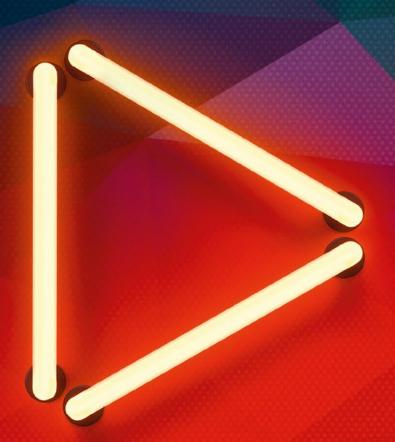
YouTube



The Playbook

Unlocking the new rules of audience engagement

Primetime is personal

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Spotlights on eight of YouTube's most compelling creators

Forget chasing traditional primetime. To attract viewers, follow their passions.

When YouTube was getting started, I still used it for traditional TV. I lived in the UK for several years before moving back to Canada, so the first channels I subscribed were the BBC and Channel 4, to keep up with the news from across the pond. Later, I got into TED Talks – but now I use it for everything from learning how to hang art or make slime to practising yoga (with Adriene, of course). Once, my sisters and I all did a class from my mobile phone on the beach. That's my primetime.

My kids are obsessed with 5-Minute Crafts – we'll watch it for way longer than five minutes and then they'll disappear to work on all sorts of crazy projects - at one point I had to ask my son to stop covering every sticky note in our house with clear tape to make little whiteboards. That's our primetime.

We live in a 100-year-old house that needs a lot of upkeep, so my husband is a heavy viewer of This Old House – and he also once used a YouTube tutorial to give my daughter a Rey from "Star Wars" hairdo for her Halloween school party. He nailed it! That's his primetime.

Video for any state of mind

My family and I are not alone. Creating "personal primetimes" is what the 2 billion people who go to YouTube every month do.1 They watch in moments that make sense for them and to get a wide variety of needs met. They create highly engaged sessions "across dayparts, content types, and screens." 2 It's now viewers, not networks, who are the gatekeepers for what's considered popular programming.

We recently conducted an expansive US study with Omnicom Media Group to dig into this boom of digital video viewership. We found that what's most

important to viewers, and what keeps them engaged, is whether content resonates on a personal level and meets their needs in the moment. You might expect that to be the case. What may surprise you is the degree to which this is true, especially relative to other traditional content considerations. The study found that when people decide what content to watch, relating to their passions is 3X more important than whether it features famous actors, and 1.6X more important than whether it has high production value.3

The power of passion

Personal relevance is everything. By democratizing people's ability to broadcast themselves, YouTube is able to meet the need of any particular interest or state of mind – from organizational hacks and specialized cooking tutorials to news clips and sports highlights to Will Smith's live birthday bungee jump — all available 24 hours a day.

Traditional primetime meant popularity. Personal primetime means passion. Both capture attention. But personal primetime doesn't just attract attention - it influences, and that's another kind of viewership entirely, with profound implications. For brands, this means an opportunity to not only reach attentive audiences at scale, it means a new kind of association, one with greater clout and impact.

We're here to help you navigate the new ways audiences watch, and deepen your connections with them to build your brand and your business. In the following pages, you'll hear fresh perspectives from your peers, meet some of the most popular creators driving fan engagement, and discover brand new strategies for unlocking and navigating today's world.

Welcome to The Playbook.



Country Manager, Google Canada





This

is

We asked six of the advertising industry's most influential leaders what everyone should know about online video.

my

YouTube



Crystal Rix
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AT BBDO NY

YouTube lets us have a constant drumbeat and interaction with audiences. Now it's not just a matter of when they sit down to watch TV, it's any time they reach for their phone. So we can reach people on their commute, in the three o'clock slump, or at social events.

Video allows us to tailor content.
We understand our audiences better than ever before. Before, we used to interrupt them and tell them what we wanted them to know. But now we can make all of the content more contextually relevant, and ultimately more meaningful to them.

