



NAFIS IMTIAZ ONISH

YouTube constantly sees through the rise and fall of trends over time. Some trends leave a longer lasting impression, while others fizz out quickly. Though this decade goes to gaming commentary channels hands down, the recent years have ushered in a major rise of a rather unforeseen genre of videos - video essays.

Video essay channels create scripted essays on diverse topics ranging from pop culture to even politics with visuals aiding the narration. The essays generally have a subjective or philosophical overtone and are often read out poetically. Unlike gaming or reaction channels, video essays need a lot of time to research and script.

Following is a list of video essay channels that provide us with unique insights  
**Nerdwriter1:** The Nerdwriter is a weekly YouTube series that puts ideas into words in the form of 5 to 10 minute video

essays. The essays delve into a wide array of topics from films and art to science and psychology. His "Understanding Art" is one of the most insightful playlists on YouTube.

**Every Frame a Painting:** One of the most popular film analysis channels on YouTube, Every Frame a Painting is dedicated to the analysis of how different film-structures (cinematography, background score, framing, etc.) convey varying emotions to connect with the audience. The videos are thought evoking and intrigue the audience to look deep within the movies.

**Lessons from the Screenplay:** The 7 to 16 minute video essays analyse screenplays to demonstrate how certain aspects of movie scripts can work really well in telling a story and conjure up the desired emotions through brilliant writing.

**Fandor:** Unlike the rest of the names on the list, Fandor hosts a large number of video essayists. Therefore, there are a

good number of essays of different styles and on diverse topics. The diversity makes the channel pleasantly unpredictable.

**Channel Chriswell:** The video essays in this channel are generally longer ranging from 15 to 20 minutes. The essays delve into the art of cinema and cover a wide range of topics starting from the theme in movies of certain filmmakers to cinematic tools used to portray a story.

**Now You See It:** Similar to Every Frame a Painting in style and narratives, Now You See It covers broader themes in short simple videos around 5 to 7 minutes.

**Kaptainkristian:** Kaptainkristian traverses across different forms of entertainment - movies, music, cartoons, animated films, etc. The videos are around 5 to 7 minutes maximum.

**Wisecrack:** Wisecrack's video essays have a unique presentation. "Earthling Cinema" is a popular series where the narrator dresses as an "alien" and gives

his take on cinemas and at time, TV shows. "8-bit philosophy" and "Deeper meaning in your favourite stuff" are present interesting perspectives as well.

**The Royal Ocean Film Society:** The Royal Ocean Film Society is a video essay series by Andrew Saladino devoted to the style, craft, and analysis of everything film. The channel has individual playlists breaking down the animations, direction style etc.

**iamthatroby:** The channel discusses movies and TV shows and dives deeper into the broader themes or philosophies behind them.

Honourable mentions: The Film Theorists ("Frame by Frame"), Patrick (H) Willems, Beyond the Frame, Art of the Film Score, Art Regard, Steven Benedict, Brows Held High.

*Nafis Imtiaz Onish believes grinning is the answer to everything and avidly loves art, astronomy & all things nerdy. Send him Carl Sagan fan art at nafisimtiaz17@gmail.com*

# Video Essay channels on YouTube

## The Chronicles of Wonder Bua

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

After years of being the victim of the inexplicable misplacement of my belongings around my room and constant spying, prying eyes inside my very own house, I have recently been acquainted with a woman who not only helps with household chores but also minds her own business. She goes by the name *X-er ma*, but I like to call her Wonder Bua.

She brooms the room in silence, minding the riot of wires sprawled across the floor instead of tripping all over them while murmuring curses at "aiz kailer pola-maiya ra" and their carelessness. After wiping the furniture, she places the keys back to their original position rather than of turning it into a not-so-fun game of treasure hunt for you.

Your average bua is somehow either a ninjutsu master sneakily creeping into your room or she's hurricane Katrina, barging in unannounced and annihilating your door hinges. But Wonder Bua sympathises the door, the possibility of your slumber and the chance of mortifi-

cation neither of you want to suffer. The woman knocks. When the door is open, she coughs to announce her arrival. And when she leaves, I kid you not, she turns back on the fan and closes the door. She makes sure it's closed. ALL. THE. WAY.

You would not believe your eye, if you saw this woman spy. Wonder Bua does not snitch, simply because her body doesn't itch to see you suffer. When your mom comes home, she doesn't race you to the door to convey an extended report about your misconducts, before you even get to ask your mom what she got you from the market. While cleaning the room, she may stumble upon things your father would frown upon (read: throw you out of the house for). What she doesn't do is pour kerosene to the fire by subtly imparting those discoveries when your dad is upset and lecturing you. Why, you ask? Because she is a well-wisher who'd rather have you inside the house than outside.

Wonder Bua cooks so good, you'd actually reconsider date night because no hot chick is a match to the cooked one

waiting inside your fridge. When cooking, Wonder Bua approaches you, to taste the necessity of salt in the beef curry. This woman not only values your opinion, but also knows once the guests are here there's a good chance you may not be opportune enough to get a serving.

The expertise of this woman broadens far from just household chores. She plucks mangoes off your mango trees and offers you one of the ripest ones from the lot she packs for her grandchildren. Not only is she skilled at climbing the tree to pick them like a pro, but also argues over it with the driver and the maid next door with such ferocity, that you'd consider hiring her to win an argument with your girlfriend.

Perhaps you're too much of a jerk to deserve Wonder Bua, perhaps you're spending too much

time on your phone so obviously you're not worthy of her. I can tell you this, Wonder Bua does exist.

At the end of the day though, whether or not they tick off all the boxes, all buas are a wonderful. Who else would tend to you like a grandmother does and help find the other pair of socks before school?

*Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com*

