#### Based On The Novel By Andrew McCullough



"I've known and worked with Andy McCullough for thirty years.

His brutal, powerful ROUGH CUT may be fiction, but it's based on red-hot fact".

**JACK LEMMON 1976** 

### Introducing The Wild World Of ....

# ROUGH CUT

Rooted

ROUGH CUT is a provocative, wild and nostalgic hour-long drama series through the early seventies Hollywood television industry.

Our debaucherous leading man is Mike "Buck" McLeod (a prime Terence Hill, Burt Reynolds type)

an ex-TV western star, who's career has reached the end of its rope, until he has a chance encounter

on Malibu beach with alluring Honey Holly, America's sweetheart, and Televisions' biggest star.

After enticing her long-buried sexual needs to the surface, Buck manipulates Honey to put him on the air in his own series.

ROUGH CUT is conniving, sexually charged, brimming with surprise and action. It rips the cover off the TV Guide show-biz facade, and nails a spotlight behind the scenes on the maneuvering fights and power struggles confronted at every turn.

by an imperfect, conflicted protagonist, who skillfully navigates all deceiving obstacles to get back on top, Rough Cut is an expose of the cheating, brawling, soul-whoring battles that happen when you when you risk taking a story from first outline to the top

of the Nielsons.



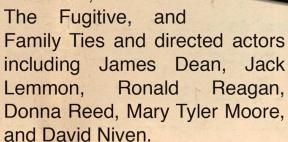
"I drove up the PCH, listening to The Beatles sing Eleanor Rigby on KRLA, and squinting into the low hot orange sun." Buck McLeod

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rough Cut, the series, is based on the critically acclaimed 1976 novel by Andrew McCullough (1924 - 2019).

In the golden days of New York live television, McCullough directed the likes of Orson Welles in King Lear and received the Peabody Award, television's highest honor.

McCullough directed over 200 television shows including Maverick,





Rough Cut is set in Los Angeles, 1971. Neon classic locales such as Musso and Franks, Dan Tana's, El Coyote, Santa Monica Pier. Characters driving Pontiac Firebird, Ford Thunderbird, and Chevelles.

## NOSTALGIA

Period details take the viewer back in time. Our fictional characters live and breathe in the real locale of the TV Industry, Hollywood, Holmby Hills and Malibu.

Rough Cut will strive for a timeless quality, despite its nostalgic era.

## THE PLAYERS

#### **BUCK MCLEOD**

A Former football star who made the transition to acting and successfully starred in the TV Western 'Range Rider' for 4

seasons, Buck still maintains a burly

build, a fierce charisma, and an ease with seduction. He's desperate to hold onto his career, and pushes fate until it hands him a deal with the devil.

In spite of all the high drama he creates and wallows in, Buck maintains an admirable acting talent and a passion for the work.

#### KRYELLAH

A dangerous brute of an actor, with a tendency to put up a fight, get virulently drunk, or show up

stoned, Kryellah's got a bad tation around Magnitude dios, enhanced by the color of his skin per racial attitudes of the 1970s. But in one of the book's best moments, Buck notices the chip onKryellah's shoulder really does come from being the only black man in the cast, and when equal footing is thereby gained, the two men become fast friends.



#### HONEY HOLLY

A star since childhood, Honey Holly has that special combination of absolute charm and diabolical machinetics, so that

cal machination, so that gets her way with a smile, but gets it. Her love for Buck seems her only note of genuinely goodly behavior, but even that too will be sucked into the vacuum of her temperamental, winner-take-all celebrity.



#### **TABITHA**

A beautiful award winning NY stage actress, with a career on the rise, Tabitha meets Buck at a filmmaker party and a 24 hour whirlwind romance blossoms and bonds them.

Tabitha motivates Buck to keep working on a proper-

keep working on a property he optioned and to go after his dreams. She carries a humor and charisma that is an infectious quality that captures Buck's heart.

