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Flavors of Youth: Unfairly judged in the shadow of Shinkai



by Victoria Davis 1 month ago

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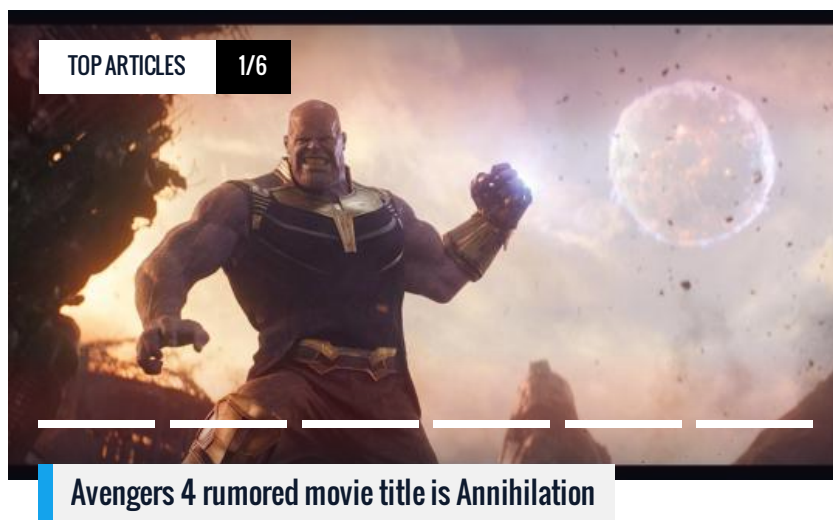
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Netflix's newest anime, *Flavors of Youth*, only failed to impress audiences that were hoping for another *Your Name*.

There's no point in denying the widely known success of anime creator Makoto Shinkai's 2016 feature film, *Your Name*. Released in the U.S. in 2017, the anime romance film grossed more

than three hundred and twenty-six million dollars worldwide, making it the **most successful anime film of all time**. *Your Name* has even become more popular than Hayao Miyazaki's 2001 *Spirited Away*, which won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature. But Shinkai believed fan's total obsession with the anime romance was **"unhealthy,"** fearing it would distract audiences from appreciating other great animated works.

Unfortunately, his case was proven accurate with the recent criticism of Netflix's **newly released anime, *Flavors of Youth***. Made up of three short stories, this animated anthology was the product of Chinese studio Haoliners partnering with Japanese studio CoMix Wave Films, the same studio that produced *Your Name*. Despite the fact that Shinkai was not involved with the project, having **Yoshitaka Takeuchi** as one of the film directors, in addition to CoMix Wave Films' involvement with the movie, fans inevitably cast a Shinkai shadow over *Flavors of Youth*.



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Film critics reviewed that the film **fell flat** in comparison to *Your Name* and Shinkai's 2007 anthology, *5 Centimeters Per Second*, an anime film also made up of three short stories. Out of *Flavors of Youth*'s three parts, "Love in Shanghai" was favored above "The Rice Noodles" and "A Little Fashion Show" due to it being the closest **"replication to the charm"** of *Your Name*.

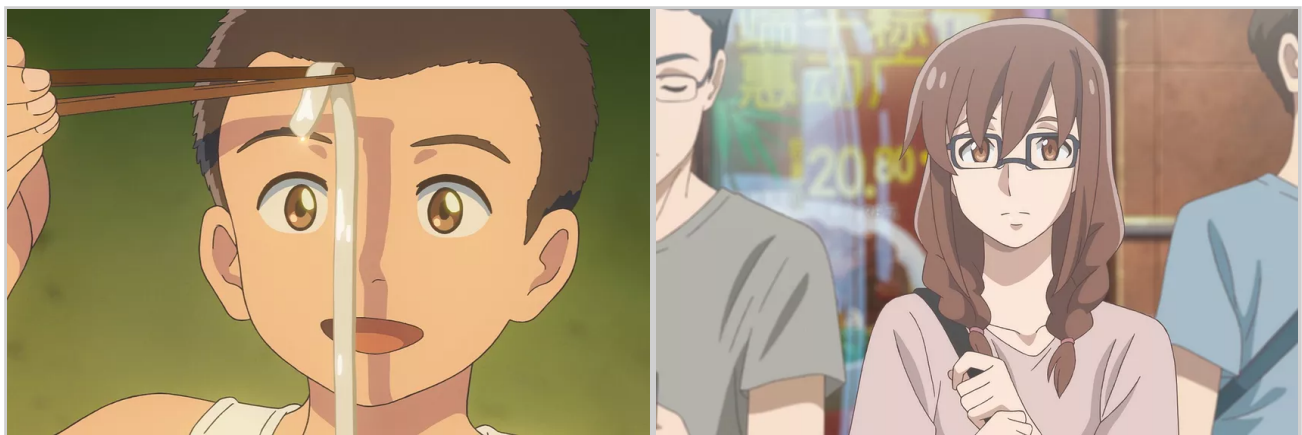
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Audiences craved another love story, and were unimpressed by a young man's home-rooted love for his grandmother's rice noodles or the saving grace that a sister's devotion can be to a model struggling with her aging career. *Flavors of Youth* is not only a testament to how far we've come in animation—from the glistening of a soup dish to the streaks of colors in a night sky—but also to how even the simplest of stories can have a massive impact on individuals and resonate with people in all walks and stages of life.



