

Justin Roiland's Personality and Humor – In-Depth Analysis

Early Insecurities and Humility

Justin Roiland comes across as remarkably humble and self-critical, a trait rooted in early insecurities. In the Duncan Trussell Family Hour podcast, he admitted he *"hate(s) [him]self"* and has felt a deep dissatisfaction with himself since childhood ¹. As a little kid with a face full of freckles, Justin internalized the belief *"no one's ever gonna love this ugly [face]"* despite no one else telling him that ². He wasn't an outwardly sad child – he recalls having *"tons of fun"* – but he carried a persistent feeling of not being popular or attractive, which made him shy and hesitant to *"be outgoing and fun and wild"* to win people over ³. This early self-doubt instilled a lasting humility in Justin. Even after achieving fame, he struggles with hearing his own recorded voice and avoids wearing headphones while voice-acting because **he dislikes listening to himself** ⁴.

Such anecdotes illustrate Justin's down-to-earth nature. He even recounted a bizarre childhood habit of pestering his mother until she would playfully *"punch [him] in the arm"*, a behavior he now recognizes was an odd way of seeking attention and affection ⁵. (He laughingly notes it *"wasn't abuse – I loved it"* ⁶.) These stories highlight Justin's lifelong need for validation paired with self-deprecating humor. Far from developing an ego, Justin's success with *Rick and Morty* did **not** inflate his self-image – Duncan Trussell marvels that Justin managed to *"maintain a supremely cool, humble attitude"* despite co-creating one of TV's most popular shows ⁷. Justin's humility is genuine rather than false modesty: he truly views himself as an ordinary guy who *"got really lucky"* ⁸.

Maintaining a Down-to-Earth Attitude with Fans

Roiland's unpretentious personality especially shows in how he interacts with fans and views his fame. In the podcast, Duncan describes attending a fan event for *Rick and Morty* merchandise where the crowd's reverence felt *"like a religion,"* with Justin and co-creator Dan Harmon treated as *"priests"* by silently awestruck fans ⁹. Justin confesses these situations actually *"make [him] nervous"* – he even had a few drinks beforehand to calm his nerves ¹⁰. He finds the adulation *"weird"* and *"hard to...appreciate"* because he **never** stops seeing himself as a regular *"fing...person"* ¹¹. **He actively tries to *bring it back down*** to a human level whenever he meets fans: *"I'm just a person... I got really lucky...you are perceiving me on this pedestal, but honestly I'm just like you"* ¹². This is Justin's go-to approach at conventions and signings – he'll joke around and be approachable to defuse the hero-worship.

Because of this grounded outlook, **fame hasn't gone to his head**. Justin says some people might thrive on fan adoration as *"fuel"* for their ego, but *"it doesn't do anything for me"*. He remains grateful and doesn't take fans for granted, yet he stands *"almost outside of it"*, observing the *"illusory nature"* of celebrity worship ¹³. He knows today's rabid fandom may be temporary: *"in 10 years...you'll probably still have fond memories of the show... but you'll be fanatical about some other thing"* ¹⁴. Rather than get nihilistic, Justin tries to *"enjoy existing"* in the moment and appreciate that fans love the work, even if the intensity unnerves him ¹⁵. He

even jokes along with Duncan about the double-edged nature of fame – how quickly public love can turn to hate. (They cite a song lyric about *“the people will destroy you... that love will turn to hate”* and imagine the overzealous fandom sacrificing him on a pyramid, a dark bit both men cackle over ¹⁶ ¹⁷.) This morbid joke highlights Justin's tendency to make fun of his own “peak” status rather than take it too seriously.

