WHITEBOARD

<challenge>

A Reality Competition Series

WHITEBOARD CHALLENGE

Logline

Real software engineers perform the infamous "Whiteboard Challenge" interview in front of a live audience, testing their talent and tenacity for solving brain-bending coding challenges. Viewers will vote for their favorite, while learning to code and compete from home.

Synopsis | Game Play

Whiteboard Challenge is a tech industry interviewing practice where naturally introverted software engineers are asked to step out of their comfort zone by solving a coding challenge, hand written on a white board, in front of a panel of experts. This is the standard, yet unnerving process across the tech industry.

This original series holds the unique entertainment value of being both compelling to watch and a program for learning. While most series use general knowledge as a basis for game/challenge, our series presents and illustrates a skill that requires incredible talent, but is also becoming a skill requirement on a basic level even among elementary school students.

YOU

TOTAL: 1.110 MS

YOUR CODE
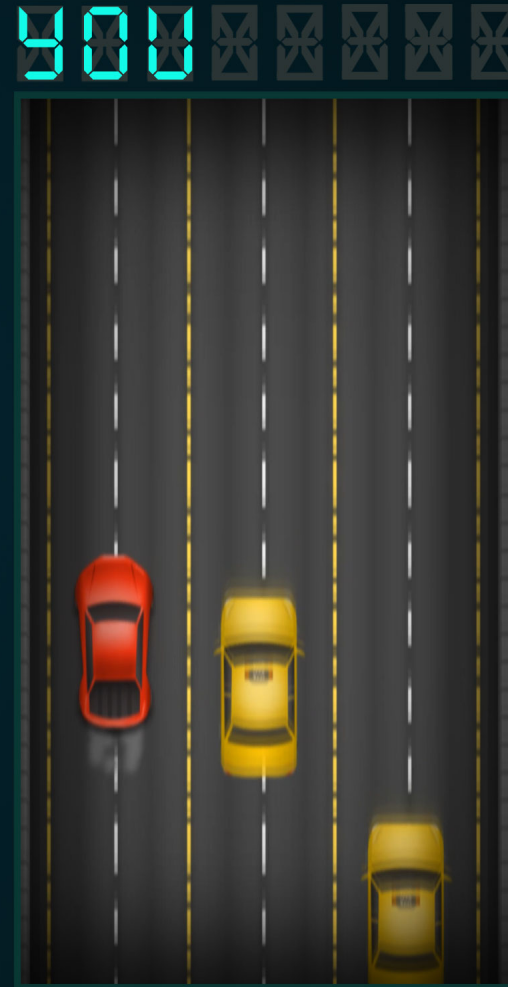
```javascript
const obstacleData = [ 0, 0, 0, 4, 1, 4, 2, 0, 1, 4, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, 0, 2, 1],
                       startLane = 1, minLanes = 0, maxLanes = 2;

