



RETROVIRAL

content | community | commerce

#MyKreepyTeacher

Practice Awards

Category *Digital Media Relations by Retroviral & Panther Punch*

RESULTS:
From concept to viral in

96
HOURS

More than

FIVE
MILLION
VIEWS

Combined press and
social media reach of

TWO
BILLION
PEOPLE

(*TalkWalker third party data)

20%

increase in Kreepy Krauly
product demand (YoY) from pool
department buyers, countrywide

#MYKREEPYTEACHER

2020 WAS EXTRA.

COVID-19 IMPACTED JOB LOSSES, BRANDS DRAGGED AND PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO CANCEL CULTURE. THE NATIONAL SENTIMENT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE.

THAT IS... UNTIL NETFLIX DROPPED A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT A CAPETONIAN BEFRIENDING AN OCTOPUS.

APPROACH

While a global conversation was erupting about My Octopus Teacher, we decided to hijack the news and remind South Africa about the original, majestic creature of the deep...Kreepy Krauly.



"What an astonishing piece of creative!
The timing is perfect. It shows
enormous courage."

702

Kreepy Krauly Cleans Up
TheCitizen

"When a Cape Town man makes
friends with a Kreepy Krauly
a beautiful parody unfolds."

channel24

"Un hombre se enamora da maquina
para limpiar albercas y es la mejor
(A man falls in love with a
pool cleaning machine and
it's the best campaign
you'll see today)"

Merca20



@Naghings

"The crystal-clear waters of the swimming pool
somewhere in a Capetonian suburb hides
no secrets or magical wonders.
There's nothing else in the icy blue water
except for the rhythmic splutter of
the plastic Kreepy Krauly dutifully doing
its job." #MyKreepyTeacher



@brucebusiness

Everyone involved in this is quite
deliciously mad. Brilliant.



@allcapetown

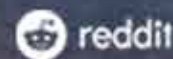
My Kreepy Teacher might be
the funniest thing you see today!



financialmail
channel24



Daily Dispatch



HUIS
genoot



ADS OF
THE WORLD

IDIDTHAT.CO

eNCA



news24

thewest.com.au

CHAMPION
SOUTH AFRICA

The Herald

NETWORK
24

702



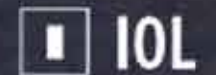
NAG



The Money Show

Times
LIVE

BusinessDay



Sunday Times

AFFLUENCER.

TheCitizen

cape(town)etc

OPENING STATEMENT

#MyKreepyTeacher was Kreepy Krauly's most successful digital marketing campaign in the brand's history, and its most 'viral' campaign.

The campaign was a branded content, news hijacking tactic - supported by traditional and digital PR methods - that 702 called 'an astonishing piece of creative! The timing is perfect. It shows enormous courage.'

The campaign is one of the most successful PR campaigns as it was collectively viewed by two billion people, globally, and made a direct impact on Kreepy Krauly sales, in the midst of a pandemic - a 20 per cent increase year on year.





My Octopus Teacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s0LTDhqe5A>



#MyKreepyTeacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwS4e1P1yF4>

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite being the world's most ubiquitous pool cleaner, the Kreepy Krauly brand is under threat from competitors (Zodiac, Polaris, Premier, Intex) with larger market share and budgets.

However, opportunities still exist for Kreepy Krauly, locally, as South Africa is the sixth largest pool market in the world, comprising 800,000 private and 2,000 public pools.

We required a creative solve to:

- Remind South Africa that Kreepy Krauly is the original, best-quality pool cleaner
- Cut through the competitive clutter and own the pool-cleaning conversation, in order to enhance purchase consideration (and, ultimately sales) during the spring-summer transition



RESEARCH

The personification of the Kreepy Krauly has been successful in the past.

In 2013, we produced Kreepy Krauly's first digital-led, branded content film titled Kreepy Krauly Wrangler. It was a South African mockumentary starring Jason Goliath and Glen Biderman-Pam; a spoof of Australia's Crocodile Hunter. Jason's character was dedicated to hunting and capturing Kreepy Kraulys from South African pools.

It achieved 100,000 views, organically on YouTube.



Whatsapp is the most influential media distribution network in South Africa

According to [statista.com](https://www.statista.com), Whatsapp is the most popular social media in South Africa, with more than 20m users - currently - and is estimated to reach 28.6m by 2026.