Notably, Justin rejects negative stereotypes about his fanbase. He's *“humbled and blown away”* by how **diverse and kind** his fans are ¹⁸. He addressed the online meme that *Rick and Morty* fans are elitist “douchebags” who “think you have to be really smart to enjoy the show.” In Justin's experience, that reputation isn't deserved: after meeting loads of fans at conventions, he said *“I've not come across a single shitty person”*. The fan community spans all genders, ethnicities, and ages – *“insane diversity”*, as he puts it ¹⁹. This genuine appreciation for his audience, coupled with a refusal to see himself as above them, defines Justin's relationship with fame. He stays approachable and even a bit bewildered by the attention, which in turn endears him more to fans.

Fearless Creativity and Improvisational Humor

One striking paradox in Roiland's personality is that despite private insecurities, he is **utterly fearless and uninhibited in his creative work**. When it comes to making art – writing scripts, voice-acting, or designing a game – Justin says *“I feel zero inhibitions. I feel zero fear. I'm not worried what people are gonna think...I don't care if people are gonna hate it”*, which he acknowledges is *“in complete opposition to a lot of other st in my head”* ²⁰. In other words, the anxious self-doubt that might plague him in daily life disappears when he's in creative mode. Roiland's guiding principle is to **“have fun”** and follow his comedic instincts wherever they lead ²¹. Co-creator Dan Harmon has praised this about Justin – his ability to access a childlike, uncensored silliness when brainstorming ideas or improvising dialogue ²² ²¹.

Justin's humor style is highly improvisational and **playfully chaotic**. In the podcast he detailed his process for developing the video game *Trover Saves the Universe*: after nailing down the basic story structure, he and his team would essentially throw the rulebook out and *“let's just go nuts”* ²³. For each level of the game, they outlined what needed to happen, then Justin would *“just drink...and...riff and make up st”* into the microphone, *“just drinking and having fun”*, coming up with outrageous character dialogue on the fly ²⁴. He describes the recording sessions as a blast of spontaneous creativity – *“a joy...so fun”* – where thousands of lines might be ad-libbed in character. If a session wasn't working or he *“wasn't in the zone”* that day, they'd scrap it and try again another time ²⁵. But on a good day, **the off-the-cuff gems that emerged were comedy gold** he *“could never, ever come up with sitting at a computer typing”* ²⁵. Many of the funniest, most ridiculous lines in the game came straight from these unfiltered improv sessions, giving *Trover* a uniquely absurd flavor ²⁵.

This same improv-driven approach is evident in *Rick and Morty*. Justin often records dialogue by wildly riffing in character (he voices both Rick and Morty among others), sometimes leaving the script to insert new jokes or grotesque ad-libs. That freewheeling, anything-goes energy is a hallmark of his humor. **No idea is too silly, dark, or bizarre to try**. As Justin puts it, when he's creating, he's not afraid of *“making something people might hate”* – he'll do it if it makes **him** laugh, trusting that his own uncensored laughter will translate to the audience ²⁰. This fearless playful spirit is why *Rick and Morty* can veer from high-concept sci-fi to potty humor to bleak nihilism on a dime. Roiland is channel-surfing through his imagination with reckless abandon, often cracking himself up in the process. Duncan Trussell observed that *Rick and Morty* feels so fresh because Justin and the team are clearly *“trying to have fun”* above all ²⁶ – and Justin enthusiastically

agreed. By prioritizing fun and spontaneity during creation, Roiland injects an unpredictable, *in-the-moment* hilarity into his work that scripted jokes alone might not capture.

Edgy Dark Humor vs. Outrage Culture

A significant aspect of Justin Roiland's comedic voice is its **edginess** – he isn't afraid to joke about dark, taboo, or absurdly violent scenarios. In fact, his sense of humor naturally gravitates to the outrageous. For example, during the podcast's discussion of fandom, Justin suddenly spun a gory gag about having Duncan voice a terrified Mayan child being sacrificed atop a pyramid (to parody how fans idolize creators) – complete with Justin laughing “*ha, ha, ha!*” at the absurd brutality of the image ¹⁷. This kind of “*did he really just say that?*” joke is vintage Roiland – he delights in crossing into shock value, but with such silliness that it's clearly in jest. **Justin has a dark sense of humor**, and he emphasizes that a joke *is* just a joke – not a statement of literal intent or belief ²⁷.

