



*Header image.*

Netflix's newest anime comes in the form of a thrilling, action-packed, and tragic story set in the world of CD PROJEKT RED's 2020 game *Cyberpunk 2077*. Centered on 17-year-old David Martinez, a student of the elite 'Arasaka Academy' with a single mother struggling to make ends meet, the show delves deep into the disparity between the rich and the poor: amidst the backdrop of the infamous Night City, a technologically advanced melting pot of humans, machines, and those somewhere in between, David learns he'll have to grow up quickly to survive the city's underside, banding together with a group of 'edgerunners,' taking on anything from stealing to assassination jobs in order to make ends meet. It's here that his naivety for the criminal world is apparent, as his crew, including a romantic interest by the name of Lucy, shows him the ropes of what to expect in the line of work.



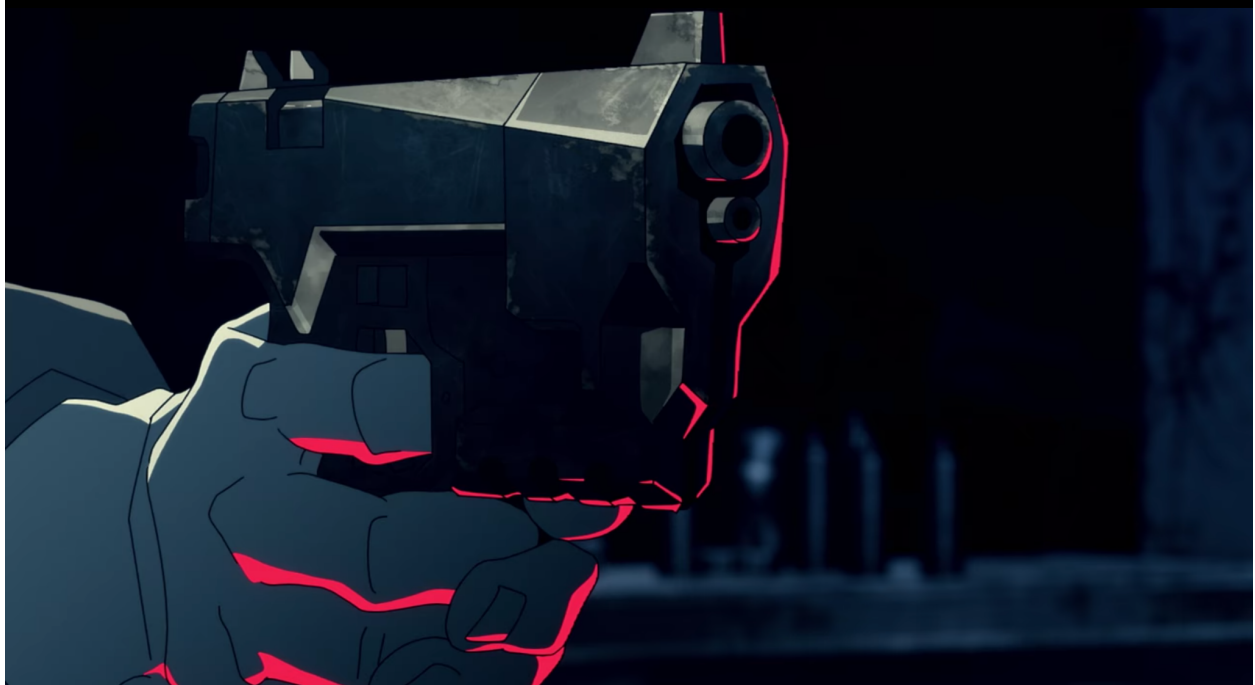
*David Martinez, the main character of Cyberpunk: Edgerunners.*

The show does not pull any punches when it comes to the prolific violence, exploitation, and degradation shown in Night City, where even during the daytime you'd be pressed not to see bullets fly from car windows. Juxtaposed with the corrupt inner workings of the 'corpo' elites who tower, both physically and metaphorically, over the citizens of the city demonstrate just how deep these problems lie— an issue which isn't helped by the city's 'cyberpsychosis' problem, an epidemic that turns the addicts of cybernetic augmentation into shells of their former selves, losing all sense of control in favour of wreaking havoc on any and everything in their sights. This forms one of the central issues explored throughout the show, handled in a way that gives its later episodes a great deal of weight.



*David and Lucy first meeting in Cyberpunk: Edgerunners.*

The show's animation by Studio Trigger, whose past titles include *Promare* and *Kill La Kill*, does well in speeding up with the show's action-packed, gore-filled fight scenes and slowing down with its beautiful, more mellow moments, the latter of which help to demonstrate the budding relationships David forms with his new crew. Alongside character design that's brimming with personality in its main cast, the show's visuals in terms of shot composition are dynamic and full of life, even when death is on display.



*David shakingly holding a pistol.*

Of the show's numerous strengths, its soundtrack proves to be one of the biggest. With a rendition of Franz Ferdinand's "This Fire" as its opening song, alongside the beautifully emotive work of Dawid Podsiadlo sprinkled throughout its episodes, the show's OST fills the whole spectrum of intense, chill, and tragic that perfectly compliments the rollercoaster of emotions you're bound to go through while watching it. Of all the fantastic music, however, the biggest stunner goes to a track originally featured in the *Cyberpunk 2077* game: "I Really Want to Stay At Your House" by Rosa Walton & Hallie Coggins, which is used as the perfect send off for the final episode. Complimenting Studio Trigger's animation beautifully, the music makes for an even more compelling watch.



*Lucy and David sitting on a rooftop.*

Without getting into spoilers, the show's story steers in a lot of directions, culminating in a gripping experience for its final three episodes that really up the stakes of the plot. Even with the show's relatively short runtime, clocking in at ten episodes that are about twenty-five minutes each, the narrative wraps up neatly in a way that makes you really feel for the characters and the journey they've been through. Fleshed out enough without overstaying its welcome, the plot feels wholly complete, making it a perfectly digestible watch easy to binge over a day or two. Will you be checking out *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners*? Be sure to let us know!