



NICKELODEON'S 'WINX CLUB'
ENTERS LIVE-ACTION WITH TEASER
FOR 'FATE: THE WINX SAGA' COMING
TO NETFLIX



Iginio Straffi Rainbow

TV KIDS: And will the live-action version for Netflix skew older?

STRAFFI: Much older. The fans of the previous *Winx Club* say on social media that the new seasons are childish, but they don't know that we had to do that. At Rai YoYo in Italy, the target is kids up to 8 years old, so we can't do the kinds of stories we did on Rai 2 15 years ago. So for those fans, the 20-year-olds who still like to watch *Winx*, they will hopefully find their sweet spot in the Netflix original live-action version. It is edgier and darker than what they can imagine after being used to the colorful world of *Winx*. The target is clearly young adults. The things we had to tone down in the animation have been emphasized in the live action—the relationships, the fights, the love stories. I hope the Netflix series will please all the loyal *Winx Club* fans around the world who have grown into young adults.

Voc:

- Based on
- Creation
- Boarding school
- Power
- Rival
- Rivalry
- Threaten
- Exist

Nickelodeon's *Winx Club* cartoon gets the live-action treatment in the first teaser trailer for ***Fate: The Winx Saga***.

A **Netflix** Original, the new series will officially premiere on the streaming platform Jan. 22, 2021 (that's a Friday in case you were wondering). Based on Iginio Straffi's original creation and showrun by *The Vampire Diaries* and *Kyle XY* alum Brian Young, *The Winx Saga* is described by Netflix as a "coming-of-age journey of five fairies attending Alfea, a magical boarding school in the Otherworld where they must learn to master their powers while navigating love, rivalries, and the monsters that threaten their very existence."

The cast consists of Abigail Cowen as Bloom, Hannah van der Westhuysen as Stella, Precious Mustapha as Aisha, Eliot Salt as Terra, Elisha Applebaum as Musa, Sadie Soverall as Beatrix, Freddie Thorp as Riven, Danny Griffin as Sky, Theo Graham as Dane, Jacob Dudman as Sam, Eve Best, Robert James-Collier, Josh Cowdery, Alex Macqueen, and Eva Birthistle.

Voc:

- Cast
- Consist of

Put in the correct form:

1. Bloom has the potential to be one of _____
(powerful) fairies the world _____ ever _____ (know).
2. They deserve to know what I _____ (be).



Key answers:

1. Bloom has the potential to be one of **the most powerful** fairies the world **has ever known**.
2. They deserve to know what I **am**.



Listen and write the necessary word:

1. Magic lives in the very _____ of nature.
2. Wow, you are so _____.
3. You must be a _____. I am a _____.
4. Your first year is all about the _____ you were born with.
5. This is something you'll _____ your first day. Fairy magic is linked to _____.
6. Love. Hatred. _____.
7. The stronger the _____, the stronger the _____.
8. You focus, you learn, you _____.
9. Do you know why the barrier exists? To _____ the School from Burned Ones.
10. I am not like the _____ of you. I didn't grow up here.
11. What you need are answers. Be careful who you _____.
12. There's war on the _____.

Key answers:

1. Magic lives in the very **fabric** of nature.
2. Wow, you are so **lost**.
3. You must be a **fairy**. I am a **fairy**.
4. Your first year is all about the **element** you were born with.
5. This is something you'll **learn** your first day. Fairy magic is linked to **emotion**.
6. Love. Hatred. **Fear**.
7. The stronger the **emotion**, the stronger the **magic**.
8. You focus, you learn, you **grow**.
9. Do you know why the barrier exists? To **protect** the School from Burned Ones.
10. I am not like the **rest** of you. I didn't grow up here.
11. What you need are answers. Be careful who you **trust**.
12. There's war on the **horizon**.

1. Which video has attracted your attention more?
2. Which video has shown more actions and images than words?
3. What's the difference between a teaser and a trailer?



The writer and star of the new Netflix series explain the myriad challenges of turning a manga-style kids' cartoon into a live-action teen drama

How do you make teen TV magic? You call Brian Young. ' To him, the challenge of re-imagining the Winx world for a more mature audience was clear: "Tone. It's trying to figure out how we ground this show in real character moments, things that any audience member would relate to. And this is coming from a massive fantasy fan - I had my Dungeons & Dragons character when I was a kid - but it is very easy to spiral off into absurdity with stuff like this."

