besties in the comments are the height of comedy.

YOUR ACTUAL BESTIES
IN THE GROUP CHAT
ARE A CLOSE SECOND
SO THAT'S CUTE



one:

welcome to the new town hall, what have you got to say?

two:

but the world is bigger than an fyp

three:

but wait, am i talking to a real person?

four:

icons know how to be the center of the conversation

five:

how your brand can do itwithout giving hey fellow kids

six:

slide into our dms

please rise for the Las Culturistas pledge of allegiance <

YOU GOING TO DO WHEN EMERALD FENNELL CALLS YOU ABOUT

BECAUSE WHAT ARE

Credit: @brookefromonline JECT



Delphine∞

THE COMMENTS FEEL LIKE WHEN YOUR FRIEND KEEPS ADDING TO A JOKE WHEN YOU ALREADY CANT BREATHE

♥ 3841

Reply



WELCOME TO THE NEW TOWN HALL, WHAT

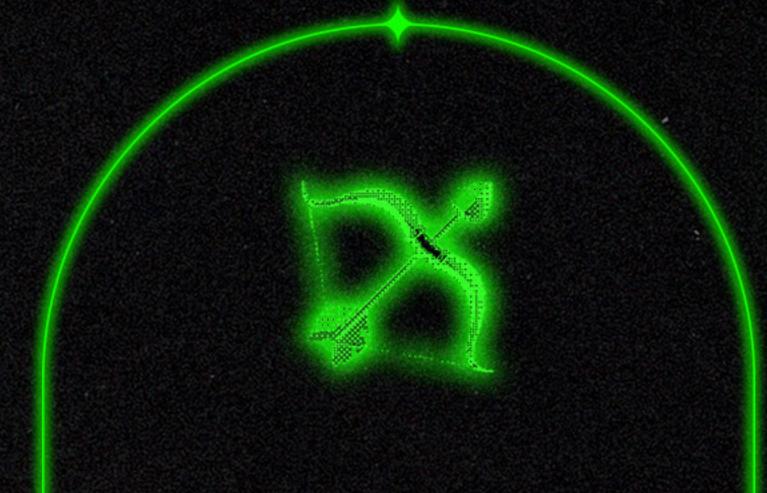
HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY?

The Pope Draft

Credit: @chrisbarnescomedy

Credit: @calebsaysthings

@OK COOL Ltd. 2025



We've gone full circle. The internet is just a medieval town square.

Jokers, philosophers, town criers and the angry rabble all together vying for attention.

Years spent curating your perfect digital self? It means nothing. You've got mere seconds to make your mark, and no one can fake it in the comments section. We're fans, haters, stand-up comedians, theorists. Holding everyone better or worse) to account.

THE LORE IS BEING BUILT BRICK BY BRICK





THE COMMENTS ARE KEEPING US UP AT NIGHT AND WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH.

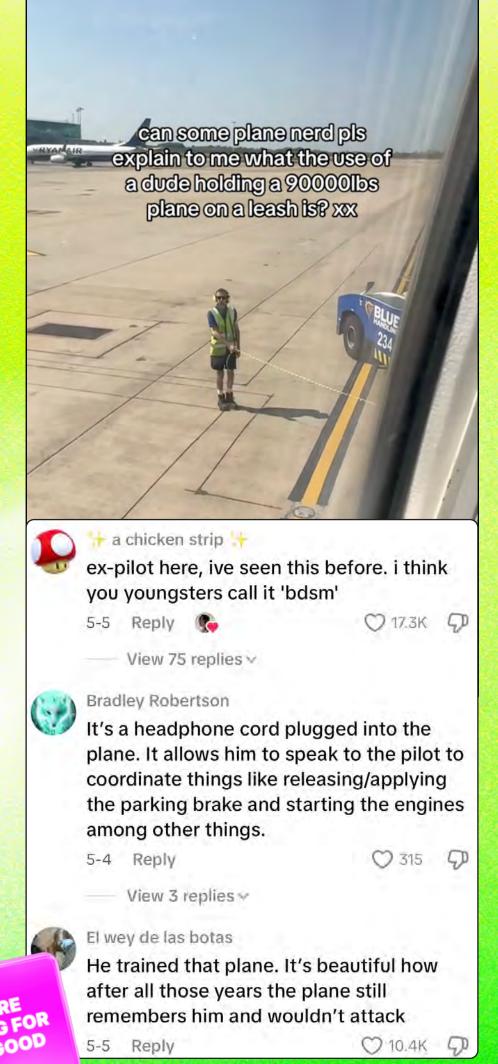
9196

OF YOU SAID YOU ARE LURKING IN THERE.









Credit: @celly.xia

THE COMMENTS = THE CONTENT. AND IT'S THE MOMENT

JOIN L DARE (BI REALL

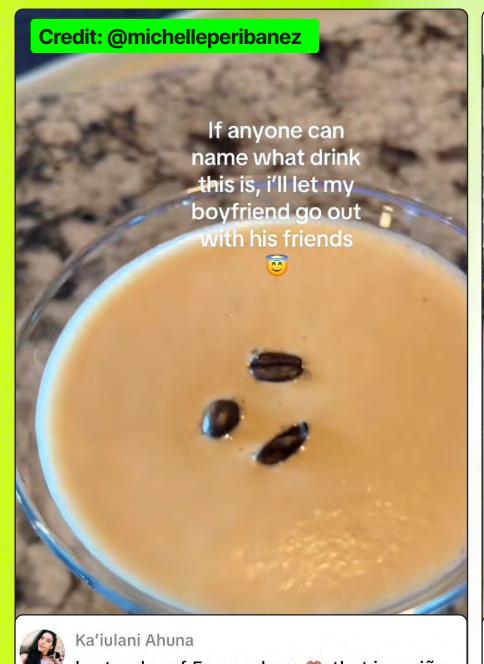
JOIN US, DARE (BUT REALLY SI

JOIN US, IF YOU DARE (BUT LIKE YOU REALLY SHOULD)

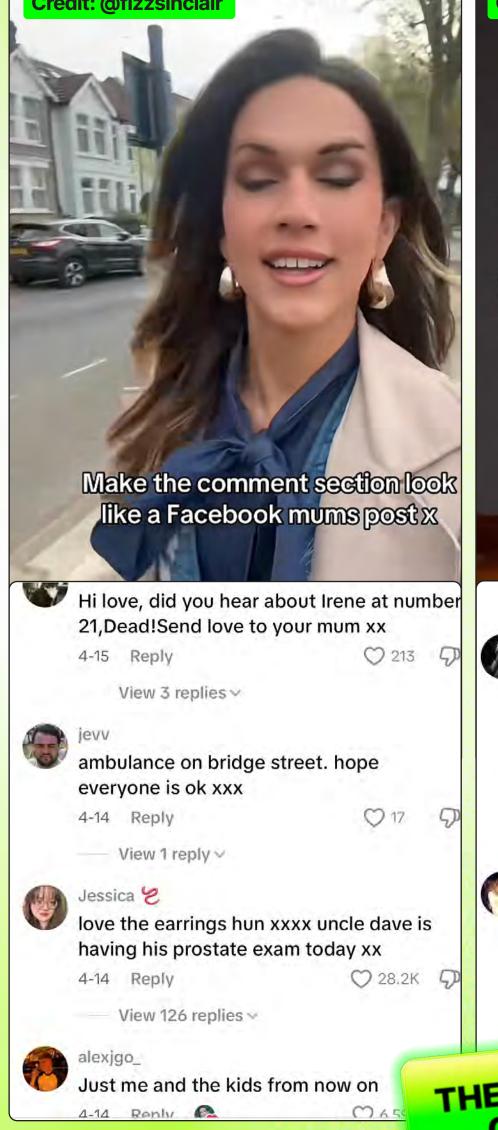
Comments extension expected leaning



5







servers: what are your best bits you do w your tables? not just giving the check to the baby like what's the most theatrical saul goodman esque bit you've pulled that paid off. need some new material

3,805 comments

landryttg77 if i'm carrying multiple plates and one is hot, i'll put the hot one down first and say "this plate is super hot" and then when I put the other plate down I say "and this one has a good personality"

5-4 Reply

O 126.1K 5

View 158 replies v

my wife and I (so, two lesbians) had a server bring two takeout containers at the end of our meal and say "Here you go! Two boxes - your favorite!" Years later and I will **NEVER** forget that! O 16K D

THE GROUP CHAT **ON STEDS**



15 THE INTERNEY OUR NEW

Not only is TikTok our Google, it's becoming our confidant. We're exposing our deepest, sometimes darkest, concerns to corners of the Internet with more trust than ever. A rise in Al and automation has sent us searching for peer-to-peer advice in the comments: personal, flawed, but with feeling.

Credit: @cameronisaboysname

i saw this post of dogs at a shelter saying "we'd rather be alone 9 hours of the day then 23.5 hours of the day" encouraging people will full time in person jobs to adopt. i wanta dog so badly and my flancé and l ruled it out cause we both work full time in person. I would love people's unbiased opinions on this cause I would love to get a dog out of the shelter but I feel like it's unfair for the dog to be left alone for most of the time (and also become comfortable in the home without us)



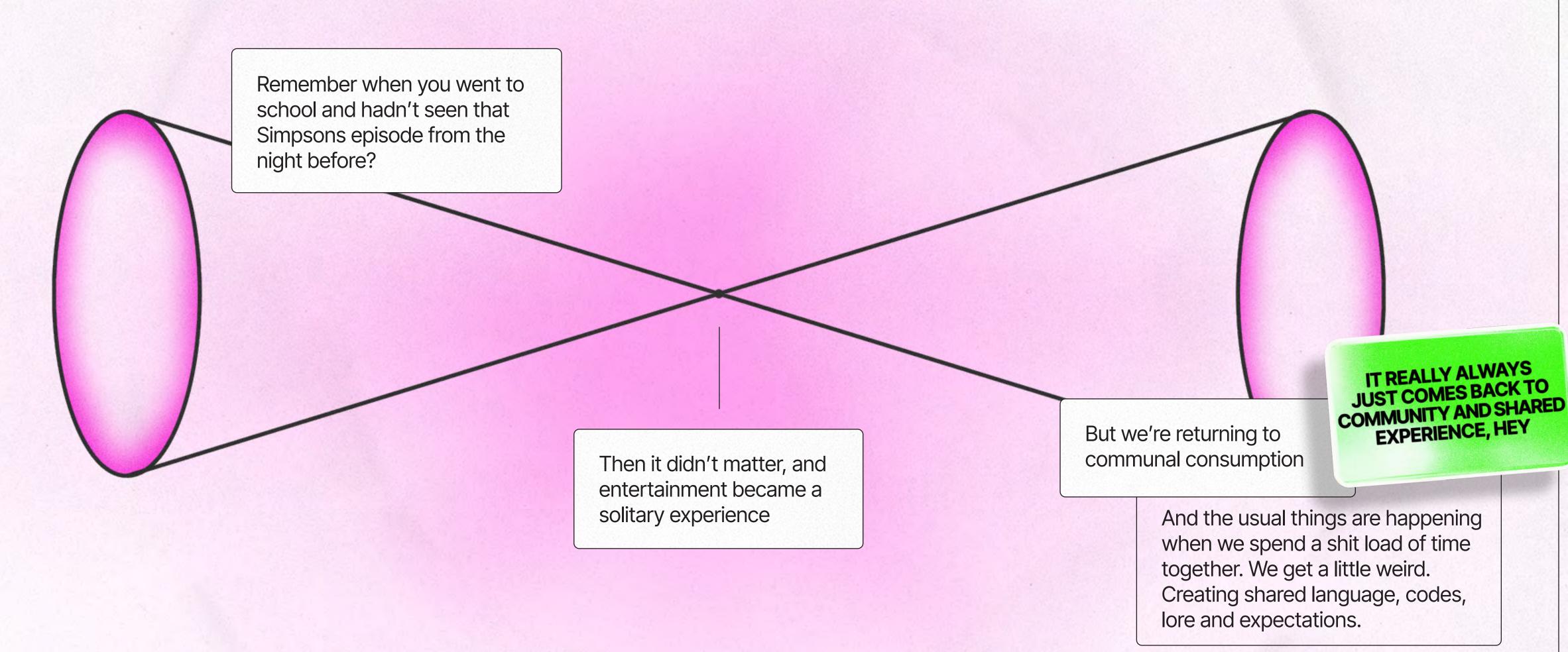
I work in rescue. There are hundreds of dogs sat in shelters who will NEVER find a home. A sofa and people with them all night is better than sitting in an empty kennel for 24 hours a

3-31





WHY ARE WE MIGRATING TO THE COMMENTS?



BUT LIKE, SO WHAT?

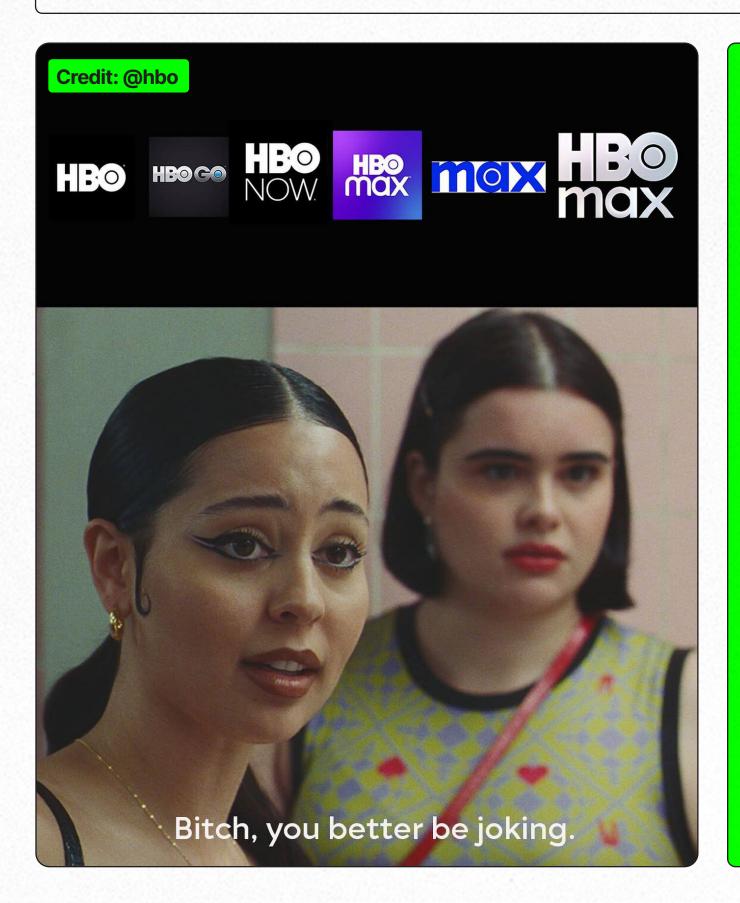


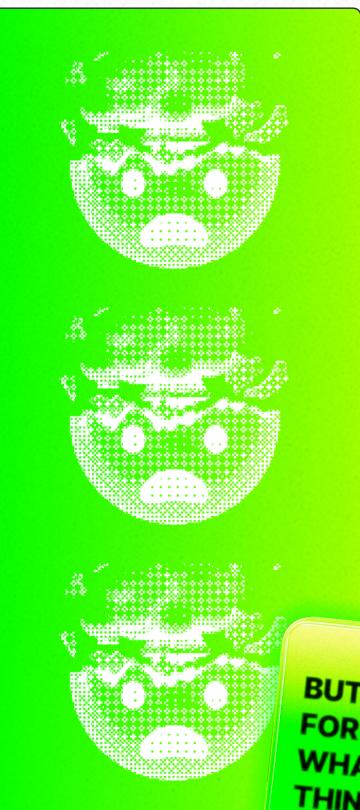
IT'S NOT JUST "THE COMMENTS"

