



THE PERFECT WORLD OF
NICHOLAS RAITHE

1/2 hour animated
sci-fi series

based on the short story collection *Tales of Nicholas Raithe*
by **Robert Lawson**

developed for television
by
Robert Lawson and Sam Huntington
with **James Roday**

A DISPLACED ALIEN RACE IS SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME, AND EARTH IS LOOKING PRETTY GOOD.

NOW IT'S UP TO ALIEN SCIENTIST NICHOLAS RAITHE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE HUMANITY. BECOMING HUMAN IS DEFINITELY MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...

AN ABSURD COMING OF AGE DRAMEDY ABOUT WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN, FUELED BY THE CONFLICT BETWEEN AN ALIEN SENSE OF DISCIPLINE AND ORDER, AND THE CHAOTIC JAZZ OF HUMANITY.

THE BIG PICTURE

So... there are these aliens.

Their planet – Pachinko 4 – in the Sombrero Galaxy in the Constellation Virgo — is a bit too close to a star that's gonna go nova pretty soon. So they've been searching all over the universe for a new home, and haven't been that impressed.

Until they found Earth... and it's looking pretty good. It's also kind of a cute fixer-upper. And they can fix it : they have the technology

There's only 1 real problem : People.

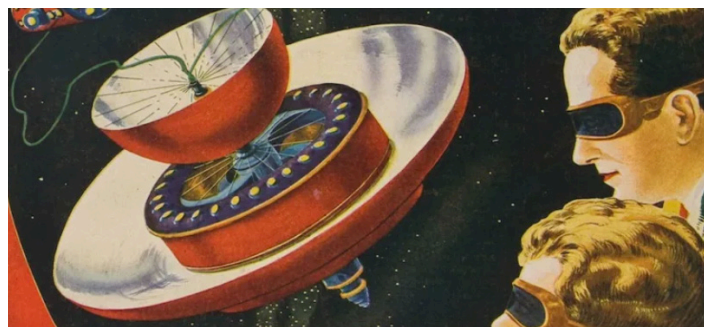
There are simply too many humans and too many Pachinkans to coexist.

Now the Grand Poobah of Pachinko is a practical alien. So his plan is to save the infrastructure, mulch the humans and move on in.

But the Scientists of Pachinko are a more compassionate lot.

That is to say, “compassionate” in the way that you would prefer not to euthanize a stray dog, but rather send it to a farm upstate were it can live out its life. Out of sight, out of mind.

They've convinced the Poobah that they can create essentially what is a Matrix where they can offload all the humans into digital versions of themselves to make room for the Pachinkans.





(Sam Huntington)

Leading the charge is **NICHOLAS RAITHE**

He's the quintessential alien science nerd. Wide eyed, brilliant, and an avid researcher, Nick's done TONS of research, including watching 1000's of TV shows, movies and advertisements. And yes – they've definitely seen *The Matrix*, which Nick obviously found inspirational.

Through his research, Nick has become obsessed with Earth and its inhabitants, and feels it's the Pachinkans duty to preserve the human race. Or at least, you know, their minds.

The thing is, like any scientist who's never actually encountered his research subject, even though Nick knows all there is, he has zero emotional, psychological, on-the-ground knowledge. Basically : he knows everything, and understands nothing.

The Grand Poobah decides to give Nick a chance to do his little experiment. Sure, why not?

But it's a limited chance.

The first of the spaceships is heading out soon. Now since there are billions of Pachinkans, they have to take the slow route, so it's gonna take them a good long time to get to Earth.

But since Nick's team is small, they can wormhole to Earth in beautifully built synthetic human bodies so they can fit in, undetected, and get to work.

Correctly realizing that New York City is the perfect testing ground, what with its diversity of people and cultures, **they set up a RESEARCH LAB disguised as a nifty little Start Up in Bushwick which they're calling "Proxy Paradise"** – the name they've given to their matrix program.

THE IDEA IS that unwitting humans will be put into Proxy Paradise so the scientists can collect data, debug the program, then get on with uploading the entire human race into it.

They don't expect any real bumps in the road. I mean, what could go wrong?

Which brings us to —

THE PILOT

WE START OUT ON THE ALIEN PLANET OF PACHINKO 4.

We're in a large waiting room. Nick, in Alien form, waits patiently.

He looks exactly like you'd expect an alien to look like : green skin, large dark eyes, long, thin limbs, three fingered hands. You know – an alien.

And everyone around looks exactly like him. And though the room is modern, it's completely bland. Smooth, featureless walls – BEIGE. Everything's beige.

Nick's clearly nervous. If Aliens could sweat, he'd be damp for sure.

The alien receptionist informs him that **"The Poobah will see you now."**

Nick girds himself and enters the office through a large, Beige door.

And there's the Poobah in all his glory. Though of course... he looks exactly like Nick.

