

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): July 27, 2020

GENIUS BRANDS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-37950
(Commission File Number)

20-4118216
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

190 N. Canon Drive, 4th Fl.
Beverly Hills, CA
(Address of principal executive offices)

90210
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (310) 273-4222

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2 below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Trading Symbol(s) | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share | GNUS | The Nasdaq Capital Market |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

ITEM 7.01 REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE

On July 27, 2020, Genius Brands International, Inc. (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing the launch of a new dedicated *Kartoon Channel!* app available on Apple iOS. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto.

The information disclosed under this Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.1 hereto, is being furnished and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as expressly set forth in such filing.

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(d) Exhibit.

The exhibit listed in the following Exhibit Index is filed as part of this Current Report on Form 8-K.

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| 99.1 | <u>Press Release of Genius Brands International, Inc., dated July 27, 2020.</u> |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

GENIUS BRANDS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Date: July 27, 2020

By: /s/ Andy Heyward
Name: Andy Heyward
Title: Chief Executive Officer



GENIUS BRANDS INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES *KARTOON CHANNEL!* ON APPLE IOS, BREAKING SINGLE DAY COMPANY DOWNLOAD RECORDS IN FIRST 24 HOURS AND RANKING IN THE TOP 10 OF FREE IOS APPS FOR KIDS

***Kartoon Channel!* App Receives Tremendous Response with Top Reviews and 5-Star Ratings, Surpassing Disney+**

New COPPA-compliant App Follows Debut of *Kartoon Channel!*, Available in Over 100 Million U.S. Television Households and on Over 200 Million Mobile Devices

Beverly Hills, CA; July 27, 2020 – Following the June 15 launch of its new free digital *Kartoon Channel!* across multiple AVOD and OTT platforms, Genius Brands International (NASDAQ:GNUS) announced today its first iOS launch with the debut of an all-new dedicated *Kartoon Channel!* app, available free on Apple iOS.

Andy Heyward Genius Brands Chairman and CEO stated, “We are thrilled that the viewing audience has discovered *Kartoon Channel!* so quickly! The multitude of parents downloading our app for their kids has skyrocketed in the first 24 hours with the app reaching in the Top 10 for kids, and climbing, while receiving thousands of 5-star ratings. *Kartoon Channel!* is already significantly ahead of our plan.

“In a very short time, we have managed to create a groundswell of growth for our new *Kartoon Channel!*,” said Margaret Loesch, Executive Chairman of *Kartoon Channel!* “There are great platforms available today for kids, such as Netflix and Disney+, however, they are pay platforms.” Heyward continued, “There are two attributes that distinguish *Kartoon Channel!* from them. First, our *Kartoon Channel!* is FREE. When we launched this platform, we were very clear that we would be ‘like a Netflix for kids, but FREE’. In today’s times where families are challenged to make budgets work, having a high-quality free on-demand content service for kids is a huge point of value. Second, and no less important, our channel offers **Curated Content**. At a time when kids are home from school and camps are largely closed, we are bringing children content that is value-driven and enriching, and not just “empty viewing calories.”

Heyward added, “General Manager Caroline Tyre, Margaret Loesch, and myself are all parents, and we understand the importance of the time kids spend in front of a screen. With Warren Buffett, they are learning lessons in business and entrepreneurship; with young Martha Stewart’s *Martha & Friends*, they are learning crafting, gardening, and cooking; with *Giselle Bündchen’s Giselle and the Green Team*, they learn lessons on protecting our planet; with *Thomas Edison’s Secret Lab*, they learn science; and with our *Llama Llama* shorts, there are lessons in early socialization of getting along, and inclusivity...and so much more! Whatever the show is we offer, we seek to avoid violence, negative stereotypes, inappropriate language, bullying, or insensitivity to our planet. We have a strict code that has been built and curated by Professor Don Roberts, former Chair of Stanford School of Communications, and the foremost authority and researcher on the impact of media on children.”

The *Kartoon Channel!* and the new complementary iOS app offer access to a wide variety of family-friendly content, with more added daily, featuring Genius Brands originals and acquired content, including *Babar*, *Angry Birds*, *Stan Lee's Mighty7*, *Thomas Edison's Secret Lab*, *Baby Einstein*, *Baby Genius*, *Llama Llama shorts*, *Warren Buffett's Secret Millionaires Club* and more. Additionally, Genius Brands is adding more family-friendly gaming content, including *Minecraft's Journey to the End* and *Fairy Horse Quest*, *Octodad*, *PixArk*, and *Big B Roblox Challenge*, from *Tankee*. Genius Brands will also premiere on *Kartoon Channel!* the upcoming comedy-adventure series, *Stan Lee's Superhero Kindergarten*, currently in pre-production and starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, on *Kartoon Channel!* in Q1 2021. Additionally, the *Kartoon Channel!* app features a camera mode with filter capabilities for hours of safe entertainment for young ones.

In addition to the iOS mobile app, *Kartoon Channel!* can be accessed via Apple TV Devices, Android (mobile devices), Android TV, Amazon Fire Stick, Roku Devices, Xumo, Comcast, Cox, Dish, and Sling. The iOS app will be the model for the other platforms and will be rolled out across them. For more information on where to watch *Kartoon Channel!*, please visit <https://www.kartoonchannel.com/where-to-watch>

About Genius Brands International

Genius Brands International, Inc. (Nasdaq: GNUS) is a leading global kids media company developing, producing, marketing and licensing branded children's entertainment properties and consumer products for media and retail distribution. The Company's award-winning 'content with a purpose' portfolio includes the upcoming Stan Lee's Superhero Kindergarten, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and in partnership with Alibaba; Rainbow Rangers for Nick Jr.; Llama Llama, starring Jennifer Garner, for Netflix; award-winning toddler brand Baby Genius; adventure comedy STEM series Thomas Edison's Secret Lab; and entrepreneurship series Warren Buffett's Secret Millionaires Club. Through licensing agreements with leading partners, characters from Genius Brands' IP also appear on a wide range of consumer products for the worldwide retail marketplace. The Company's new *Kartoon Channel!* is available in over 100 million U.S. television households via a broad range of distribution platforms, including Comcast, Cox, DISH, Amazon Prime, Sling TV, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire and more. For additional information, please visit www.gnusbrands.com.

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Forward Looking Statements: Certain statements in this press release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Words such as "may," "might," "will," "should," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "continue," "predict," "forecast," "project," "plan," "intend" or similar expressions, or statements regarding intent, belief, or current expectations, are forward-looking statements. While the Company believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on any such forward-looking statements, which are based on information available to us on the date of this release. These forward looking statements are based upon current estimates and assumptions and are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including without limitation, our ability to generate revenue or achieve profitability; our ability to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms, if at all; our ability to repay our outstanding debt; the potential issuance of a significant number of shares to our convertible note holders which will dilute our equity holders; fluctuations in the results of our operations from period to period; general economic and financial conditions; our ability to anticipate changes in popular culture, media and movies, fashion and technology; competitive pressure from other distributors of content and within the retail market; our reliance on and relationships with third-party production and animation studios; our ability to market and advertise our products; our reliance on third-parties to promote our products; our ability to keep pace with technological advances; our ability to protect our intellectual property and those other risk factors set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in the Company's subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Thus, actual results could be materially different. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation to update or alter statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

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