IT'S THE COMMENT-ARY

THE POWER HAS 100% GONE TO OUR HEADS

YOUR AUDIENCE IS UNIONISING IN THE COMMENTS. BRANDS, ACCEPT YOUR FATE, LISTEN IN, AND GET IN FRONT





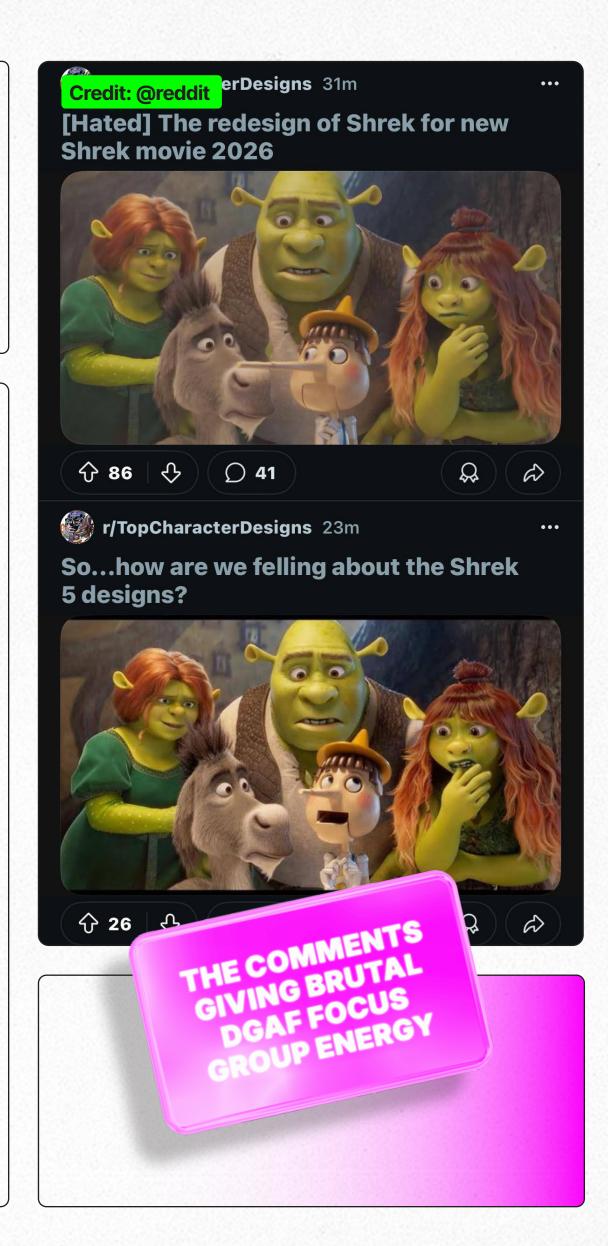
We know there is power in numbers, and the silent scream from the comments is surprisingly loud.

Audiences have the power to drag you, and make their demands. Whether it's the stans literally begging for a Shrek 5 redesign, or HBO just knowwwwing they're going to get roasted for the sixth logo design in recent years.

But don't think of it as a bad thing. It means you're the custodian of a fandom that really cares. So get self-aware, read the comments, and know that sometimes the final boss brand move is just calling a spade a spade.

BUT THE COOLEST MOVE FOR A BRAND? TO JUST SAY WHAT THEY'RE ALL THINKING (THEY KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LURKING TOO)

[



THE COMMENTS SECTION IS THE AUDIENCE'S REVENGE FORBEINGUNDERESTIMATED AND BORED BY BRANDS, CREATORS ANDENTERTAINMENT FOR A LITTLE TOO LONG

Jet2 are ascending, but not in flight....

The classic TV jingle, once an intentionally earnest ad for family-friendly discounts, has become the trending sound of the summer. It's evolved from a trending sound paired with chaotic, ironic holiday content. Now the VO artist is performing live alongside DJs. We just can't get enough of it. Brand properties, reclaimed by audiences, colloquialised and embedded in cultural lore.

NOTHING BEATS A JET2
HOLIDAY!!! THE POWER OF
THE PEOPLE IN REAL TIME

A::::;;;;;ahunAt





Credit: @aggythegift2.0

Credit: @moderndaymama

Credit: @belleperez_ wards the su... Q

I JUST FOUND OUT
ABOUT THE ANGLER FISH

AND IM SOBBING

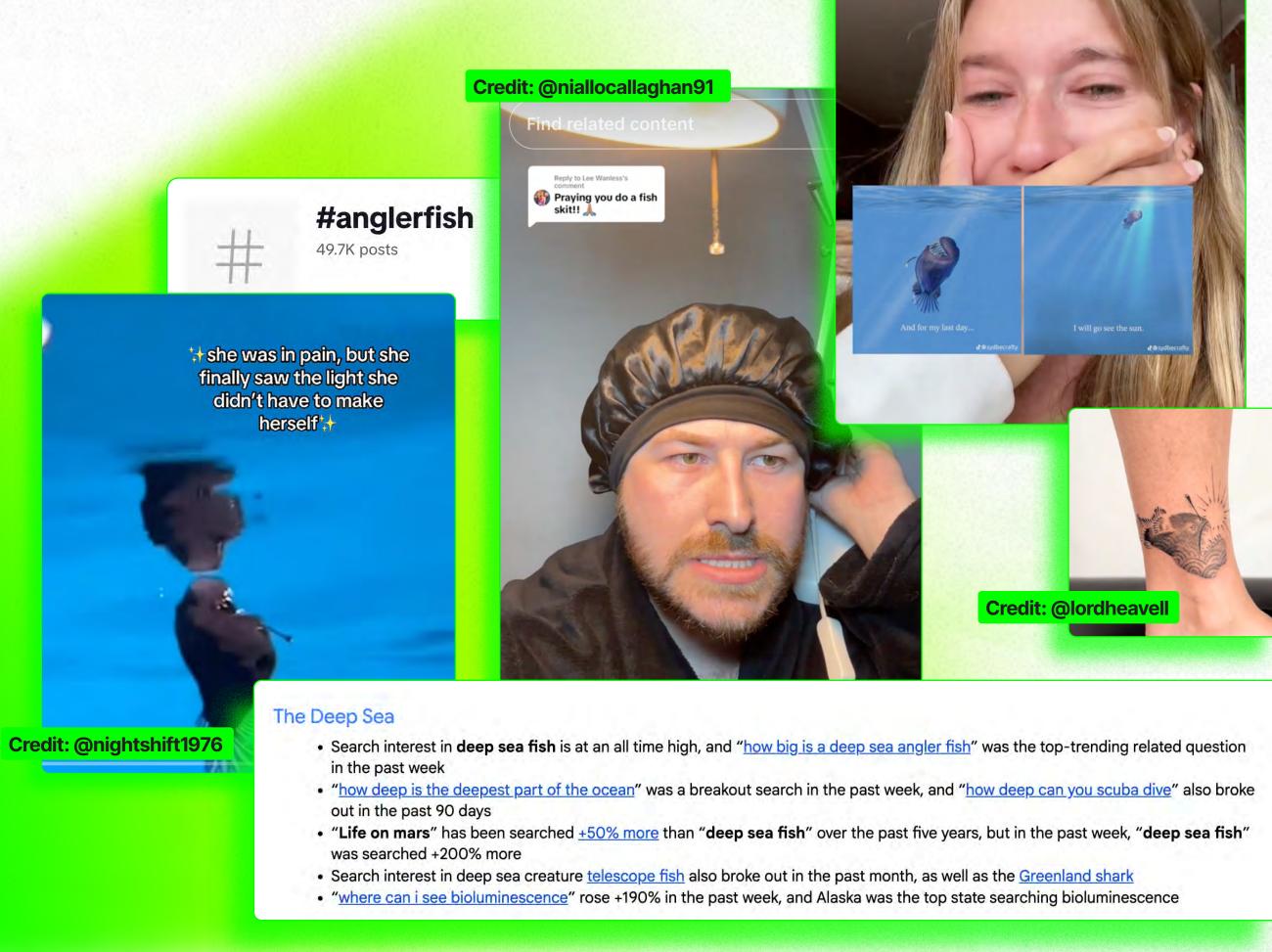
TURNS OUT ONE FISH CAN SAY A LOT ABOUT HUMANITY

WHO KNEW?

When the viral Angler Fish swam to the surface this year, we probably didn't clock at first that it was actually a reflection on the hopeless state of modern dating in 2025, or on what it means to persevere despite all odds. This diva once again showed us that the audience is operating on levels we can't even fathom.

But the internet did what it did best, and made something deeply silly, yet profound.

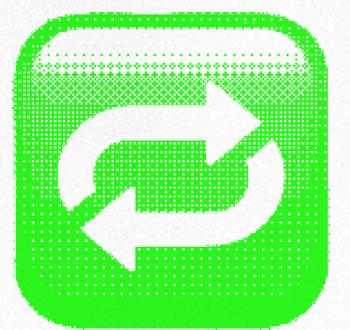




Your audience owns the narrative, and there's nothing more IYKYK than intertextuality. They're going to remix, reimagine and recreate. Have the confidence to let them. They'll love you the more for it.

It's not so much what they see of themselves in content, it's what they can create with it.









"Comments and DMs often spark my biggest ideas, it's gone from me just posting to creating together. A simple comment can spark a spin off series or idea that I'm yet to work on."

yourname keepscomingup

EVERYTHING IS COMMENTARY. CULTURE IS IN DIALOGUE. SHIT CHAT IS UNFORGIVABLE.

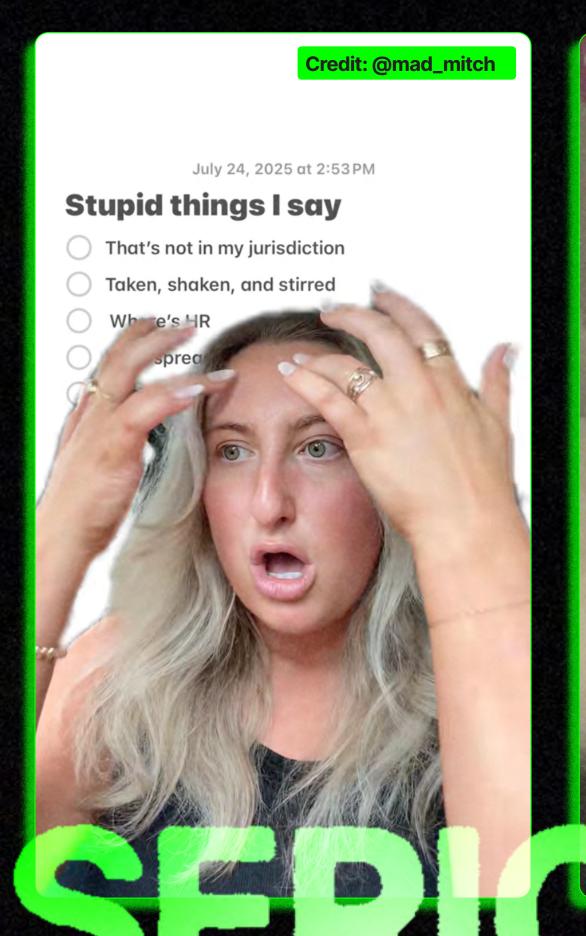
Your audience wants content that lets them get into the weeds with their fellow stans. Create for the few in the comments, and you'll see results from the many on the FYP.













Credit: @apxoxo14



COMMENTARY HAS BEEN TIKTOK-IFIED. THE COMMENTARY IS MORE SILLY THAN EVER.

Watch this guy fold a fitted sheet in Edinburgh x

Constant exposure to other people's opinions has resulted in a dramatic shift. Irony is their north star, and they're self-aware to unprecedented levels.

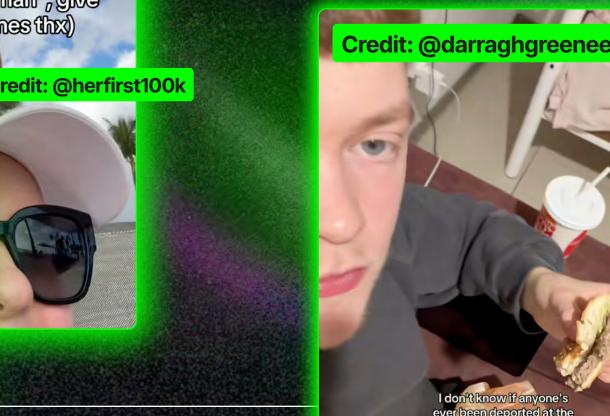
This has heralded the death of sensible. Behaviour itself is shifting in response to this chaotic new world, where free will reigns, and nothing is ever that serious.



tell me your most unhinged way that you practice microfeminism in your life (I'm not talking about "assuming the doctor is a woman", give me insome ones that)













