

Is Netflix worth the hype?

With the abundance of platforms out there, should you be spending \$10 a month on Netflix?

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From Hulu to HBO Max to Peacock Premium, a new streaming platform seems to pop up every day. It gets to the point where one person may have as many as six different subscriptions just so they can watch their favorite shows. For a long time the so-called "giant" of these platforms has been Netflix. Established in 1997, Netflix was originally a service that allowed subscribers to request a specific film online and a DVD copy of it sent to their home as a rental.

In 2007, Netflix made the switch to the online streaming service that it is today and with that switch the rest of the world seemed to follow. But the growing popularity of other streaming platforms begs the question: Is Netflix really worth it?

Currently, a Netflix subscription can cost anywhere from \$6.99/month for a basic plan with ads to \$19.99/month for a premium subscription. I have the basic subscription without ads which is \$9.99/month and from what I can tell outside of video resolution there is no difference between a basic and a premium subscription. As for how Netflix prices compare to other platforms Netflix is on the slightly more expensive side. It's cheaper than platforms like HBO Max where subscriptions can range from \$9.99/month with ads to \$15.99/month without. But it is still more expensive than Apple TV+ which is only \$6.99/month. When it comes to price range Netflix tends to be very in the middle but is a good option for families who don't want to pay a whole lot for TV if you don't mind the ads.

But the main decision maker when it comes to choosing the right streaming platform is what's available to watch when you log on. And when it comes to Netflix there are a lot of pros and cons. Most services have very popular shows and movies that many people have heard about, just recently "Shark

Tales" was added to Netflix, but as platforms like Netflix evolve original content becomes more and more popular.

For those who subscribe to Netflix it's well known that when it comes to Netflix Originals it's pretty hit or miss on whether the show or movie will actually be good or not. You have good, popular content such as "You," a show about the extreme lengths a man takes to insert himself into the lives of those he is obsessed with, to things you mostly hate watch knowing it's going to be bad such as "The Kissing Booth,"

a film about a teenage girl who risks a friendship in order to make out with her best friend's toxic older brother. It feels like every other day a new original show or movie is popping up on the service or getting announced on social media making it hard to keep up.

Does the original content Netflix provides make it worth the monthly subscription though? As much as it pains me to say it, after all the horrible movies Netflix has put me through, the original content does make the platform better. A lot of my favorite

shows recently have been Netflix Originals and even the bad content isn't always horrible to the point of being unwatchable, mostly it's just bad in a funny kind of way.

The main problem I have with Netflix Originals is how unreliable they are when it comes to renewing a show. Art is subjective, that's understandable but that doesn't mean it doesn't suck when a show like "Julie and the Phantom," an extremely popular series focusing around a teenage girl's struggle to move on from

her mom's death and the help she gets from a band of ghosts, gets canceled after one season while a show like "Love is Blind," a reality dating show about whether or not a relationship not based off of first looks that's infamous for having some of the worst reality show villains, just released their fourth season.

With shows that premiere on live tv and also happen to be on streaming platforms it's easier for those shows to get picked up by another network if they are canceled, an example of this being "Brooklyn 99" getting canceled by Fox but quickly picked back up by NBC, while it's harder for original content to do the same thing.

You never want to watch a show or movie that ends on a

cliff-hanger that leaves you wondering if you will ever find out what happens next. But with Netflix Originals that's the reality we're facing.

Then there are the shows that make contracts with platforms in order to be on the big services. It gets the show seen by a wider audience and it brings more subscribers to the platforms. Some services like Hulu primarily make contracts with shows instead of creating their own stuff which for those who just want to watch their comfort shows (don't worry,

I've been there) is a great option.

This is the model Netflix originally started with and though the frequency of Netflix Originals has increased, content like "La La Land" and "House of Anubis" have recently been added to the platform. It's nice to be able to easily access your favorite show or movie without paying any extra money to rent it on Amazon or something and only be able to watch it once.

But don't consider your comfort film or series safe just because it's been added to Netflix. I had to face this harsh truth recently when Netflix ended their contract with the show "New Girl" which meant that the series had to leave the platform. As an avid "New Girl" watcher, I was heartbroken that my comfort show had been taken away from me and felt sorry for anyone who felt similar. It's understandable that when contracts get renewed prices may go up and some things may be less of a feasible option for certain platforms, but when you subscribe to a service for a particular show or movie it's easy to have your faith shaken when that thing gets taken away from you.

That leads me back to my main point in this article. Is Netflix

worth it? And my answer for you is no, kind of. If you are one of the millions of people who already subscribed to

Netflix I wouldn't say you should be in any hurry to cancel it just yet. There are plenty of new shows and movies coming out on the platform that I am actually very excited for and if you are someone that loves to be in the know on every new show and movie out there then Netflix is a handy thing to have every once and

awhile.

But if you

are someone

looking for a new

platform to subscribe to I'm telling you now, try looking elsewhere. Netflix is a good service when you need it to be but compared to all the new ones out there it just seems to be falling short more and more often.