Covid-19 lockdowns have accelerated Whatsapp usage. From March 2020, the platform experienced a 40 per cent uptick in usage, says TechCrunch. From a demographics perspective, Talkwalker estimates that 11.5m of our Whatsapp users are 25-45 year olds.

The Netflix Effect

This phenomenon refers to the impact Netflix has had on our culture and people's 'television' viewing habits. According to [maxxor.com](https://www.maxxor.com), it has allowed consumers to become more empowered with a choice of what to watch and when. It has succeeded in making viewing more accessible, globally, and in doing so created a more cohesive global audience.

Case in point is My Octopus Teacher - the most popular South African documentary on Netflix in 2020 and the tenth most popular including international titles such as Tiger King, The Social Dilemma, and David Attenborough's A Life on Our Planet.

Consumers aren't afraid of the 'dark'

The explosion of Whatsapp usage is linked to the increased appeal of opting to share privately, instead of publicly. This is substantiated by a study from GlobalWebIndex and We Are Social that concluded 63 per cent of people prefer to share content on 'dark social' channels (of which Whatsapp is the largest).

Lockdown accelerates video streaming adoption in South Africa

As with Whatsapp, Netflix experienced a surge in traffic, due to lockdown restrictions. The video streaming platform holds its cards incredibly close to its chest wrt official figures, but new Netflix users' strain on the networks increased so significantly, the brand reduced its bitrate, in order to balance load and content quality output.

KEY INSIGHTS

Research led our creative approach:

- We have anecdotal evidence that remarkable, branded content can work to drive word of mouth spread of the Kreepy Krauly brand, as well as directly impact sales
- Video streaming content consumption is at an all time high, based on social media penetration, and the increase in streaming service engagement, due to lockdown
- Whatsapp provides an opportunity to leverage dark social in a way no brand in South Africa has ever leveraged it (11.5m represent our core audience: 9.6m 25-34 year olds, 1.88m 35-45 year olds)