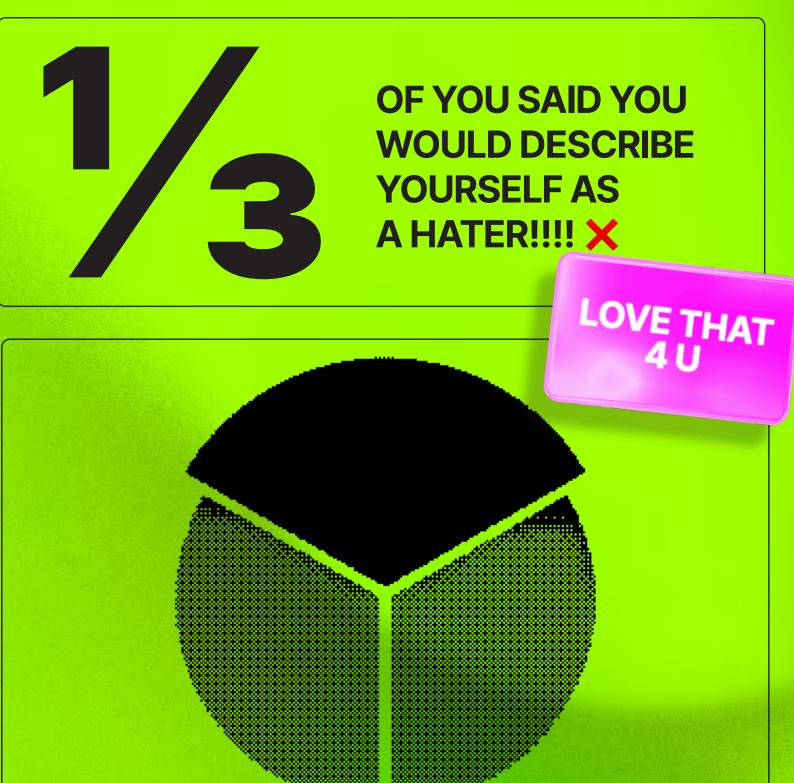


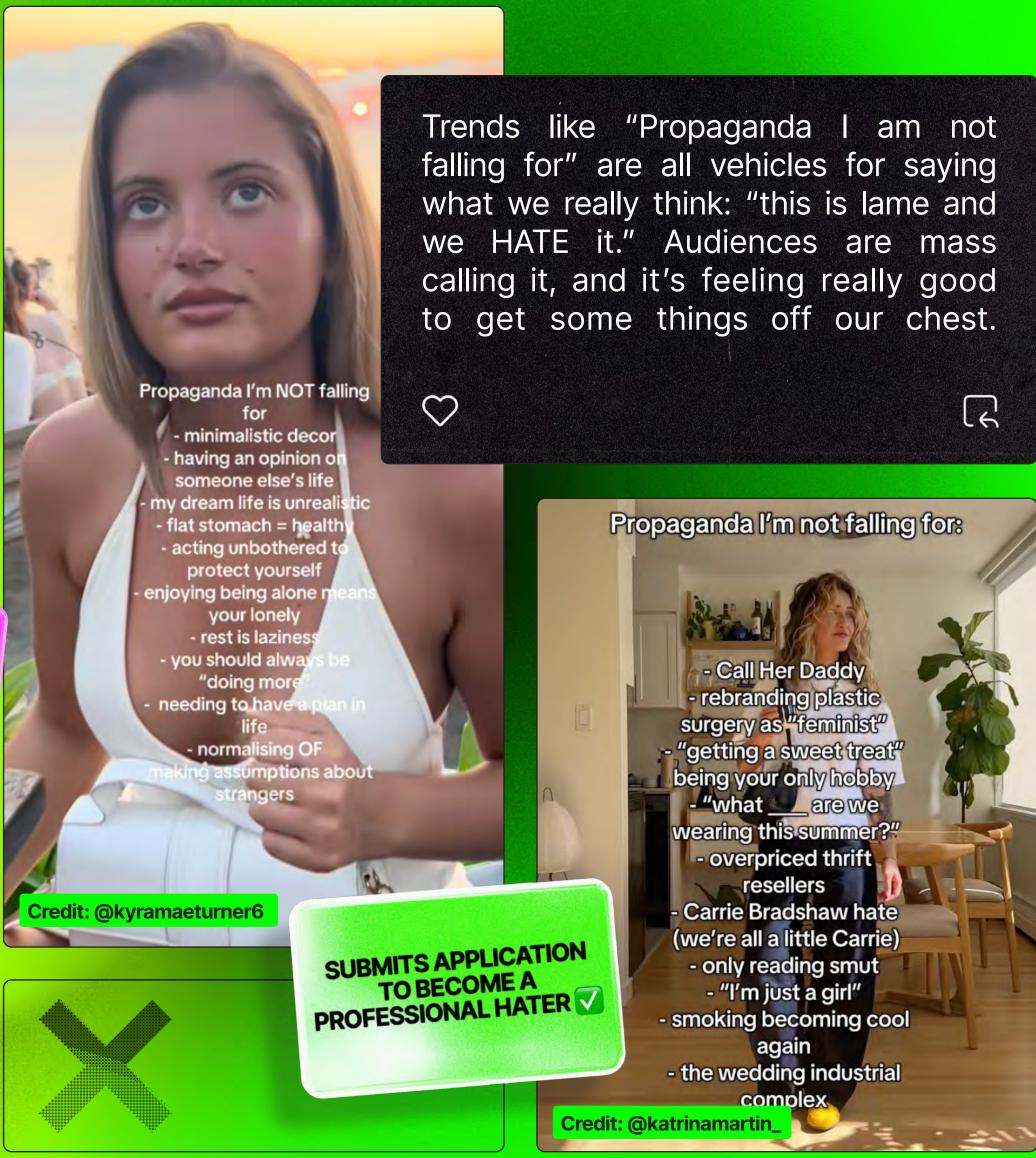
HATE IS BACK!?

A LITTLE (UNSERIOUS) RAGE LOOKS GOOD ON US

We have X wars and diss tracks; hater mentality is back.







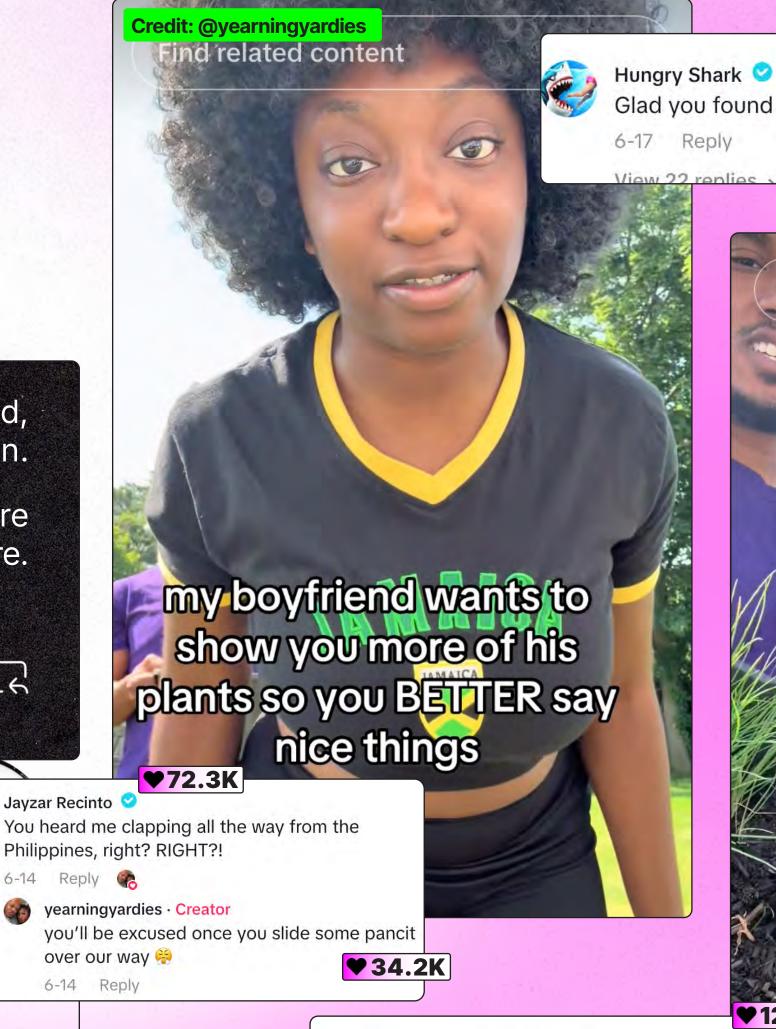
BUTLOVEIS ALSO BACK??

the overly earnest, brand safe kind, though. emerging from the algo is a raw and diabolically silly version.

to conversations of radical acceptance, Parallel we're encouraging ourselves and others to reclaim enthusiasm and care.





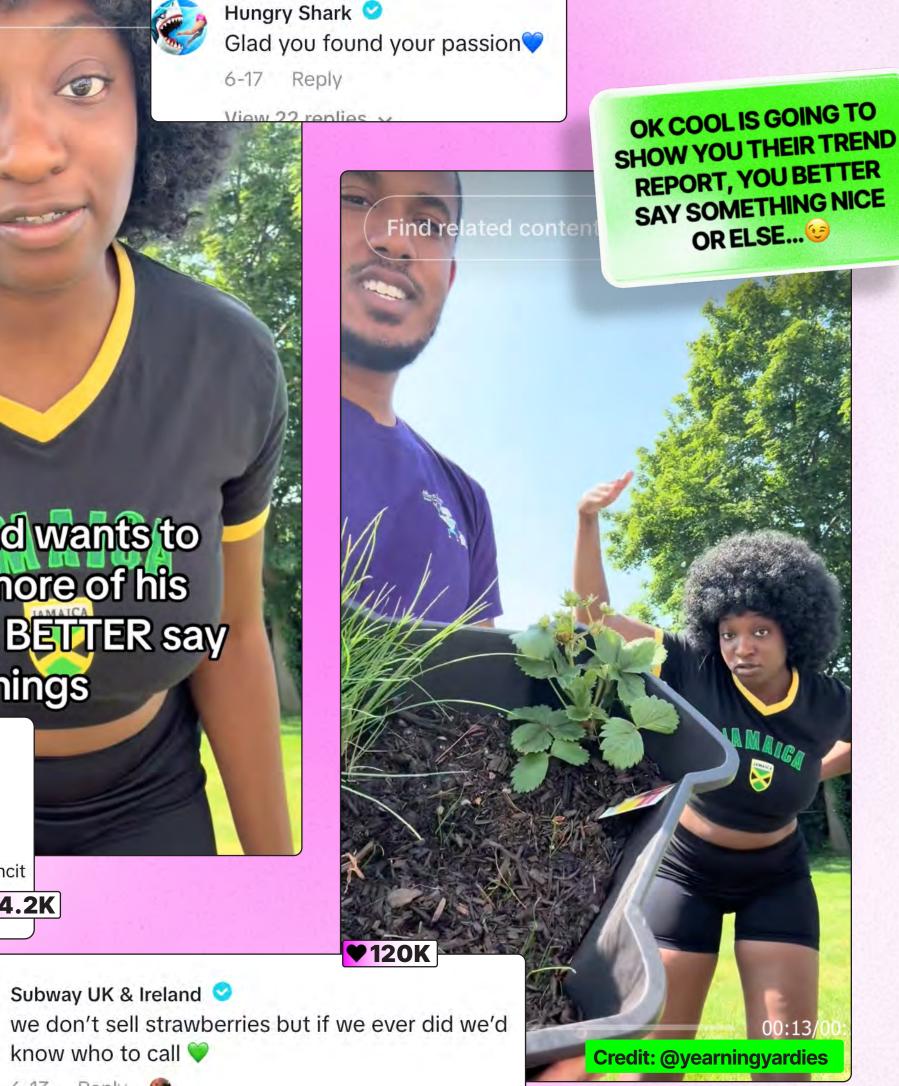


Subway UK & Ireland

know who to call 💗

6-13 Reply (%)

View 141 replies ✓

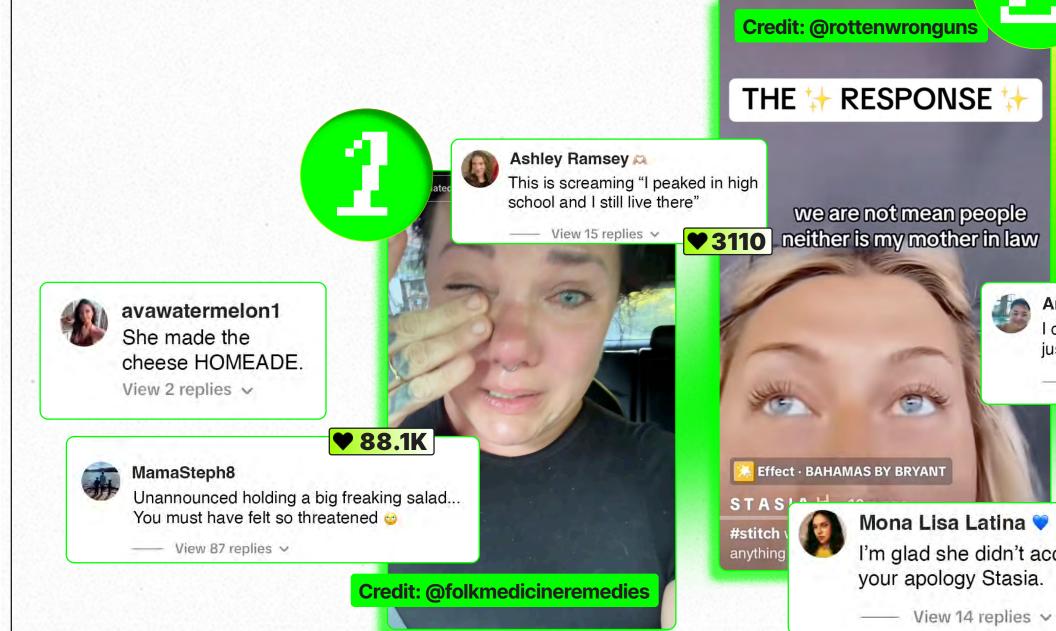


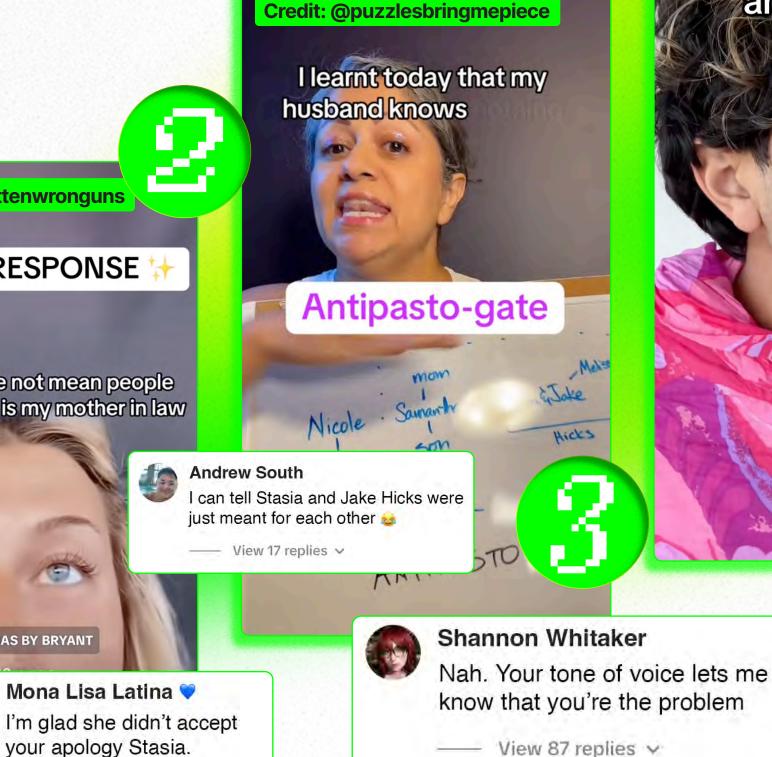
& CAMARADERIE TOO.

GOING TO WAR FOR THE SWEETHEARTS: THE ANTIPASTO CONTROVERSY

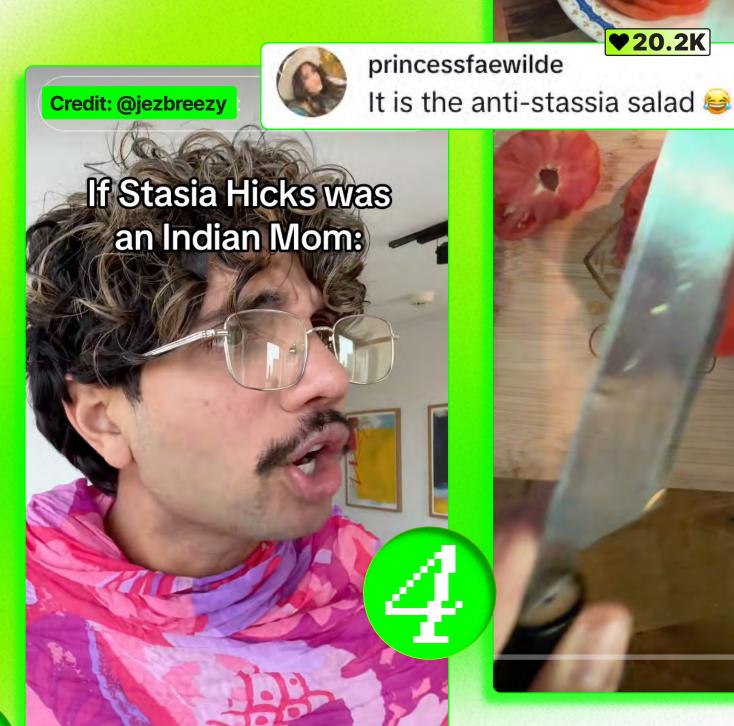
There's a lot out of our control these days. But what is in our control? Getting revenge for people who have been wronged online.

The besties in the comments; ready to mobilise.





♥29.8K





% "|

Katie Reed

"I am not a mean person" & immediately starts saying horribly mean words...

── View 49 replies ∨

♥ 70.1K

BUTTHEWORLD SBIGGERTHAN ANFYP

Let's look into the platforms, digital and IRL spaces less frequented that are capturing the culture and conversation.

Credit: @highsnobiety

THINGS ZIWE LOVES:

- R/bravorealhousewive
- 2. Shrek 2

Credit: @silkelondon

- 3. Interviews
- 4. Matching Sets
- 5. When Lil Wayne Said Real Gs
- Move In Silence Like Lasagna
- 6. My Black Chow Chow named Celine Dion
- 7. People Who Read My Book
- 8. When The Leaves Change During Autumn
- And I Can Finally Start Dressing Dressing
- 9. Strong POVs

Credit: @dreambabypress

by DREAM BARY

If we're saying that in the comments, imagine how unhinged the group chats are.