Over time we've seen that YouTube is a real platform for quality content. Quality can be subjective, it doesn't necessarily mean big budget. Take the Tiny Desk concert series that NPR creates for YouTube: The quality is high, but with low production, low fuss.

I'm most proud of the video work we did for Barbie. It was long form, about two and a half minutes, and it was built primarily for YouTube, with no television in the plan. We knew that our target consumers were spending lots of time looking for how-tos on YouTube, so we thought, "Why not go to where they are?" By engaging with them on an authentic platform, our message that girls have to use their imaginations in order to reach their full potential was taken with more sincerity.

This is my YouTube 07 / 28 **VouTub**

Brandon Pierce GROUP CREATIVE DIRECTOR AT DROGAS

We all have an always-on mentality now. Primetime isn't about premieres, it's 24/7. So if you really understand where your audience is going to be at a certain time, you can use that to your advantage. If they're at a concert, is there something you can do as soon as the concert ends to feed in content that we want them to enjoy?

YouTube allows celebrities to connect to fans in new ways. Fans want more than what is happening on the silver screen. They want to know, "What's Will Smith doing for his birthday this weekend?" and now they can find that. It's about really letting people into their lives a bit more, getting an even deeper connection with your audience.

The data we get from YouTube is really powerful. If we find that people are dropping off at the four-second mark, we can integrate that into our concept to re-engage them.

There's been an increase in the quality of content on YouTube. People are starting to understand what it means to tell a story in an engaging way. You need to create stuff that's not only visually beautiful and stimulating but also intellectually stimulating, where you're learning something or laughing or being enlightened.





Tracey Cooke VP MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION AT NESTLÉ CANADA

Even though we know more about consumers than ever before, the nature of advertising sometimes is still an interruption. So it's absolutely critical to acknowledge that - and make it worth the intrusion. Create with care, remember who is watching, and I cannot stress enough the need for relevance and context to ensure the interruption is meaningful. Honestly, context is everything - and can make a great piece Nescafé Taproom. Here we created of content really stick.

One thing we've used very effectively is the combination of 15 to 30-second video, six-second bumpers and even long-form videos lasting one to two **minutes.** It's the sequencing of these messages, to the right people, at the right time, that we've refined into a bit of art and science. When people say "Hi" or "Hey, I am interested" by watching or completing a video view we serve up the short form and even longer-form if we have it, because we've been invited in by the consumer at that point. It's a sort of reward for shaking our hand – but those seconds or two minutes – it always two minutes had still better be good.

to use 360-degree video advertising on YouTube – for our green tea KitKat launch, where it performed really well. We're definitely a learning organization and try to be a part of firsts and pilots when they make sense. We have also done live experiential events where YouTube is a big part of sharing the storytelling, as in the a Taproom café for coffee drinkers - tackling our lack of relevancy with millennials head on. The eight videos we created had a massive impact in awareness, brand lift and sales, and enabled us to scale the experience

We were the first Canadian company

The old adage of "tell a great story and people will watch" still remains true. Even though our attention spans are shorter than ever, we now bingewatch hours of content in one sitting - so it's not the length, but the message that matters most. Whether told in six must try to be compelling.

and our message across Canada.

This is my YouTube



Longer-form content still resonates with our audiences.

Although we live in a world of immediacy, it is interesting that when we create content that draws people in they will spend more time watching. At Audi Canada, we have also been successful at taking longer formats and cutting them into shorter clips to tell a narrative through multiple videos that build the story and keep users engaged.

To grab my attention, an ad has to be timely, contextual and informative. My life is full and busy so when I'm browsing online I rarely click on ads. When I do, it is because it offers a solution or because something triggered my curiosity.

YouTube and I have a very close relationship. Several times a week I'll find myself searching for videos relating to work or any of my hobbies. That can be car reviews, BBQ recipes and techniques, or even movies and music for my kids. I find that in my life most of my internet Search avenues eventually end up leading to YouTube.