Fate: The Winx Saga, which lands on 22 January, is dense with mystical lore - and requires a steady hand for the world-building required. Our hero is Bloom (Abigail Cowen, AKA Dorcas from *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*), a 16-year-old fire fairy. Raised by human parents, she arrives in the Otherworld direct from California to enrol at Alfea, a prestigious boarding school. This is where wingless fairies learn to master their powers - and where trainee warriors, known as "specialists", guard the realm from the feared "Burned Ones". It is all new to Bloom, but she has guidance from Alfea's imperious headteacher, Ms Dowling (Nurse Jackie's Eve Best), and her four roommates.





▲ Nickelodeon's The Winx Club.
Photograph: Viacom

There is the tenacious water fairy Aisha (Precious Mustapha); the grounded and chatty earth fairy Terra (Eliot Salt); the mind fairy Musa (Elisha Applebaum), an empath who keeps her headphones on to block out other people's emotions; and Stella (Hannah van der Westhuysen), a snooty light fairy who also happens to be fairy royalty. It is the novice, though, who is our way into Fate's universe - and Young believes he has found a star in 22-year-old Cowen: "She's stunningly beautiful, but perfectly relatable. The camera loves her."

Cowen did not feel so confident when she stumbled into the audition room, en route to the airport. "I was like: 'Oh my gosh, they think I'm some crazy person!' I just sat in the waiting room with my giant suitcase and everyone was staring. I walked out convinced I'd never be invited back." As it turns out, that adorably awkward entrance was exactly right for fish-out-of-water Bloom, who trips over a few suitcases of her own in the pilot.



▲ Brian Young previously worked on the supernatural teen drama *The Vampire Diaries*. Photograph: Netflix

She and Young soon bonded over their shared “Florida weirdo” identity - Young’s term. According to Cowen, the Sunshine State could be considered an otherworldly realm: “I mean, we’re taught at a young age how to combat alligators. Like, that’s what you’re learning at school!” Growing up amid the orange groves of a Florida farm also inspired her professional interest in fantasy worlds, she says: “Nothing’s really a coincidence when it comes to roles that work out, I think, because clearly you’re connected to it for a reason ... I was just always playing outside and creating magical scenarios.”

Alfea will feel familiar - and not just to the 14- to 25-year-olds who grew up watching *Winx Club* on Nickelodeon. The austere buildings and eccentric teaching staff - *Downton Abbey*’s Robert James-Collier is a dashing fencing instructor, while *The Inbetweeners*’ Alex Macqueen pops up as a botany master - sets up *Fate* for an inevitable comparison. The script gets this out of the way early with a scene in which Aisha accuses a wide-eyed Bloom of being “the one person in the universe who’s never read any *Harry Potter*”. But magical boarding schools make a potent premise for a reason, says Young: “It’s a fantasy that I think a lot of people have when they’re that age, because you’re just trying to find somewhere where you don’t feel so alone and so different.”

Contrary to the usual clique-based hierarchies of high school drama, however, Fate depicts friendships forming between teenagers who come from different worlds - literally. For Cowen, who was bullied in middle school and home schooled for several years as a result, this is a particularly compelling theme. "It's not just the 'cool girl' hanging out with the 'cool girls'," she says. "It's people with different stories, interests and experiences. I think embracing difference is important."



The younger cast members had the intense boarding school experience replicated for them - they were housed in the same building for the duration of the six-month shoot. "Usually, at weekends, we'd go to one of our apartments and hang out, drink wine, talk, just bond," says Cowen. "It was cool; it was like college."

For the show's many exterior scenes - outdoor learning is key to the Alfea curriculum - locations were found around County Wicklow in Ireland, which is a good fit for most people's internalised image of a magical fairy kingdom. "We were filming around, like, castles!" says Cowen.

The Irish landscape gives Fate its connection to ancient faerie magic, but the show also had to feel relevant to the concerns of modern teens. That meant challenging the outdated gender roles of the original animated series. "In our show, boys can be fairies, girls can be specialists," says Young. "We're in the 21st century."