We're retreating to the spaces where culture, cult and fandom is operating in its most potent form. True grassroots community, opinion and influence. Whether it's the Reddit thread, Letterboxd reviews or, best of all, just the group chat of those seven friends that are the arbiters of culture and influence in your world.

U:

Where is the most insightful cultural commentary today?

YOU

"My mates are still my most trusted source.

The stuff they send me privately is almost always better than what I find in my feed. It's a form of social editing that no algorithm can match"

"Angry menopausal women on Substack; marginalised voices speaking up despite fear; Gen Z newsletter writers giving it everything outside the parameters of mainstream media. Reductress and The Onion"

"Creators and thought leaders who are experts in their fields. Then the comment sections lol"

"Comes from the next conversation at a bar table"

"YouTube Essayists, Podcast hosts, TikTok & Instagram Creators, Reddit threads, Discord servers, and private group chats"



Seems you can't keep a good platform down. The Reddit renaissance is upon us, and the historically unsexy platform feels like that hot take from five years ago that has aged incredibly well.

Outspoken, yet (relatively) for the public good, Reddit is doing the near impossible for a heritage platform, and 20 years after its inception, it's the fastest growing social media platform in 2025 (eMarketer, 2025).

A primitive, yet an undeniably human space, we're gathering here for the transparent, anti #sponcon, niche conversation somewhat harder to preserve on other platforms.

CLUB KIDS HAVE EVOLVED:

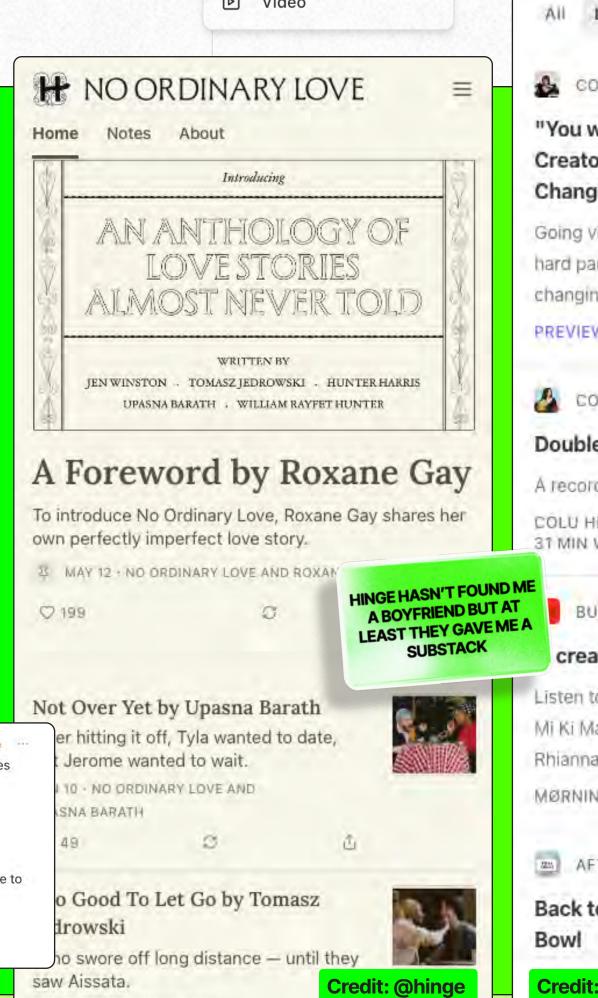
SUBSTACK AND IT'S THE SAME BUT THERE'S VIDEOS AND PODCASTS SO IT'S NOT BUT IT'S STILL SUBSTACK

Since we last chatted, Substack is even more that diva.

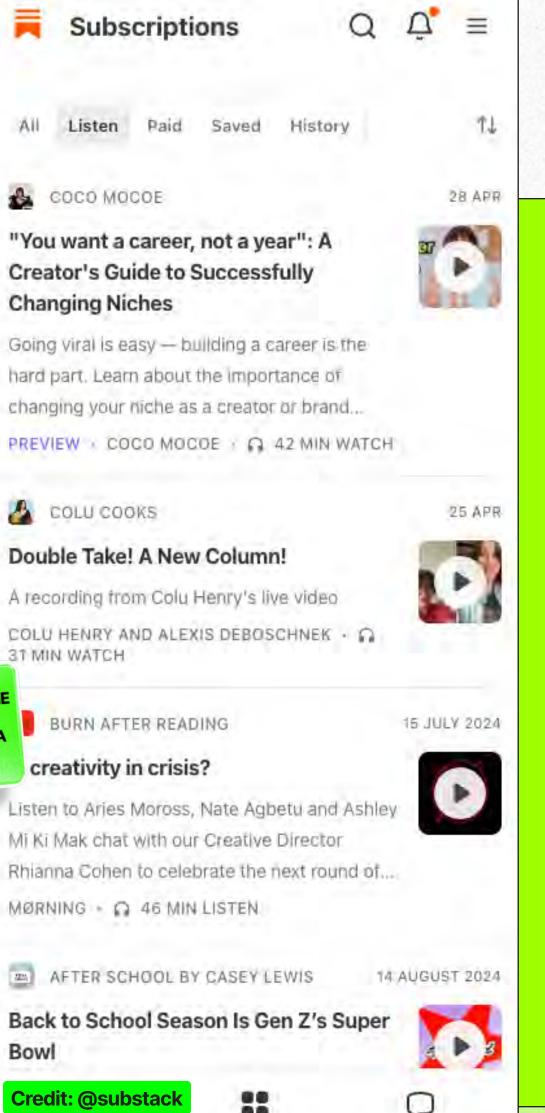
What kind of discourse do you want? A podcast, a video essay or an intrusive thought (note) - it's got it all. THANK GOD brands are finally realising its potential (thanks for listening ().

Substack is a true community tool, whether posting to 17 subscribers or 1500, it's a space to engage in conversation, reinforce your values, and intellectually connect with an audience.

We're not using these spaces for mass reach. It's about creating a space where your brand world, and fandom, is at its most potent and powerful.



JUN 3 - NO ORDINARY LOVE



00.770 OF YOU SAID YES

DO YOU CONSIDER SUBSTACK A SOCIAL lubstack makes me a little sad lately. All I see are bestsellers. Big names **MEDIA PLATFORM?** The ones still figuring it out in public, and I hate how easy it has become to

> That's who I want to read. That's who I want to support. ♥ 9K 🔘 1.4K 😂 284 🗘

THE BUSINESS OF COMMENTS: THE LINKEDIN REAWAKENING



Marketing has broken the fourth wall, and we're drawing a direct line from Sheerluxe EGC to InStyle satirical Intern diaries to LinkedIn's current excellence for cultural discourse. Culture is shaped in conversation, both by those who consume it, and by those who seek to influence within it. Now, we've got a space to talk about that with intention. The LinkedIn commentary is actualising a more interesting creative standard for the industry, in real time.

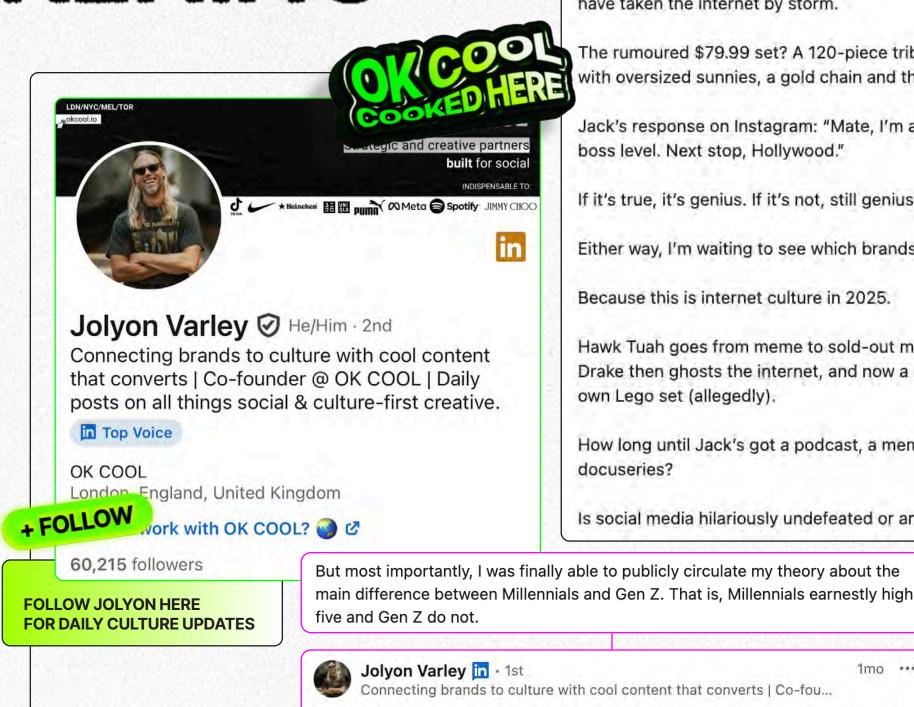
So is it B2B or B2C? Babes, your boomer is showing. Today, your brand should have an 'everything, everywhere, all at once' mentality to being in culture and spoken about.

∆ Like

Comment

Repost 2

1 Send

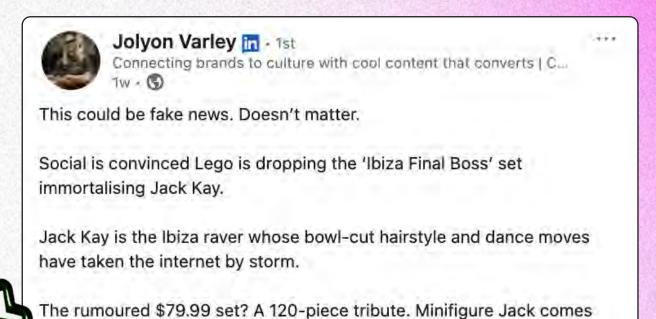


times since.

Love · CO 4 | Reply · 1 reply

Annie House @ Author

Like Co 3 Reply 423 impressions



with oversized sunnies, a gold chain and that now-iconic pink cup.

Jack's response on Instagram: "Mate, I'm a LEGO set now? That's proper boss level. Next stop, Hollywood." 'Ibiza Final Boss' Lego set unveiled

If it's true, it's genius. If it's not, still genius.

Either way, I'm waiting to see which brands ju

Because this is internet culture in 2025.

Hawk Tuah goes from meme to sold-out mercl Drake then ghosts the internet, and now a rave own Lego set (allegedly).

How long until Jack's got a podcast, a meme d docuseries?

Is social media hilariously undefeated or are w

NGL that insight had me rattled Annie House. I've dined out on it three

Jolyon Varley imagine my horror reckoning with the realisation mid

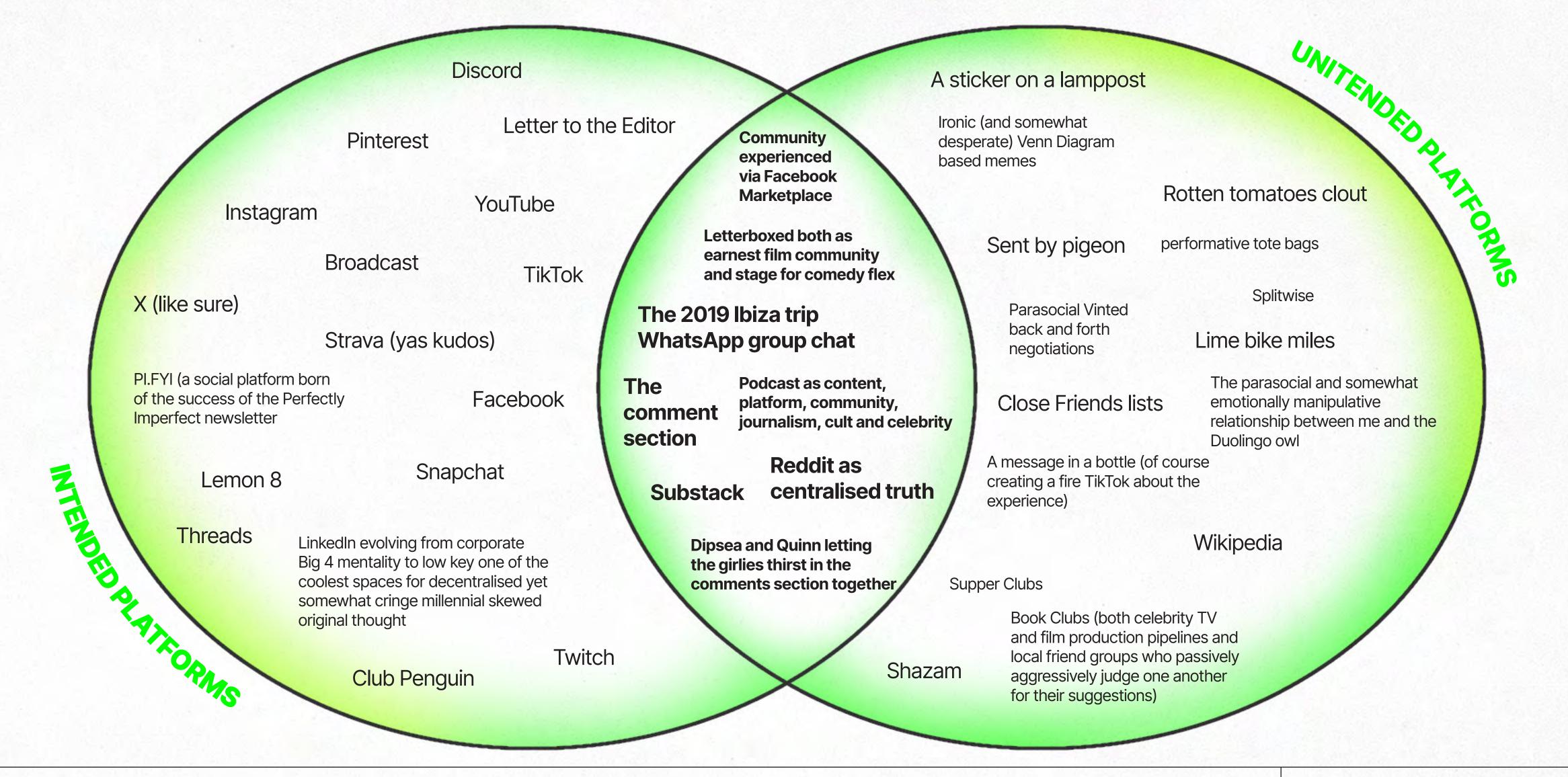
"His magnetic aura and medieval-core haircut screamed 'build me in plastic," says Lego.



@OK COOL Ltd. 2025



SPACES OF INFLUENCE CATEGORISED BY INTENTIONALITY



BUT WAIT, AMI TALKING TO A REAL PERSON?

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD TALK A LITTLE ABOUT AI?



AI: WHAT'S THE VIBE?

Who even knows??? (your audience doesn't). But they're still using it in way more unexpected and interesting ways than you'd predict.

The pilates princess? Meal planning and recipes. Hanging on by a thread? Affordable therapy. Bored of app dating chat? Outsource it.



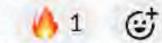
Liz Stone Se Yesterday at 7:20 PM

Life changing



Will Yesterday at 8:15 PM

a bounce board, a sidekick, a boost in speed





ellen Today at 12:22 AM

a personal untapped stream of information but not 100% reliable



Case Today at 12:30 AM

A colander for my chaotic ramblings, speeding up the prospecting for creative gold.