Like, exactly. If their voices weren't different, you literally couldn't tell them apart.

As representative of the United Scientists of Pachinko, engaging, nerdy, upbeat Nick pitches the matrix idea – to preserve human culture for scientific study, etc. etc.

The Poobah says "Why not?" After all, he's got bigger fish to fry.

CUT TO: A little Beige spaceship hurtling towards Earth AT ALARMING SPEED.

Then just as we enter the atmosphere!

CUT TO: 17 Days Later.

Nicholas, in bed, in his human skin, in Brooklyn. He's unshaven, looks like shit.

He's rudely awakened by a text from someone named Claire:

*Sent in Bryan again this morning. His 10th time.
Not great. He's crying. A lot.*

Nick groans. He tries to go back to sleep, but then the covers are slowly pulled off of him by a **LARGE BULL MASTIFF: this is BRUNO.**



Irritated, Nick pushes Bruno away, drags himself out of bed, pads out into his apartment.

His apartment feels almost unlivable – except that it's filled with gadgets. Blenders, vacuum cleaners, dustbusters, toasters, hair dryers, waffle irons, screw guns – a lot of stuff still in boxes. And he's inexpertly painted every wall, you guessed it : Beige.

We see that his kitchen is the same as Nick goes through his morning ritual, making a Wonderbread smoothie, feeding Bruno.

As Nick leaves his apartment, he runs into **BETISTE KUHIKUHI – the extrovert grad student who lives across the hall and who’s getting her PhD in neo-Freudian systems.** She’s a total, wonderful weirdo who’s intrigued by Nick and his eccentricities. For his part, Nick finds Betiste’s outgoing nature a bit intense.

Betiste is about to take her chihuahua, **Scharfy**, out for a walk. Scharfy snuffles Bruno, wraps Nick up in his leash – all of which Nick finds overwhelming. Betiste goes off with Scharfy.



Nick hurries through Bushwick, a fabulously colorful, upbeat hipster neighborhood.

To us.

For poor Nick, the street life is totally abrasive.

Then, as he battles his way through foot traffic -

The World Transforms

Nick morphs back into his alien skin, walking among a sea of identical green beings back on Pachinko 4.

Everyone moves along in perfect order on an elevated skyway, surrounded by Beige buildings under a Beige sky. It couldn’t be more different than the bustling streets of Brooklyn.

And it’s clear that **Nick is soooooo happy.** Basking in the tranquility of order, everything in its predictable place.

THEN: a horn honk yanks him out of his daydream, and Nick finds himself back on the chaotic Brooklyn streets, standing in the middle of an intersection, a trash truck honking at him to get the hell out of the road.

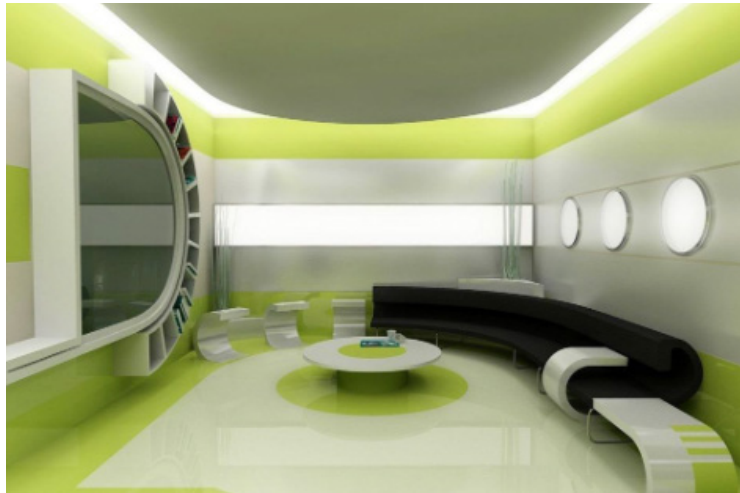
His bliss harshed, Nick hustles on his way, soon passing a busy bodega – run by Robert de Niro, and visited by a steady stream of eccentrics, some of whom will be part of the series – and all of which makes Nick wince.

Past the bodega is a door labeled **“Proxy Paradise”.**

A banner proclaims Proxy Paradise a “Virtual Travel Agency” offering the opportunity to –

*Live out your Wildest Fantasy!
Fully immersive VR, like you’ve never experienced!
Free! For a limited time only! Drop in today!*

Nick heads in, slogs up the stairs, and into the incongruously high tech Start Up.



Here we meet **CLAIRE deLUNE** – fellow alien scientist, co-designer of Proxy Paradise and a brilliant intellectual. Claire – or at least, Claire’s human body – is in her 50’s.

We hear sobbing from behind a closed bathroom door. Nick sighs.

NICK: *Bryan?*

CLAIRE: *Bryan.*

Bryan is an intern, the human assistant hired by the Aliens to be their unwitting guinea pig. Of course he thinks he’s just working at a normal StartUp.

