

SERIES BIBLE: “POST LIFE” by David Katz

LOGLINE: The misadventures of a jaded Television Editor and his social misfit friends, who work in the dark recesses of Post Production on a daily live talk show, run by a sadistic executive that views himself as a slaveowner.

SERIES SYNOPSIS:

This show is about a lovable gang of socially awkward misfits who are stuck in a woefully unglamorous career in Post Production, also known as the dungeon of entertainment. ART DANIELS, a talented Television Editor, sidestepped his dreams of working on Television “that mattered” and took a job for money. But, he blinked and five years went by. Now, he blurs boobs and drops F-bombs on a banal tabloid talk show, staffed with burnouts and misfits. PETER HAYES, the sadistic executive in charge, gleefully rules over his subjects with fear allowing dysfunction to thrive. But despite this toxic environment, these unlikely heroes of Post Production, form a family to persevere in this madhouse.

CHARACTER BIOS:

Arthur “Art” Daniels (35) — The Lead Editor. He’s The heart of this lovable gang of misfits. Art is witty and charming and uses those gifts to deflect the fact that he’s a television editor that who used to have dreams other than working on a tabloid TV talk show. He’s cynical and jaded because deep in his heart he is an idealist. He really does care or at least used to. He’s searching for his sense of purpose. He has authority issues and sees himself as a champion of the underdog and rebels from the oppression of working for the man.

Peter “Hayes” (60s)- A sadistic and powerful Executive who views himself as a slaveowner. A humorless, coldhearted, penny-pinching taskmaster. He was once a failed actor and now his greatest joy is to use his elitist status to entrap hard working idealistic minions and watch their hopes and dreams slip away as they become fuel for the Hollywood machine. Everyone affectionately refers to him as “Hates” behind his back.

Margot Auclair - (late 20s) The Co-EP, who’s a former model still adjusting to not being the hottest woman in the room. She never really made it big, but thinks she did. Remembered mostly for an embarrassing sex tape she did. She’s self conscious and two-faced. A REAL BITCH.

Evan Pipes - (20s) - A sickly Junior Producer who’s a metaphysical health nut. He’s always broke, yet spends obscene amounts of money on gourmet health foods. Unfortunately, he believes a demon is after him. He’s emotional and wears his heart on his sleeve. Shy and awkward around women and admires Art’s confidence, considering him a friend. He has a newfound crush on Lucy.

Simon Cohen - (30s) - A talented Graphic Artist, but lacks social skills and would rather look at people through a rear view mirror he has installed on his desk, than look at them face to face. He hates most people and is a true misanthrope. Views himself as a true artist, and has disdain for corporate culture and selling out his art form. Like most artists, he's frustrated and not appreciated. He has a nasty temperament. Distrustful of all authority figures. He embraces conspiracies of all kinds.

Gaby Torres (20s) - An innocent. She's good natured, positive, upbeat, but knows nothing. Part of the "Millennial" generation who are entitled and think they deserve everything, but they haven't earned it. Art reluctantly takes Gaby under his wing frustrated that she has no skills, but ultimately can't allow her to take his job. Gaby reminds Art of his younger, less jaded self. We discover later that Gaby only got this job because Hayes is her father. Despite all of this, Gaby finds this exciting new world of Post Production and is enthusiastic at being bumped up to editor in no time at all.

Lucy Salazar (20s) - She's a cute African American, who hides under layers of baggy clothes and hats pulled over her eyes. She's the Assistant Editor, but is unconcerned with details and technical stuff and generally not into the job. She has better places she's rather be. She's insolent and brainy, believes herself to be too good for her status on the show. She's just got this job until her screenwriting career takes off. She also has a tiny bladder and must pee frequently.

Frank Simmons (50s) - He's an obese simpleton. Timid and afraid of his own shadow because he's incompetent and unable to perform most tasks. A people pleaser, constantly afraid he'll be discovered as a fraud. Thinks he's actually in charge, yet nobody respects him. Takes it upon himself to be some type of morale officer lifting spirits with his cheerful, yet oblivious nature.

