



**A COMEDY SERIES CREATED BY TOMMY SMART**

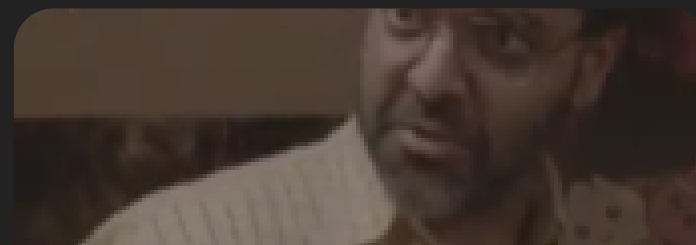
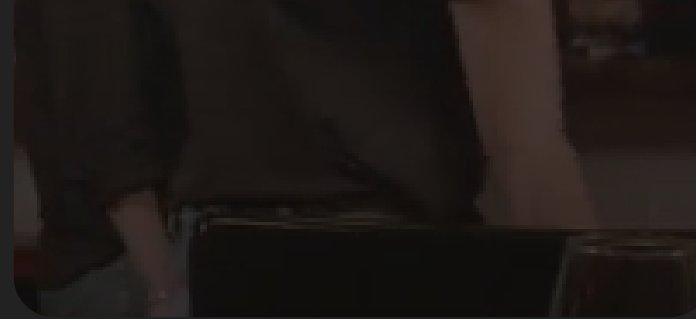


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# LOGLINE

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A struggling New York comedian, TJ Costagin, navigates the cutthroat world of stand-up, balancing awkward gigs, eccentric peers, and a chaotic personal life, while hoping his misadventures might lead to something bigger—if he doesn't self-sabotage first.





# SERIES SYNOPSIS

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In the heart of New York City's comedy scene, "TJ" follows the misadventures of TJ Costagin, a sharp-tongued but deeply insecure stand-up comedian struggling to make his mark. As TJ navigates late-night gigs, questionable gigs, and the unpredictable personalities of the comedy world, he often stumbles into chaos. From an awkward confrontation over a bathroom mishap at a retirement home to chasing romantic prospects on the subway, TJ's journey blends hilarity with moments of vulnerability, revealing the tension between his ambitions and his flaws

# PILOT SYNOPSIS

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TJ, a witty but flawed comic, performs a disastrous gig at a retirement home, clashing with the organizer over toilet seat etiquette and barely escaping with his dignity (and paycheck). Later, he stumbles through awkward interactions with fellow comics at a local club and wrestles with the possibility of rekindling romance with Zoey, a talent scout who once dated him. His midnight set turns into a spectacular flop, leaving him the butt of jokes among peers. Just when he's ready to wallow in defeat, Zoey delivers surprising news: TJ's meltdown might earn him a spot on a new reality television showcasing life's most embarrassing moments. Now, TJ faces an unexpected opportunity—and humiliation—on the road to success.



## EPISODE 1 "PILOT"

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TJ Costagin, a struggling stand-up comedian, navigates the challenging New York comedy scene while juggling personal and professional setbacks. After an awkward gig at a retirement community spirals into chaos over a toilet seat dispute, TJ lands in a comedic argument about social norms. Meanwhile, Zoey, a talent scout, unexpectedly offers him a chance to audition for a high-profile writers' room, sparking hope. As TJ prepares for his big moment, he faces an identity crisis, questioning his worth and the cutthroat dynamics of the comedy world.

# SEASON ONE OUTLINE

## EPISODE 2: "THE COLD APPROACH"

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TJ tries his hand at "barking" to promote comedy shows, encountering mixed success. A chance encounter with Nina, a sexy personal trainer, sets the stage for a budding romance. Despite his clumsy efforts to connect, TJ's outdated social tactics and an awkward interaction with a trans trainer create tension. At a pivotal meeting with NBC/Peacock executives, TJ impresses with his wit and self-deprecating humor, leaving Zoey and the team cautiously optimistic about his potential. However, his impulsiveness threatens to derail his newfound opportunities.

## EPISODE 3: "THE SMOOCH"

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In the aftermath of a professional milestone, TJ grapples with mounting anxiety over his career trajectory. During a meeting at NBC/Peacock, he boldly kisses Zoey in front of her colleagues, triggering unforeseen professional consequences. Struggling with guilt and fallout, TJ seeks advice from his therapist, Madison, whose ambiguous guidance prompts further missteps. Desperate to reclaim his confidence, TJ attends a dubious "benefit show" that epitomizes the absurdity of the comedy circuit, only to face more humiliation.

## EPISODE 4: "THE CHARITY"

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TJ juggles his comedic ambitions and unexpected challenges when he learns Zoey, a former coworker, has been forced into a soul-crushing call center job after a fallout at NBC/Peacock. Determined to help, TJ devises a chaotic plan to get Zoey her job back by demonstrating her dedication to a questionable charity. However, the scheme involves staging a fake rescue of Patel, who pretends to be a "child with bad stem cells," resulting in unintended consequences and comedic disaster. Alongside these antics, TJ confronts his struggles with awkward workplace dynamics and a flamboyant new boss, Chadworth.

# SEASON ONE OUTLINE

## EPISODE 5: "THE KEYS"

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After a wild night out, TJ and Zoey wake up facing the awkward aftermath of their spontaneous hookup. While Zoey brushes it off, TJ panics about how it might affect their friendship and their professional lives. Seeking advice from his quirky friends, TJ mistakenly escalates the situation by impulsively asking Zoey to move in with him—a suggestion she surprisingly agrees to. The episode explores their mismatched personalities as TJ tries to navigate this unexpected turn in their relationship, including attempts to backtrack on his decision.