PLANNING - OBJECTIVES

500,000 organic views / 5,000,000 reach with #MyKreepyTeacher

15 Tier 1 pieces of coverage

Achieve a direct impact on Kreepy Krauly sales

TARGET AUDIENCE

LSM 7-10

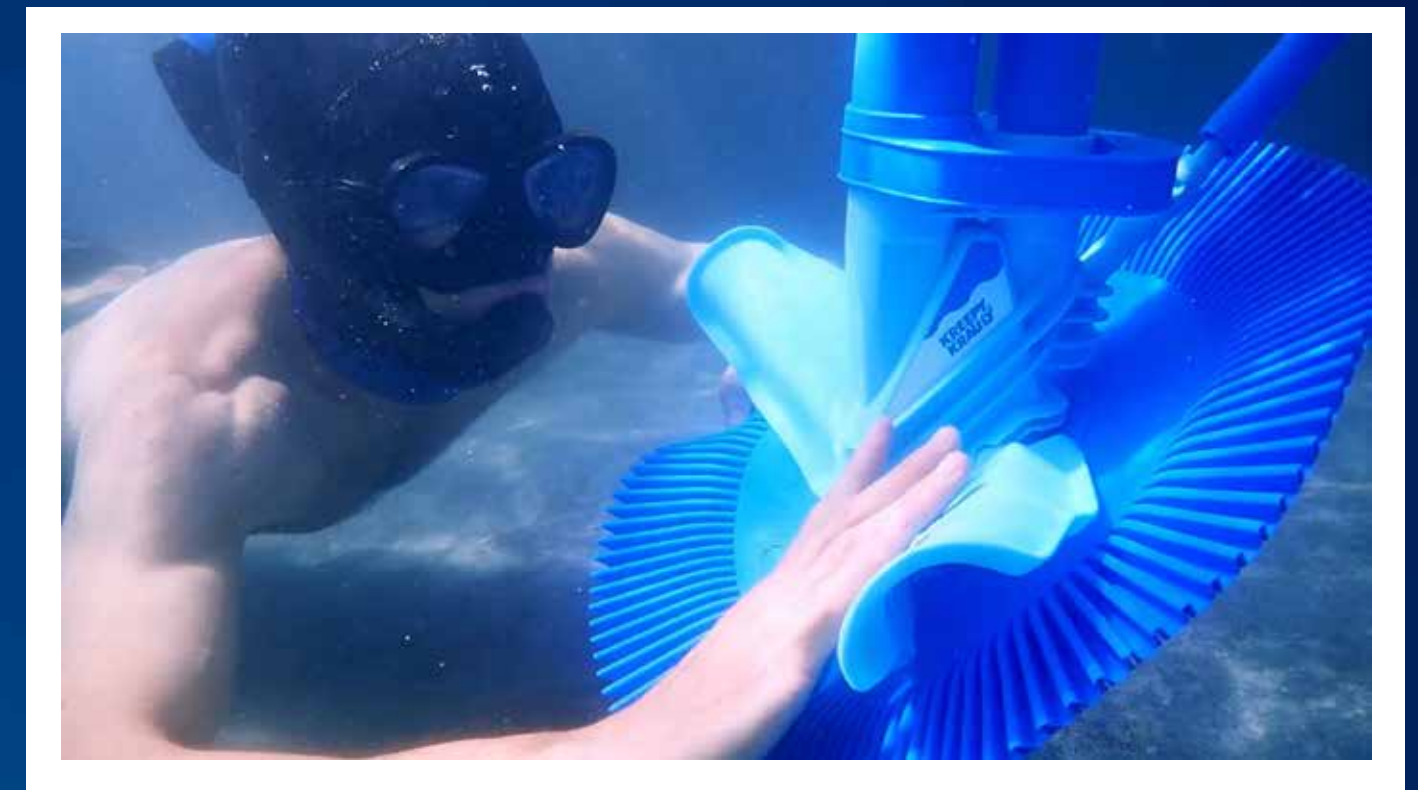
25-45 YR OLDS

ALL RACIAL GROUPS

MESSAGE FORMULATION

We purposefully utilised the key take outs from My Octopus Teacher to juxtapose animate object qualities with Kreepy Krauly to create an emotional connection between content and audience

- Kreepy Krauly is the original majestic creature of the deep
- A Kreepy Krauly is like an alien
- We are so similar in so many ways; looks, intelligence



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- **Social media:** Whatsapp (primary), Twitter, Facebook, YouTube (secondary)
- **Traditional media:** Print, online, broadcast

MESSAGE VEHICLES

1. **Dark social:** Whatsapp has become the defacto platform for 'viral' content amplification
2. **Unfluencers:** we pioneered our 'antithesis of influencer marketing' methodology with our award-winning campaign for Biogen at last year's Prisms.
3. **Media:** TV, radio, print interviews, Whatsapp and Twitter DM press-snippets, Q&A development with key publications



MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Agency pitched Kreepy Krauly management the communication strategy, message development and campaign execution via WhatsApp in a digital show-and-tell approach, due to a remote working requirement as well as the need for a swift execution.

What do you think?

Amazing!



