



Created by Sam Bowers

LOG LINE

Syndicated Chicago shock jock “Smart-Alec Archibald” has his extreme antics go too far when he is held hostage for a \$50,000,000 ransom during his last live broadcast.

STORY

Dead Air is a 30-45 minute per episode audio series depicting the real-time final episode of “Smart Alec” Archibald, one of America’s most well known and controversial “shock jocks”. Syndicated daily during afternoon drive for the last 30 years from Chicago’s 96.9 WBNR (The BONER!), Smart Alec has created a name for himself as the biggest scumbag on the airwaves. He attracts huge audiences with his disgusting prank calls, raunchy punchlines, and constant attacks to the FCC and WBNR executives.

After 30 years on air, Alec demands an obscenely high salary from WBNR. When the network refuses, Alec breaches his current contract by reading it aloud on air. This is the straw that breaks the camel's back, forcing Alec and WBNR to sever their relationship. The two sides agree to separate gracefully in the form of Alec’s “Retirement”. The final episode of Smart Alec is promoted for weeks, securing a massive live audience to send the shock-jock off into the sunset. This is the perfect opportunity for Connor Hastings, a gun-wielding madman who barges into Smart Alec’s studio and seals the door minutes before his final sign off. Connor’s insanity becomes clear when he admits he’s Alec’s biggest fan, hired by a mysterious benefactor to kill Smart Alec unless WBNR and their parent company, United Communications, pays Connor 50 million dollars in ransom. Everyone thinks it’s a gag until Connor shoots co-host, Skunk, and leaves him bleeding out on the studio floor. Smart Alec must negotiate and handle Connor live on air as the audience balloons and WBNR struggles to handle the PR nightmare. Despite efforts from WBNR and major law enforcement, Connor escapes with the money, but Smart Alec is unharmed. Revealed in the following week’s doctored “Best of Smart Alec” package playing while the station is still closed, Smart Alec admits he orchestrated the whole thing, securing his opulent retirement and sticking a middle finger to America and the network that allowed him to get away with such debauchery on air for so long.

TONAL REFERENCES

Sample of Potential Show Intro:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-iF_xZ3ACk7vPPyEhHD05rOLZyqF9sqv

Money Monster: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr_nGAbFkmk

Crazy Ira and the Douche - Parks and Rec:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_c_j-djT4s

CHARACTERS

“Smart Alec” Archibald: The 55 year old host of “Smart Alec” on WBNR, which he has so affectionately nicknamed “The BONER”. Alec is a dumber Howard Stern, a grosser Mancow Muller, and a more extreme Rush Limbaugh. While his on-radio persona may come off as brash and sophomoric, he is actually a master of media manipulation, concocting his “Character” specifically to pull in the most audience members possible. He loves controversy and knows “sex sells”. He’s hyper masculine, misogynistic, close minded, and extremely cocky. He presents himself as a swinging bachelor who can sleep with any woman at any time, when in reality his ego has preventing him from holding onto any serious relationship. He plays to the lowest common denominator of audience member, going for cheap dick jokes and sound effects over any substantive conversation. His belittles and embarrasses his guest as well as his team on air.

Jasmine Hammond: Alec’s 60 year old co-host and long time creative partner. Jasmine has been with Alec for almost all of his 30 years on air. She provides a soothing female presence on a show that is saturated with hyper masculinity. She plays along a lot but manages to reign in the boys when they get too out of hand. She’s a fan favorite and true confidant of Alec’s, perhaps his only friend. Despite her success and positive reputation, Jasmine is excited to have the show come to an end so she can get away from the highly profitable cesspool she’s spent her career in. Unlike Alec, she’s developed a healthy life outside of radio, becoming a loved wife and mother.

Sean “Skunk” Hancock: Current 45 year-old co-host of Smart Alec who provides a heavy comedic persona. Skunk is dirty, aggressive, and insulting, roasting everyone all the time. He’s gruff and filthy, making him the perfect clown for Alec’s heavily male audience. Skunk hates the PC police and resorts to dick jokes and homophobic humor often. He’s a substance abuser who is mostly using the show as a vehicle to fund his self destructive habits.