### THE PLAYERS cont'd.

#### **EDDIE RIORDAN**



Buck's longtime stuntman and best friend, Eddie's a family man soon found to be suffering cancer, but he's too stubborn by far to be stopped from doing dangerous stunts, let alone stopped from hitting

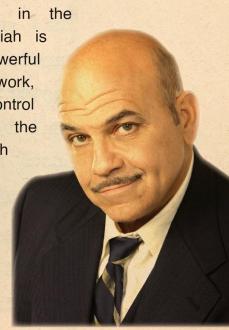
a six pack or three with Buck.

#### TED CASSIDY

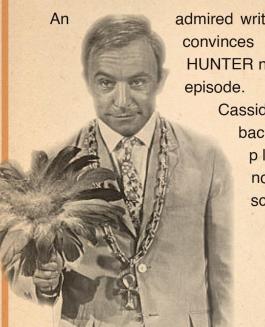
An aging director with worrisome health who is considered just as good as John Ford, and who's professionalism is without peer. Cassidy fearlessly directs Buck and Kryellah with an even hand in HUNTER. His tricks per getting the job done are marvelous and magician-esque, and he proves a tougher customer than all-around. when he initiates the big brawl at the story's epicenter.

#### JOSIAH GREENGAUGE

Always looming in the background, Josiah is the dauntingly powerful head of UBC Network, who exudes control and savvy and the ability to crush anyone he deems unfit, or threaten s o m e o n e 's very existence, if that's what it comes to.



#### MORDACAI GAUNT

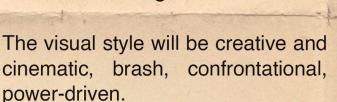


admired writer, who Buck convinces to adapt the HUNTER novel for a pilot episode. Buck and Cassidy respect his background as a playwright, novelist and screenwriter.

## TONE&STYLE

Cinematography will be beautiful and luscious and awash with sun-drenched yellows and browns and ocean blues.

'Rough Cut will mirror the same nostalgia that surrounded "Once Upon A Time in Hollywood."



The pacing will be sure foot and brooding, mixed with fast-paced bar brawl and car chasing action sequences



While 1971-72 are wonderful additions to the show's style and design, they will never overwhelm the deep characters ongoing objectives and heavy subtext and obstacles. themes within each show.



#### THE HONEY HOLLY SHOW

Don't miss America's sweetheart tonight Singing, dancing & laughing her heart out!

Featuring Special Guest, Wayne Newton



SPECIAL 7:00 PM 9



## SEASON

Meet rugged actor and television Western star MIKE 'BUCK' MCLEOD, as he awakes from his latest bender with another bar pickup in his bed. It's the same song that he knows needs changing His soul is calling for relief and the Malibu ocean is where Buck goes to cleanse his sins. Later Buck meets TABITHA, a young NY stage actress with a career on the move. The attraction is instantaneous for both of them. A 24 hour romance takes off, and a pact of absolute and unending dedication for one another. Tabitha has inspired Buck to turn against the tide of his downward stardom and re-engage his dreams and the optioned project he has, the private detective novel HUNTER. Unfortunately Tabitha leaves for Africa the next morning to finish a film.

Various members of Buck's team, first his accountant, his agent, then his lawyer, explain in various approaches that Buck is financially destitute and no network wants to make his show HUNTER. Buck's attempts to borrow money are unsuccessful, until his best friend, a stuntman named EDDIE, over a beer or three, pushes Buck to take all the money in his account.

At another lush Malibu party, Buck meets an old crush of his, the very famous HONEY HOLLY, who stars on the UBC Network's #1 rated "The Honey Holly Show."

The pair flirt just enough for Honey to call Buck's agent, and offer him a guest star on her next episode.

Buck is plunged into the world of Honey's show and between the cornball cowboy sketches, does his level best to signal sizzling flirtation with Honey, which nets him an invitation back to her mansion, and a contemptuous roll in the hay that's both anti- and pro-climactic. In the afterglow, Honey semi-stalks Buck, and when Buck realizes his potential leverage, he determines his love life's course will be by a power play, an outright marriage to Honey Holly. News outlets report the impending nuptials. Buck wastes no time enjoying his newly engaged status by making a bid with UBC execs for his own series. The sanctity of the marriage is thrown into question as Buck cuts backroom deals with execs, and runs into a tearful Tabitha, who knows Buck loves her instead of Honey. But rehearsals for Buck and Honeys live televised wedding are on, and there's no backing out now, though Buck has a thoroughly drunken night of hard drinking and edging on bar brawls, mostly regret for what he's doing, He seeks absolution from his torment in the ocean, diving in naked seeking it to free him from his predicament. When he wakes, a hungover Buck gets a call that his marriage is LIVE on-air in 20 minutes, and Buck's scheduled to appear or else he can kiss his career goodbye.