var currentLane = startLane, totalTurns = 0;

function tryMove(_row, _lane) {
    let _moves = 0;
    loopMove: for (var i=_row; i<obstacleData.length; i++) {
        if (obstacleData[i] === _lane) {
            break loopMove;
        }
        _moves++;
    }

    let _currentRow = i-1;
    loopSides: for (var i=_currentRow; i>0; i--) {
        if ( (obstacleData[i] === _lane-1 && _lane-1 >=0) ||
             (obstacleData[i] === _lane+1 && _lane+1 <=2) ) {
            break loopSides;
        }
        _moves--;
    }

    return _moves;
}

loopMain: for (var i=0; i<obstacleData.length; i++) {
    if (i+1 === obstacleData.length) {
        break loopMain;
    }
    if (obstacleData[i+1] === currentLane) {
        let _left = 0, _right = 0, _lane = currentLane;
        if (currentLane-1 >= minLanes && obstacleData[i] !== currentLane-1) {
            _left = tryMove(i, currentLane-1);
            _lane = currentLane-1;
        }
        if (currentLane+1 <= maxLanes && obstacleData[i] !== currentLane+1) {
            _right = tryMove(i, currentLane+1);
            if (_right > _left) {
                _lane = currentLane+1;
            }
        }
        currentLane = _lane;
        totalTurns++;
    }
}
```
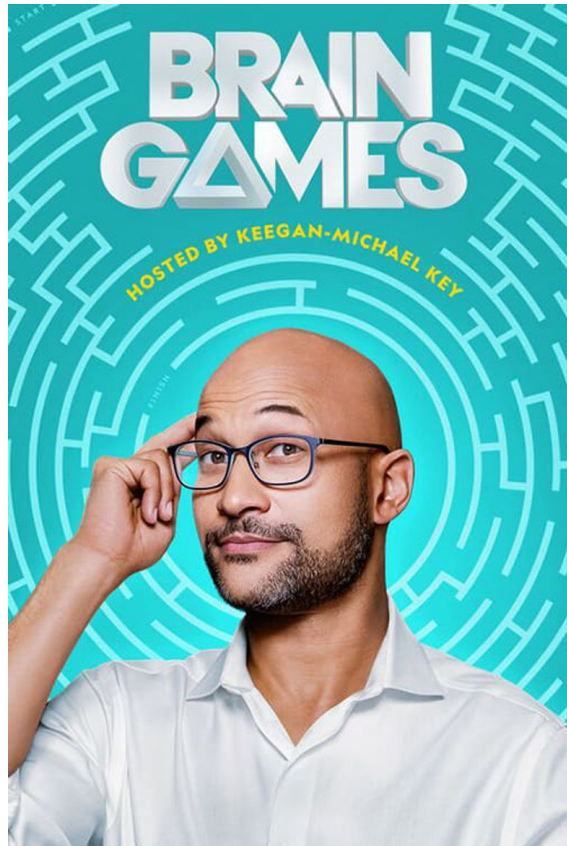
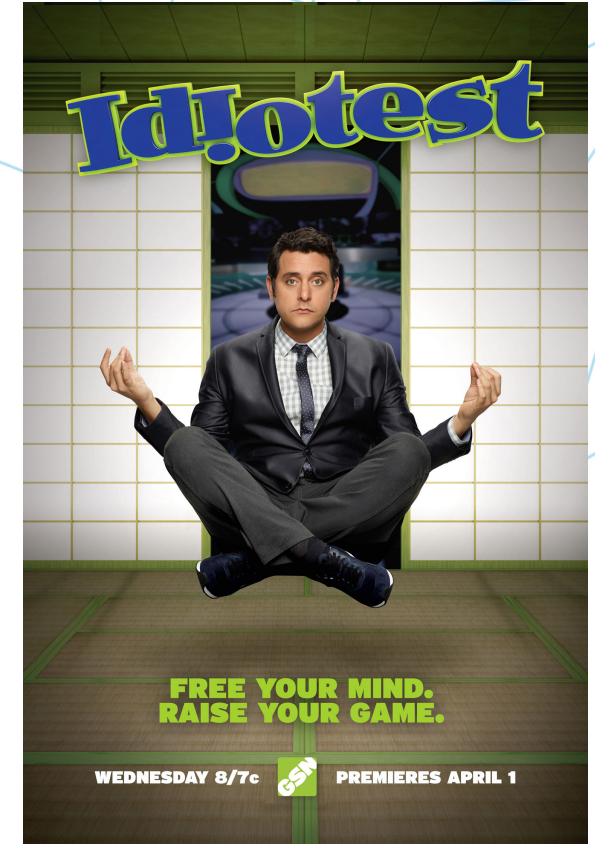APPLICANT: MICHAEL KURETH
LANGUAGE: JAVASCRIPT