Thomas “Tommyboy” Washington: The 28 year old WBNR Traffic, Weather, and Board Operator. A soft, sweet, gentle giant, Tommyboy would rather not work on Smart Alec because he thinks the show is trash. He does his job effectively, seamlessly running the board and it’s endless disgusting sound effects, as well as chiming in every 15 minutes with traffic and weather updates. He is the butt of a ton of bad jokes on the show, being very overweight. He never punches back, but he is upset.

Connor Hastings: The 30 something gun-wielding madman who breaks into WBNR. Connor is Smart Alec’s biggest fan, clearly presenting that his appreciation has turned into an obsession. Connor has been the moderator of the Smart Alec website/message boards since the late 90s. Connor is impulsive and deranged. He claims to have been hired by a mysterious benefactor to execute this hostage situation. In truth, Connor has been hired, but secretly hired by Alec himself, a fact Connor doesn’t even know. Connor doesn’t want to hurt anyone, but is so whacked out he loses control and keeps shooting Skunk. He loves Jasmine.

Gabriel Bush: A Chicago Police Department hostage negotiator who takes over the operation of ending the hostage threat. He insists on taking over but is far too aggressive in his approach, making things far worse. He’s a hot headed blowhard who gets extremely frustrated that he can’t just muscle his way out of this problem.

Analise Rambo: The recently appointed 30 year old Producer of “Smart Alec”. Analise is a sharp young producer who has risen through the ranks of Chicago media rather quickly, securing the most coveted producing job in the city. She’s sharp and driven but very much at odds with Alec. She was hoping to reshape Smart Alec into a much more intellectual show to attract a higher intelligence demographic. Not only was she met with strong opposition for Alec himself, but now she is about to lose her job thanks to Alec’s retirement. Alec is constantly chiding her on air and calling her “Anal Ice”.

Ava Brodnik: CEO of United Communications, owner of WBNR and one of the largest media companies in the world. Ava is incredibly powerful and wealthy, controlling an extremely high volume of the world’s media. She was the one who ultimately told Alec he was fired. As a fierce feminist icon in America, Ava was never a fan of Alec, looking for any excuse to see him go. While part of her would love for Alec to get shot, she knows how much of a PR nightmare it would be to have her station’s biggest star killed live on air.

AUDIO SOURCES

Dead Air is presented as if you were listening to it all unfold live on radio thanks to the exclusive use of diegetic sound. There will be no outside narrator, theme music, underscoring, or sound effects. Everything heard in the episode will also be heard and created by the characters in the story.

Live from the studio: The conversations recorded by the numerous microphones in the studio.

Callers: The various external characters who call into the show from outside the studio. This includes hostage negotiators, WBNR executives, and regular listeners.

Commercials: Used as act breaks. Could be actual commercials for Audible products or advertisers.

Smart Alec's headphones to Analyse A private, one-way line from the producers/authorities outside the studio directly into Smart Alec's headphones.



CV/Attached Talent

sam Bowers - creator/sean "SKUNK" HANCOCK



Sam Bowers

Sam Bowers is a Chicago producer, director and comedian specializing in the performance and application of improvisation. He is an official artist of the 2018 NYTVF for producing and directing the improvisational comedy series "Framed". Having served as the Director of the hit podcast "Improv Nerd with Jimmy Carrane", Sam has been lucky enough to work with stars such as Jane Lynch, Rachel Dratch, Mike Birbiglia, Chris Redd, Jon Favreau, Bob Odenkirk, and dozens more. In the course of one year he published over 50 stories in the smash-hit satirical magazine "Reductress". He has toured the country for over 6 years

performing ComedySportz, the largest live comedy show of all time. Along with performing ComedySportz, Sam also works as the Creative Director of Video for CSz Worldwide, managing all video initiatives for 30 international ComedySportz locations. Some of the most fun he's had came when he was the Program Director of The iO Comedy Network, digital arm of the world-famous iO Theater. Sam created Lamestream Media, which holds the title of the longest running satirical news program in the history of YouTube, amassing 6 million views across 215 episodes from 2011-2016. A graduate of Columbia College of Chicago with a degree in TV: Internet and Mobile Media, Sam is proud to say his web video projects have now amassed over 50 million lifetime views on Facebook and YouTube. Sam can be seen performing weekly at iO Chicago with his 2018 Del Close Marathon-selected improv team, LL Cool Beans.