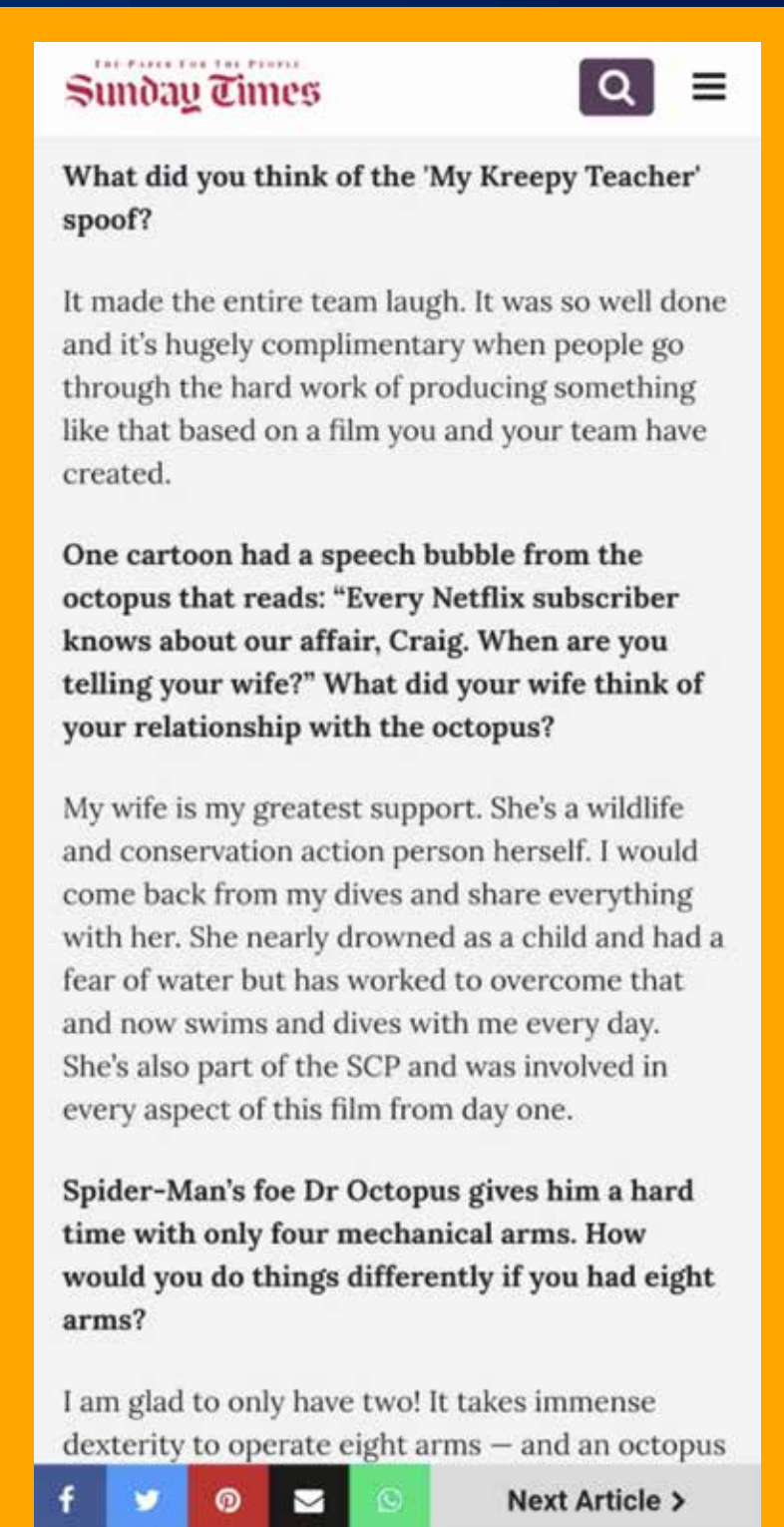
EXECUTION

- Shooting then seeding branded content via unfluencers
- Within 96 hours we pitched the original My Octopus Teacher YouTube trailer as a reference, two rounds of script reverts, a production and distribution schedule, received the green light, shot, edited and distributed #MyKreepyTeacher
- We seeded our content to our 'unfluencers' - @Derro_SA (667 retweets / 1,300 likes / 82,400 views) on Twitter and Alon Kowen (5,844 shares / 3,500 likes / 511,000 views) on Facebook - who posted the campaign content, natively, to their respective social media pages