Show Cross

Brain Games
https://imdb.com/title/tt2078690/

Street Genius
https://imdb.com/title/tt3479748/

Idiotest
https://imdb.com/title/tt3607166/

Pilot

The "Whiteboard Challenge," created by Michael Kureth and co-produced by Michael Garcia and Daniel Munoz, is the first and only show of its kind featuring an intelligent and competitive take on the software engineering interview process in the form of a game show.

In the pilot episode of "Whiteboard Challenge," each contestant portrays a prevalent societal topic with women in tech, age discrimination, and homelessness. The judges on the show represent Latino and African American engineering leadership in tech.

The algorithm solved on the pilot episode is a basic form of the formula used in the creation of randomized levels for games and determining the quickest route for driving directions. We see a visualization of the code being run in the form of a self driving car race.

After one contestant is eliminated, the final two compete in a microsecond timed playback of their code.

Following in the tradition of an actual interview where personal preference weighs in the hiring decision, the winning contestant at the premiere was influenced by the number of votes received.

At the free premiere and tech event on September 21, 2019, attendees were encouraged to volunteer and donate to People Assisting The Homeless. A theme for each episode on the show is to benefit and raise awareness for a cause in tech.

CHARACTERS

Judges
The primary judge on each episode will be the celebrity talent to gain viewers interest. The secondary two will provide balance and insight as engineering managers and executives in the tech industry.

Contestants
The contestants on the show will be software engineers representing different and relatable qualities of the viewers. These include: people of color in tech, women in tech, older engineers, etc. These roles give empathy and broaden the audience.

Host
The host of the show is Michael Kureth who has 20+ years of both technology and entertainment experience. The target audience will expect and respect this role portrayed by someone with this experience.

Audience
The audience of the show votes on the contestant to win which adds additional points to performance. The audience is also encourage to learn the code challenge and compete from home.

Summary

Each episode will have a main theme which is represented by the code challenge. This will teach the audience how common applications and services are built as well as intrigue viewers into the field. Each contestant is asked the code challenge individually as the judges discuss related topics with the host. The question is the same for each contestant since it will be teaching the viewer.

Once each contestant has completed the challenge, feedback is provided by an assigned judge using question similar to those at an interview. When all three contestants are complete, the judges eliminate one contestant.

The remaining two contestants then transcribe their answers to functional code. This is then run through a visual simulation for the audience to see. The winner of the show is based on audience votes and code efficiency. The judges then provide feedback on how they would answer the question and give reasons to this answer.

Series Concepts

Episode 01: Competition
Inspired by Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Gobels Johnson for calculating the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit.
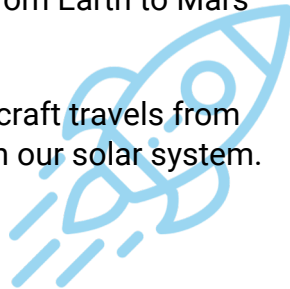
PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to simulate the successful navigation of a spacecraft from Earth to Mars given a set of parameters.

Visuals
Viewers will see a game where a spacecraft travels from Earth to Mars as well as other planets in our solar system.

Contestants: African American Women

Episode 02: Competition
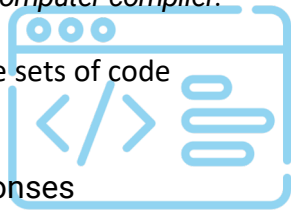*Inspired by Grace Hopper who invented the first computer compiler.*

PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to transpile sets of code into another computer language.

Visuals
Viewers will see the input values and responses compared to the time and results of the transpiled.

Contestants: Women

Episode 03: Competition
Inspired by John Forbes Nash Jr. who made fundamental contributions to game theory, differential geometry, and the study of partial differential equations.
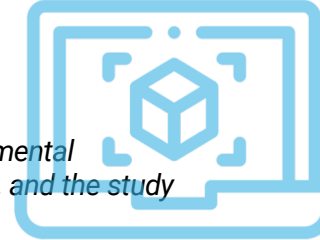
PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm for machine learning that will use game theory to predict optimal behaviors.

Visuals
Viewers will see a simulation of human interactions based on artificial intelligence.

