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'The Ricky Gervais Show'

The British comedian goes the animated route in his latest HBO series.

By ROBERT LLOYD , Television Critic
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British comedian Ricky Gervais' third television series, after "The Office" and "Extras," is a cartoon called "The Ricky Gervais Show." Its audio is lifted from a series of podcasts, also titled "The Ricky Gervais Show," that began at the end of 2005 as a free online feature of the British newspaper the Guardian and was a successor to a radio show on London's XFM. (It moved on to a pay-to-listen "audio book" version.) It is described here as "a series of pointless conversations." The cartoon show, which begins Friday night on HBO -- it's Gervais' American home away from home -- is the least of his series, but it is generally amusing and pretty to watch, and I like the way it rambles. (Rambling is a quality largely absent from professional television.) It stars Gervais, Stephen Merchant (his co-writer on "The Office," and co-writer and costar in "Extras") and Karl Pilkington, a "producer" of the original radio show and now a star in his own right.