MEDIA RELATIONS

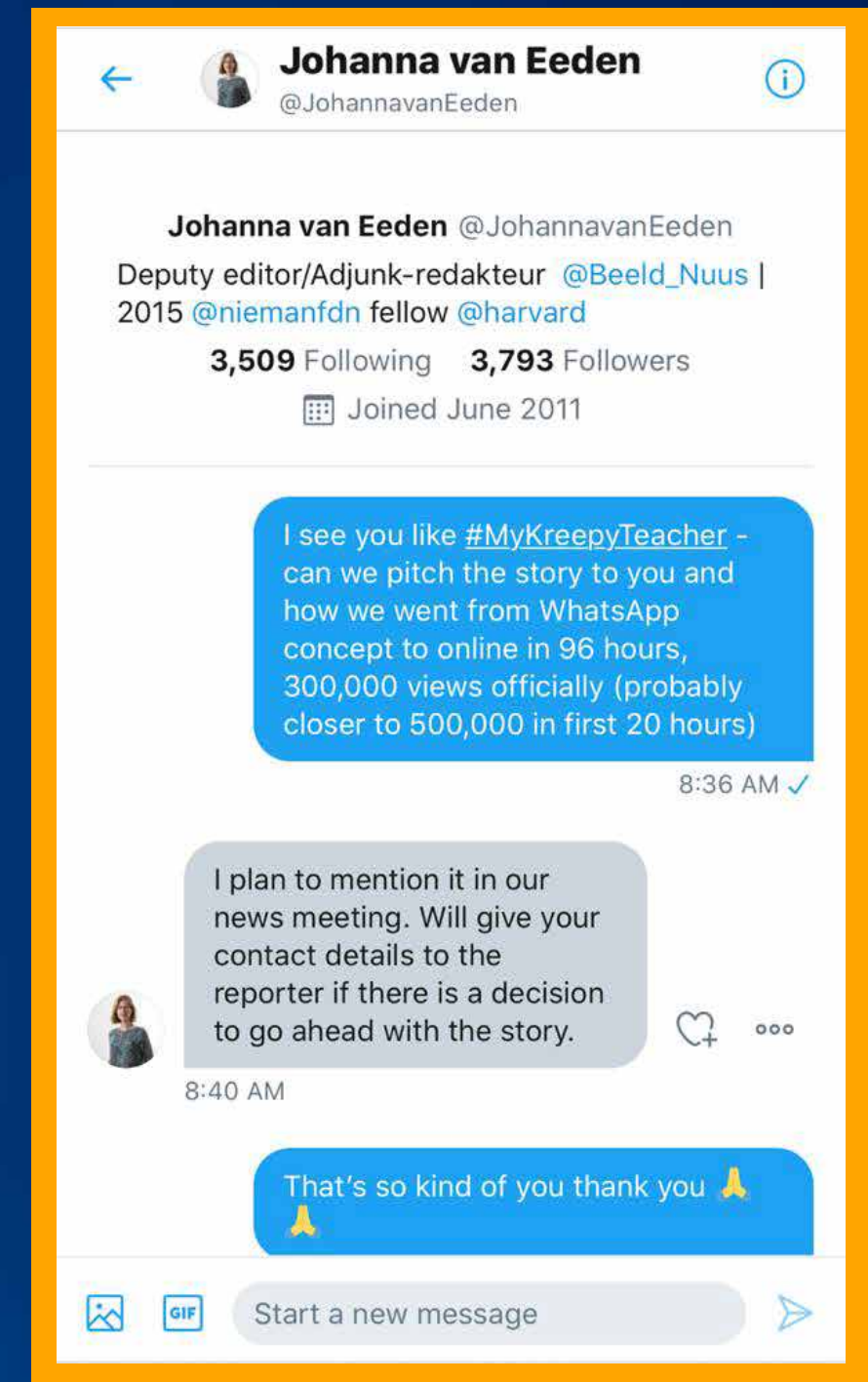
- We ran traditional media relations in parallel with social content dissemination to ensure momentum and consistent campaign build. We distributed content to media - one-on-one - and pitched bespoke angles
- Proactively secured interviews and subsequent coverage for Kreepy Krauly in the most influential titles across the country including but not limited to: News24 / Netwerk24, Financial Mail, Huisgenoot, IOL, Sunday Times, 702 (three times) on ENCA (three times), East Coast, 947, Cape Talk, Jacaranda, Kaya FM, Reddit



ONLINE REPUTATIONS MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Reactively we leveraged online reputation management tools, such as Social Bakers and our proprietary workflow software to analyse every like / retweet / comment and share on both @Derro_SA and Alon Kowen's native posts.

Our team flagged each time an influential user would engage and we would then personally engage to offer said user an interview. An example of this was when the deputy editor of the Beeld liked Derro_SA's tweet, we reached out and secured an interview on Netwerk24.



EVALUATION

This campaign paired an instinctive, research-led idea with a brave client, unheard of turn-around times and an agency and production company unwilling to let a shoe-string budget derail a concept that we truly believed (in our guts) would succeed at a mainstream level. We dominated the news cycle for an entire week with features on every key, media platform.

Saturday Citizen | Saturday | News | 11

UK bid to curb virus surge

KREEPY KRAULY CLEANS UP

London – The last call echoed around pubs and bars in England and Wales earlier than usual on Thursday night as tighter rules to try to stop a coronavirus surge came into force.

The ramped-up restrictions, announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday, require all premises serving food or drink to close by 10pm.

ORCHID: SPOOF SHOWCASES PRODUCT PERFECTLY BEHIND HUMOUR

→ Woolworths' ostrich-like marketing behaviour earns it a non-GMO Onion.



What is the one thing that has caught your eye on social media in the last week?