But he’s a meek soul, generally afraid of his own shadow, so maybe not the best person to test out the volatile program.

Now, Claire is very soft spoken, you can barely hear her, you need to lean in. And she’s SUPER positive, always understating the gravity of things.

CLAIRE: *So... Bryan is alive. Which is good, but you should maybe take a look at what happened.*

On a video array in the corner, they look at footage of Bryan’s experience in the program that morning.

**It’s Mayhem!
Chaos!**

Bryan, terrified, scrambling through a rapidly deteriorating world. He screams bloody murder as buildings literally crumble around him. Meanwhile, he’s being chased by a rhinoceros, being ridden by his mother, who screams at him: “You didn’t finish your meatloaf!!”

Finally, as Bryan tumbles into a large crevasse – –

An Electrical Hum fills the air, and there’s this crackling White Light.

And CLAIRE says: *Then he got thrown out of the system. Again.*

Nick is at a complete loss. Claire is super sympathetic. But before she can say anything –

Out from the back comes **KENNY STRUT**, our 3rd Alien. White powder on his upper lip, he's super coked up.

Kenny's in his 20s, a loveable douchebag. Like a young Owen Wilson.

BUT, as it turns out, he's also the son of the Grand Poobah of Pachinko, which is how he got this job in the first place. Dad sent him here to get his shit together, but the only thing Kenny likes about Earth is the Party Scene.

This morning, he's stoked to tell about his wild party the night before. As Kenny recounts his adventure –

We Go To A Flashback Of That Party

Not only is it crazy, colorful, techno loud, but Kenny is handing off weird little spherical yellow pills to his buddies. Inside the transparent pills, it looks like there's an atom with protons and electrons actually in orbit.

Pills are popped, and before we see the results (we will later) —

Back at the Start Up

Nick and Claire just stare at Kenny.

KENNY: *Why the long faces? Isn't Earth awesome?! I am having an awesome time. Aren't you guys having an awesome time??*

CLAIRE explains: *Well, Kenny. We're trying to fix the program so we can put all the humans in. And if we don't manage to do that before your father gets here –*

Kenny moans...

CLAIRE: *– then Humanity is going to get obliterated, and we would prefer that not happen.*

Then the DOOR BUZZES. It's 3 humans who've answered the ad for test subjects. Nick feels they're not really ready for them, but might as well press ahead. After all, maybe it'll be different for them than it was for Bryan!

The 3 humans all have pre-matrix interviews where they answer a standard array of questions, as well as the Big Question : "What's Your Fantasy?"

Subject 1 (JUDY) is A Woman who wants to live in Rivendell because she's always wanted to be an elf.

Subject 2 is A Guy divorced 3X who wants to be on a yacht on the ocean with supermodels

Subject 3 & 4 are A Couple who want to fly around Statue of Liberty like Superman and Lois Lane.



The subjects all lie back on recliners that kind of resemble old school beauty salon hair dryers. The "dryer helmets" are lowered and our subjects are hooked into the Proxy Paradise matrix.

INTO PROXY PARADISE!

WE GO IN WITH THEM, intercutting between their 3 fantasies as Nick and his crew watch what unspools on monitors out in the StartUp workspace.

All the fantasies start out the same – for instance, we find Judy in an infinite, white space. Judy looks around, confused.

Then we hear Claire’s voice, echoing:

CLAIRE: It’s okay, dear. All you have to do is think. Imagine being an elf. In Rivendell...

Judy closes her eyes, and **The World Transforms Around Her into Rivendell**, exactly what you think it would be. A moment later, Judy Transforms into an Elf.

When she sees her reflection in a pool of water, she realizes that she is still Judy, but decked out like Galadrial. She is thrilled! In fact, when a young male elf appears, he calls out “Galadrial! Is that you?” Judy gasps – it’s Lord Celeborn as a young man!

Judy loves it.

Judy and Celeborn do *Lord of the Rings* things for a while. At length, Celeborn takes Judy into a grove in the woods. It’s very romantic. But we can see that Judy is starting to feel a little uncomfortable. And when Celeborn proposes to her – **The World Starts To Change.**

The sky grows dark. The vegetation starts growing unnaturally, vines wrapping around Judy...

The other fantasies are similar : they start out GREAT

Then things go South, GLITCHING WILDLY

> In the supermodel fantasy, the high seas turn to quicksandy glop and the divorced Man falls in.

> In fantasy 3: the Statue of Liberty comes alive, grabs the couple and throws them into the stratosphere.

THEN there’s a crackling White Light, and all 3 are ejected from Proxy Paradise, back into their recliners in the Start up, all visibly shaken.

All of the subjects say the same thing:

“It was great!”

“Then it was bad...”