JEFF KRAMER - SMART ALEC ARCHIBALD

Jeff Kramer has created hundreds of voices for video games over the years, including the role of Superman, Agent York in *Deadly Premonition*, and the voice of the cult classic *Seaman*. Jeff is the Founder and Artistic Director of ComedySportz, the Silicon Valley's longest-running show. He has personally appeared in over 4000 shows, including an overseas tour doing improv for the troops in Italy, Spain, Greece and Turkey. As an actor, he has worked at theatres across the country, including the New Jersey, Idaho, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals.



RASHAWN NADINE SCOTT - JASMINE HAMMOND

Rashawn Nadine Scott is an actor, singer, and comedian from Tacoma, Wa. She's an alumni of The Second City's Mainstage and ETC. Her work can be seen on Fox's *Empire*, NBC's *Shrink*, and the Netflix film *Win It All*. She's even been a featured panelist for *Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me* on NPR. In another life she would have been a glassblower but she thought acting would be more profitable. For all things Rashawn check out www.rashawnnadinescott.com or follow @RashawnScott on Instagram/Twitter.



GRIFFIN GRIGGS - CONNOR HASTINGS

Deemed too poor for San Francisco and not Catholic enough for Boston, Griffin Griggs UHauled his way to Chicago to fulfill his dream of performing in comedy and theatre shows for free. He one day hopes to be "that guy whose name you can't quite remember but who seems to be everything in this year." In his spare time he can be found with his dog Blue, his improv and sketch teams LL Cool Beans and Honor Roll, and using Sonicare toothbrushes.



KIM VESTAL - AVA BRODNIK

Kim is one of the most recognizable voices in Bay Area radio, serving as the host of 105.7 KARA's morning show for 22 years. Listeners started their days with Kim's signature phrase "Get your buns out of bed!". In 2006, she was delighted to return to her Empire Broadcasting family as part of 95.3 KRTY Hot Country. Kim currently reports news and traffic on KCBS Radio in San Francisco.



CRAIG UHLIR - DETECTIVE GABRIEL BUSH

Craig Uhlir is a Chicago comedian and director. After completing his training at Chicago's big three improvisational schools : Second City, iO, and the Annoyance back in the 90's, Craig began playing with Harold teams Deep Schwa and Vahalla. He also played at ComedySportz Chicago for 4 years doing short form improv. He toured with the Second City National Touring Company going around the world and then performed in Second City Las Vegas at the Flamingo hotel for 3 years. These days Craig teaches at iO and The Second City. He still performs every Sunday night in Deep Schwa at iO, Chicago's longest running Harold team. Craig has been playing for over 20 years and teaching improv since the turn of the century. Check out his [website](#).



ANALISE RAMBO - SARAH DREW

Sarah Drew is an improviser from California currently performing in Chicago. She is a graduate of the iO Training Center, a Grand Champion of iO Cagematch, and a weekly performer at comedy stages across the city. These venues include but are not limited to Second City, iO Chicago, and The Annoyance Theater. She is a veteran of the Chicago Improv Festival and the Del Close Marathon.



THOMAS "TOMMYBOY" WASHINGTON - FIRAS ALEXANDER

Firas Alexander is a freelance writer, performer, producer, and international voice actor based in Chicago, Illinois. He has added his talents to IVR and commercial radio spots for prominent Middle-Eastern brands like the National Bank of Kuwait and Zain Telecom (both behind the microphone as well as a former Senior Copywriter for JWT, one of the largest advertising networks in the world). He is an avid fan of comedy, comic books, and his two cats.



DEAD AIR

A scripted, narrative audio series.

Sam Bowers

samdonaldbowers@gmail.com

DEAD AIR - PITCH SEGMENT - SAM BOWERS

INT. WBNR RADIO STUDIO - DAY

Shock-Jock SMART-ALEC ARCHIBALD hosts his last radio show before retirement. He chats with co-hosts SKUNK and JASMINE, while Producer ANALISE monitors from outside the room and TOMMYBOY runs the board.