Contestants: Hidden Disabilities

Episode 04: Competition
Inspired by Enigma, the device used by the German military command to encode strategic messages before and during World War II.
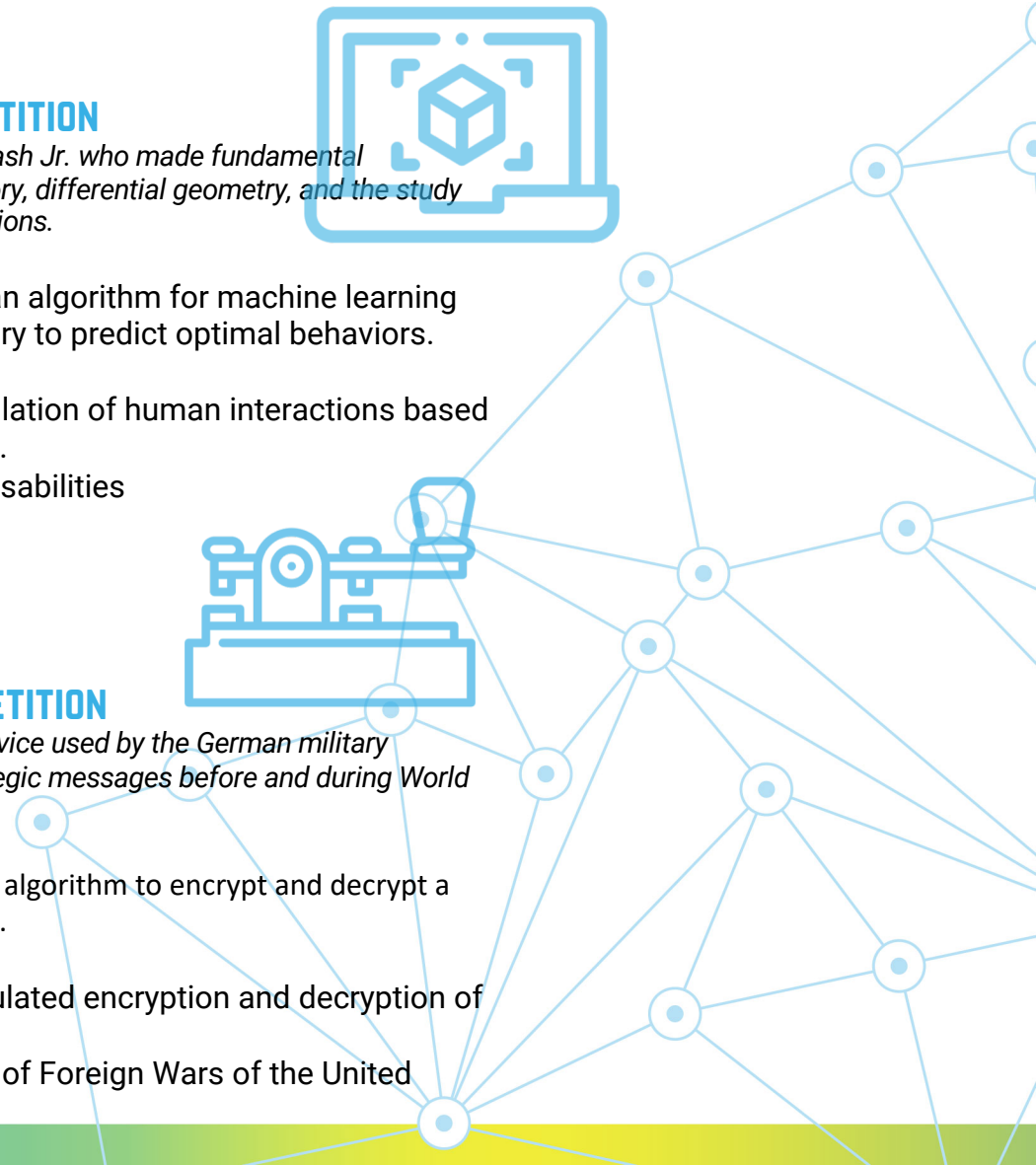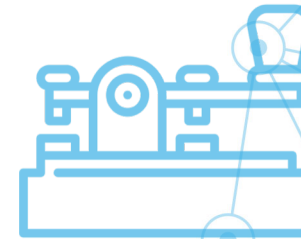
PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to encrypt and decrypt a complex set of messages.

Visuals
Viewers will see a simulated encryption and decryption of content.

Contestants: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Series Concepts

Episode 05: Competition

Inspired by Aaron Swartz, the child computer prodigy who advocated for information to be free.
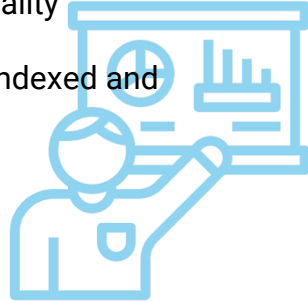
PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to catalog large sets of data with indexing and search functionality

VISUALS
Viewers will see large data as it is being indexed and searched

CONTESTANTS: Child Prodigies

Episode 06: Competition

Inspired by Meredith Charles "Flash" Gourdine, an athlete, engineer, and physicist who won a silver medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics.
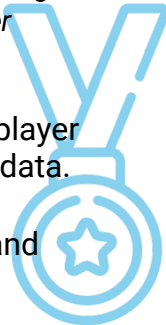
PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to navigate a player through an obstacle course given a parameter of data.