"Longer-form content still resonates with our audiences"

This is my YouTube



Nicolas Chidiac
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AT ROKKAN

YouTube allows you to understand where someone is in a specific journey, which allows you to understand what your ad should say and to whom.

Some of the biggest opportunities in video come through using the tools and data within the YouTube and Google ecosystem. By using Google's tools, like Audience Explorer and Google Correlate, you're able to have a very vivid understanding of who you're about to converse with, which can really inform our creative briefs and help us to understand tone.

Customization at scale is key, and over time, the degree of customization will increase. Tools like Director Mix for YouTube afford you the capacity to send out 250 different messages in one campaign, which can be very helpful.

I've learned a lot on YouTube.

Countersteering on a motorcycle. How to make Turkish coffee. Changing a bike wheel. Understanding different tax systems. My MBA was supplemented with the content I watched on YouTube.

Bernice Clark

FORMER SVP, MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AT MACY'S

When I started out 15 years ago, video advertising was about going to the broadest audience possible. Get the brand name out, give some information, make it slightly entertaining. Now customers have an option to choose whether or not they're going to stay watching, so you have to reward them for that engagement with something personalized and relevant.

YouTube has the shareability factor that traditional TV doesn't have. Years ago, so many people all watched the same thing on TV, but that's not the case today. YouTube allows conversations to travel.

People don't follow viewing schedules anymore, they create their own primetime. If they like a show, they find it. I love James Corden but I'm not staying up until 12.30 a.m. to watch him. I'll just find it on YouTube.