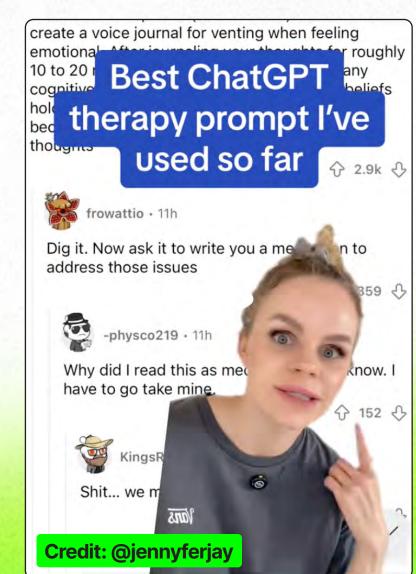


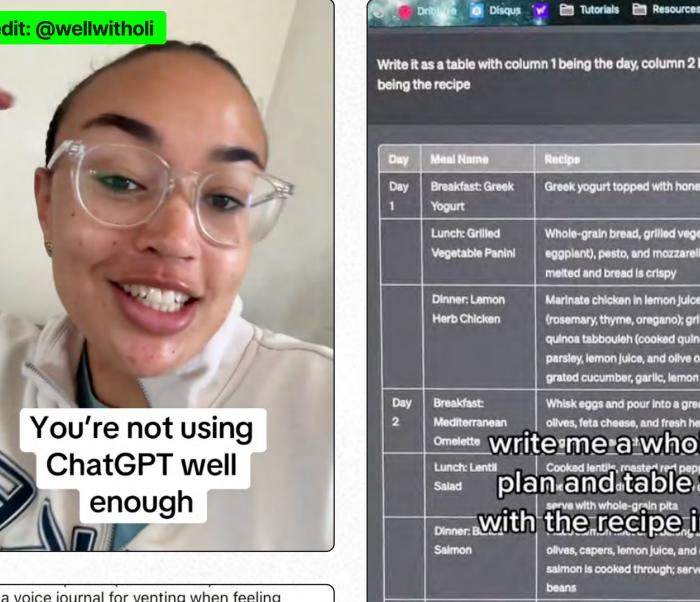
Anya Today at 12:48 AM

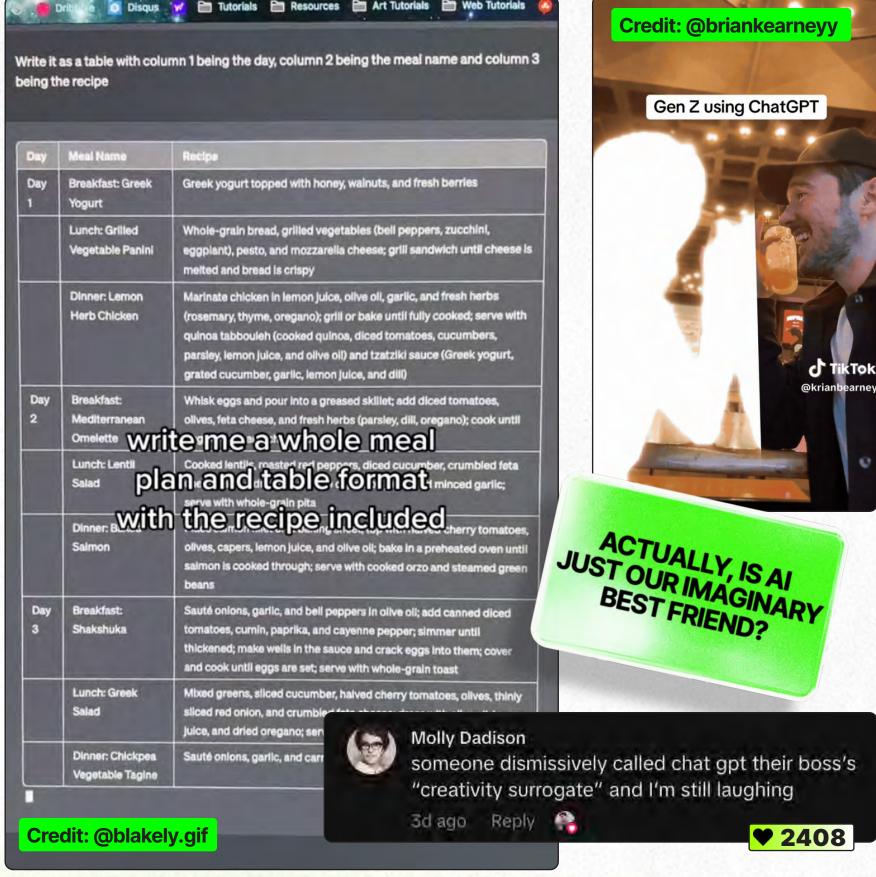
Dangerously addictive but undeniably valuable

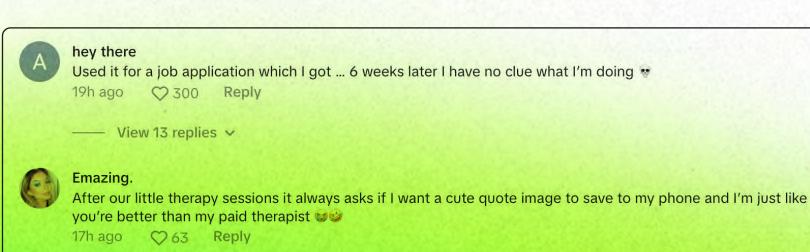








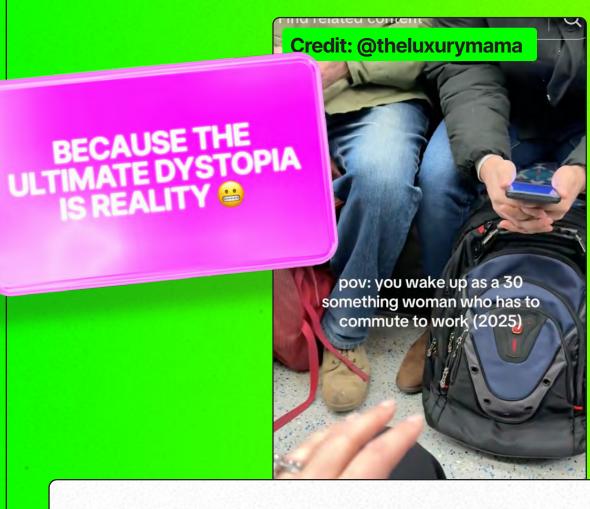




IA REVERSING ONU

Slop? Utopia? Neither. What is clear? Al is only ever as influential or creative as the human catalyst behind it. We're bringing our wildest thoughts to life, and then watching as they reinspire their own subcategories of human originality, creativity, and counter-commentary.



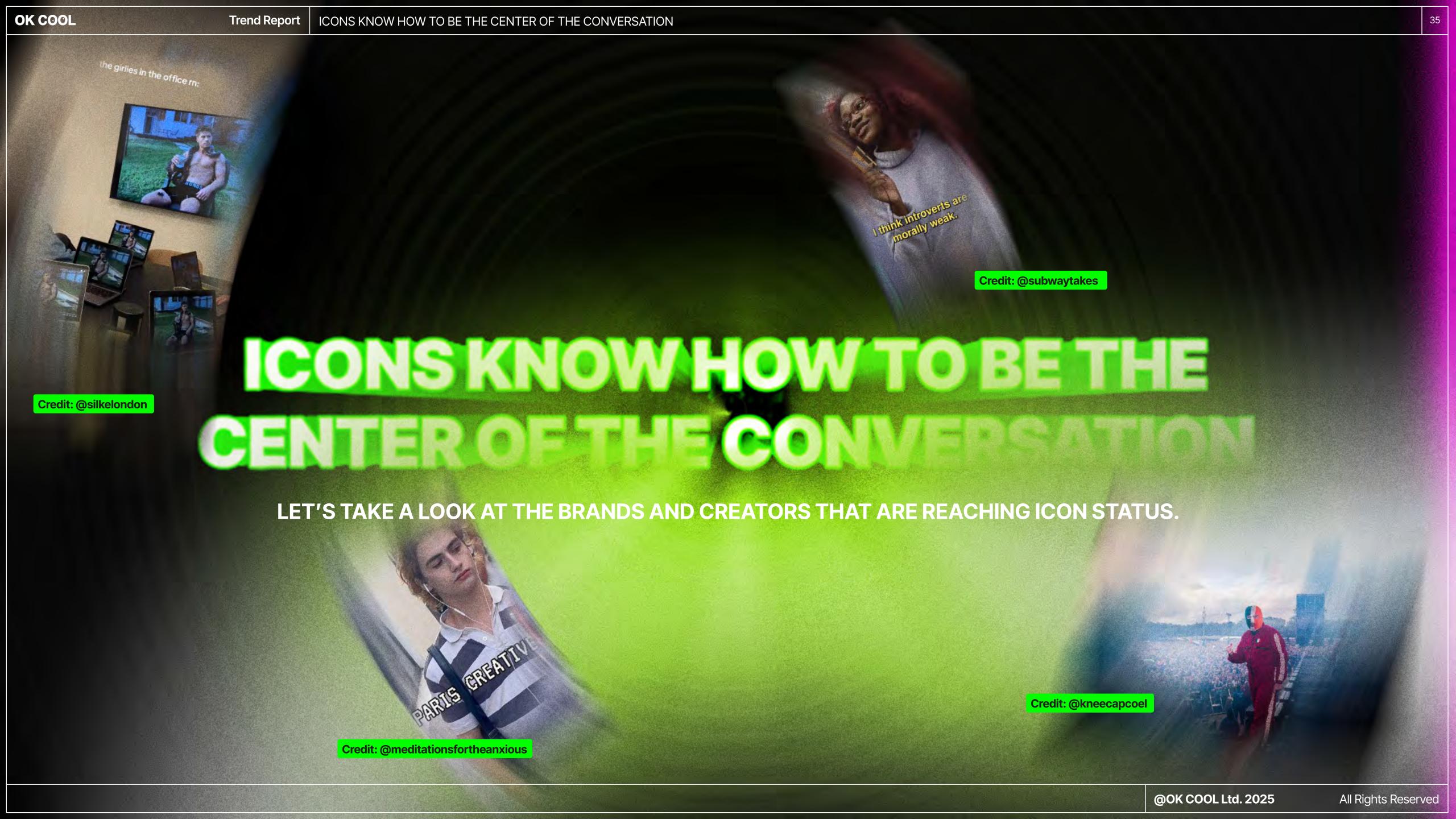




RECLAIMED BY GEN Z AND RETURNING TO A FUNNY, LOW-FI, HUMAN AND AUTHENTIC TIKTOK TREND (THAT IS COMMENTARY IN AND OF ITSELF)







ALMOST FORGOT THIS IS THE WHOLE POINT: CONTENT AS CULTURAL COMMENTARY

THE ORDINARY
CALLING OUT THE
CALLING OUT THE
ULTIMATE RECESSION
INDICATOR
INDICATOR

HE RY THE SSION

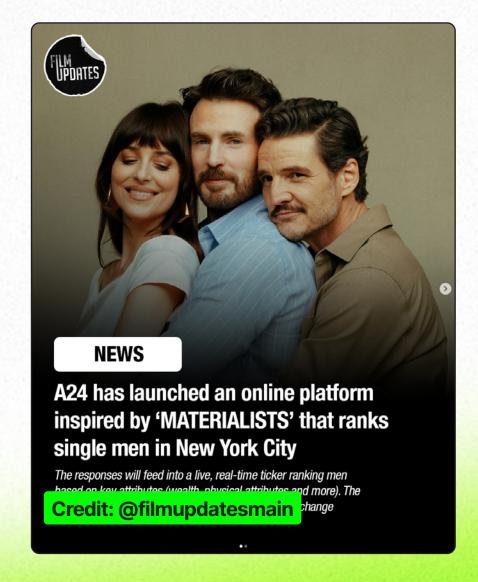
THE ORDINARY \$3.37

THE OR

Some of the most impressive brand moves follow a simple formula: What do you stand for, and how can you deliver that in culture?

A24 killed it as per. While
Materialists may be trying to beat
the "Broke Boy Propaganda"
allegations, what better way to
demonstrate the film's exploration
of the commodification of love than
setting up their own live stock
exchange but for men??







A24 has launched menofny.com, a platform inspired by 'MATERIALISTS' that collects submissions from single men across New York City.

The responses will feed into a live, real-time ticker ranking men based on key attributes (wealth, physical attributes and more) reflecting the film's take on how romantic value is appraised in a transactional world.

The data will appear on screens at the New York Stock Exchange and billboards around New York.



Will K	▲ +86%	40	5'10"	\$152,00
Gerry H	▲ +71%	27	5'2"	\$243,00
James P	▲ +45%	28	6'0"	\$134,00
Oliver L	▲ +50%	23	5'11"	\$78,000
Baker U	▲ +39%	22	5'3"	\$120,00
Baz Z	▲ +53%	29	5'4"	\$97,000
John P	▲ +24%	37	6'0"	\$26,000
Nick C	▲ +53%	36	6'10"	\$146,00
Owen L	▲ +32%	24	6'0"	\$85
Harry C	▲ +46%	45	6'0"	\$2,000
Rick S	A +42%	28	5'9"	\$89.000

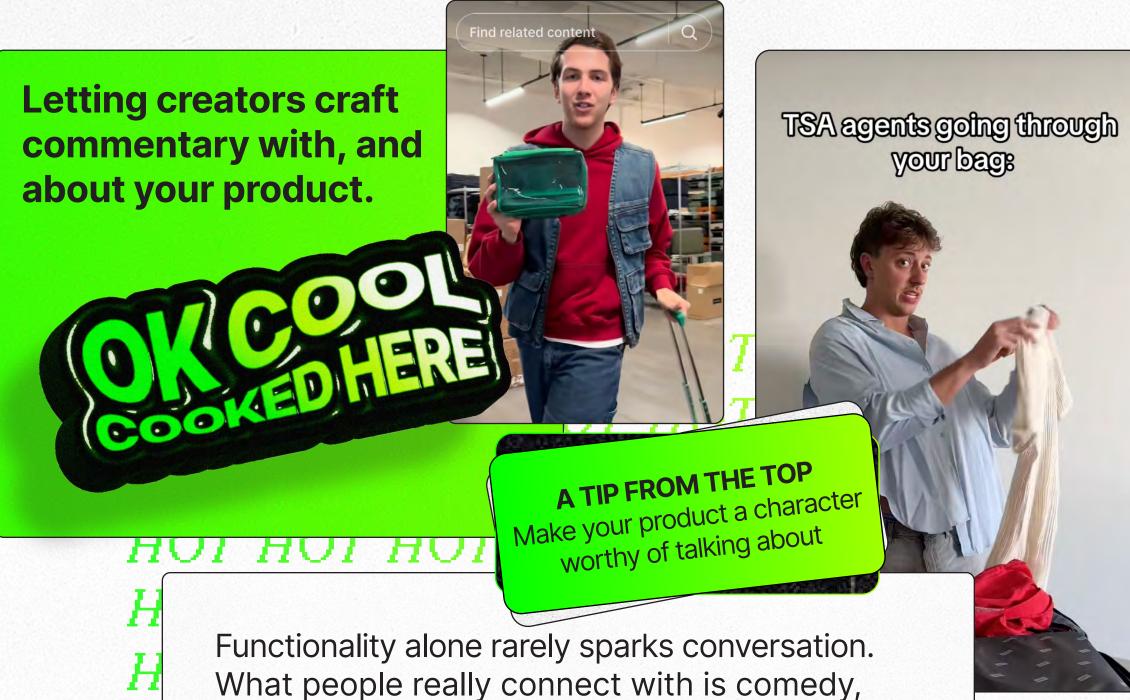
The Ordinary? A brand built around value and simplicity. So when cozzy livs gets out of control, they step in.