VISUALS
Viewers will see a race game with sprint, jumps, and curves

CONTESTANTS: Athletes

Episode 07: Competition

Inspired by Roy Clay Sr., known as the "Godfather of Silicon Valley" who in the 1950s wrote software that demonstrated how particles of radiation would spread through the atmosphere after an atomic explosion.

PREMISE
Contestants will write the core algorithm to create and simulate particle generation.

VISUALS
Viewers will see how particles of radiation would spread through the atmosphere after an atomic explosion.

CONTESTANTS: Engineers with tech startups
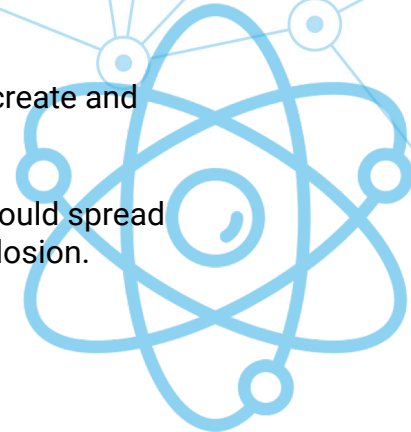
Episode 08: Competition

Inspired by Julian Assange who is known for creating WikiLeaks and hacking into many government, educational, and corporate networks.

PREMISE
Contestants will write an algorithm to investigate and retrieve data from an unknown source before organizing it for optimization and archival.

VISUALS
Viewers will see unorganized data source being restructured and sorted.

CONTESTANTS: Reformed Hackers

Series Concepts

Episode 09: Competition

Inspired by the many homeless software engineers in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

PREMISE

Contestants will write an algorithm of a self driving vehicle as the core mechanic behind a ways based map application.

Visuals

Viewers will see a game with a car driving itself through many obstacles on the quickest route.

Contestants: Homeless or formerly homeless

Episode 10: Semi-Finals

Large scale system design.

PREMISE

Contestants will architect and build a large scale image processing service.

Visuals

Viewers will see as buildings representing the servers are attacked with millions of users in traffic and security testing hacks

Contestants: Winning contestants from episodes 1, 2, and 3

Episode 11: Semi-Finals

Large scale system design

PREMISE

Contestants will architect and build a large scale cataloging service.

Visuals

Viewers will see as buildings representing the servers are attacked with millions of users in traffic and security testing hacks

Contestants: Winning contestants from episodes 4, 5, and 6

Episode 12: Semi-Finals

Large scale system design.

PREMISE

Contestants will architect and build a large scale chat service

Visuals

Viewers will see as buildings representing the servers are attacked with millions of users in traffic and security testing hacks

Contestants: Winning contestants from episodes 7, 8, and 9

Episode 13: Finals

Behavioral questions.

PREMISE

Contestants will answer behavioral based questions.

Visuals

Viewers will see a graphic representation of the contestants' polygraph.

Contestants: Winning contestants from episodes 10, 11, and 12

Cast Bios

Mike Kureth
Creator/ Host
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1585811/

Mike Kureth is the creator and host of Whiteboard Challenge. He began programming at age 7 and has more than 20 professional years experience in software engineering along with 15 in film.

Tim Shaw
Celebrity Judge
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2948302/

Tim Shaw is a British radio host, TV presenter and engineer. He is currently hosting a selection of factual engineering and science TV series on the National Geographic TV channel in both the US and International territories.

Joey Fatone
Celebrity Judge
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0004909/

Joey Fatone is an American singer, dancer, actor, and television personality. He is best known as a member of the boyband NSYNC, in which he sang baritone. In 2007, he came in second place on the ABC reality show Dancing with the Stars.

Tyanta Snow
Celebrity Judge
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm11430555/

Tyanta Snow is an actor, known for 100 Humans: Life's Questions. Answered. (2020), America Says (2018) and Fix My Choir (2014).

Rachel Riley
Celebrity Judge
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2948302/

Rachel Riley is an actress, known for The IT Crowd (2006), Countdown: Championship of Champions (1984) and 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown (2012).

Sashani Nichole
Celebrity Judge
https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4450922/

Sashani Nichole is a television and film actress from the island of Jamaica. She is known for starring in "A Christmas Winter Song," as Mia, opposite Grammy Award Winner, Ashanti and veteran actor, Stan Shaw.