However, Roiland is acutely aware that today's social climate can be unkind to edgy humor. In the last couple of years (circa 2018–2019), he essentially **went silent on Twitter** out of fear that his jokes would be taken out of context ²⁸ ²⁷. He told Duncan he “*doesn't want to make a joke or state an opinion [online]*” anymore, because the internet outrage cycle has made him extremely cautious ²⁸ ²⁹. “*Nowadays, you can't do that at all,*” Justin lamented, referring to posting off-color jokes publicly ²⁷. He reminisced about “*when we all sort of had the social agreement that jokes were jokes... it doesn't mean that this is the content of my character – I just have a dark sense of humor*” ²⁷. This statement perfectly encapsulates Justin's frustration: he firmly separates his morbid or twisted jokes from who he is as a person, and he wishes audiences would do the same.

In the podcast, Justin praises comedian **Norm Macdonald** as a kindred spirit in edgy comedy. “*Dude, I fñg love that guy so much,*” Justin says, calling Norm “*the perfect example of someone who's a good dude but has an edgy...sense of humor*” ³⁰. Norm will tell wildly inappropriate or non-PC jokes, and Justin notes that “*by today's standards*” many of those old bits would spark outrage if transcribed by the press ³⁰. “*Comedian tells joke, joke gets taken, put into text form by some outraged journalist... People read it and...it's just anger across the globe,*” Justin describes, clearly exasperated ³¹. He passionately defends the sanctity of a joke, practically pleading: “*It's a joke, it's a fñg joke – can we stop?*”^{*} ³¹ ³². This uncensored quote shows how strongly Roiland feels about comedy needing breathing room for offensiveness without personal vilification of the comedian.

In short, **Roiland “gets” dark humor** and hates feeling muzzled by cancel culture. He acknowledges lines can be crossed, but he fears that *any* misinterpreted joke could bring disproportionate backlash. Dan Harmon gave him advice: if Justin wants to express edgy ideas, do it through *creating something* (like a skit or cartoon) rather than a raw tweet ³³ ³⁴. Art provides context and creative framing that a plain text joke lacks, making it less likely to be misconstrued. Justin found this insight helpful – for instance, Dan made a satirical music video for Justin's birthday containing some dark humor, which was received as the artful piece it was ³⁵. This reinforces a key aspect of Justin's personality: **he's a creative rebel at heart**, but a self-aware one. He'll push boundaries in comedy, yet he's also nervously looking over his shoulder at how the world might react. This tension – wanting to be outrageous, yet worried about public outrage – actually fuels a lot of the meta-humor in *Rick and Morty* and Justin's other projects. (Think of the show's jabs at toxic fans or its willingness to offend *everyone* equally.) Ultimately, Roiland's take is that humor should be judged in context and intent. His own intent is to amuse, often through shock or absurdity, **never to truly harm** – and it frustrates him when that intent is ignored.

Personal Compassion and Empathy

Beyond the jokes, Justin Roiland has a surprisingly **big heart** and empathetic side, which might not be obvious from his outrageous comedy. In the latter part of the podcast, Justin spoke about how success has given him opportunities to meet all kinds of people – not just celebrities but everyday folks – and how much he values those human connections ³⁶ ³⁷. He's naturally a good listener (*"I'm a Pisces...very open...very empathic"*, he laughs) and people tend to open up to him about their struggles ³⁸. Rather than brushing them off, Justin often *"wants to help...wants to fix people"* if he can ³⁹. He said one of the most **fulfilling** parts of his fame has been being able to *"try to help them"* – even in small ways – and *"do something good for somebody"* whenever possible ³⁶ ⁴⁰.