TV GUIDE

#### INT. BUCK'S AGENTS OFFICE

STANLEY

And, Buck, I want you to know that all this time I've never lost faith in you. Not for an instant.

BUCK

And that's why I'm going to let you lend me fifteen hundred dollars.

STANLEY

Jesus, I can't do that, Buck. You know Nate has a rule against that.

BUCK

I'm sure if you wanted to, Stanley, you could figure out a way.

STANLEY

Would two hundred help?

BUCK

For Christ's sake. How can you be so goddamn insensitive? I haven't worked for a year. You know that! You know I don't have any residuals! You know I'm out of employment insurance. Do you think I'd ask for money unless I was desperate. And what do you offer? A lousy two hundred bucks.

STANLEY

Goddamn you. I'm offering two hundred bucks. Take it or leave it.

Buck places a .38 Slug into the nose corner of his left eye.

BUCK

Seven hundred.

STANLEY

(swallows hard) Sure. Seven hundred.

Stanley writes out a check.



"AND NOW COMING TO YOU FROM HER OWN THEATER IN HOLLYWOOD, CA. YOUR GAL AND MINE, AMERICA'S SWEETHEART.... HONEY HOLLY!."



"Since you saw me on the beach you've wanted one thing.
That's why you fired Rod Light. Put me on the show. Pretended your car couldn't start.
That's why we're here."



# SEASON

Everybody's crying at the wedding in the foreground, but behind the scenes, UBC network head Josiah Greengauge tries to pressure Buck into a prenuptial agreement. Buck still demands his series contract before he'll say 'I DO,' Meanwhile nobody wants to upset the bride and America's Sweetheart on her wedding day.

After back and forth negotiations between the live televised event, with the stakes rising closer to ON<sub>T</sub>AIR, the contracts are made, the marriage goes forward, the kiss happens, and Buck and Holly dance their first blissful dance for 35 camera crews.

Buck assembles his team of writer, director and producers to come aboard, while fending off network notes and demands.

Buck refuses to shoot at the dubious Magnitude Studios, but after a brutal contract negotiation, Buck's cast and crew swarm the grounds of Magnitude after all, and only the appearance of writer Mordecai Gaunt, with a tremendous script for the pilot episode lends an optimistic outlook.

Buck and Director Ted Cassidy are pleased to land two big fishes, a hypertalented young actress to play a drug addict and a giant bruiser of a rogue actor to play the police chief. One weekend to go until the big shoot, and Buck has time for two bouts of downtime, cleansing himself in the ocean and chilling at a

cast-and-crew bonding party thrown by Cassidy. But when Buck flexes his charisma and gets a kiss from that mentioned young actress in a rehearsal, Honey interrupts to let her possessiveness be known in a torrential jealous rage.

The filming of Buck's pilot is an uphill battle. A brawl breaks out between Buck and his team versus the smarmy crew loyal to the studio and network

The day is hard-won, but Buck, Cassidy, Hornblower, and Gaunt all complete a noble television pilot they faught to achieve authentically.

TV GUIDE

BUCK

When do I get the contract?

HAL laughs.

HAL

You already have the best contract in the world - Josiah's word.

BUCK

I want it in writing.

HAL

Just who the hell do you...

GREENGAUGE

Hal... Buck doesn't understand the traditions of the industry. I've made multimillion-dollar deals with Henry Ford the Second on a handshake.

BUCK

I want in black and white.

Josiah studies Buck, asks slowly,

GREENGAUGE

And if you don't get what you want...what then Buck?

BUCK

I take the show straight to Peggy Lafferty.

HAL

You're bluffing. CBS already turned it down.