5

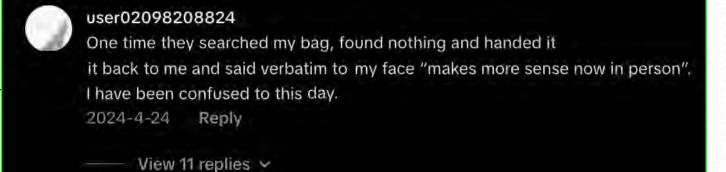
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Some of the brands we think are certified hotties



Functionality alone rarely sparks conversation. What people really connect with is comedy, relevance, and unexpected twists, especially when they appear in the products we least expect. By focusing on what genuinely gives people something to talk about in the context of travel, not just the trending TikTok destination, we create moments the audience will actually care to react to.







WOULD NEVER SWAP LIVES
WITH THIS PERSON

Zaya, if you could swap lives with your dad for one day,

MAC COSMETICS

Commentary with a full beat.

10 FACE LESS DE FACE LESS DE FACE LE

HOT HOT HOT

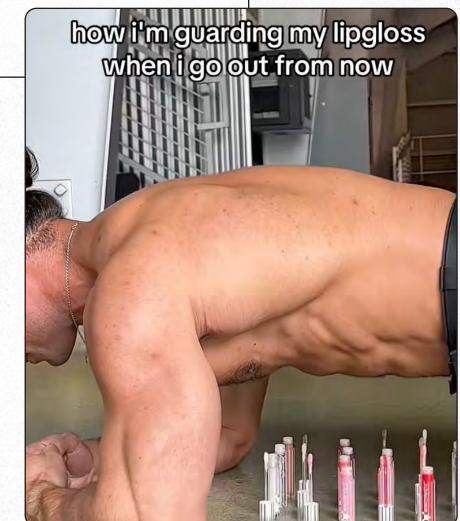
MAC Cosmetics is a brand that knows exactly who it is they want to be on the level with: the self-aware internet party girlies. Thirst trap product videos? Perfect. Nepo baby campaign? No notes. Plastic surgery

rhinoplasty, lip filler, cheek implants, brow bone reduction, buccal fat removal,

comedy? Inspired.



A TIP FROM THE TOP
Create unflinchingly for your audience. They'll get it.



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What is satire if not commentary?

ARGOS

Argos pulled off an iconic move. Reinforcing their competitive edge in the home and design category not through a value first message, but rather going full satire. We love to see a brand not underestimate their audience, and pull of the true persuasive power of comedy and commentary.

HOT HOT

A TIP FROM THE TOP

Think concept first, not trend first.
It means you'll have something
original to add to the conversations



reative Ad of the Day

Ad of the Day: Berghaus celebrates spirit of Manchester ahead of Oasis gigs

The work from agency OK Cool features Bez from the Happy Mondays.

НО НО НО

The best content is for the real ones. Together with Berghaus, we wanted to cut through a crowded Oasis summer conversation by showing we've been there since day one. Where the narrative and characters were used to show we get it; the real culture is built from the ground up.

A TIP FROM THE TOP
Show you get the culture you're
trying to tap into - a wink can
mean more than a yell



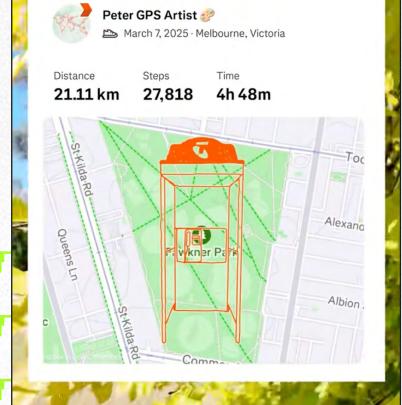
Want your brand to really be in culture? Leave the easter eggs for the real ones to uncover and share.

BERGHAUS

Reframing relevance through dialogue, satire and absurdity.







HOT HOT

In the business of social media, 'lynchian' isn't a word commonly used to describe a household telecommunications company. But Telstra, well, you've done it, my friends. Turning their phone boxes into eerie, weepy dreamscapes and repurposing their drain covers as main characters, we can't help feeling that the imagination involved would have made the big man proud.

TELSTRA

A TIP FROM THE TOP
Be in dialogue with the
commentary outside your world



11:00 pm · 2 May 2025 · 142.8K Views

Reimagine how your brand voice can be defined, and who can define it.

Puma UK doesn't tell the stories any old sports brand would think to. To connect with local communities, they knew they needed to prove they were in them. From local archivists to Aunties, it's about co-creating with the people you want to be reaching.



A TIP FROM THE TOP Listen to your audience and create , and in collaboration with them



IIVII



We linked up with Ruby Lyn's book club Ironically Literate for a long lunch and girl chat at Stir Crazy with our LA



HOHOHOHO

For our beloved zillennial audiences, the line between aspirational and authentic has to be trodden carefully on social media. Too much authenticity, and it can start to seem fake. Peachy Den know this, and instead of opting for a "raw" strategy, they've been focusing on intricate and slow worldbuilding involving sharp aesthetics, IRL community, a renowned blog for the Substack girlies and an open call for a dog casting.

Reimagining what the fashion girlies care about.

PEACHY DEN

A TIP FROM THE TOP Make them your muse

The anti-cultural hot take. Running for a date? You're probs not running hard enough.



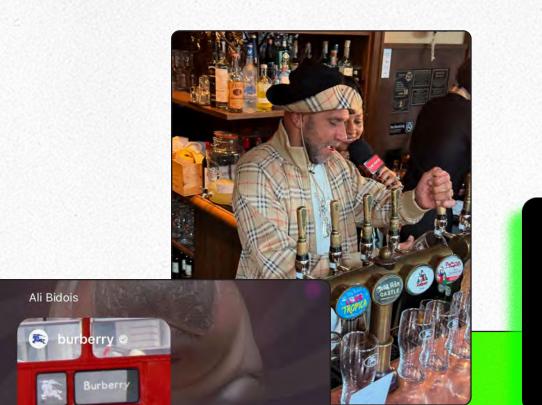
Nike London isn't here to look cute and find a date. We've got marathons to train for. Where the conversation around running had been co-opted for dating tips, Nike London used stories from around the city to change the conversation and focus in on the ones that define the culture and lead the pack.

HOT HOT

NIKE LONDON RUNCLUB

A TIP FROM THE TOP
Don't say the same thing as
everyone else in your category





Message.

A TIP FROM THE TOP
Reinvent and imaginatively
rearticulate your brand codes

BURBERRY

A comment on what contemporary Britain is today

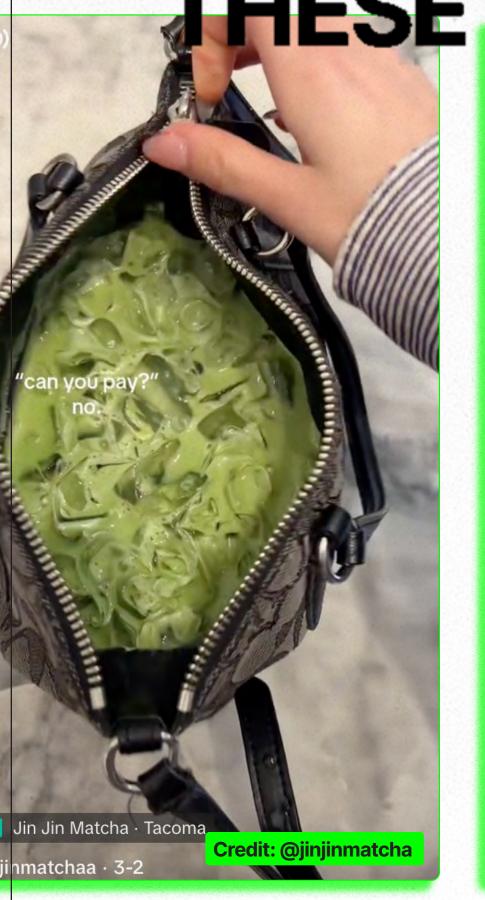
Burberry is reinventing what heritage looks like for a heritage brand. It's not about regurgitating or guard rails, but an earned right to explore and reimagine the culture that made you. Whether it's tea time, the singular British festival scene, or the humble pub quiz, Burberry are showing they know what contemporary Britishness looks and feels like.

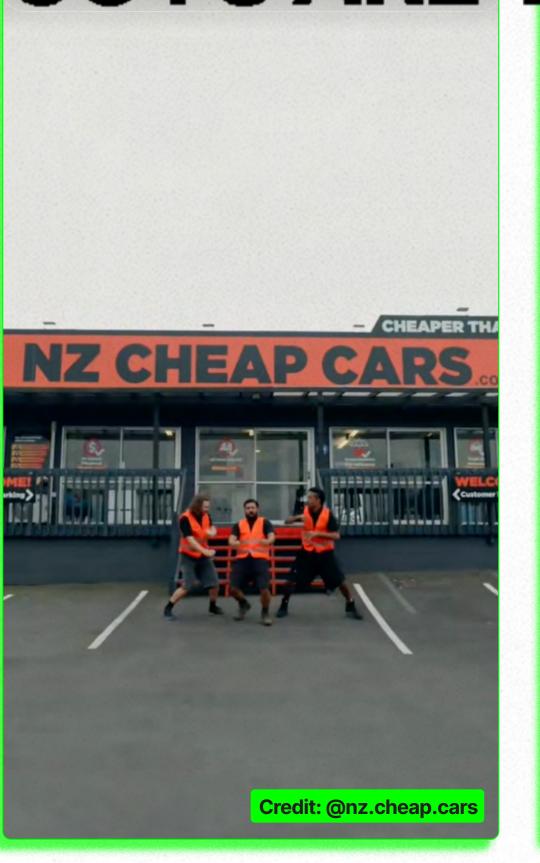


OK COOL

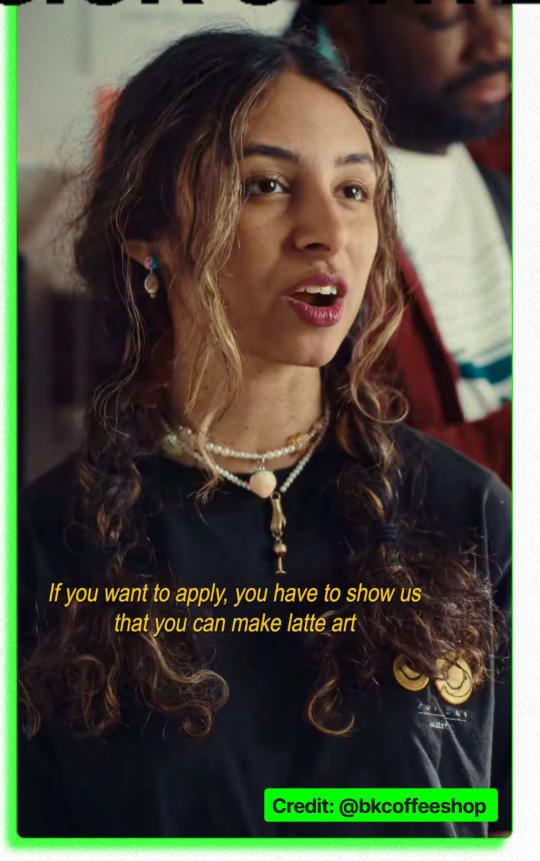
BUTIT'S THE BRANDS YOU'VE PROBSNEWER HEARD OF THAT ARE THE MOST TAPPED IN RN

NO RED TAPE? NO PROBLEM; THESE GUYS ARE THE VIBE IN SICK CONTENT RN











Need demands creative solutions, and we are seeing some of the most original, memorable, and impactful creativity coming from the brands and companies that have to find a way to cut through and announce their arrival.

"When it comes to private channels, it is more powerful than any story or other interactions. They create a stronger sense of proximity and connection, and my audience feels more involved, almost privileged."

CREATORS.

THE RISE OF CREATOR INTERVIEWERS

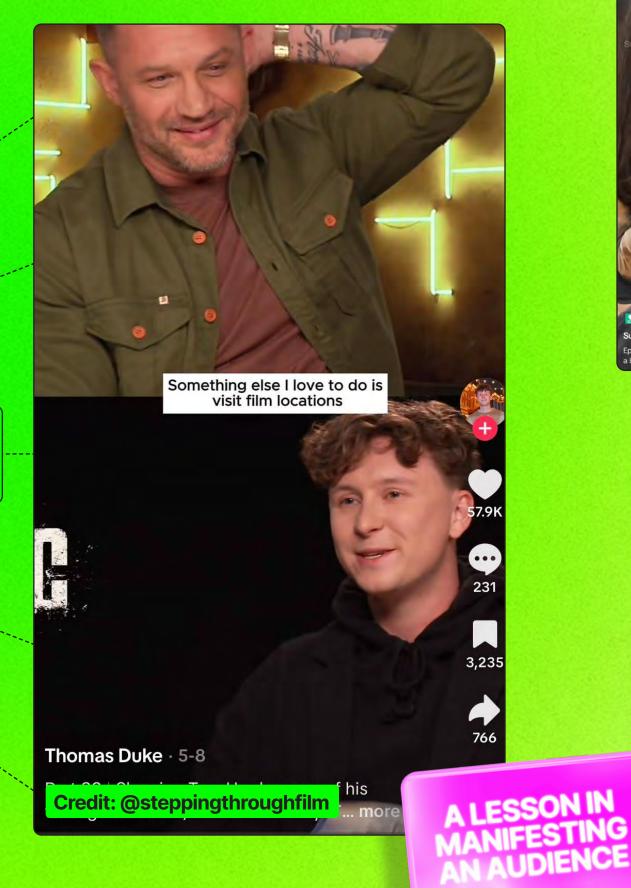
CREATORS ARE OUT HERE PLATFORMING THEMSELVES, THEIR SINGULAR TAKES AND PERSPECTIVES; AND INVENTING WHOLE CATEGORIES IN THE PROCESS.