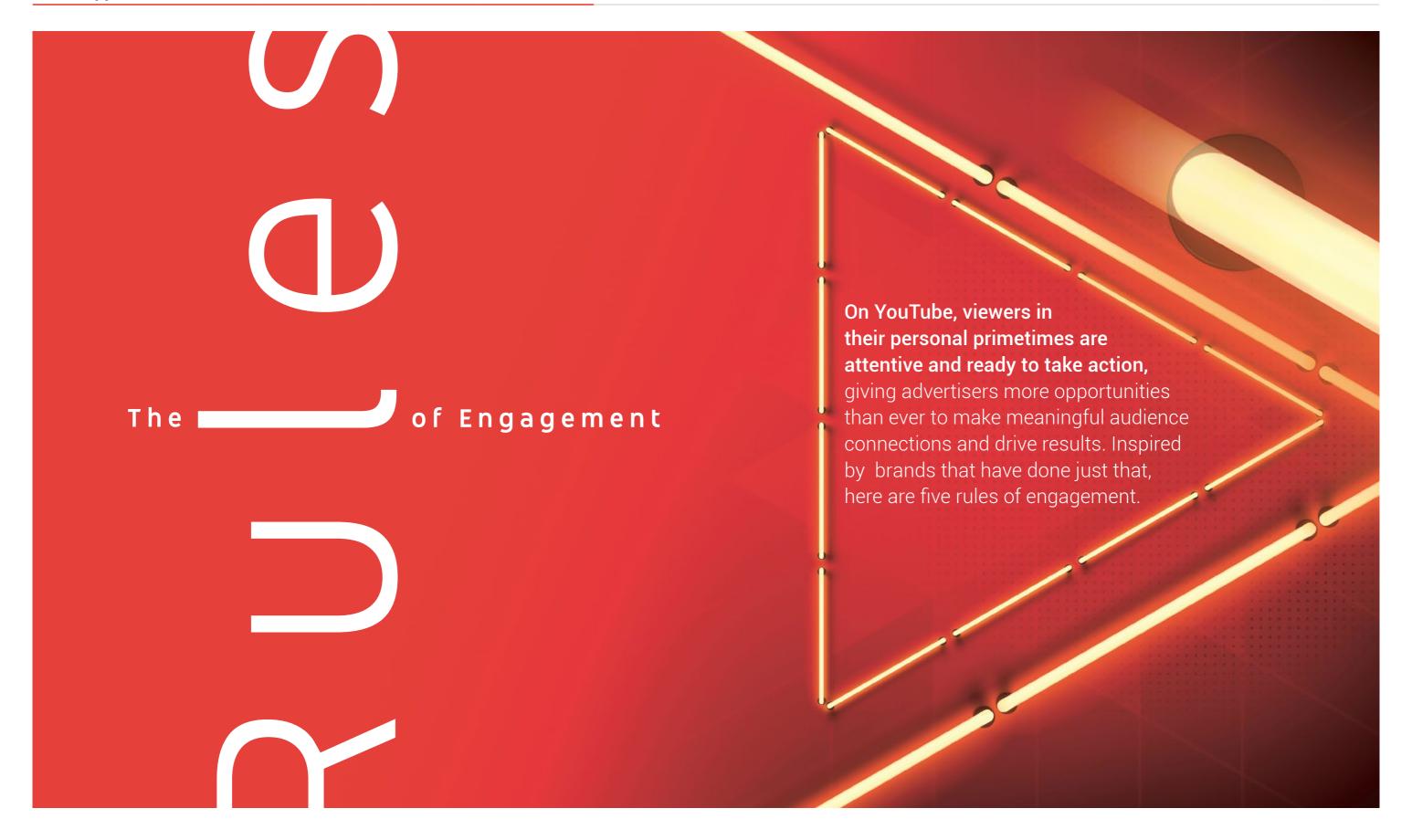
Video should be more than just raising

awareness. Video, done in an engaging and relevant way, allows a customer to see themself in the moment and connect in a meaningful way. It can create an emotional pull that can have a role deeper in the funnel.

I currently sit on the board for United Way of New York City. YouTube is such an important platform to tell our stories on because you can reach people who are more prone to be involved in philanthropic activity and can be far more relevant.

I watch such a diverse range of content on YouTube. It could be solving a 7th-grade math problem, watching fashion runways from a brand, getting cooking inspiration from Tasty, or even preparing a song for my choir.





RULE Nº 1

Capture to relevant video ads, compared with average Immediate ATTENTION

Although attention spans aren't necessarily shorter today, people are choosing what they want to give their attention to faster. They're ready to skip, scroll, or fast-forward if something doesn't grab them right away.

Personalized content is key to creating that stopping power: audiences pay a staggering 3X more attention to ads when they're relevant to their interests, compared with an average video ad.4 With content that surprises and intrigues early, brands have the opportunity to plunge the viewer straight into the action, getting them to stop and engage, instead of skip.



CASE STUDY: Converse

"I mean, who do you think Chuck Taylor is?" With this simple question, asked in a casual setting, "Stranger Things" star Millie Bobby Brown intrigued viewers enough to keep them watching – by the millions. The ad featured the sole of her iconic Converse shoe reflected in a makeup mirror from the jump and was one of the most popular ads on YouTube in 2018, educating countless fans on the little-known history behind the global brand.

RUIF Nº2

Be Truly HELPFUL

Viewers come to YouTube throughout the day to get a huge variety of needs met in the moment, particularly to get their guestions answered - whether they want to learn how to tie a tie, speak another language, or make a purchase.

Helpful content can answer their questions, spark an idea, or make taking action easy. And if you can teach and inspire audiences, they won't just watch, they'll become loyal, long-term advocates of your brand.



CASE STUDY: IKEA

For many homeowners, the biggest hurdle in home decor is knowing how to combine furniture purchases in a way that works. To lend a hand, IKEA sent a squad of store staff on a home makeover tour, leaving them to shoot and produce their own video series on the way. The IKEA Home Tour series now features over 100 pieces of content, has racked up tens of millions of views, and offers the kind of content that YouTube viewers love: focused inspiration and advice for common situations, perfectly tying IKEA to the idea of affordable and beautiful home improvement.