Festivals
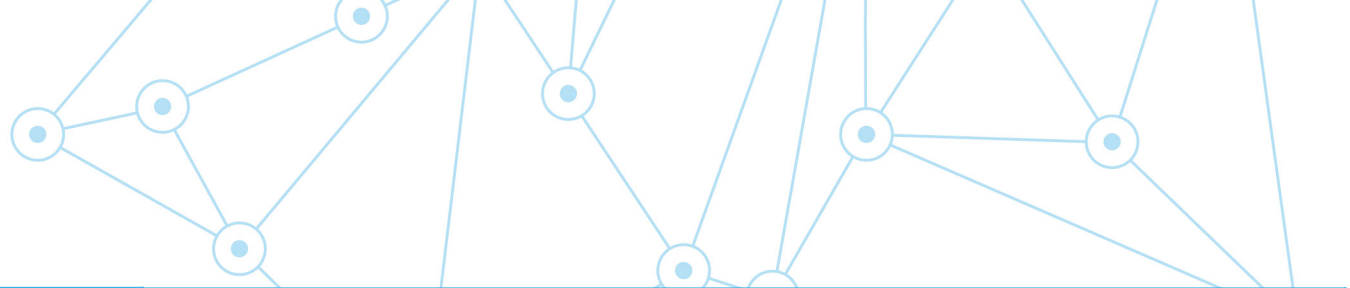
Award Winner

2019 Oct	Festigious Los Angeles	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2019 Oct	FilmCon Awards	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2019 Oct	Top Shorts	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2019 Nov	Los Angeles Film Awards	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2019 Nov	New York Film Awards	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2019 Nov	White Unicorn International Film Festival	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2019 Nov	Cult Critic Movie Awards	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2019 Nov	Accolade Global Film Competition	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2019 Dec	Florence Film Awards	**Best TV Series (Winner)**
2020 Jan	Global Film Festival Awards	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2020 Jan	London Independent Film Awards	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2020 Feb	Vegas Movie Awards	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2020 Feb	Vegas Movie Awards	**Best Commercial (Winner)**
2020 Feb	Vegas Movie Awards	**Best Producer (Winner)**
2020 Feb	Vegas Movie Awards	**Best Debut Performance (Winner)**
2020 Feb	Vegas Movie Awards	**Best Editing (Winner)**
2020 Mar	LA Shorts Awards	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**
2021 Jan	Eurasia International Monthly Film Festival	**Best Series Pilot (Winner)**

Finalist

2019 Dec	CARE Awards	**Best TV Series (Finalist)**

Semi-Finalist

2020 Feb	Motion For Pictures	**Best Comedy (Semi-Finalist)**
2020 Feb	Motion For Pictures	**Best Documentary (Semi-Finalist)**
2020 Feb	Motion For Pictures	**Best Experimental (Semi-Finalist)**
2020 Feb	Motion For Pictures	**Best Parody (Semi-Finalist)**
2020 Feb	Motion For Pictures	**Best Satire (Semi-Finalist)**
2020 Feb	Laurus Film Festival	**Best Trailer (Semi-Finalist)**

Official Selection

2020 Feb	Golden State Film Festival	**General (Official Selection)**
2019 Oct	Marina del Rey Film Festival	**General (Official Selection)**
2019 Oct	Indie Short Fest	**Best TV Pilot (Official Selection)**
2019 Nov	American Golden Picture Film Festival	**Best Trailer (Official Selection)**
2019 Nov	IndieX Film Fest	**Best TV Pilot (Official Selection)**
2019 Dec	US Hollywood Int'l Golden Film Award	**Social Conscience (Official Selection)**
2020 Jan	Top Indie Film Awards	**Best Web Series (Official Selection)**
2020 Mar	LA Shorts Awards	**Best Web Series (Official Selection)**
2020 Apr	WRPN.TV Global Webisode Competition	**Best TV Pilot (Official Selection)**
2020 Apr	Hollywood Hills Film Awards	**Best TV Pilot (Official Selection)**
2020 May	Košice International Monthly Film Festival	**Best TV Series (Official Selection)**
2020 Aug	Vegas Cinefest International Film Festival	**Reality Show Pilot (Official Selection)**

Accolades

Forbes.com

"I loved the show! Whiteboard Challenge is entertaining even for non-tech people."

Sheila Callahan | *August 28, 2019*

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