THEMES:

1. Inequity in the Modern Workplace. Even if Art and his colleagues are skilled and capable, which is entirely doubtful, the deck is always stacked against our Post Dwellers. They are controlled by fear, allowing themselves to be abused by a caste system like structure which few are able to escape. This show explores the plight of the working class that is a new form of slavery that everyone can identify with.

2. Friendship. The Entertainment industry and particularly Post Production draws a rare breed of person that is dark and twisted. "Misery Loves Company" may be the initial glue for this lovable bunch of characters, but they also will NEED each other to survive this madhouse. Friendships that are formed under harsh conditions, stand the test of time.

Overall, this show explores the dark side of Television, the working class side that everyone can identify with. This show is about finding meaning and purpose in the most trivial of life's pursuits. It's also about long enduring friendships, which make the madhouse of Post a family.

TONE

The focus here is on the unglamorous world of Post Production on a live daily talk show and the strange people that inhabit this world. Nobody dreams of a career in Post Production. It is an eventuality that most come to accept unless they are brave enough to leave. The tone of the show reflects this dark mood. Dark windowless rooms in the basement, in contrast to the well lit beautiful offices of the producers. This is where the real work gets done and nobody gets credit. POST LIFE mixes dark, sarcastic, gallows humor and sophomoric behavior to create a uniquely twisted combination of 30 ROCK and IT CROWD, with the cynicism of IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA, told through the POV of cynical Post Dwellers.

FORMAT

Single camera style sit-com, fast paced and filled with quirky characters. This show is edgy and would be well suited for cable or streaming, but could be right for networks too. Each week will tell their stories and explore universal themes such as survival in a toxic workplace. Much of Season 1 is about a "Winter Is Coming" of sorts about the fear of an impending mass firing. Although the series has an overall story arc, each episode will have it's own episodic story. Sometimes these will focus on one part of the greater arc and other times they will be separate events from the continuing story. Some sample episodes include...

FIRST SEASON OUTLINE

- 1. Pilot.** A jaded Television Editor can't take the soul crushing daily grind of his vacuous talk show, but when he gets an unexpected new job opportunity, reawakening his career ambition, his sadistic boss won't let him go.
- 2. Dead.** Just before executives begin a tour of Post, Frank chokes on a Donut, slumping over seemingly dead. Art props Frank up during the tour and is entertained that nobody seems to know the difference, but Hayes suspects something is awry.
- 3. Bulletproof.** Adrian gets the team hooked on Bulletproof coffee. Everyone LOVES how it makes them feel like they have special powers and are invincible, until Art discovers it's laced with a Super Drug and forces the team to quit cold turkey.
- 4. Stock Footage.** When the show buys a photo for stock footage from Danny, Art wants in on this money making scheme. Gaby is roped into using her expensive camera, until the budget skyrockets. Hayes finds out and puts an end to it, demanding they refund the money, but it's already been spent and the team has to borrow money from Danny's loan shark.

5. Husking it. When the computers are down for maintenance, Lucy gets a colon cleanse and entices Art, Gaby, Simon and Evan to compete with who can take the most fiber husk, but can the building's aging plumbing system handle it?

6. Garbage Giveaway. During the once a year random crew giveaways, productivity is slowed by trading lame garbage prizes. Until, Gaby accidentally gets an expensive prize intended for a producer and forces a confrontation with Hayes.

7. Tweet This. When the show's ratings hit an all time high, Hayes announces that unfortunately the budget is cut and there will be no raises next season. So, Art creates an anonymous Twitter account to criticize the show in hopes of making the ratings tank, but it spirals out of control.

8. List of Life. Hayes is seen crossing out names on a list before a mysterious firing. Out of curiosity, Art goads Gaby, Evan and Simon to form a Mission Impossible team to help him break into Hayes' office and alter the list to see what will happen.

