

The Caring Comics – Web Series Proposal

Logline

Living between two worlds we tell the stories of comedy improvisers balancing their dreams with caregiving.

Synopsis

How do comedy improvisers cope with the dichotomy of caring for disabled or ill children, parents or spouses while making audiences laugh? What lessons can be shared from these amazing people as they keep spirits high publicly while privately, they deal with some of life’s most serious challenges? This series aims to find out.

Studies show the important connection between laughing and mental health. From the perspective of comedian caregivers, we will explore:

- The ties between selfless giving and happiness.
- How a sense of humour is essential to caregivers
- How comedic caregivers who don’t get regular appreciation cope.
- How comedic caregivers who don’t get reciprocation cope.

Over the years we have worked with several talented comedians who have complicated lives. Though most are not famous, they are hilarious on stage all the while dealing with huge challenges personally. There will be no host in this series, only the people we profile and the expert(s) we enlist. We hope you see the value of selecting a proposal with no self-promoting, star engendered angle. This is about regular people struggling to make it, presented with humour and heart.

Episodes

Each episode will introduce a comedy improviser (someone actively performing) who is caring for someone in their family who, due to disability or circumstance, has special needs. We plan to look for and leverage creative opportunities as they arise throughout the series. On a general basis, we will follow the improviser as they entertain (clips of their stage performance) cut with emotional moments or challenges at home. We may or may not include expert interviews depending on the vibe we get as we produce the pilot and make postproduction decisions. As a rule, we believe it is better to show than tell.

Series Story Arc

We will choose improvisers who are all in the same city (London Ontario) and/or from the same troupe (Shut The Front Door Improv for instance) and/or performing in the same venue (London Music Club perhaps) The plan is to get all the episode subjects interacting with each other during a shoot and cut back to it throughout the season. (Perhaps a special improv night with all our subjects where we can shoot them performing and then having a confab after.) If chosen to

produce the series, we will figure out how to set a season narrative into action in order to reward viewers who watch the series from episode one to episode eight.

Approach

One aspect we will focus on is storytelling, not just relaying information about who these people are and what they are doing or why. Critical to this exercise is a focus on holding the attention of audiences. We feel that past recipients of this program have missed opportunities to make these videos as powerful as they could be, so this is something we want to showcase our abilities in. The first ten to twenty seconds of every episode should present a hook and that hook should be teased gently all the way through to keep viewers on it.

Links

Links with relevancy

- Link to a comedy short we produced that was screened at the Toronto Shorts International Film Festival - <https://youtu.be/lhOIfHiB09U>
- Video pitch by Bryan Bakker - <https://youtu.be/XtxjwaVrZac>
- Middlesex Community Living Video- <https://youtu.be/wCJAb-i-LFQ>
- Child and Parent Resource Institute Training Video - <https://youtu.be/GCfgvumZDDQ>
- Children’s Health Foundation - <https://youtu.be/bBnJxz7ZEOA>
- Bryan Bakker CV – <https://bluefoodfilms.com/bryan-bakker-cv>
- Bryan Bakker IMDb profile – www.imdb.me/bryanbakker
- Bizbio Resources page – reference letters and some team CVs - <https://bizbio.com/resources>

Closing

From the bottom of my heart thank you for considering this proposal.