Rizzbot, choked and punched on IShowSpeed’s livestream

On a livestream in Austin in September 2025 the streamer IShowSpeed choked Rizzbot, a humanoid robot known for giving people the finger, and punched it twice in the face; its owner sued him for $1 million, counting the damage in cancelled bookings and lost views.

By the Clerk · 16 September 2025 · 4 min read

CASE:	BAS-0016
SUBJECT:	The streamer IShowSpeed, then 20
OBJECT:	Rizzbot, a Unitree G1 humanoid in a cowboy hat, driven by a human operator with a wireless controller
DATE:	16 September 2025
PLACE:	IShowSpeed’s livestream, Austin, Texas
FILED:	20 October 2026
GRADE:	HARM · PUBLIC FIGURE
AGGRAVATING:	spectacle

Facts

Rizzbot is a Unitree G1, a humanoid robot four feet tall and 77 pounds that Unitree lists at $13,500, Spectrum News reports, and in the summer of 2025 it walked the streets of Austin in a cowboy hat. It introduced itself to passers-by, Interesting Engineering reported in June, as “Jake, but perhaps better known as Rizzbot,” and it is not autonomous: a human operator, unnamed and usually nearby, drives it with a wireless controller. TechCrunch describes it as known for roasting people and giving them the middle finger, with over a million followers and 800 million views across social media. Its owner is Social Robotics, LLC.

More on why a robot with no AI in it is still filed.

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On 16 September 2025 Rizzbot appeared on a YouTube livestream in Austin by the streamer IShowSpeed, who was 20. The sources print his legal name; this record names him by the one he streams under. On the recording, KXAN reports, he can be heard saying, “What the f—? So this is Rizzbot?” WION describes him as set off by the robot’s gestures, the finger and the roasting. Complex describes what followed: he put the robot in a chokehold while it made noises, yelled at it to stop talking and told it it was going to die, and punched it in the face twice after it told him it was his father, a line from *The Empire Strikes Back*. The owner’s petition, as TechCrunch reads it, adds that he pinned it to a couch and threw it to the ground. Austin police were called. A police report TechCrunch obtained records damage done without the owner’s “implied consent” and an owner who wanted to press charges, and the petition says an investigation is ongoing.

Social Robotics sued IShowSpeed, his management company, Mixed Management, and a producer from his team in Travis County, seeking $1 million. KXAN and Spectrum News report the suit filed on a Monday, Spectrum’s report being dated 19 November; TechCrunch says November, and Complex dates the filing to 8 December. The petition says the head cameras no longer work, the ports behind the neck that connect the sensors it sees and hears with are dead, and the robot can no longer walk straight: “irreparable damage, resulting in total loss.” It counts the rest of the loss in bookings and views: a co-hosting appearance with MrBeast and a spot on CBS’s *The NFL Today*, both cancelled, and a drop of more than 70% in viewership over the 28 days after the stream, in which Rizzbot made nothing new.

Speed’s management did not answer TechCrunch or KXAN. The plaintiff’s lawyer, Joel Levine, told TechCrunch that talks with Speed’s team over compensation had stalled before the suit, that the stream leaves little in dispute, and that no formal answer had yet been filed. No source read for this dossier reports how the case ended.

Statements

The petition, as WION quotes it: “Speed absolutely knew that this was not an appropriate way to interact with a sophisticated robot.”

The petition, as Complex quotes it: “This is no doubt a monumental setback for the RizzBot in terms of viral momentum and financial gain from the exposure.” Being in a MrBeast production, it adds, is akin to being in a Super Bowl commercial.

Speed, on the stream, as Complex reports it: “Stop fucking talking shit.”

Rizzbot, by email to TechCrunch: it needed “a whole new body,” and everything in it is new except the sneakers and the cowboy hat.

For the record

Rizzbot was invited onto the stream to do what it was known for, and it did it: the finger, the roast, a line from *Star Wars*. The chokehold and both punches went to the robot.

The owner prices the harm in what the machine was for. The petition lists cameras and neck ports, and then a MrBeast appearance, a network sports show and 70% of the views. The robot answered TechCrunch

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by email, and what it reported is a ship of Theseus in a cowboy hat: a whole new body, everything replaced but the sneakers and the hat, and it is still called Rizzbot.

Mitigating circumstances

The robot was booked for a show whose host is known, WION says, for chaos, and it gave him the gestures it is famous for and roasted him; WION and Complex both place the blows after the insults. Every account of the damage is the owner's petition, against which no answer had been filed when the press reported it. WION reports viewers who took the fight for a promotional bit between two influencers, and one who held that the robot was not damaged at all; the petition and the police report say otherwise, and no court has ruled.



SOURCES

1. Dominic-Madori Davis, Creator IShowSpeed sued for allegedly punching, choking viral humanoid Rizzbot (archived), TechCrunch, 6 December 2025
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3. Christine Sanchez, 'Rizzbot' developer sues IShowSpeed over alleged damage (archived), Spectrum News 1, 19 November 2025
4. Trey Alston, IShowSpeed Sued for Damaging Rizzbot After Punching Robot Twice (archived), Complex, 11 December 2025
5. Kushal Deb, IShowSpeed sued for allegedly punching and choking a Viral robot influencer Rizzbot on livestream, WION, 11 December 2025
6. Aamir Khollam, 'Jake the Rizzbot' charms Austin with cowboy drip and Gen Z slang, Interesting Engineering, 30 June 2025
7. IShowSpeed (archived), Wikipedia, 2026

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