Bigpipe and Lightbox, a match made in cyber heaven.

This is a sponsored post writen by Alex Casey from The Spinoff

Lightbox have rolled out their platform to a plethora of new compatible devices. Alex Casey from the Spinoff takes us through the latest device additions for Lightbox.

Like Johnny Depp in *Transcendence*, video-on-demand service Lightbox has escaped the boundaries of traditional technology to bring television almost anywhere. Here are a few of the places you can watch TV anywhere, anytime.

iPads

Just download the free app <u>from the Apple store</u> and you're away laughing. Or crying. Depends what you're watching really.

iPhones (4S and above)

As long as you have an iPhone 4S or above, you can take TV in your pocket wherever you go. <u>Click here to get amongst it.</u>

Android tablets and Phones (v. 4.2 and above)

Android fans rejoice, if you have a phone or tablet operating on version 4.2 or higher, you can download the Lightbox app <u>here from the Google Play store</u> and get watching today.

Samsung Smart TVs

It's the new kind of TV…on the old kind of TV. Get started <u>here.</u>

PlayStation 3 & 4

Playstation have started making their own TV shows (Powers,

anyone?), so it's only fair that you can enjoy Lightbox on your Playstation 3 or 4 as you wish.

PCs

That's right, Lightbox remains available on all PCs as well on Safari, Internet Explorer and Firefox only.

Macs

It never really left, Lightbox can still be enjoyed online from a Macintosh computer at your leisure. How do you like those entertainment apples!

<u>Click here to sign up to Bigpipe and receive 6 months Lightbox</u> <u>on us.</u>

Inside Lightbox: Back to School Woes

By <u>Alex Casey</u> from <u>The Spinoff</u>

Inside Lightbox is a new sponsored feature where we mine the extensive Lightbox catalogue for cool shows you might like to watch. If you are going back to university this week, or simply pining for the days of essays-past, Alex Casey assigns some school-based television for you to study.

The Inbetweeners



The premise is simple: rich boy Will gets thrown from the ivory tower of private education into the hamwanking (yep) cesspool of English public school. It's a well-written comedy with strong and eerily recognisable teenage male characters (unfortunately).

Only at times does the comedy lean a little too heavily on jokes that could have easily been flushed down the toilet rather than said out loud (I'm looking at you, James).

The strength of *The Inbetweeners* lies in the accurate portrayal of all the anxieties and moral quandaries that teenagers find themselves in on the quest for experience. So often the characters ask each other "this is fine, right?" – a question that constantly plagued my decisions through high school and, let's be honest, even today.

The group of friends at Rudge Park Comprehensive find themselves oscillating between extreme bouts of boredom, squirm-inducing awkward encounters and rarely, "proper" teenage shenanigans. It's a show for anyone who tried to be cool at school, only to secretly think "I'm the worst human being in the world."

Community



Jeff is joined in the fluorescent study room of dreams by a holier-than-thou baptist single mother, a bored moisttowelette-making millionaire, an injured scholarship athlete and many more. One of the most crucial characters in weaving the rich pop culture tapestry of the show is Abed, a film student whose incessant referencing makes *Community* one of <u>pure delight for those who have watched a movie or two.</u>

Each individual episode cleverly adopts a different university subject, addressing it as obtusely or blatantly as the mood takes them. If there's one thing that will make you want to go back to school, it's this audacious, self-aware and incredibly enjoyable show.

<u>Awkward</u>



This MTV-made comedy centres around high schooler Jenna Hamilton (Ashley Rickards), who is forced into the school spotlight after a simple accident is misconstrued as a suicide attempt. After receiving a letter that accuses her of sleeping with the popular boy at

school camp (which she did), Jenna goes to bin the evidence but instead falls and breaks her arm, invoking some sort of twisted suicide attempt. Awkward, right? We're just getting started.

Narrated by the omniscient voice of Jenna's personal blog posts, the comedy series explores how to cope with a newly enforced identity at high school, and just how awkward it can be to get thrown into the centre of attention. Like *Glee*, it deals with grittier issues of bullying and sexuality, but has a depth to the writing that feels a lot more real than Lea Michele swanning around singing popular Disney songs. It's a show about tirelessly trying to stay afloat in the shark infested waters of cheerleaders and jocks, made bearable by the hilariously dark self-aware narration that saves *Awkward* from being just another vapid high school romp.

Teachers



Like *The Inbetweeners*, this is another UK school-based series that's been given it's own US makeover years later. The original series stars Andrew Lincoln (*The Walking Dead*, *Love Actually*) as Simon Casey, a fed up 20-something secondary school teacher joined by like-mindedly apathetic coworkers. Hosting a fervent dislike for almost aspects of teaching itself, it's an examination of the real people behind the thin veneer of authority in the anarchy of a secondary school.

A lot of the action in *Teachers* comes from the staff room, rather than the classroom. It is here that teachers sleep together, question their sexuality, and come up with excuses not unlike "my dog ate my homework" to get out of their own daily tasks. It's a mix of mundane bureaucracy and surreal sequences (think a pared-down version of *Green Wing*). Using bizarre sound effects and frequent inexplicable appearances of animals, it's an all-new insight into what actually goes on behind the frosted glass of the staff room doors.

<u>Lightbox customers, click here to watch The Inbetweeners,</u> <u>Community, Awkward and Teachers before the school bell rings</u>

Everyone else, click here to start your free trial (12 months

for Spark customers, 30 days for everyone else)