The disappointment with *Flavors of Youth* lies not in its stories, with the core message of unity, that we're all in this life together. The true tragedy and let-down, is that the film **failed to impress** fans who were ultimately looking for a carbon-copy love story like *Your Name*, and a Chinese-version of *5 Centimeters Per Second*.

It also seems somewhat, incredibly ironic that reviewers believed the narration in "The Rice Noodles" to be **excessive**, when *5 Centimeters Per Second's* story lines are carried almost entirely by the narration and inner thoughts of its characters. While Shinkai's work should be praised for his ability to capture audiences' souls with his storytelling, it should never distract from one's ability to notice and appreciate great art.



Flavors of Youth photo via Netflix Media Center Flavors of Youth photo via Netflix Media Center

The beauty of anime is that no story is exactly the same, and its goal has always been to find different ways to illustrate the essence of humanity. The love of well-made rice noodle soup and the fear of growing old can just as easily stir up emotion as a boy and girl, bound together by

love and a cassette tape. The challenge is not allowing for the association of a name to dictate our expectations of a film.

NEXT: Timeless anime series Yu Yu Hakusho is now available for streaming on Hulu

Flavors of Youth is streaming on Netflix, and well-worth a watch for anyone who loves nostalgia, heartbreak and the triumph of embracing both.

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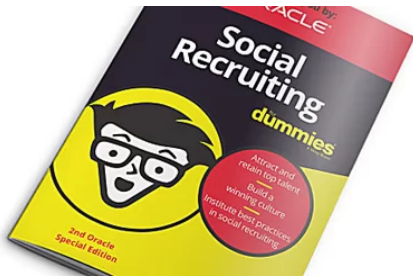
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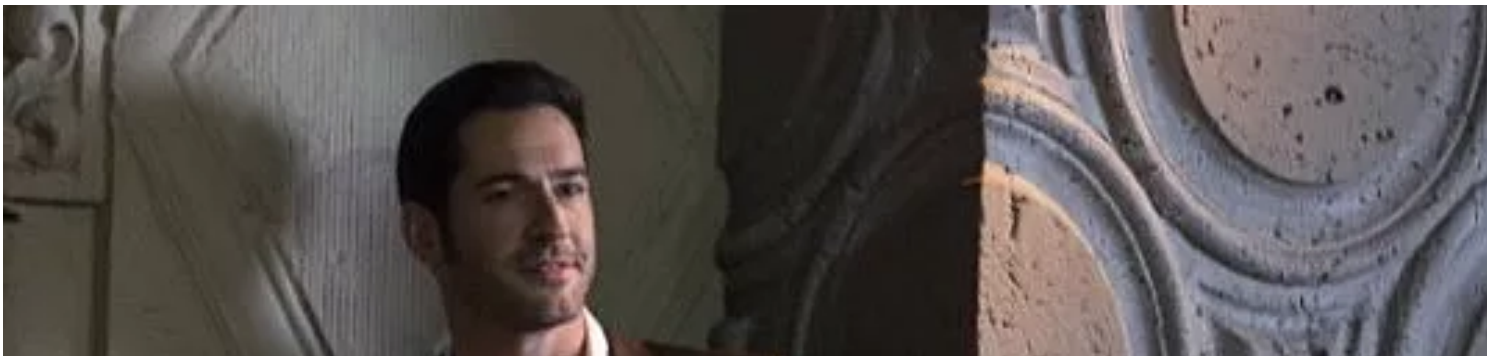
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NETFLIX

Lucifer Morningstar's life will get very complicated in season 4



by Georgia Makitalo 1 month ago

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Lucifer Morningstar's devilish past is going to catch up with him as two new characters will cause havoc on his life in season 4 of Lucifer.