## EPISODE 6: "THE SHOWCASE"

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TJ's big break approaches as he prepares for a high-stakes comedy showcase that could launch his career. However, things spiral out of control when his lack of discipline and a misguided attempt to impress a potential love interest make him late for the event. Meanwhile, Zoey and Evanah scramble to keep the show on track, recruiting an unprepared Patel as a last-minute replacement. TJ eventually arrives but finds himself grappling with the fallout of his actions. The episode culminates in a humorous but bittersweet reflection on the tension between TJ's ambitions and his personal shortcomings.

# MAIN CHARACTERS

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## TJ COSTAGIN

Portrayed by Dave Caggiano

A stand-up comic with boyish charm and a sardonic wit. TJ is awkward but endearing, constantly juggling his comedic aspirations with the chaotic relationships and situations he finds himself in. He's driven by a need to succeed but often undermines himself through impulsive decisions. Despite his flaws, he has a genuine heart and is loyal to his friends.



## ZOEY CHECHIK

Portrayed by Rachel Kordell

A sharp-tongued, stylish talent scout with a no-nonsense attitude. Zoey has a history with TJ that keeps her oscillating between teasing him and begrudgingly supporting him. She's a realist with a hidden layer of vulnerability, often masking her insecurities with humor and sarcasm.

# MAIN CHARACTERS

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## DAVID CHIN

Portrayed by David Jin

A cheerful and inventive comic who balances TJ's cynicism with his jovial personality. David is always experimenting, whether in comedy or his unconventional dumpling business. He serves as a sounding board for TJ's dilemmas, offering quirky advice that's surprisingly insightful.



## MIGUEL DIEZ

Portrayed by Rob Romero

The owner of Tommy's Comedy Club, Miguel is a grizzled yet supportive figure in the comedy world. He has a dry sense of humor and often shares oddly profound wisdom wrapped in his eccentric personal anecdotes. His interactions with TJ are both humorous and paternal.



## PATEL

Portrayed by Jeremy Munroe

An awkward, well-meaning, and persistent figure within the stand-up comedy scene. While it's unclear whether he might be on the autism spectrum, his interactions are marked by a lack of social nuance, earnest optimism, and relentless ambition to fit into the comedy world. Patel exhibits traits of a "lovable misfit," frequently delivering jokes that fall flat and failing to grasp sarcasm or social cues from his peers.



# tone of series

The tone of "TJ" blends raw, observational humor with awkward, character-driven moments, set against the backdrop of the New York comedy scene. It offers a mix of cringe-worthy social missteps and heartfelt ambition, underlined by a biting yet self-deprecating humor.

# COMPARABLE PROJECTS

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LOUIE (FX)



CURB YOUR ENTHUSIAM (HBO)

# KEY CREATIVES



**LORENZO GRAZIANO**

Director of Photography

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**TOMMY SMART**

Writer & Director



**SAM O'SULLIVAN**

Editor

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# SERIES GOALS

“TJ” aims to deliver an honest and comedic portrayal of the modern stand-up comedy scene, focusing on the resilience and awkward ambition of those chasing their dreams.

The series seeks to:

## **Entertain:**

By weaving sharp, character-driven humor with moments of vulnerability, it engages audiences who appreciate a mix of wit and heart.

## **Platform Placement:**

Position “TJ” for platforms like Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime, HBO, and or Max—streamers that excel in delivering edgy, relatable comedies with a modern perspective. The goal is to tap into their audiences’ appetite for offbeat, character-driven storytelling that balances humor with heart.

## **Represent:**

Highlight the diversity and complexity of the comedy world, showcasing relatable struggles and triumphs that resonate universally.

## **Build Connection:**

Create characters that audiences can root for, even when they stumble, fostering a genuine connection with their journey.

## **Audience Appeal:**

Target fans of shows like “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia” and “Curb Your Enthusiasm”—viewers who thrive on sharp, irreverent comedy. “TJ” avoids heavy-handed political agendas, instead focusing on the humor found in flawed, awkward, and painfully human experiences.

## **Challenge Norms:**

Use humor to explore social dynamics, personal growth, and the often-criinge-worthy pursuit of success in a rapidly changing world.

# CREATOR STATEMENT

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"TJ" is inspired by the raw, often unpolished lives of comedians in New York, drawing from real-life experiences of navigating open mics, odd gigs, and personal relationships that are both absurd and deeply human. Comedy has always been a lens through which we explore vulnerability, ambition, and resilience—qualities that define TJ's journey. The comedy world is rife with contradictions: a quest for authenticity in an industry often dictated by image and popularity. This tension sets the stage for humor and heartbreak, making "TJ" both relatable and compelling.



As someone who has spent countless hours in the trenches of New York's comedy scene, I know this world intimately. I've barked for clubs, bombed on comedy shows with huge crowds, and encountered the kind of characters that could only exist in a city like New York.

These experiences aren't just anecdotes—they're the foundation of "TJ" My goal is to bring this authenticity to life, capturing the absurdity and humanity of this unique subculture with a voice that's both lived-in and fresh.

In an era where audiences crave stories that reflect unvarnished reality, "TJ" delivers a portrait of modern ambition tinged with humor and pathos. The comedy industry is evolving, with more attention on voices that challenge the status quo and bring light to uncomfortable truths. "TJ" reflects this shift, showing the awkward, hilarious, and often uncomfortable journey of trying to succeed in a world that is both accepting and unforgiving. As platforms push for content that balances humor with humanity, there's never been a better time for "TJ."

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