

THE TRENCHERMAN — PROJECT BRIEF

Format

Feature Film

Genre / Tone

Broad Absurdist Comedy / Mockumentary Sports Satire

Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping meets *Dodgeball*, with the underdog sports absurdity of *Talladega Nights*.

Recognition

Semifinalist — 30th Annual Fade In Awards Comedy Competition

Budget / Buyer Lane

Mid-budget / road comedy with mockumentary elements and large comic set pieces

Searchlight, Amazon MGM, Hulu / 20th, Netflix, Lionsgate lane

Core Hook

A lazy Albuquerque eating savant rises to competitive-eating superstardom, loses himself to corporate branding, then tries to win back the woman he loves by eating a decommissioned airplane.

One-Sentence Pitch

A couch-bound man with a titanium spork and a bottomless stomach becomes the biggest star in competitive eating, but when fame costs him the woman filming his rise, he has to decide whether he wants to keep feeding his ego or finally become full.

Why It's Timely

It satirizes American consumption, laziness, branding, influencer sports culture, corporate sponsorship, and the way even the most absurd human talent can be packaged, monetized, and stripped of meaning.

Main Characters

Jimmy “The Spork” Robinson — A lazy, wounded eating prodigy who mistakes appetite for identity. He starts as a man hiding from life in a garage and becomes a celebrity before realizing fame has only made him emptier.

Jet de la Vega — A film student making a documentary about “the laziest men on Earth.” She turns Jimmy into a legend, then has to decide whether the subject of her movie can also be the man she loves.

Sal Moretti — Jimmy’s old-school competitive-eating manager. Gruff, ridiculous, and weirdly sincere, he treats eating like war, art, and religion.

Logan — Jimmy’s best friend, garage roommate, and professional towel boy. His loyalty gives the story its sweetest deadpan center.

Barnaby Sterling — A slick corporate agent who turns Jimmy from person into product. He does not corrupt Jimmy by force; he simply gives Jimmy permission to sell himself.

Min-Ji “The Mantis” Park — A brilliant Korean competitive eater packaged as Jimmy’s rival, then as his fake power-couple partner. She is another athlete trapped inside the branding machine.

Story Snapshot

1. Jimmy lives in his Albuquerque garage, treating laziness like a spiritual discipline and surviving on rent from Jet.

2. When money runs out, he enters a local Hellfire Pizza Challenge and discovers his useless talent may actually be marketable.
3. Sal trains him and takes him on the competitive-eating circuit, where Jet's documentary helps turn "The Spork" into a viral underdog legend.
4. Corporate agent Barnaby Sterling buys Jimmy's future, pushes out Sal and Logan, packages him with Min-Ji, and turns his hunger into a global brand.
5. After humiliating Jet and losing everything, Jimmy buys a decommissioned Boeing 747 and vows to eat it as the ultimate apology.

Ending / Final Image

Jet arrives with their child, and Jimmy realizes he does not need to eat the impossible object to prove he is whole. He retires from competitive eating, leaves the legend of The Spork behind, and chooses family over appetite.

Theme in One Line

Hunger is not the same thing as emptiness.

Positioning

It's a mock-epic sports comedy about American excess, corporate branding, and a man who can eat almost anything except the emotional void he is actually trying to fill.

Materials Available

One-pager and full screenplay available upon request or through the private script library.

RYAN CLARKE

Screenwriter & Playwright | Albuquerque, NM

Dark Comedy | Satire | Character Drama | Social Thriller

Ryan Clarke is an Albuquerque-based screenwriter and playwright whose work blends dark comedy, social satire, and intimate character drama. Across a slate of 20+ feature scripts, his stories often follow deeply flawed people pushed into impossible situations, finding humor, tension, and humanity in characters who are entirely in over their heads.

His screenwriting recognition includes Grand Prize Winner, 30th Annual Fade In Awards Comedy Competition (*#FightForNoah*); Semifinalist, 30th Annual Fade In Awards Comedy Competition (*The Trencherman*); 2026 Top 10 Finalist, ISA Table Read My Screenplay at Cannes (*A Walking Shadow*); 2026 Quarterfinalist, Finish Line Script Competition (*#FightForNoah*); two-time Semifinalist, ISA Emerging Screenwriters Competition (*Flashbang* and *Ghost of the Highway*); and four additional 2026 Honorable Mentions from Finish Line (*The Finalists*, *How to Be a Human: A Musical with No Songs*, *Ghost of the Highway*, and *Dead Signals*).

As a playwright, Ryan is a three-time winner of FUSION Theatre Company's short works festival, "The SEVEN", in 2024, 2025, and 2026. The stage version of *A Walking Shadow* was also selected in 2026 for The Road Theatre Company's 17th Summer Playwrights Festival.

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