

RETIRED ON DUTY

12 x 30-Minute Comedy Series

Created by Scott Quinn

TAGLINE

The badge is gone. The standards are not.

LOGLINE

After being forced into retirement, an obsessively procedural police lieutenant refuses to stop policing. Armed with municipal codes, laminated advisory notices and unwavering conviction, he transforms his quiet suburban neighbourhood into his new unofficial precinct—whether anyone wants it or not.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Retired On Duty is a 12 x 30-minute character-driven comedy series centred on John McMillian, a retired police lieutenant whose identity has always been defined by the badge.

When mandatory retirement ends his career, John refuses to let decades of discipline, procedure and instinct disappear with it. Instead, he redirects his expertise toward suburban life, treating everyday neighbourhood issues with the seriousness of major criminal investigations.

What begins as an attempt to maintain order quickly transforms into an endless battle between one man's unwavering commitment to the rules and a community simply trying to live their lives.

WHY THIS SERIES?

Retirement doesn't change who John is.

It only removes his authority.

Every episode places John in an ordinary suburban situation where his professional instincts dramatically outweigh the problem in front of him.

A recycling bin.

A barking dog.

A neighbourhood watch meeting.

A garage sale.

John approaches each with the precision of a homicide investigation.

The result is a sitcom built on character rather than gimmick, where the comedy grows from John's complete inability to stop being a police officer.

tone

Dry.

Warm.

Character-driven.

Observational.

Heartfelt.

The humour never comes from mocking John.

It comes from watching an exceptionally competent police officer applying his skills to problems that absolutely do not require them.

SERIES THEMES

- Identity beyond career
 - Finding purpose after retirement
 - Community
 - Rules versus common sense
 - Pride and belonging
 - Friendship
 - Letting go without giving up
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THE WORLD

Set in a peaceful suburban neighbourhood, Retired On Duty transforms ordinary streets into John's new jurisdiction.

Every driveway becomes a potential crime scene.

Every council regulation becomes enforceable.

Every neighbour becomes either a suspect...or a citizen requiring guidance.

The ordinary world is treated with the seriousness of a police procedural.

THE SERIES ENGINE

Every episode follows the same simple but endlessly expandable engine:

John identifies a seemingly minor neighbourhood issue.

His decades of police experience convince him immediate intervention is required.

His attempts to restore order unintentionally create far bigger problems than the original incident.

By episode's end, John has usually solved the situation—but rarely in the way anyone expected.

His neighbours become increasingly frustrated...

...while secretly recognising that John genuinely wants to help.

JOHN McMILLIAN

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Recently retired Police Lieutenant.

Disciplined.

Highly intelligent.

Deeply principled.

Socially oblivious.

John has spent thirty-one years believing procedure solves every problem.

Retirement has removed his authority, but not his instinct to protect people.

He genuinely believes the smallest breakdown in standards eventually leads to larger failures.

His greatest strength...

...is also his greatest flaw.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Maria

John's neighbour and reluctant voice of reason.

She sees the good man beneath the bureaucracy and constantly tries to help him reconnect with ordinary life.

Ted

Maria's husband.

Playful, sarcastic and endlessly entertained by John's complete lack of self-awareness.

Often encourages John's behaviour simply to see what happens next.

Officer Kim

An active police officer familiar with John's legendary commitment to procedure.

She respects his experience while constantly reminding him that he no longer carries a badge.

Mrs. Dalloway

The neighbourhood's sweetest resident.

Her endless patience with John often creates the show's most heartfelt—and funniest—moments.

SEASON ONE

Season One explores John's struggle to redefine his purpose after retirement.

As the neighbourhood gradually accepts his unusual methods, John unknowingly builds a new community around himself.

The season culminates with John discovering that leadership isn't something granted by a badge.

It's earned through trust.

EPISODE POTENTIAL

Neighbourhood Watch

HOA Elections

Halloween

Christmas Decorations

Noise Complaints

Garage Sales

Parking Enforcement

Lost Pets

Council Inspections

Suspicious Deliveries

Block Parties

Street Festivals

Everyday suburban life becomes extraordinary simply because John refuses to see it as ordinary.

VISUAL STYLE

Bright suburban streets.

Clean compositions.

Classic sitcom warmth.

The environment feels safe, familiar and welcoming.

The contrast comes from John's absolute seriousness, creating the feeling of a police procedural unfolding inside an ordinary neighbourhood.

AUDIENCE

Fans of:

Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Monk

The Office

Parks and Recreation

Ted Lasso

Keeping Up Appearances

The Kominsky Method

WHY IT STANDS OUT

Police comedies usually follow officers solving crimes.

Retired On Duty follows a man desperately trying not to stop being one.

The concept is immediately understandable.

The character is instantly memorable.

The story engine is sustainable for multiple seasons.

Most importantly, beneath the comedy is a universally relatable question:

Who are we when the career that defined us comes to an end?

FUTURE SEASONS

As John's influence grows, his neighbours gradually begin relying on him—not because he has authority, but because his experience, integrity and commitment genuinely improve the community.

Each season expands John's world while exploring new relationships, larger community events and increasingly absurd opportunities for him to apply police procedure where absolutely none is required.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Scott Quinn is an Australian screenwriter based in Sweden, developing an international slate of original feature films and television projects. His work spans comedy, drama, horror and thriller, united by distinctive concepts, memorable characters and emotionally grounded storytelling.

CONTACT

Scott Quinn

 scott-quinn1@outlook.com

 +46 76 244 76 19