BUCK

That was before I became America's Sweetheart. Before I could offer them The Honey Holly Show.

GREENGAUGE

You can't deliver her. And my advise is: you better not try.

Buck gives a Cagney smile.

BUCK

I'll tell Paley what you said, Josiah.



### TROUBLE IN PARADISE!

BURT SEEN WITH OTHER WOMAN

HOLLYWOOD'S NO.1 CELEBRITY MAGAZINE

## SCREEN STORIES

PLUS \* MOVIES \* GOSSIP \* MUSIC

SEPTEMBER 1971

70 C



CAN SHELLEY "HACK" I AS CHARLIE'S NEWES ANGEL? HOW JACKIE & CHERYL FEEL ABOUT HER



"TAXI" STAR
TONY DANZA IS
IN LOVE WITH
TWO WOMEN

—AND WON'T
MARRY EITHER!



**FULL PAGE HUNTER LIFT-OUT INSIDE** 



ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE ON BUCK MCLEOD'S SET



"Shooting my scene when I pull up at Cyrano's and corner the pimp at the outdoor table." - Buck McLeod

# SEASON

Ubc

Buck's show is number one in the ratings. He's sent on a publicity tour, where he is once again confronted, by the stinging choice he made between forking his career into the marriage with Honey, and leaving behind the love of Tabitha. Further signs of wear, tear, jealousy, manipulation, and regret begin to show in Buck and Honey's marriage. Buck suspects all is not well with the dispensing of the HUNTER profits.

Honey, or any one of her corporations, is found to be the primary profit siphon. Buck confronts Honey only to realize that while she does make a pretty penny off him, Buck himself has been no better than her in Machiavellian manipulation, for she at least loved him per their marriage, while he was only out for a show deal. Buck re-ups his control of HUNTER, with a fierce determination to smash network racist hiring practices, as well as crews and casts not being given enough pieces of the pie. With a new co-op pay structure, Buck does a mass hiring of minorities and. best of all. Buck's now-justified separation of Holly regains him Tabitha, in his loving arms.

An exec warns Buck that Honey isn't through with him, as she begins to make threats. Rabid Honey' fans raid a location screaming for the heads of Buck and Tabitha.

Things turn sideways when director Ted Cassidy is hospitalized from a drunken,

flailing crew member. Tabitha gets smeared for drugs, as a warrant arrives literally at Buck's door, courtesy of UBC head Josiah Greengauge and a murderous thug. Buck sees this escalating, and sends Tabitha away into hiding, then returns to Honey, at least for the cameras. The charade is no longer palpable, thus Buck comes into contemplation of coldblooded murder.

It's then Buck realizes that with his signing of that pre-nup, he actually has ZERO motive, for he gets none of Honeys money should she die. Full steam ahead with mortal thoughts, Buck buys a yacht and arranges for him and Honeys second honeymoon. But as his plan goes into execution, Buck learns too late of a double-cross, and Buck himself is knocked into the sea, wounded, for a final desperate swim, for the final washing away of his sins, and a final confrontation with a for-real and most genuine shark.