RULE Nº3

Relate, Relate, RELATE

Understanding your audience is table stakes. But new research shows being relevant to people's personal interests is perhaps the most important thing your content and ads can be. When people are deciding what to watch, relating to their passions is 3X more important than whether content features famous actors and 1.6X more important than whether it has high production quality.3

With your Google team, make the most of tools that can help you gain deeper insight into your audiences. When you can frame your brand in the context of things people care about, or even take a stand on a culturally relevant topic that's authentic to your brand, it drives results: more than 36% of Canadian shoppers say that they've purchased products that they discovered on YouTube.5



CASE STUDY: Mazda Canada

content has high

Based on customer behaviour, Mazda Canada saw an opportunity to connect with viewers at every stage of the purchase journey. The company used Google Preferred to serve ads that showed how its CX series could connect with consumer passions – and also created a second series of videos to answer technical questions that typically occur

further down the purchase funnel. Using TrueView for Action to drive customers to the website, Mazda Relating to people's saw a 34% lift in ad recall for passions is 1.6X more the CX-5, alongside a 17% lift in mportant than whether awareness for the CX-3.

The Rules of Engagement

RULE Nº 4

Lean Into YouTube CREATORS

Video is a unique and immersive way for influencers to build relationships with people. On YouTube, creators can break the fourth wall, listen and have a two-way dialogue with their fans, and build relationships based on their personalities. More viewers than ever are becoming loyal fans: Year over year, the number of YouTube users who follow creators and engage with their channels every day grew by a massive 70%.

Collaborating with creators is a high-impact way to reach engaged audiences, but you can also reach customers through the creators they love by simply serving ads on relevant channels. Turn the page now to get to know some of our most loved creators.



CASE STUDY: Clorox brand Brita

Let creators work. That's the message from Clorox brand Brita, which paired up NBA superstar Steph Curry with YouTube creator King Bach, then left them to create their own video explaining the benefits of the Brita Stream to a young audience. The result? A hilarious, catchy, and surprisingly heartwarming video that generated over two million views and led to a 2.000% lift in mobile searches.





Meet the Creators 19 / 28 **YouTube**

Meet the Creators

As viewers increasingly seek out relatable content on their own terms, YouTube creators are attracting audiences in the millions. Here are eight you need to know.

ANDREW REA ON CRACKING THE CODE TO GETTING MILLENNIALS COOKING

Food-meets-pop-culture channel Binging with Babish began with a simple question: What would TV's most memorable dishes actually taste like? Hundreds of videos later, Andrew Rea is still cooking up a storm.

Who is the typical Binging With Babish fan? to cook for friends and family. The common love to cook.

How has YouTube changed the media environment?

YouTube has democratized the ability to of niche and broadly identifiable content, and that's irrevocably changed the way

What do you watch on YouTube?

I watch tons of cooking content like and Brad Leone, who has a hilarious show. You Suck At Cooking is a wonderful, existential comedic cooking show, it's

How has your channel grown?

whatever I want and not be constrained by foods from fiction, that I started Basics with Babish, a show for people who want Binging con Babish, the Spanish language channel, and we're now making Being



Meet the Creators



SCOTT BRADLEE ON HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES FOR A NEW GENERATION OF MUSIC FANS

Jazz pianist Scott Bradlee started his channel by shooting old-school covers of modern classics in his basement apartment. Now he's touring the world and collaborating on global ad campaigns.

Who is the typical Postmodern Jukebox fan?

Oh, it's so wide. Our audience ranges from people that love Miley Cyrus to people that grew up in the time of Glenn Miller. We have people that are 90 years old, as well as people that are nine.

What kind of fan interactions have you had?

People write to me and tell me that because of my videos, they decided to take up saxophone or take vocal lessons. When I was a kid I was the only one in my school that was into old jazz, now there's a whole community out there inspired by Postmodern Jukebox.

What do you watch on YouTube?

I couldn't live without tutorials. There's a tutorial for everything on YouTube and it's amazing because I remember so many times trying to learn how to do something by myself and failing miserably. But now with YouTube, you can just search for anything.