NICK asks them: *But like, overall?*

JUDY answers: *Well, if you can fix that last part, I think you got a winner. I mean, I’m a little shy around men, but... I could spend my whole life there!*

Which is music to Nick’s ears.

CLAIRE: *So all we have to do is figure out how to keep them from getting kicked out of the program!*

Nick is deflated.

NICK: *Yeah. That’s all.*

Exhausted, they close up shop for the day

As Nick goes home to his apartment, Claire goes off to think.

We follow Claire into Manhattan

And we realize that, as cranky as Nick is about the intensity of the city and the people, Claire fucking loves it. The crush of people, the mad diversity, the skyscrapers, the traffic. All of it.

She goes to her favorite thinking place: the New York City Public Library 5th Avenue main branch. She pets the lions as she goes in, ends up in the cathedral-like space of the main reading room.



She breathes in the books. She sits in one of the mahogany chairs and closes her eyes.

Then, a gravelly voice interrupts her reverie: *What are you doing in my chair?*

It's a homeless man. He keeps nattering at her to move on, and though he seems harmless enough, Claire is confused by his insistence. Aren't all the chairs the same??

Just as it starts to escalate, another voice chimes in. This is **PROFESSOR MARCUS PORTNOY** –

PROFESSOR: *Simon, leave this poor woman alone. She's not in your chair. Your chair is over there.*

He's Claire's age, a total silver fox, and he carries what can only be described as a studious warmth. Claire is immediately taken with him.

The bewildered Homeless Man thanks the Professor and moves on, and as the Professor and Claire start chatting –

Back in Brooklyn

Nick has another close encounter with Betiste. Once again, she's upbeat and chatty, excited about new research she's doing for her doctoral thesis. And as she chatters on, for the first time **Nick looks at her with something approaching pity – she has no idea what's in store for the humans of Earth.**

Nick finally excuses himself, goes into his apartment, and collapses on the couch.

A moment later, Bruno the Dog jumps up next to him with a beer in his mouth like the perfect St. Bernard.

Nick drinks gratefully. They sit in silence.

Then Bruno turns to Nick, and says, in perfect English: *So, how'd it go?*

And we're OUT.

It turns out Bruno is a stowaway from Pachinko. He's Nick's down on his luck cousin who's running away to escape his ex-wife. Nick's put him into a dog body because it's less conspicuous. Bruno is grateful, though he does have some complaints, like the food sucks, and you have to poop in public. But Beggars can't be choosers.

Bruno will be Nick's constant confidant. Nick will start taking him everywhere.

CONTINUING EPISODES

Over the course of the show, a number of things unspool...

Since they're new to the human world, the Aliens are constantly learning what it is to be human. How to act, how to say the right things. How to pass for human.

We meet a host of new Test Subjects, a wide variety of people and personalities which leads to a multitude of Proxy Paradise fantasies – which take the form of everything from silly comedies to dramas, from horror to fantasy. Surreal, twisty thrillers, grand adventures and beyond. Anything we can imagine.

The thing is, no matter what the aliens do, how they tweak the code, they just can't stop the worlds collapsing in horrible ways.

So as our aliens try to fix the problem, other episodic complications crop up –

There's a blackout and the matrix shuts down with someone in it.

Bryan spills a liter of Mountain Dew on the server. Luckily they have a back up.

There's a robbery at the bodega and the thief runs into the StartUp to escape. Nick tells him to hide under one of the hair dryers, then shunts the thief into Proxy Paradise, keeps him there until the police arrive... who are kinda suspicious about what the hell's going on here...

All the while, the Pachinkan Mothership is slowly but surely approaching our galaxy, filled with 5000 of the Ruling Elite including the Grand Poobah!

A slow but steady ticking clock.

Meanwhile, our Alien Scientists become increasingly frustrated by the super glitchy matrix!

Until one evening Betiste asks Nick how things are going with the StartUp, and Nick unloads, unspooling what's happening and how glitchy the program is.

Then, being the psychology PhD she soon will be, Betiste has a theory.

BETISTE: It sounds a lot like the test subjects neuroses, fears and secrets are triggering the glitches.

That clicks. Nick read something somewhere about human "neuroses, fears and secrets." Maybe Betiste is on to something.

So he hires her on the spot to be their new Advisor (they keep Bryan on to run errands, pick up pizza and such).

Things in Proxy Paradise get better. Betiste is able to read people's fears and realign their fantasies, some even in real time. The therapeutic value of the Proxy Paradise is revealed!

Now Nick and Claire start to go in themselves with test subjects, to observe more closely.

And as Nick watches these human fantasies unspool, he really starts to learn what humanity is all about, beyond his book learning. The fantasies reveal what people really want in their lives, what they're missing, what thrills they're looking for, what they want to escape from.

**Now all kinds of things evolve as
Our Aliens Start to Become More and More Human!**