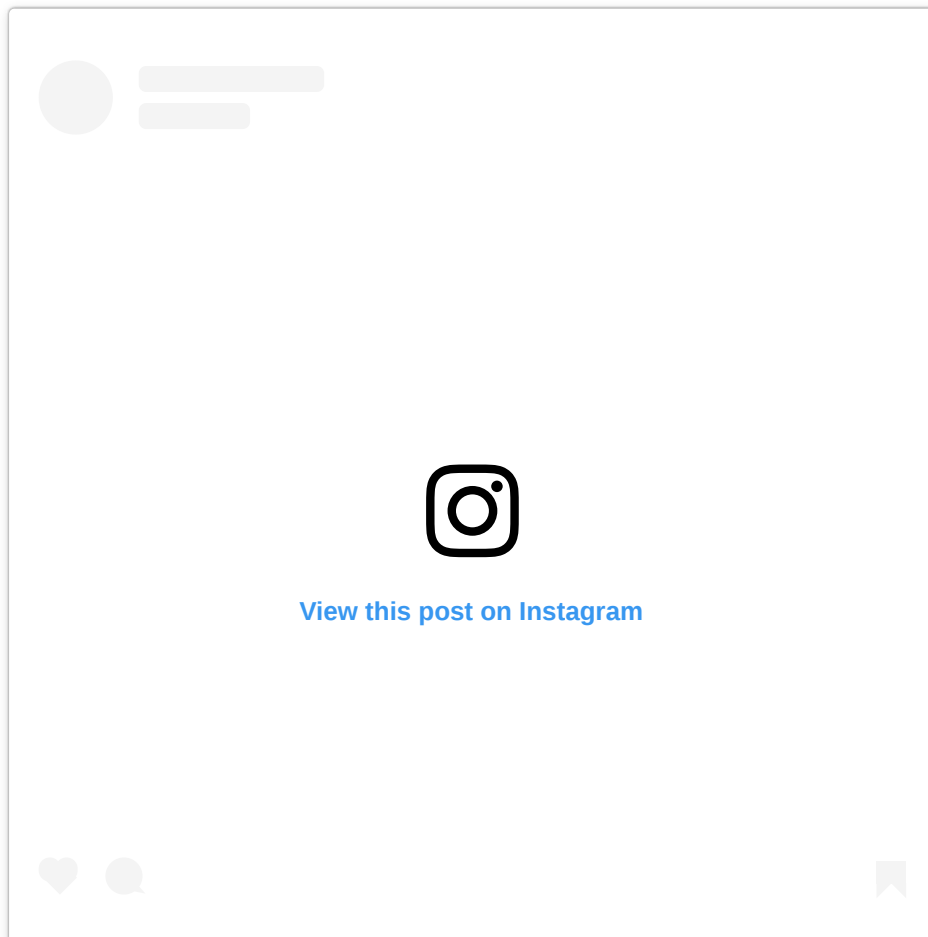
When *Lucifer* Season 3 ended, fans were thrilled that Chloe finally learned the truth when she saw Lucifer's devil face. The season finale showed Chloe's shocked look, as she admitted that he truly was the devil. But if fans believe that it will be clear sailing for Detective Decker and Lucifer Morningstar they may want to think again. There will be two big obstacles that will surely distract Lucifer!

Lucifer Season 4 is going to introduce Eve, portrayed by Inbar Lavi. ***TV Insider*** explains that Eve, the very first woman on earth, will seek out Lucifer Morningstar in order to recreate the sexy magic that they once upon a time enjoyed. "The original sinner" Eve, who is "restless" in her marriage to Adam, will be tempting Lucifer to partake in his bad boy ways.

Lavi, who has most recently been seen on the *Imposters*, will certainly create an enormous obstacle to any potential Lucifer and Chloe love story. Although the co-showrunners Ildy Modrovich and Joe Henderson have promised that while the former Fox show will now be streaming on Netflix, the content including graphic language and nudity will not change.



