Latest Free Guy trailer is giving us strong Upload vibes

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Ryan Reynolds discovers he is a background player in a video game in the epic adventure-comedy *Free Guy*.
20th Century Studios has dropped a new trailer for *Free Guy*, the sci-fi comedy starring Ryan Reynolds, currently slated for a December 11 release. But in these pandemic times, all release dates are basically pencilled in until further notice—which is why Reynolds and company also released an amusing teaser in which they debate potential alternate dates for the film's release.

Per the official premise: "A bank teller who discovers he is actually a background player in an open-world video game decides to become the hero of his own story… one he rewrites himself. Now in a world where there are no limits, he is determined to be the guy who saves his world his way… before it is too late."

Tonally, the trailer feels like a live-action *Wreck-It Ralph* with dashes of *The Matrix* and the *Deadpool* movies thrown in for good measure. In fact, the new trailer is giving us strong *Upload* vibes, which can only be a good thing, since *Upload* was one of our fave new series this year.

Ryan Reynolds' character, named Guy, finds an ally in Milly,

aka Molotov Girl (*Killing Eve*'s Jodie Comer), who is able to move in and out of the game at will. Meanwhile, game developer Antoine (Taika Waititi) has plans to shut the game down, against the objections of a programmer, Keys (Joe Keery, aka Steve Harrington on *Stranger Things*). Keys and Milly created the code that resulted in Guy becoming aware of his virtual environment.

Director Shawn Levy debuted the first *Free Guy* trailer way back in December 2019 at the 2019 Comic Con Experience (CCXP) in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He described it as "a superhero origin story except without the tights, powers, or pre-existing IP," according to Deadline Hollywood. "It's not just spectacle—it's very much connected to the characters. It's the rise of an idealist in a world that is very cynical and dark." At the same event, Reynolds described the film as "a modern-day *Back to the Future* for this generation."

- Lil Rel Howery plays Buddy, a fellow NPC and Guy's BFF.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Guy's existential ennui is triggered by the appearance of Milly/Molotov Girl (Jodie Comer).
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Watch out for the Murder Train!
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Seeing his world through new glasses.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- That's technically not in Guy's programming.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- A confused Milly in the meat world.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Her fellow programmer Keys (Joe Keery) is as surprised as she is.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Guy starts doing heroic things outside his basic programming.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios

- Blue Shirt Guy becomes a big star.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Keys and Milly's evil boss, Antoine (Taika Waititi), tells them to shut it all down.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Milly enters Free City to warn Guy.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- It's harder to take Guy out than Antoine realizes.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- "Did that look cool?"
- Yeah it looked cool, bro.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Free City begins to fall apart.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Guy urges his fellow NPCs to join him in the uprising to save their game.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios
- Guy gets the girl.
  YouTube/20th Century Studios

In this latest trailer, we get some new footage—including lots more Jodie Comer—and a clearer idea of the plot. Guy has been feeling unfulfilled in his daily existence, which consists of getting coffee and then having the bank where he works get robbed every day. Sometimes he gets wiped out by a car or flattened by "the Murder Train" for good measure. When he decides to fight back, he tries on a robber's glasses. These allow him to see the underlying gaming environment of Free City.

We also learn that Guy longs for love, so when he catches sight of Milly, he follows her—and starts behaving out of character (i.e., more heroic) even more. This makes him hugely popular with fans while infuriating Antoine, who demands the game (also called *Free City*) be shut down. Can Milly and Guy inspire the other non-player characters—"This place, this people, that's all I have"—to revolt against their programming

and rise up to save Free City and themselves? After all, just because they're not "real," that doesn't mean what they do can't matter. Guy is virtual proof of that.

As of now, *Free Guy* will hit theaters on December 11, 2020, assuming sufficient theaters have reopened by then. Otherwise, look for it "this Pinecone Celebration Day."

[embedded content]
"No, no, no, no, there's a but… "
Listing image by 20th Century Studios

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