My Creepy Teacher, by Glen BidermanPam. I loved My Octopus Teacher so much, and this parody of it is utterly superb. Laughed till my stomach hurt!



of the elements which make a great advertisement are humour and topicality. Often, it's the fact that something in the news, but given the twist, which makes it out laughing a bit. I've always had a soft spot for the octopus through which the moment he smiles, never more expressive than when he contains myself. Social media, the iconic movie about at the top of Teacher who haven't seen the story of the octopus, who just a bit of a road as a way from the likes to swimming in

kfm 94.5

Search

LATEST CORONAVIRUS SHOWS FEATURES COMPETITIONS CONTACT NEWSLETTER

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Trade-in from R549PMx24

PARODY VIDEO CALLED MY KREEPY KRAULY TEACHER LEAVES US IN STITCHES

iono.fm

Another Solid Gold Podcast

KREEPY RULES for SHARON STONE

SOLID GOLD PODCASTS #BEHEARD | WEEKEND PARTY ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Download 469.9 KB

A parody of MY OCTOPUS TEACHER features a pool cleaner, PRINCE's vault is getting unlocked. U2 relaunch their YOUTUBE channel. DUA LIPA has some NEW RULES. SHARON STONE reveals best best on screen kisser and NETFLIX's ENOLA HOLMES is a new take on the detective genre.

Swati Thiyagarajan @SwatiWild

Replying to @mikesharman @Naghings and @GlenBidermanPam

Hi. I am craig fosters wife and part of the team that made my octopus teacher

WE LOVED YOUR KREEPY TEACHER

1 Like

Tweet your reply

Derrick Carolin @Derro_SA - Sep 20, 2020

My Creepy Krauly Teacher

2:01 | 82.6K views

Derrick Carolin @Derro_SA - Sep 20, 2020

@GlenBidermanPam Well played

Derrick Carolin @Derro_SA - Sep 20, 2020

Great collaboration by @retroviral and @GlenBidermanPam for Creepy Krauly. @mikesharman and Glen pitched a script to client via WhatsApp; had it approved and online within 96 hours! Good work gents

takealot @TAKEALOT

Founded in 2011, Takealot is a leading South African online retailer, voted one of South Africa's favourite online stores.

South Africa | Joined June 2011

5,986 Following | 135.5K Followers

Followed by Kristina Andreas, Showmax South Africa, and 261 others you follow

Tweets | Tweets & replies | Media | Likes

takealot @TAKEALOT · 52m

There's a much easier way to get close to a Creepy Krauly... Want it. Shop it.

Get it online on Takealot bit.ly/3kAcWKz #myoctopusteacher #MyCreepyTeacher

Glen Biderman-Pam @GlenBidermanPam · 18h

My Creepy Teacher. Written and Directed by @GlenBidermanPam. ECD @mikesharman.

1:16 | 11.6K views

CRAFT MENTION (Direction)

Creepy Krauly 'My Creepy Teacher'

Sketchbook Studios | Glen Biderman-Pam

Awarded by Fran Luckin

"I couldn't leave this one out. Glen Biderman-Pam scores fifteen out of ten for totally nailing the voice and mannerisms of Craig Foster. Small budget. Huge impact."

- IDIDTHAT Guest Judge: Fran Luckin, CCO Grey Africa

Scoop.it!

My Creepy Teacher

MY KREEPY TEACHER

A PARODY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

From www.youtube.com - September 29, 10:47 AM

A touching story of the bond between a man and a machine.

Andrew van Zyls insight: A nice parody of the Netflix hit My Octopus Teacher

SMALL BUDGET. HUGE IMPACT.

'Everyone involved in this is quite deliciously mad. Brilliant.' Bruce Whitfield

'Kreepy Krauly Cleans Up.' Brenden Seery

'When a Cape Town man makes friends with a Kreepy Krauly a beautiful parody unfolds.' Channel24

'A man falls in love with a pool cleaning machine and it's the best campaign you'll see today.' Merca 2.0 (Mexico)

RESULTS

We have made more brands go viral globally, than any other agency in Africa. Think Nando's, and Rocomamas but we have never seen impact on this scale, in this period of time. The results speak for themselves:



From concept to viral in 96 hours



20% increase in sales YOY



Two billion people reached



5 million views; 30+ tier 1 pieces of media coverage

OBJECTIVE

EXCEEDED

OBJECTIVE

EXCEEDED

OBJECTIVE

EXCEEDED

RESULTS

Arguably the most impactful PR campaign to originate from South Africa.

Best performing campaign in Kreepy Krauly's history.



Accolades to date: Ad of the Week (Mexico), a Hero (702 Heroes and Zeroes), Orchid (Citizen Orchids and Onions), Featured on Ads of the World, Featured on 702's 'Going Viral'





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THANK YOU