Daily **Life**

'Malcolm in the Middle' reboot brings back loveable chaos to Hulu

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This article contains spoilers for "Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair"

"Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair" is a four-episode mini-series released on Friday, April 10 by Hulu, produced by New Satin City Productions, Regency Television and 20th Television.

"Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair" is a chaotic sitcom which is a reboot of the popular early 2000s sitcom, "Malcolm in the Middle."

The main characters who came back to the show are Malcolm, played by Frankie Muniz (who is also a NASCAR driver), Hal, played by Bryan Cranston; Lois, played by Jane Kaczmarek; Reese, played by Justin Berfield and Francis, played by Christopher Kennedy Masterson.

The new characters in the mini-series are Leah, played by Keeley Karsten; Kelly, played by Vaughan Murrae and Tristan, played by Kiana Madeira.

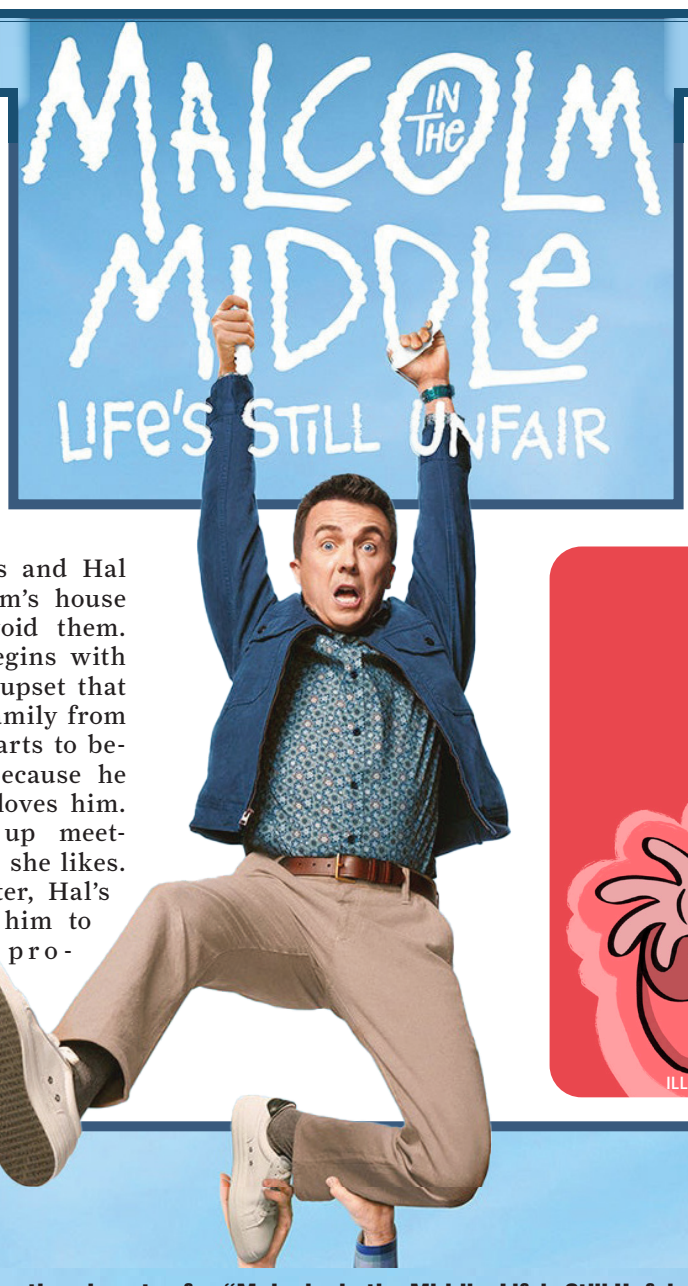
The show follows Malcolm, his daughter Leah, his girlfriend Tristan, Malcolm's parents Hal and Lois, and his siblings Reese, Francis, Kelly, Dewey and Jamie.

The premise of the show is centered around Hal and Lois's anniversary party and the attempt to make it perfect. But characters' secrets are unearthed from the very beginning.

Episode one of "Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair" allows the viewer to re-meet Malcolm in his new life with his teenage daughter and girlfriend. While you meet Malcolm again, Lois and Hal are preparing for their 40th anniversary party.

From the start, you can tell why Malcolm left his family behind while Hal makes elaborate schemes to show Lois how much he loves her. The episode ends with Leah meeting Tristan while Lois and Hal break into Malcolm's house as he tries to avoid them.

Episode two begins with Leah and Tristan upset that Malcolm hid his family from them while Hal starts to become depressed because he feels like nobody loves him. Leah also ends up meeting a new boy that she likes. To try to feel better, Hal's friend Abe takes him to a "medical professional" to get out of his slump. Hal ends up consuming 60 milligrams of hallucinogenic drugs the day before the anniversary party.



A promotional poster for "Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair." The four-episode mini-series was released on Hulu this past Friday.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @HULU ON INSTAGRAM.

Episode three is primarily focused on Hal while he is on the drugs. During the course of the episode, Hal ends up getting naked for the second time in just three episodes and eventually he gets over his depression. Also, Malcolm gets obsessive over his breakup with Tristan and tries to plead, beg and even get his daughter to talk to her. At the end of the episode, Leah and Tristan work together to "kidnap" Malcolm and drive him to his parents' anniversary party.