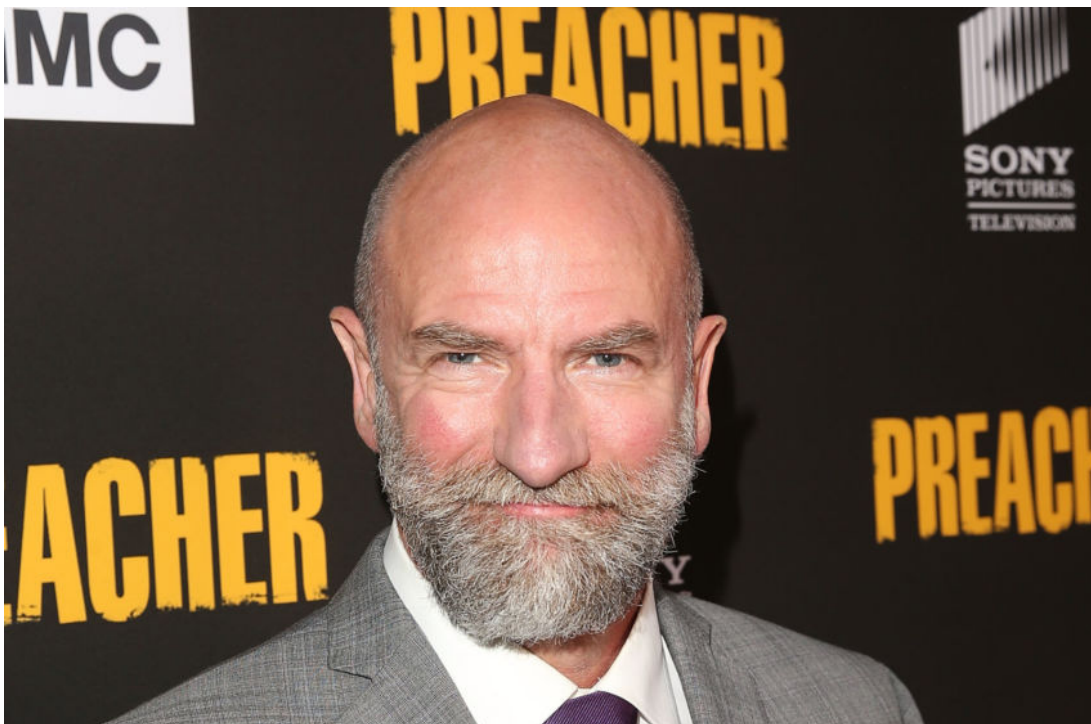
Yet, many Lucifans are surmising that the new season will show more of Tom Ellis than ever before. Ellis has recently showed fans his newly formed six-pack, after working out six days a week for three full months. This would mean he was working out even when the fate of *Lucifer* was in limbo. Did he beef up in anticipation of possible nude scenes if the show was picked up by a streaming service?



3 months of Training. 2 hours a day. 6 days a week. A tailored diet and more water than I've ever drank has got me almost to my goal. Thank you @paolomascitti for your encouragement and motivation. Cant believe I actually enjoy the gym now. Nearly there #DevilTraining 💪🐾

A post shared by Tom Ellis (@officialtomellis) on Aug 19, 2018 at 2:42pm...

Turns out, Ellis previously revealed on social media that had made some sort of wager with one of his daughters that he would get a six-pack before his 40th birthday in November. Yet, surely Henderson and Modrovich will find a reason to include some nice shots of his incredible physique in the new season, whether in love scenes, or perhaps even fight scenes. Which brings us to the other big addition: the priest who is after Lucifer.



According to [TV Line](#), Scottish actor Graham McTavish has been cast as Father Kinley. The *Outlander* star is portraying a preacher with good intentions for his parishioners. He is determined to keep “the flock” safe from evil. He has pinpointed Los Angeles as the city where the devil, Lucifer Morningstar, resides and is determined to save others from Lucifer’s sinful influence.

The athletic McTavish has done plenty of physical roles in the past. By choosing him to portray the preacher, the showrunners may be hinting that Lucifer and Father Kinley will be physically battling it out for the souls of mankind.

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Whether he fights the temptation of Eve or the powerful preacher, Lucifer Morningstar will certainly be fully occupied with outside matters. This could perhaps distract him from winning over Chloe, who we can assume will have a few questions and concerns of her own!

NEXT: Queen America will include Lucifer star Tom Ellis

Are you excited about the new casting for *Lucifer* season 4? Do you have any predictions about what will happen next? Please share your opinions below.

***Lucifer* season 4 is filming now and will return to Netflix sometime in 2019.**

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