CASSEY HO ON MAKING FITNESS FLEXIBLE FOR STAY-AT-HOME EXERCISERS

By blending Pilates with pop music, Cassey Ho's energizing Blogilates channel has brought fitness and fun to an at-home audience of millions.

Who is the typical Blogilates fan?

People of all colours, shapes, and sizes watch
Blogilates, which I think is very important, because
they see that you don't have to look a certain way
or have six-pack abs. A lot of the girls who start out
doing my videos are afraid to go to the gym because
they're self-conscious, but by doing Blogilates
videos at home they start to build confidence.

How has YouTube helped you build up a dedicated community of fans?

Because YouTube allows for longer-form content, I'm able to teach a real, full-length class, and my fans aren't just watching. We suffer together, we sweat together, and I feel like I'm not able to do that on other platforms because they're so short-form or people don't even turn on the sound. For fitness you need that sound you need the encouragement.

Do you have a favourite video?

People were leaving me really mean comments and I had the idea to take all those comments and create a video, "The Perfect Body," photoshopping myself to look how they want me to look. I created the video really as therapy for myself, and when I put it up, it went superviral. I think it was because it's one of the first times people saw someone so vocal about the pressures of beauty standards in society.





MAROUES BROWNLEE IS PUTTING A FRESH SPIN ON TECH REVIEWS

Margues Brownlee's gadget-heavy channel is one of YouTube's most popular tech destinations - with everyone from tech newbies to NBA stars checking in for advice on iPhones, ultra-thin TVs, and self-driving cars.

Who is the typical Margues Brownlee fan? My viewers are really into tech, gadgets, and figuring out what the bleeding edge is all about. There are also people who are finding my stuff via search: "What is a self-driving car?", "What's special about the new iPad?" A couple of NBA players have actually reached out to me directly, wanting to know which phone is best for them.

Has there been a shift in how YouTube creators are seen? We're being taken more seriously both inside and outside of tech, because the pure scale of the audience we reach and our influence is hard to ignore. We're now seeing tech YouTube creators being invited to press events alongside traditional journalists.

Do you think the way we watch content is changing? A lot of people have flexible schedules but they're also really busy, so the difference between TV and on-demand content that you can watch whenever you have the time is huge. Content can also be more personal and authentic if you're getting it from one person or a creator that you trust. I still have cable for the occasional live sports moment, but other than that, it's all online.

videos over the past



KATE ALBRECHT & JOEY ZEHR OF MR. KATE

ON MAKING DIY ACCESSIBLE

For millennials, DIY can be daunting — but with \$300 room refits and their Breaking Beige makeover series, this husband-and-wife team have used YouTube to make home improvement both accessible and fun.

How has YouTube changed the entertainment landscape?

Joey Zehr: This new industry has fundamentally shifted how entertainment works. Now we're able to use the inexpensive technology to produce the same level of content that in previous years studios had to do, and we're able to distribute directly to our audience.

How much interaction do you have with your fans?

Kate Albrecht: Daily! We are constantly using our audience as a resource for information and clues to what other content to create. There's a direct line that's so valuable to us. We've come to develop a real trust with them, and them with us.

What are the benefits of YouTube for a brand?

JZ: You can invest in more engaging content, and people watch with their screens in their faces. They're interacting, they're touching, they're not distracted.

COYOTE PETERSON

ON BRINGING NATURE TO LIFE FOR A DIVERSE AUDIENCE

Naturalist Coyote Peterson has been stung, bitten, and clawed multiple times for his passion: educating animal lovers about nature and conservation on the Brave Wilderness channel.

Who is the typical Brave Wilderness fan?

We're for people from three to 93. I always find it interesting when I meet older fans, like an old weather photographer or a retired naturalist, because it's really cool to see how YouTube has saturated such a wide range of viewers.

What are you most proud of?

There are a number of people who've said, "Because I watched your content, I'm now going to school to become a wildlife biologist or conservationist." That ability to inspire someone is the biggest reward.

Why is YouTube such a powerful platform for you?