For instance, Justin described encountering a newly-made friend who was suffering from severe depression. Drawing from his own experiences and things he'd learned in therapy, Justin took the time to send this person resources: he curated clips of Duncan's podcast and Joe Rogan interviews where they discussed overcoming depression, and urged his friend to listen ⁴¹ ⁴². *"I really think this is gonna help you...you really need to hear this,"* he told them, essentially paying forward the wisdom that had helped him ⁴². This anecdote reveals a **thoughtful, altruistic streak** in Roiland. He isn't content just making people laugh; he genuinely cares about people's well-being and mental health, likely because he knows what it's like to feel hopeless or self-loathing. Duncan even jokes that Justin is reporting from the "peak" of fame with all his neuroses intact – *"he still hates himself? Burn his house down!"* he teases, parodying a fan's reaction ⁴³ ⁴⁴ – yet Justin's willingness to talk about depression and self-help shows he wants to use his platform for good.

At the end of the podcast, Justin gave a earnest bit of advice to listeners: *try to do something kind for someone every day*, even if it's tiny, because *"not only does it make you feel better, it sends good energy out into the world"* which continues the cycle of positivity ⁴⁵ ⁴⁶. He mused that if everyone did little good deeds (helping a stranger, rescuing a lost dog, even tweeting a nice message), we'd all effectively walk into a slightly better "universe" each time – a whimsical metaphor very much in line with *Rick and Morty's* multiverse concept ⁴⁷ ⁴⁸. This hopeful, compassionate outlook **"fills Justin's cup"** in a way that adulation doesn't ⁴⁹ ⁵⁰. After spending a period being somewhat isolated and work-focused, he said reconnecting with people and showing compassion was enriching him again ⁵¹ ⁴⁹. It's clear that beneath the madcap comedian persona is a kind, empathetic individual who *"wants to make a positive impact"* when he can ⁴⁰ ⁴⁶. This compassion might seem at odds with his dark humor, but in fact it rounds out what **makes him tick**: Justin truly loves people – he loves making them laugh, and he also loves helping them heal.

H3 Podcast Highlights – Pranks and Playfulness

To fully capture Justin Roiland's humor, one must note his **goofy, prankster side**, which shines in unscripted moments. A great example is his appearance on the H3 Podcast (hosted by Ethan and Hila Klein). Unlike the introspective Duncan Trussell interview, the H3 episode was pure comedic mayhem and showed Justin's willingness to do *anything* for a laugh. According to one recap, Justin's H3 episode started normally but escalated into wild stunts – *"we don't think anyone expected Justin to be roped into making prank calls, or pepper-spraying Joey Salads, but he seemed to enjoy it!"* ⁵². Indeed, live on air Justin joined Ethan in prank-calling random businesses, using his cartoon voices to confuse people. In one notorious bit, YouTuber Joey Salads agreed to be pepper-sprayed for charity, and Justin gleefully took part, spraying Joey and then reacting with equal parts horror and laughter. These antics highlight Justin's **mischievous, adolescent sense of humor** – he's the type of guy who finds prank calls hilarious (a trait that actually birthed *Rick and Morty*, which evolved from one of Justin's obscene prank sketches). On H3, he was *"hilarious on his own"*, but

things got even crazier when his friend **Alex Hirsch** (creator of *Gravity Falls*) joined – the two of them fed off each other’s energy, improvising vulgar dialogue in their character voices and essentially turning the podcast into a spontaneous comedy sketch ⁵² . Fans were delighted to hear Justin slip into Rick’s drunken rasp or Morty’s nervous whine on command. This showed that **Roiland’s comedic talents aren’t limited to the writers’ room – he’s a natural performer**. Whether it’s riffing as an awkward customer on a prank call or ad-libbing a duet as Rick Sanchez and Hirsch’s Grunkle Stan, Justin thrives when he’s playing around in the moment. His *H3 Podcast* appearance earned him a spot on WatchMojo’s “*Top 10 H3 Podcast Guests*”, precisely because of how unpredictable and uproariously funny it was ⁵² .