SMART ALEC

I've got to be honest, Skunk, that was probably one of my favorite interviews we've ever done. We were both face deep.

SFX: "d-d-d-deeeep!"

SMART ALEC

-In Pamela Anderson's knockers.

SKUNK

Wait, was there an interview? I don't remember there being any words spoken. I take that back, I do remember the letters "D" and "D".

SFX: Double D Alert!

JASMINE

Boys, do you even remember what Pam Anderson came in to talk about that day?

SMART ALEC

Honestly, Jasmine, she could have told me when and where I will die and I wouldn't have listened. This was 1995, Pam Anderson was at the top of her game!

JASMINE

She came in to talk about the ice caps melting and the polar bears who were drowning in the ocean.

SKUNK

Here's a solution for the damn polar bears, Jaz: have two of them climb on top of the floatation devices surgically implanted into Pam's chest. She could save the entire species!

(CONTINUED)

ANALISE

(in Smart Alec's headphones)

Two minutes until the top of the hour, Alec. Let's do a final wrap up.

SMART ALEC

No, no, Skunk, Jasmine is right. Saving the bears is important, but not nearly as important as saving the hippos, which is why we've brought one into the studio today. Isn't that right Tommyboy?

TOMMYBOY

Sorry, do you mean to say that I'm a hippo because I'm a large man?

SKUNK

Tommyboy-

TOMMYBOY

My name is Thomas. Thomas Washington.

SKUNK

Thomas, Tommyboy, Duke of Dunkin Donuts, whatever, you're not supposed to chime in without playing the sound effect.

JASMINE

Oh, Skunk, it's our last show, don't make the poor boy play the sound effect.

SMART ALEC

Jasmine, baby, you know I love you, but that's exactly the reason he has to play the sound effect. It's the last time our listeners will get to hear it before we sign off. Play the music, Tommyboy.

ANALISE

(into headphones)

Please don't go over your time on the last show, Alec. We budgeted in an extra hour for you.

SFX: Cartoonish tuba music plays.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMYBOY

There, I played the music, happy now?

SKUNK

Tommyboy! There you are, sweetheart! I'm jealous of you, Tommyboy, you have your own theme song!

SMART ALEC

Yeah, Skunk, now that I think about it you're the only one here on Smart Alec that *doesn't* have their own theme song.

JASMINE

I suppose you consider our theme music for this show to be your theme song, Mr. Archibald?

SMART ALEC

It's Kidd Rock singing my name, who else's would it be, Jaz?

JASMINE

Well then what's my theme song? You said Skunk was the only one who didn't have one?

SMART ALEC

Tommy Boy, play Jasmine's theme song. This is brand new, by the way, just for you Jaz.

SFX: a series of groans and fart noises. Skunk and Smart Alec laugh.

JASMINE

I don't get it. Why is that me?

SMART ALEC

Remember when you said you weren't feeling very well last week?

JASMINE

Yeah...

SMART ALEC

Well when you went to the bathroom we sent Tommyboy in with a microphone to capture the ambience!

(CONTINUED)

SKUNK

They're your farts, Jaz. We're listening to your farts!

TOMMYBOY

I'm sorry, Jaz. They made me do it.

JASMINE

(angry and disappointed)
I swear to God, Al-

SMART ALEC

Please, sweetheart, it's "Smart Alec". You only have to put up with me for another 30 seconds then you're done with me forever.

JASMINE

I suppose I can tolerate your disgusting ass for 30 more seconds. What's 30 more seconds after 28 years?

SKUNK

Whoa, Jasmine dropping the "ass"!

SMART ALEC

Finally taking a page out of my book. The FCC isn't going to be happy with that, you know? Ava Brodrik might come down from corporate and have a word with you.

JASMINE

I guess you have rubbed off on me, Smart Alec.

SKUNK

He's certainly rub off to you, that's for sure.

SFX: Fapping sound

SMART ALEC

What do you say, Jasmine? 28 years together on the radio. My best friend in the world. Retiring any minute now. Will you finally run away with me?

JASMINE

And leave my husband?

(CONTINUED)

SMART ALEC

Look I realize I might not have
Marcus' magical schlong...