I think YouTube is the greatest place to reach the widest audience possible. Everyone absorbs content from YouTube, I don't care how old you are. And the flexibility makes it really appealing, you don't have to fit a time block. If your video's five minutes, cool. If it's 55 minutes, that's also cool. It's designed for the user, and you can pick your own adventure based on the time you have.



Channel: MKBHD | Subscribers: 8.3M+

Meet the Creators 25 / 28 ▶ YouTube



SAFIYA NYGAARD

IS REFLECTING CONSUMER
CURIOSITY WITH A NEW
TAKE ON BEAUTY

From makeup mash-ups to style experiments, Safiya Nygaard's weird and wonderful fashion and beauty videos have earned her a dedicated army of fans.

How has your channel evolved?

I came into this making videos I thought
I would want to watch, and I think the
audience has generally reflected that. I am
interested in the why and the how: "Why
is this a trend? Where does it come from?"
I think there is that curiosity in a lot of
women out there. What I make is sort of
like "Ancient Aliens," but for lipstick.

If you could tell a brand one thing about YouTube, what would it be?

There are a lot of creators who are working really hard to make YouTube just as good, if not better, than traditional media outlets. We have decent cameras and spend hundreds of hours editing each video. When I turn on the TV and I watch a 22-minute medium-budget cable episode, it's not better than YouTube. Maybe "Game of Thrones" is more impressive, but that's about it.

What makes you excited about YouTube over the next five years?

We have a plan of videos through 2020 and beyond. In five years there's going to be an audience base of high school and college kids who've grown up watching only YouTube, so I think there will be even less of a roadblock for a mature audience to be like, "Oh yeah, YouTube's a real thing."

Hear more from these creators at yt.be/think/attentiontoaction

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PHILIP WANG ON THE CHANGING FACE OF ENTERTAINMENT





Channel: WONG FU PRODUCTIONS





From comedy to drama, short form to long form, mass market to niche when it comes to entertaining audiences, Wong Fu Productions' Philip Wang is a man who wears many hats.

Who is the typical Wong Fu fan? Our demographic is almost exactly half male, half female, and our age range is really wide. A lot of our fans are Asian-American and we're really proud that we can create content that resonates with them. If they can't see it on the big screen very often, they can see it on YouTube.

What's the best thing about publishing on YouTube? The best thing about the YouTube community is that it feels like viewers are more connected to you and your work than a movie or TV show. It's a two-way conversation, which you don't get elsewhere.

What's next for Wong Fu? We're pursuing feature film projects and TV shows in the traditional sense but people are always asking me if we want to go full Hollywood. I tell them: "No. No matter what we do, YouTube is always going to be a really, really important part." It's where everyone is watching, and it's where we can reach our fans fastest.







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- online at least once per month and have purchased something in the past year, Aug. 2018 8 Google data, CA, Feb. 2019 vs. Feb. 2018. Videos with "new recipes" in their title
- 9 YouTube Internal Data, Global, April 2018.
- 10 Google data, CA, Feb. 2019 vs. Feb. 2018. Videos with "home workout" in their title 11 Google data, CA, Mar. 2019 vs. Mar. 2018
- 12 Google Data, CA, Videos with "home renovation" OR "home renovating" in the title, Mar. 2018-Feb. 2019.
- 13 Google Data, CA, Feb. 2019 vs. Feb. 2018. Classification as "Wildlife" videos was based on public data such as headlines, tags, etc. and may not account for every such video available
- 14 Google Data, CA, Feb. 2019 vs. Feb. 2018. Videos with "makeup transformation" in the title. 15 Google Data, U.S., 2017-2018

Crystal Rix, Nicolas Chidiac, Brandon Pierce and Bernice Clarke were shot exclusively for The

Tracey Cooke and Giorgio Delucchi were shot exclusively for The Playbook by Arthur Mola.

Scott Bradlee, Cassie Ho, Safiya Nygaard, and Philip Wang were shot exclusively for

Andrew Rea and Marques Brownlee were shot exclusively for The Playbook by Damien Fry.

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