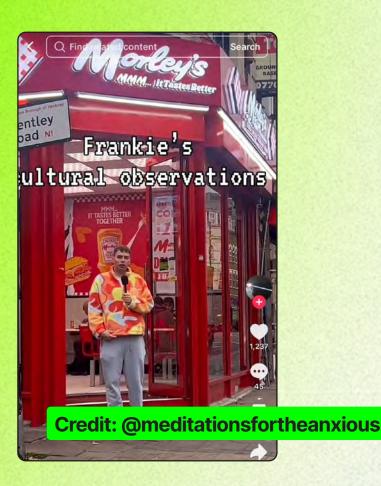




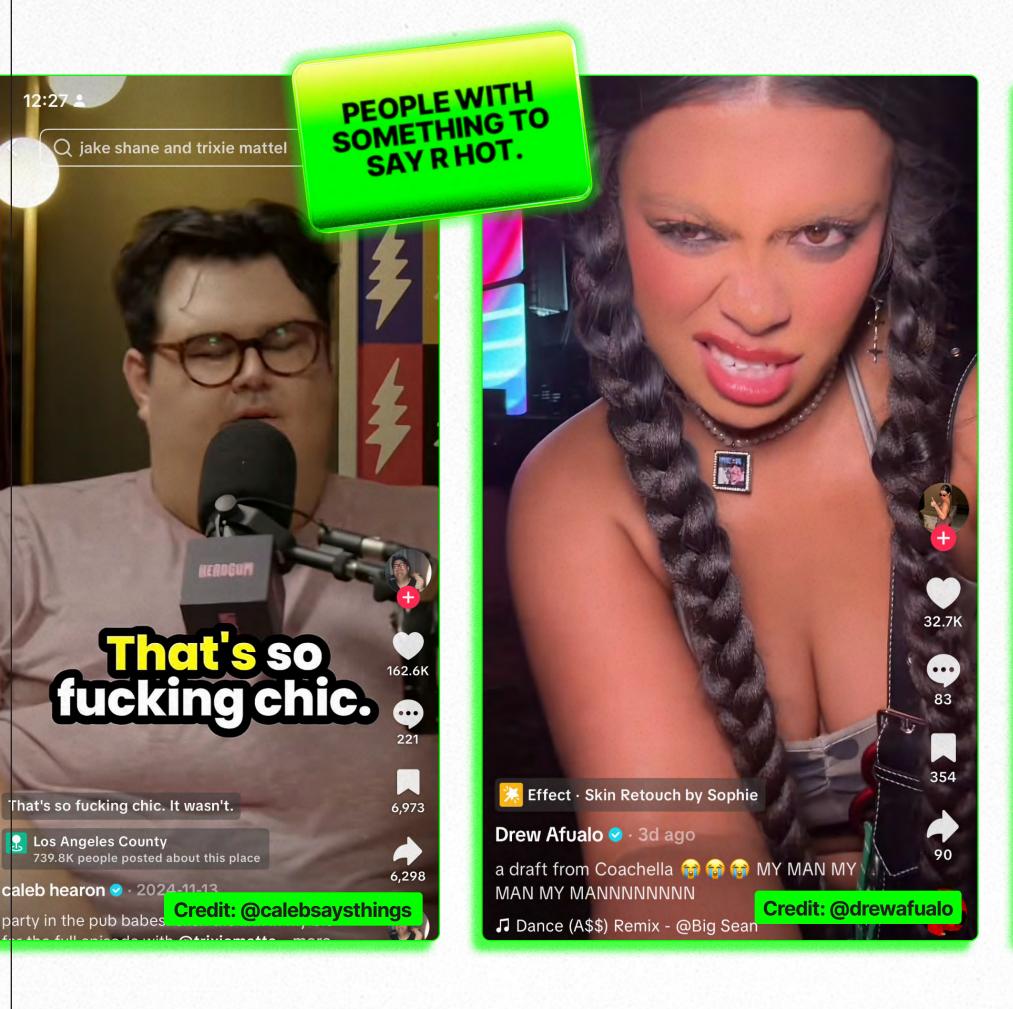
The butterfly effect is crazy cause if he didn't...







OUR OBSESSION? THE TIKTOK TO PODCAST PIPELINE



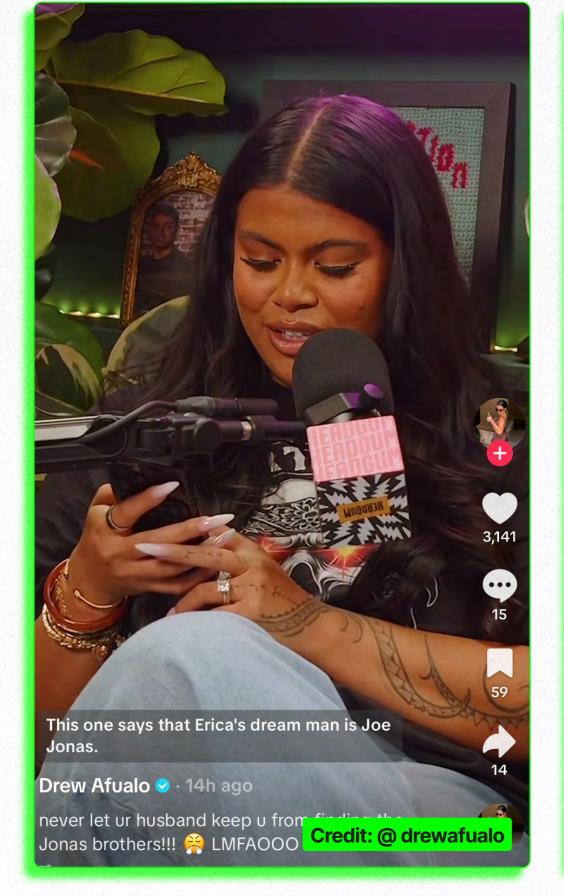
The creators of the moment?
People worth listening to.
They're building their
community through the
power of commentary.

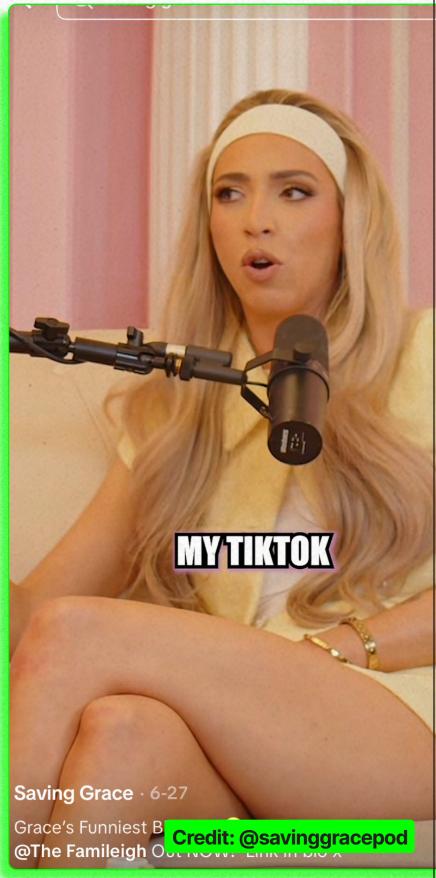
They built their audiences in the comments section, and they're taking them with them. Commodifying the impact they earned, one reply at a time.

They know how to create spaces that feel like we're hanging out, and it's what audiences are desperate for right now. We just want more parasocial situationships.



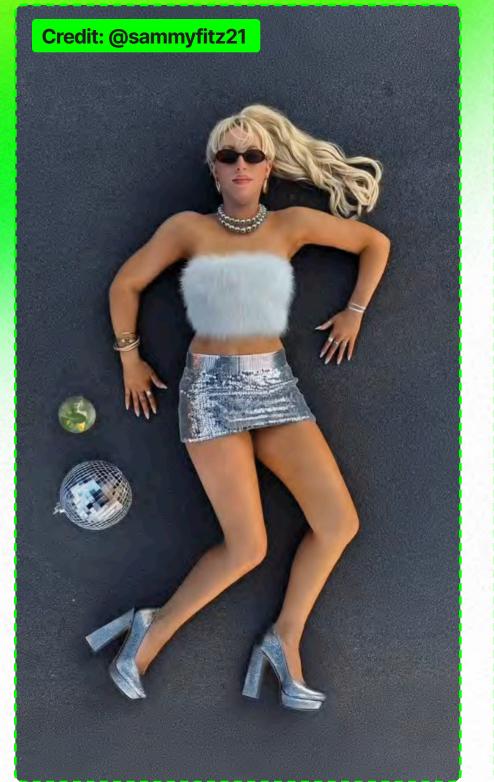




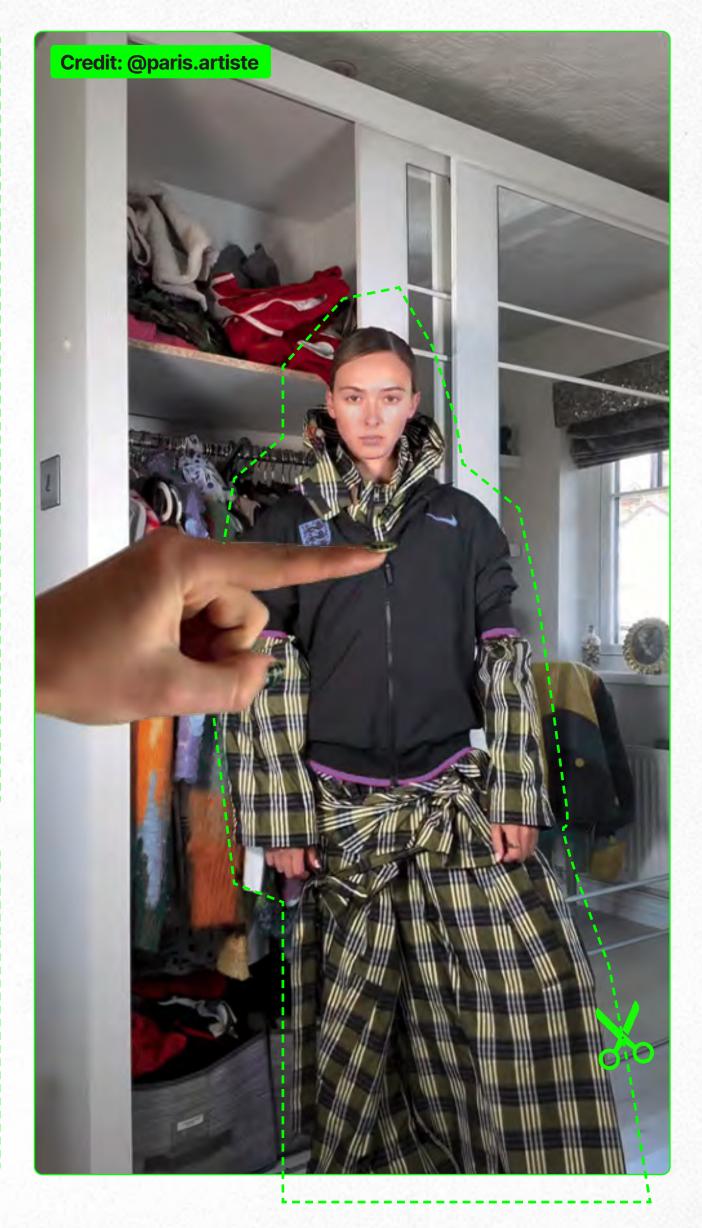


"You have to listen to your audience without losing sight of your artistic direction"









I DON'T MAKE THE TEMPLATE,

I AM THE TEMPLATE.



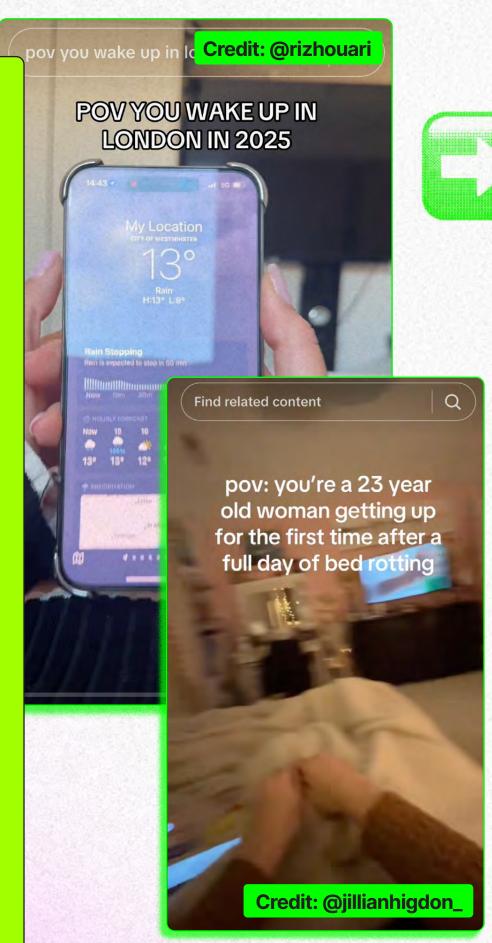
CREATORS R SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES FROM ME TO YOU < 3

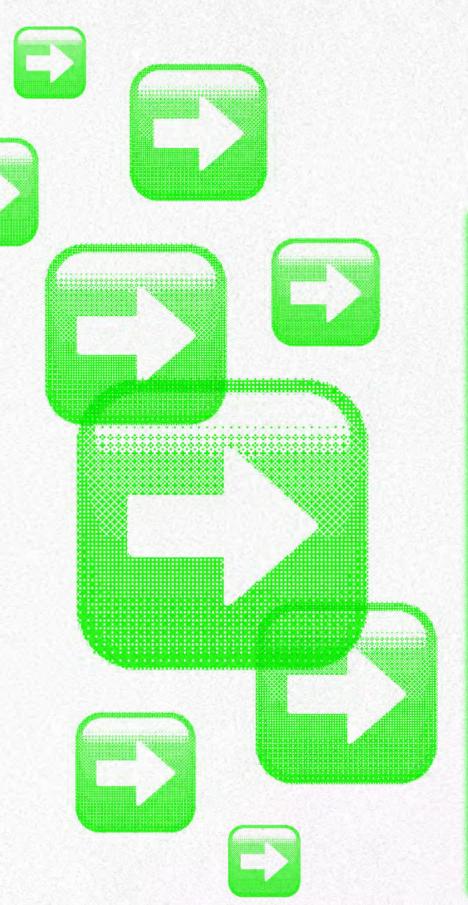
From POV to main character mentality. This year, we've seen a noticeable shift from narrative-led perspectives to third-person storytelling, where creators reposition themselves within their content, no longer speaking as the subject, but framing themselves as seen by an outsider.

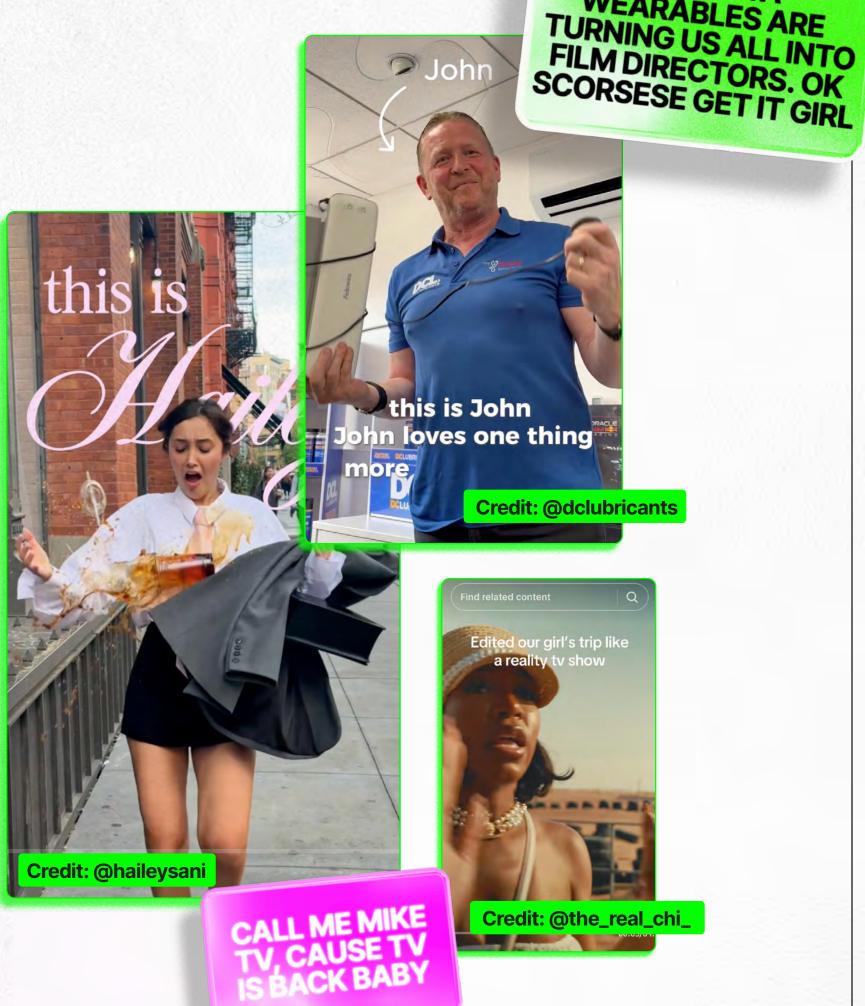
What's remained? A realness in tone. But as our desire for more elevated, cinematic, narrative lead content grows, creators are building out their personal biopics, casting themselves as a protagonist. We've evolved from presenting our life through our view, to curating how your world looks and is interpreted by an outsider, gaining control over the perception of self.