9. Stalker. Lucy has an ex-boyfriend stalker and Simon thinks the intruder is an alien. But when Hayes increases security and announces mental health screenings intent on purging loose cannons, Art must convince Hayes that Simon isn't crazy.

Synopsis for Episode 1: "Pilot"

PILOT SYNOPSIS: ART, a cynical and jaded Talk Show Editor is tired of his banal existence, blurring boobs and editing tabloid celebrity nonsense. When Art gets an unexpected job opportunity at 60 Minutes, reawakening his ambition, his sadistic and powerful boss HAYES won't let him quit until he trains GABY, an over enthusiastic, yet unqualified intern to do his job. Meanwhile, the network resurrects a terrible comedy sketch and they want to FIX IT IN POST with the most clueless and untalented Producers lording over him. As if that weren't enough, it's airing today in the live show! Despite, Art's efforts to train Gaby, she cannot do the most basic tasks and it is clear she has no skill. During the rush to edit this piece, mass hijinks ensue as the Conspiracy Theorist Graphic Artist goes off the reservation, while the Machine Room catches fire during an exorcism ritual! Gaby's youthful exuberance implodes when she accidentally sends a tasteless pic over the air and crumples into a sobbing mess. Art rises to the occasion and leads a misfit Post Team to make the impossible deadline. In doing so, he finds that he doesn't want to leave this lovable gang of socially awkward misfits that has become his family. But, it's too late, Hayes has already given Gaby, Art's job. So, Art pleads for his job back, citing Gaby's incompetence. Hayes reluctantly agrees to let Art stay as long as he will train Gaby properly. We discover that this was Hayes' manipulative plan all along. He knew Art would never leave. Gaby reveals that nepotism is why she is there. Hayes is her father. When Art looks around at the dysfunction around him, he wonders if he made the right choice to stay.

Synopsis for Episode 2: "Dead"

High level Network executives are arriving for a tour of Post. Frank nervously begins stress eating, shoving donuts down his throat. He chokes, slumping over seemingly dead. Art quickly props Frank up to not attract attention during the executive tour and is entertained that nobody seems to know the difference. The team goes about the day

pretending Frank is alive. It's the most fun the team has ever had. Hayes suspects something is awry, but can't put his finger on it. Art, Evan and Gaby organize a huge party in post. They dress up Frank in Hawaiian shirt and put a drink in his hand. Hayes walks in on the party and is embarrassed in front of the executives. But they are impressed by the high morale of the team and Frank's leadership. This makes Hayes even more suspicious and he wants to see Frank alone in his office. Art and the guys have to sneak into Hayes' office and puppeteer a fake conversation a la Cyrano de Bergerac. But, Frank wakes up in the middle of it. He just went into diabetic shock. Frank's return brings morale back to its normal lows. One of the Network execs rolls up with a party bus complete with strippers and drags Frank out to party.

Synopsis for Episode 3: "Bulletproof"

Evan just got his new Bulletproof coffee in the mail and he LOVES it. He shares it with everyone on the team and they guzzle it up, including Hayes and Frank, who don't even like coffee. It makes everyone feel like they have special powers and are invincible. Henry starts walking in traffic. Art becomes a Don Juan. Gaby becomes a genius. Lucy becomes a Ninja. Simon can communicate with aliens...FINALLY! Hayes thinks he is a God. Frank is invisible. They run through all the Bulletproof Coffee, but when Simon hordes the rest of the coffee for himself, convinced it has been blessed with alien magic, panic erupts as the team goes into withdrawal. Art leads a mission to steal the Bulletproof from the storage room, from which Hayes has the only key. They manage to outwit Hayes, but when they obtain the new batch, it has no effect. Evan reveals that Quinn, the homeless guy, is his source. Quinn says he found the batch in a government landfill. It was filled with a super drug, but he thought it was just extra vitamins. And now they are all addicted to it. So they turn on each other, but are forced to quit cold turkey. The entire team is in rehab. Evan is put in isolation therapy, forced to watch repeats of the show as punishment.