The H3 experience also revealed Justin’s laid-back, casual demeanor. He showed up in his typical T-shirt-and-shorts attire (Justin notoriously hates dressing up – a running joke is his “unique approach to winter fashion,” wearing shorts year-round). He bantered with Ethan Klein like an old college buddy, discussing everything from the Olsen twins to weird fan art, all with a **chill, self-effacing humor**. This laid-back attitude is part of Justin’s charm: he doesn’t present like a polished Hollywood type, but rather an excited geek who still can’t believe he gets to do this for a living. Even as he pepper-sprayed a friend for laughs, you could see Justin cracking up and also apologizing – a mix of impish glee and “*oh man, this is crazy*” humility. In short, the H3 podcast showcased Justin’s **prankster prankster energy and his love of absurd, sometimes juvenile comedy**. He’ll eagerly partake in jackass-style gags and foul-mouthed improv, especially in the company of fellow comedians, because that’s simply his nature – **he’s a big kid who finds ridiculous situations irresistibly funny**.

Writing Jokes from Roiland’s Perspective – What Makes Him Tick

When you combine all these facets of Justin Roiland – the childhood insecurities, the fearless imagination, the dark humor, the empathy, and the playful streak – a coherent picture emerges of **what makes him tick** comedically. To “write jokes from his perspective,” consider the following key ingredients of Justin’s personality and humor:

- **Self-deprecation and Vulnerability:** Justin often jokes at his own expense. He’s quick to call himself awkward, ugly, or dumb in a tongue-in-cheek way (e.g. dubbing himself “*the Garfunkel*” next to Dan Harmon’s Simon ⁵³). A Roiland-style joke might involve an embarrassed admission or a character with low self-esteem, reflecting Justin’s real inner voice. This vulnerability makes the humor relatable and authentic.
- **Absurd and Random Tangents:** Roiland’s mind loves to wander into the bizarre. His comedy frequently takes sharp left turns into *WTF* territory – like an innocent conversation suddenly involving alien fart jokes or a graphic violence metaphor (recall the spontaneous **Mayan sacrifice** bit mid-podcast). From his *Rick and Morty* improvisations to *Trover’s* dialogue, Justin excels at injecting nonsensical, surreal elements at unexpected moments. Writing in his style means **embracing non-sequiturs** and outrageous exaggeration. No idea is too “out there.” If it pops into your head and it’s funny to you, run with it – *that’s* Roiland’s approach.
- **Edgy/Dark Comedy with a Wink:** Justin’s humor lives on the edge of offensiveness but is delivered with a wink and goofy charm. He might write a scene that’s violent or gross-out or politically incorrect, but he undercuts it with silliness so you know it’s not mean-spirited. **Shock value** is a tool for him, used in service of satire or sheer ridiculousness. For example, a Roiland joke could involve a beloved cartoon character doing something profane – the contrast itself is the laugh. When

channeling his perspective, don't be afraid to tread into morbid or taboo territory, but do it with a light touch (the goal is to provoke laughter, not real disgust or anger). It helps to let the **characters react** hilariously to the messed-up situation, signaling that the joke is on the absurdity of it all.