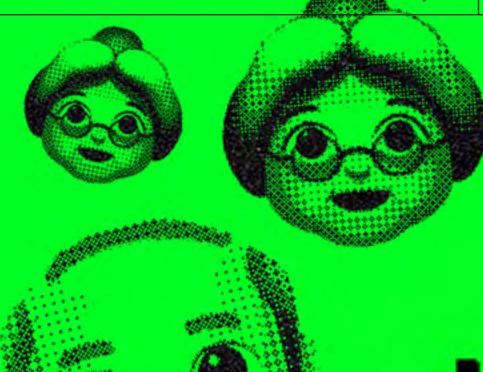












HOW DO BRANDS DO IT WITHOUT GIVING HEY FELLOW KIDS

WE LOVE A SUMMARY SECTION BECAUSE IT'S THE PART FOR YOU TO SCREENSHOT FOR YOUR WORK GROUP CHAT



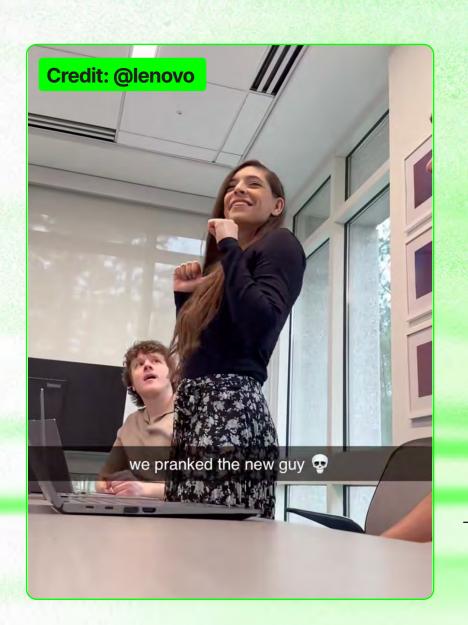
Verb | PEB-uh-ling

The social phenomenon of sending people memes, videos or links to show you're thinking of them.



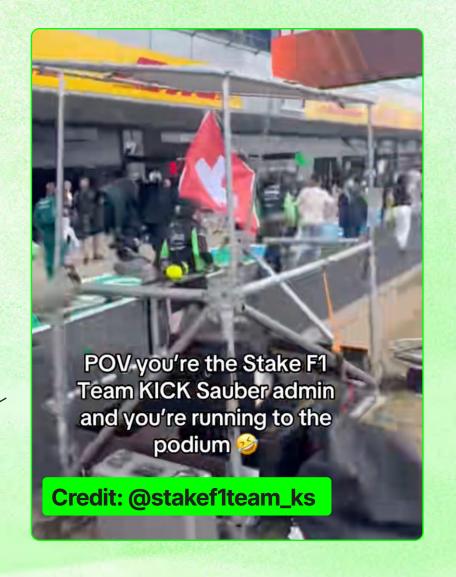












SPOILER: BRANDS SHOULD **GIVE LESS OF A F*CK**







Take the moments that make you uncomfortable, show product in exactly the way we wouldn't expect, the challenges in the category, or the not-so-brand-safe culture around your products and world, and own them.

only L's are the moments don't make work for you.

ATTENTION SPANS AREN'T SHORT. YOU'RE JUST BORING.



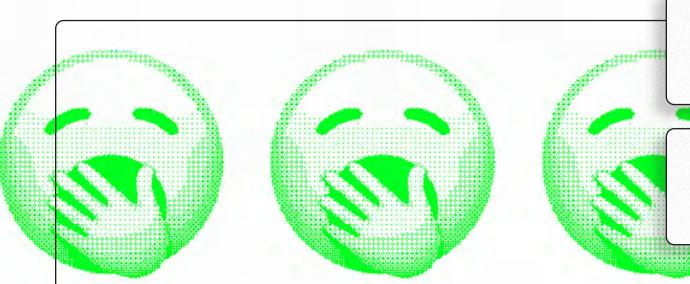


Trisha Gave Birth & FINALLY Reveals the Baby's Name! | Just Trish Ep. 195

If they're not watching, it's because you didn't give them a reason to bother. The bar for attention is high, so be bold and defined enough to clear it.

WAYS IN

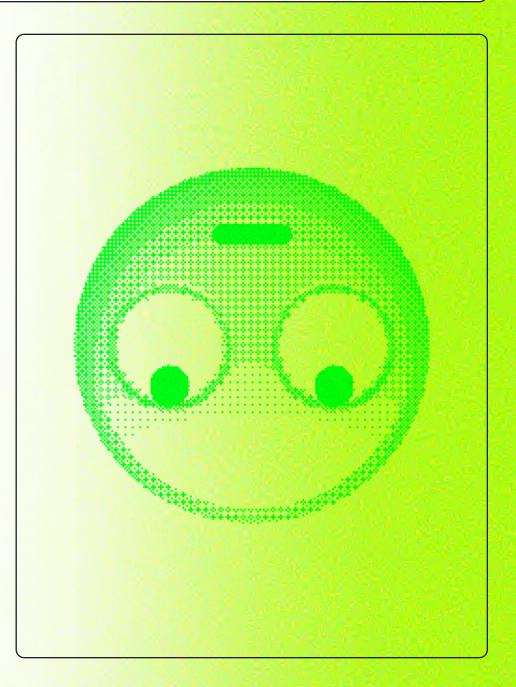
Do something they'd never expect (we can't be more specific soz, that's kind of the point but that's where we come in...).



Start strong to grab attention, but then don't be scared of giving the content space.

Actually ask, is this interesting to your audience, or is it more for the people who you work for?





IYKYK IS THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE TODAY

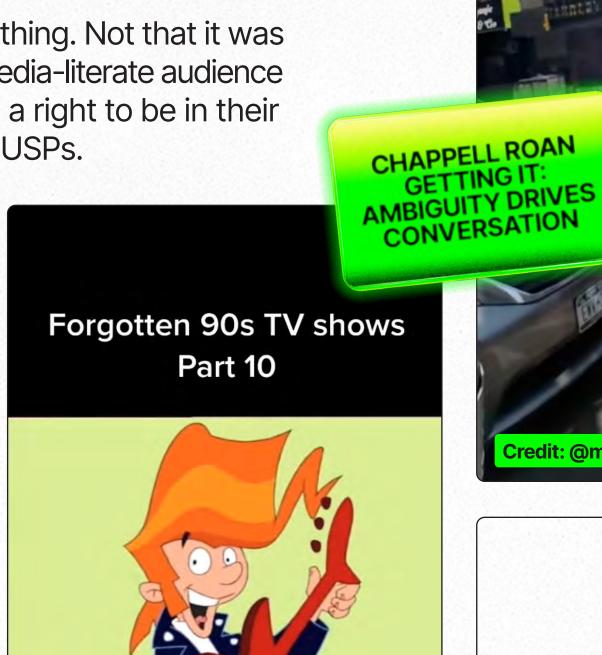
People want to feel like they discovered something. Not that it was targeted at them. We're dealing with a pretty media-literate audience these days, so the deep cuts prove you have a right to be in their FYP, rather than getting a camouflaged list of USPs.



Leave some easter eggs.

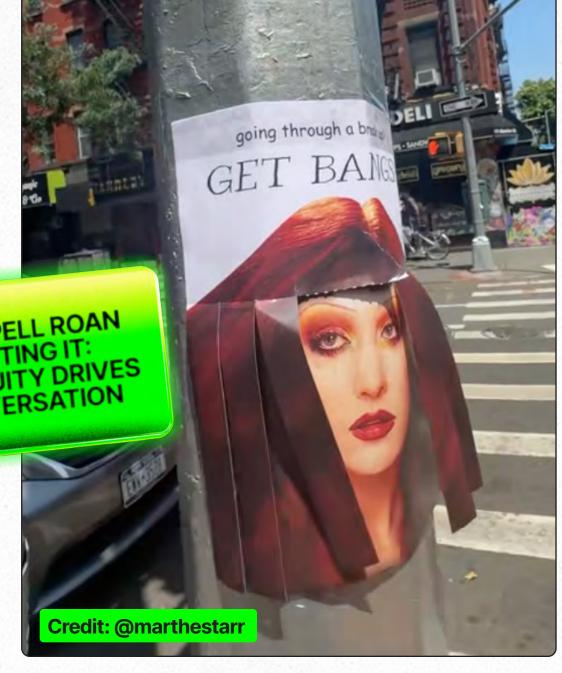
Assume they already know what you're talking about.

Lean into forgotten or fringe culture.





Credit: @scarletandblush

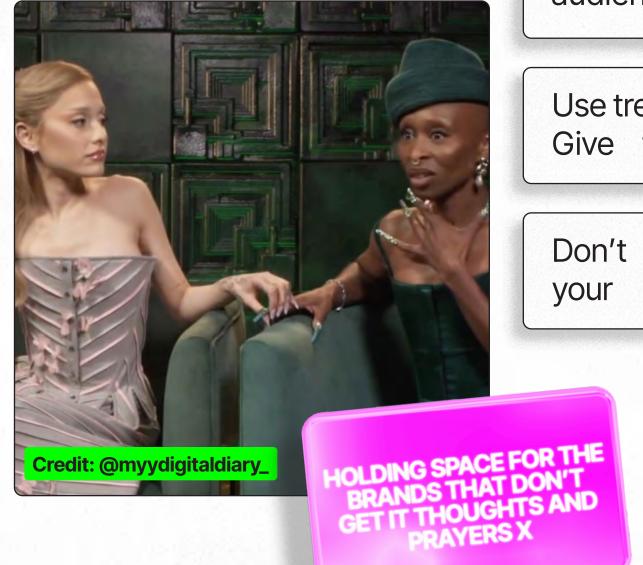




One thing about audiences, they're going to go rogue. They'll always find what they love in content, and it won't always be what you want it to be. But the cool lies in the confidence to let them. Get involved.





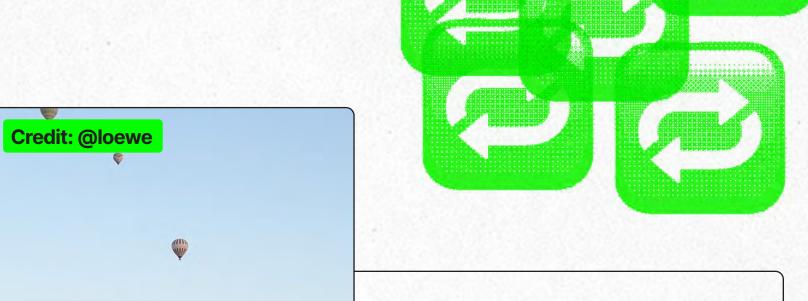


TRY THIS:

Create work inspired by your comments section or what your audience is saying about you.

Use trends, but don't reproduce. Give them an original spin.

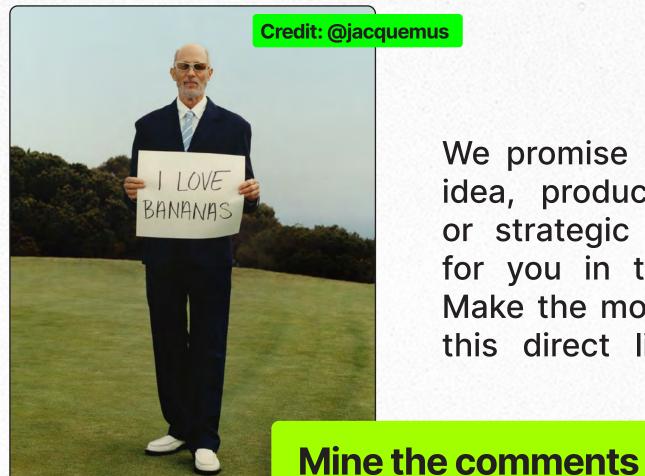
Don't be scared of what your audience might say.







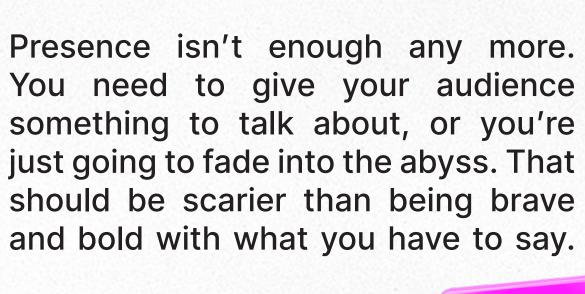
THE TLDR



idea, product development, collab or strategic opportunity is waiting for you in the comments section. Make the most of being tapped into this direct line to your audience.

We promise you, your next content

Make them talk about you, at (almost) any cost

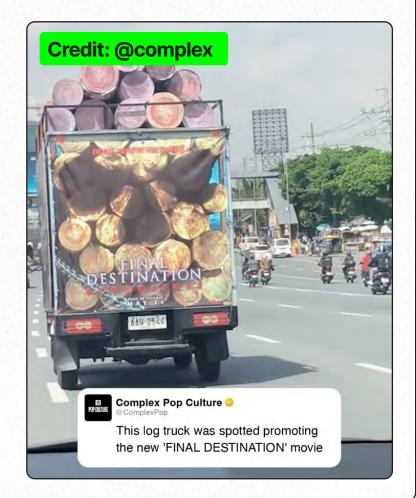




THETLDE

The group chat is one of the greatest measures of true impact for any brand. And as much as you may think it's the views that make the viral, it's actually just people talking about your content. This is the URL version of that.

A share in the group chat is worth 100 likes on the video



AND NOT AN EM DASH IN SIGHT

Astronomer hired Gwyneth Paltrow to pivot scandal from Coldplay concert

Get to commenting. Being intertextual and in dialogue with culture is the most genuine way for brands to win. Turn up in the spaces your audience is going to for true entertainment, but don't try to sanitise these spaces. Know you'll need to get a little weird with them.

Mike: I can't believe it.

Sully: Oh, Mike...

Mike: I'm on Disney+!



Don't be shy, get in there

YOU ALRIGHT, BABE? YOUR Q4/Q1GOALS AREN'T GOING TO HIT THEMSELVES.

LET OK COOL DO THE HEAVY LIFTING (AND BRING THE VIBES)!

NO ONE DOES IT BETTER:

SOCIAL-FIRST CAMPAIGNS & CONTENT

Putting brands in culture through scroll-stopping creative and full-spectrum production.



STRATEGIC CONSULTANCY & BESPOKE WORKSHOPS

Partnering with internal marketing teams to solve brand challenges through social and creative strategy.

CREATOR STRATEGY & PROGRAMMES

Identifying the untapped tastemakers and sub-cultural leaders to help build brand worlds and drive fame.



SLIDE INTO OUR DMS

→ STUDIO@OKCOOL.IO

OK COOL Trend Report

























57

ACOULDNEVER

OK COOL are strategic and (very) creative partners to the world's leading brands. Built for social. We humanise brands. We connect them to subcultures. We make cool content that converts.

With a globally distributed team of the smartest social strategists and makers, OK COOL has an unrivaled understanding of Gen Z and current culture.

The agency was founded in London in 2016 by creative entrepreneurs Jolyon Varley and Liz Stone and has since launched North America headquarters in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto, and APAC headquarters in Melbourne

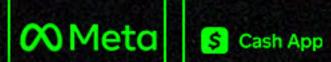
MEET YOUR MAKERS

Liz Stone, Co-Founder and Global Chief Creative Officer Jolyon Varley, Co-Founder and Global Head of Brand Annie House, Head of Strategy

Mia-Ella Collins, Editorial Creative Elle Binns, Strategist Adenike Adelekan, Strategist

Iona David, Junior Strategist Delanie Gulino, Business Development Director Kinda Savarino, Senior Designer









NORDSTROM









coinbase