Episode four is where the entire mini-series comes together. Malcolm, Tristan and Leah all make it to the party on time, and Malcolm tries to hide from Lois. Eventually Lois corners him and they have a talk where Malcolm expresses why he left the family the way he did. Later it cuts to a video that Lois made of Hal's family and friends' thoughts on him with Malcolm giving half-effort. The episode ends with the family covered in glitter sitting in chairs and Leah and Malcolm breaking the fourth wall.

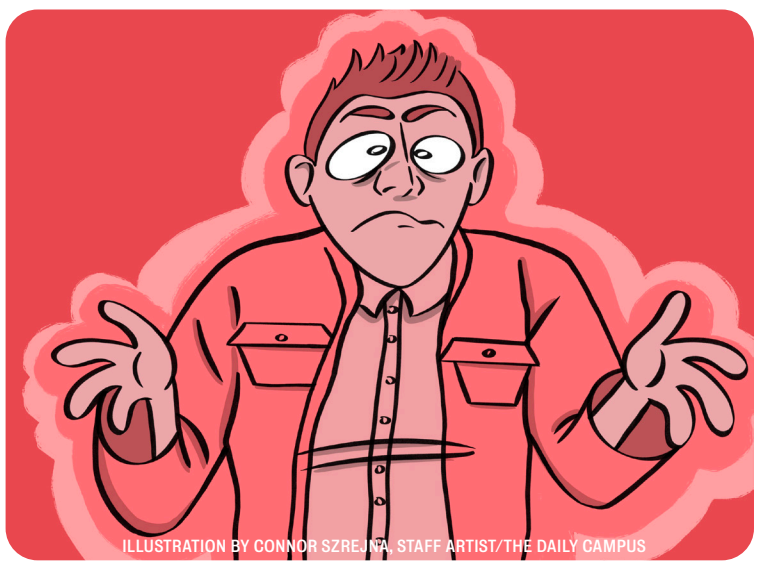
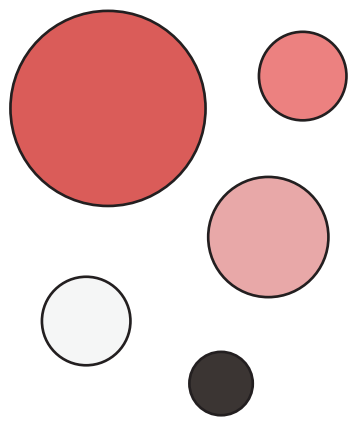


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The four-episode mini-series is very enjoyable to watch overall, but it does have some uncomfortable moments, like Hal being naked in two out of the four episodes, or Leah's crush trying to get her to send him nudes. The show does a great job of capturing the chaotic mess the original "Malcolm in the Middle" had, though, and is a great watch with a lot of great moments.

There are currently no plans to make more episodes for the reboot.



RATING: 4.5/5

U.K. INDIE ROCKERS BACK WITH SOPHOMORE ALBUM

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On April 10, U.K. indie rock group Lime Garden released their sophomore album "Maybe Not Tonight." Hailing from Guildford, these up-and-coming rockers are back following their 2024 album "One More Thing."

Lead singer Chloe Howard said in an interview with NME that this record focuses on the "realistic side of self-destructive fun behavior." With the backdrop of dance-punk beats and songs, on paper this album should help them break out.

Diving into the album, track one, titled "23," starts with an unfortunately relatable line for anyone who's ever been 17. "At 17 I had the world in my hands, and at 23 I just lost it," Howard sings. The line paints such a vivid picture despite being so simple. A focus on body positivity and struggling with body image is present in the lyrics of this song, like "So just try me on for size, I know I'm getting slightly wide." "23" is a song with impactful lyrics and a killer hook.

"23" starts a solid run of tracks; the first half of this album is superior. **"Cross My Heart"** begins with an almost Cure-like bass, but much cheaper. That is not a diss to this song; it fits it like a glove. This song has a great groove, makes the album two for two on choruses so far, and Howard's vocals offer so much pure swagger.

"Downtown Lover" is track three, released as a single. It makes the album three-for-three on choruses and offers some sticky harmonies. It's a short and sweet song, totaling to around two and half minutes.

Next up is **"All Bad Parts,"** another song released as a single. The track is punchy with a great bassline and the best chorus on the album. This is the best song on the album.

Following that, we get the **title track.** It begins with some synths that sound like a club track, not an indie rock song. The bass adds so much to this track, carrying it. Then the chorus is anthemic; Howard delivers it in such a careless, fun way.

Next up is **"Body."** This track continues the themes of insecurity around how you look in the mirror, a great message but sonically this song is just alright, nothing special.

"Lifestyle" is an interesting track. The distortion gets a bit grating, and the clunkiness of the chorus leaves me not wanting to come back to it.

The **final three tracks** on the album continue the trend of the last two. Just some boring indie rock tracks that are not very memorable. All three just go in one ear and out the other. One positive aspect, though, is that this album runs 29 minutes long, so the longest track isn't even four minutes long.

Overall "Maybe Not Tonight" is a decent follow-up for Lime Garden; a very strong first half brought down by a much weaker second half. All the tracks are pretty short and easily digestible, so that's a plus. Nothing on the album overstays its welcome. If you are into some danceable upbeat indie rock, I highly recommend checking this album out.



Members of U.K. indie rock band Lime Garden pose together. Lime Garden recently released a new album this past Friday.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @LIMEGARDENBAND ON INSTAGRAM

RATING: 3/5