- **Improvisational Voice and Rambling:** Writing in Roiland's style means allowing room for a character (often voiced by Justin) to ramble, stutter, and *riff*. Many iconic Roiland moments (e.g. Rick's belching rants or Morty's anxious stammering) feel off-the-cuff. In script form, this might mean writing a line, then having the character cut themselves off, change direction, or throw in a random interjection. For instance: *"Uh, hey, Morty – hand me that flask, I uh... (belch) I gotta neutralize these – these time portal thingies, you know, real quick. Aw jeez Rick, I don't think that's a good idea... ..". The cadence is messy and natural, as if the characters are thinking of it right then. Justin's comedy thrives on improv energy**, so one way to achieve this is literally to speak your jokes out loud in character voices and see where you ad-lib – then transcribe that. The goal is dialogue that doesn't feel overly polished; it should have a bit of chaos.
- **Childlike Enthusiasm and Nerdy References:** Despite the cynicism in some of his humor, Justin's overall comedic persona has a big kid's enthusiasm. He genuinely geeks out over things like vintage videogames, sci-fi B-movies, or silly catchphrases, and he'll insert those passions into his jokes. A Roiland-esque comedic beat might involve a sudden **pop culture reference**, not for ironic snark but because he actually loves the thing. For example, Justin might write a scene where Rick and Morty digress into debating the finer points of *Minecraft* or where an alien screams a line from an old Star Wars parody. That earnest nerdiness gives his humor a warm undercurrent – it's not cool and detached, it's dorky and proud. When writing jokes from his perspective, let your inner fanboy/fangirl loose and don't worry about looking "cool." Justin certainly doesn't – he'd rather make a goofy obscure reference that only some will catch, and then laugh *really hard* at it himself.
- **Heart and Humanity beneath the Madness:** What truly elevates Roiland's humor is that amidst the insanity, there's often an emotional or philosophical layer (thanks in part to his partnership with Dan Harmon, but Justin contributes to it too). He can go from burping jokes to existential reflection in seconds. Remember, this is a guy who earnestly talks about meditation and helping others in the same conversation as interdimensional fart jokes. So, jokes written from his viewpoint can have **surprising depth or sweetness** when you least expect it. For instance, after a long run of comedic insults, a Roiland character might suddenly express sincere affection for their friend – in a fumbling, awkward way that still gets a laugh, but also an "aw." Justin's humor often acknowledges pain or loneliness (like Beth in *Rick and Morty* joking about her abandonment issues) while still being funny. In your writing, don't shy away from those more poignant beats; Roiland's perspective is that comedy and tragedy exist side by side. A joke can be gut-busting and a little gut-wrenching at once.

By combining these elements – **self-effacing charm, random absurdity, edgy punchlines with a playful tone, improvisational delivery, unabashed geekiness, and a dash of heart** – you'll be well on your way to writing jokes in Justin Roiland's voice. Always imagine how *Justin himself* might perform the line: probably in a distinctive voice (raspy, high-pitched, etc.), maybe slurring or chuckling through it, and possibly *adding an extra tag* as he often does (e.g. repeating a funny word, reacting to his own joke).

In summary, Justin Roiland's personality is a cocktail of **insecurities and confidence, vulgarity and compassion, goofiness and intellect**. He's a humble class clown who became an accidental celebrity, and he copes by doubling down on the comedy that drives him. What makes him tick is the joy of creating and

the freedom to be irreverent. As he says, “*we definitely try to have fun*” ²⁶ – that’s the guiding light. If it’s fun for him, he trusts it will be fun for others. So to write from his perspective, **have fun above all**. Let the wild ideas flow unfiltered, imagine them in Justin’s own excited voice, and don’t be afraid to laugh at your own creation. Roiland’s humor works because **he’s genuinely entertained by it himself**. Combine that internal laughter with a generous dose of empathy (he laughs *with* his audience and even his characters, not truly *at* them) and you’ll capture the essence of Justin Roiland’s comedic soul.

Sources: Duncan Trussell Family Hour #333 with Justin Roiland (2019) ¹ ¹² ²⁰ ²⁴ ¹⁹ ; H3 Podcast episode #1 with Justin Roiland (2017) ⁵² ; *WatchMojo* profile of Justin Roiland’s H3 appearance ⁵² .

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- 333: Justin Roiland Transcript and Discussion

<https://podscripts.co/podcasts/duncan-trussell-family-hour/333-justin-roiland>

⁵² Top 10 Most Entertaining H3 Podcast Guests | Articles on WatchMojo.com

<https://www.watchmojo.com/articles/top-10-most-entertaining-h3-podcast-guests>