### **HIGHEST RATED** TELEVISION!

THE NEW PRICE IS RIGHT



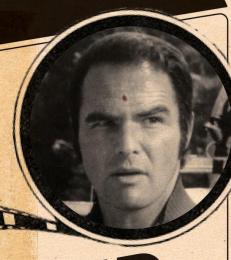
THE NEW PRICE IS RIGHT 6:30 PM

KUTV Channel



Number #1 Show in the

8:30PM



HUNTER

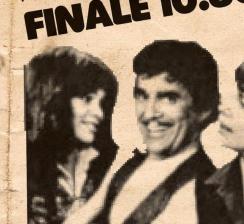
STARRING Ubc BUCK MCLEOD Ubc

HE JENSENS

Your Favorite Neighbors

Final Episode

FINALE 10:30 PM



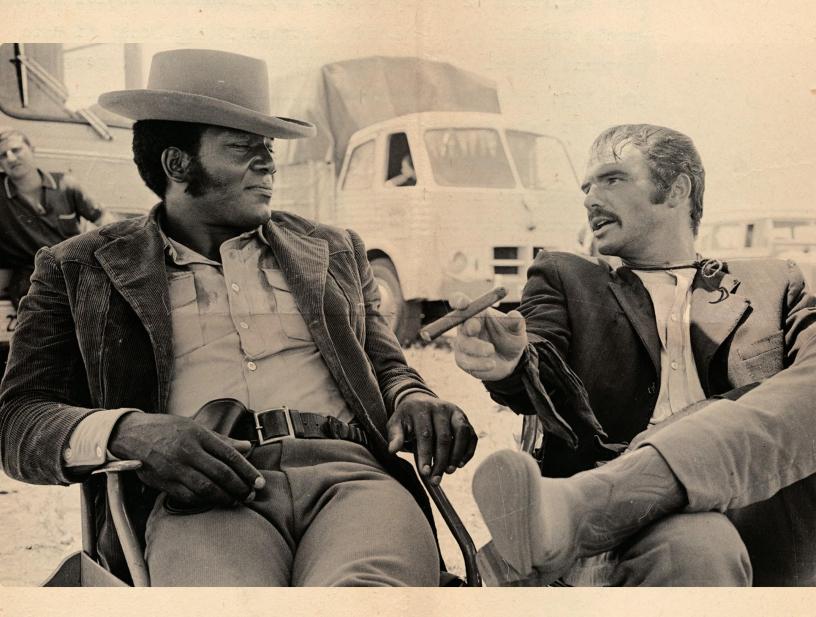
YOUR FAVORITE Ubc SHOWS

THE HONEY HOLLY SHOW

ubc

STRAIGHT AFTER

SPECIAL 9:30 PM 9

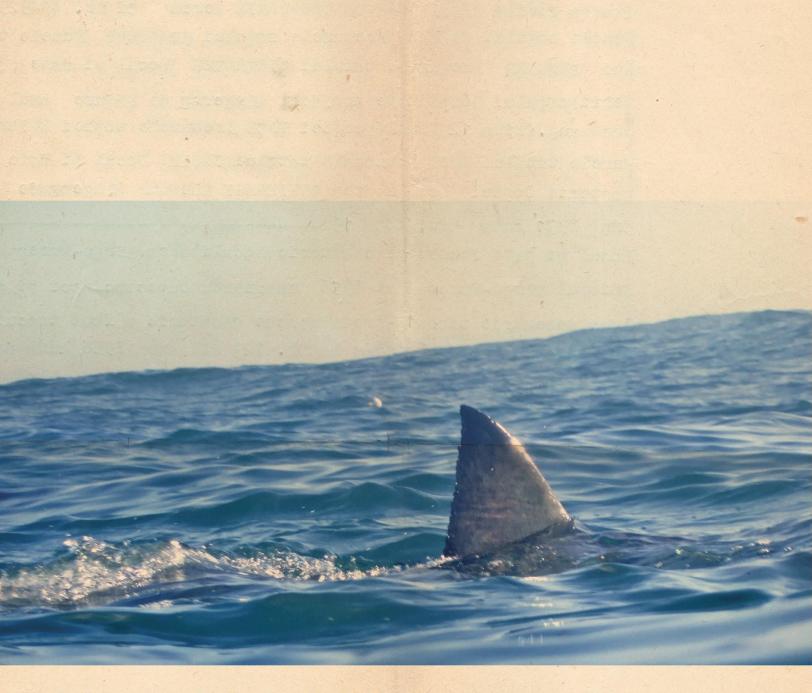


#### BUCK

I thought this show up. Put it together. Sold it. I've got control of casting. Script. Camera. Editing. Everything. It's mine.
And if anyone tries to take it away from me he's dead. Dig?

#### KRY

Daddy, even with all that protection. I'm still going to act your white ass right off that fucking screen.



As I rolled over I saw the grey fin cutting straight for me.
I laughed, turned around, hoping to get a piece of the son of a bitch, swam straight for my old enemy... me.

"ROUGH CUT is a spell-binder, but not for delicate sensibilities.

When honesty demands the naked, even the crude revelation, McCullough meets the demand."

CARROLL O'CONNOR



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