SFX: Marcus' Magic Schlong jingle

SMART ALEC

... but I'm a tender lover who will
always put your needs first, as
long as those needs are also my
needs.

JASMINE

Marcus *is* a fan of that jingle by
the way.

SKUNK

Well of course he is. Great work on
that one, Tommyboy. You've
definitely earned your paycheck,
which I believe you actually paid
back in broken desk chairs?

TOMMYBOY

I broke one chair! It happened one
time!

CONNOR, a darkly dressed, masked, deranged man barges into
the studio, shuts the door, and applies a heavy duty lock to
seal it shut.

SMART ALEC

I realize I may have gone a few
minutes over my time here, Anal-Ice
but there's no need to bring in the
wrecking crew.

JASMINE

You know Analise hates it when you
call her that?

ANALISE

(into headphones)
Don't call me that, Al.

CONNOR

(far away from mic)
Everybody shut the fuck up!

SKUNK

He's got a gun!

(CONTINUED)

TOMMYBOY

Holy shit!

JASMINE

What the hell is this?

SMART ALEC

Wow, you are all really gunning for some FCC fines today.

ANALISE

(through headphones)

Alec, what the hell is going on in there?

CONNOR

(far away from mic)

I said everybody shut the fuck up! I'm not playing around.

SMART ALEC

What final stunt is this? You all know you're supposed to run every idea by me before we put it on air. I hate this improv crap!

ANALISE

(through headphones)

Alec, I don't know what this is. Why didn't you tell me you were pulling some stunt?

CONNOR

(far away from mic)

I will kill Smart Alec unless WBNR and United Communications pays me 50 million dollars by the end of today, in cash!

SMART ALEC

Jesus, you guys couldn't even get a trained actor to come in here. Step up to the microphone, sweetheart. The people can't hear anything you're saying.

CONNOR

(into mic)

I said, I will kill Smart Alec unless WBNR and United Communications pays me 50 million dollars by the end of today, in cash!

(CONTINUED)

SMART ALEC

Oh boy, you really do sound like me at the negotiating table. Skunk, did you arrange this?

SKUNK

Me? You think I have the producing skill to pull off something like this?

JASMINE

Yeah, Al, this isn't from me.

CONNOR

I'm only going to say this one more time. 50 million in cash, or a bullet in Smart Alec's head!

The studio door begins to rattle violently as people outside try to get in. They're unsuccessful.

ANALISE

(into headphones)

Al, I have no idea what kind of shit you're pulling here, but this isn't funny. This guy locked the door, we can't get in.

SMART ALEC

Look man, whoever put you up to this scheduled you wrong. Today is my last show and we are definitely out of time. I'm hoping to catch the next plane to some tropical who-knows-where and get the hell out of this dinky radio studio and Chicago for good.

SKUNK

Come on, bro, unlock the door and let me out of here. That shit isn't even convincing. You couldn't get something that looked like a real gun?

SFX: gun shot. Everyone screams.

ANALISE

(into headphones)

What the fuck was that? Al! What the fuck is going on?

(CONTINUED)

JASMINE

He's bleeding! Skunk is bleeding!

TOMMYBOY

Oh, hell no! What the fuck! That shit's real!

SKUNK

You shot me! You really fucking shot me. Al, he got me in my stomach!

SMART ALEC

Okay, I see what's going on here. I've given all of you shit for years and made fun of your weight and family and sex lives and who knows what, and now as a final gag on my last day you arrange some sort of escape room scenario to put a big scare into ol' Smart Alec? Payback, right?

SKUNK

Al, I'm really bleeding over here. He fucking shot me, brother.

Silence.

ANALISE

(into headphones)

Al, security just reported somebody broke into the building. We can't get into that studio door. This is real.

SMART ALEC

This isn't a joke, is it?

CONNOR

Boy, for a man named "Smart Al" you're not really that smart, are you? If WBNR and United Communications doesn't hand me 50 million dollars in cash by the end of today, I'm putting a bullet into your fucking head.

SFX: Gun cocking

SMART ALEC

(panicked)

Ladies and gentleman, my name is Smart Alec Archibald, I'm currently
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

9.

SMART ALEC (cont'd)
being held hostage live on air, but
first... a word from our sponsors.

COMMERICAL