



**RUN**  
**JOHN**  
**RUN**

## INTRODUCTION

A one-hour single camera television series. Set somewhere in rural central California, this modern day dramedy will explore the trials, life and tribulations of the Santa Rosa townspeople.

The show is a microcosm of the challenges we face as a country today. It is about the local people's lives that are affected by the life-changing policies. With edginess and humor, it addresses the personal and political decisions that change the direction of their lives, at least temporarily.

Think of the edgy humor and visual tone of *Fargo* where the town itself is a character. It also has the political intrigue found in *VEEP* and the small town convivial atmosphere we loved in the movie *Bernie*. *Run John Run* will make us fall in love with this towns' eclectic and multi-cultural facets. Heartfelt and cinematic, the emphasis and drive of this show are its people—the characters therein are fully fleshed out—each one with a rich background. The comedy is a natural extension of character—not a sketch.



## STORY

John Walker and his best friend/business partner, Juan Alvarez, are at a city council meeting in their coastal farming community in Central California. John is a small farm/ranch owner and Juan is his ranch manager/business partner. Friends since high school, Juan and John have been through a lot together. They're brothers for life.

John wants a zoning exemption for his ranch. He wants a permit to legally raise pygmy goats for his daughter, but the city council is notoriously tough, not to mention corrupt and useless. Money may grease the wheels, but John thinks his permit is a done deal since his mother-in-law, Eleanor, is a political big wig in town. But that's not how it goes down.

As the council meeting drags on more and more, people speak out about their local problems, including zoning, the veterans, the homeless, the homeless vets, taxes and other issues. John and Juan can't help but notice how disinterested the city council members are.

Rather than being passionate about their city and representing themselves, as they did so well when they were running for office, they are disengaged and not paying much attention to what is happening at the meeting. Someone is laughing at something on her phone; someone else is tossing a pencil up in the air and catching it; and a whole other someone is actually asleep!



When it's John's turn to speak, he's quite nervous—he's not used to public speaking. He doesn't get their attention, stumbles with his words and doesn't have proper eye contact. The good thing is that he is very passionate about his case for the zoning change. After clearing his throat and doing whatever he can to get their interest, John has seen enough!

He snaps to and yells "WAKE UP!"—sending a blast of feedback through the auditorium. He verbally and succinctly eviscerates the council members as Juan laughs and sinks in his chair. The council erupts and tries to shut John down. As he is getting a bit out of control, the local cop starts to move towards John, but John waves him off, "Never mind, I'm done!"

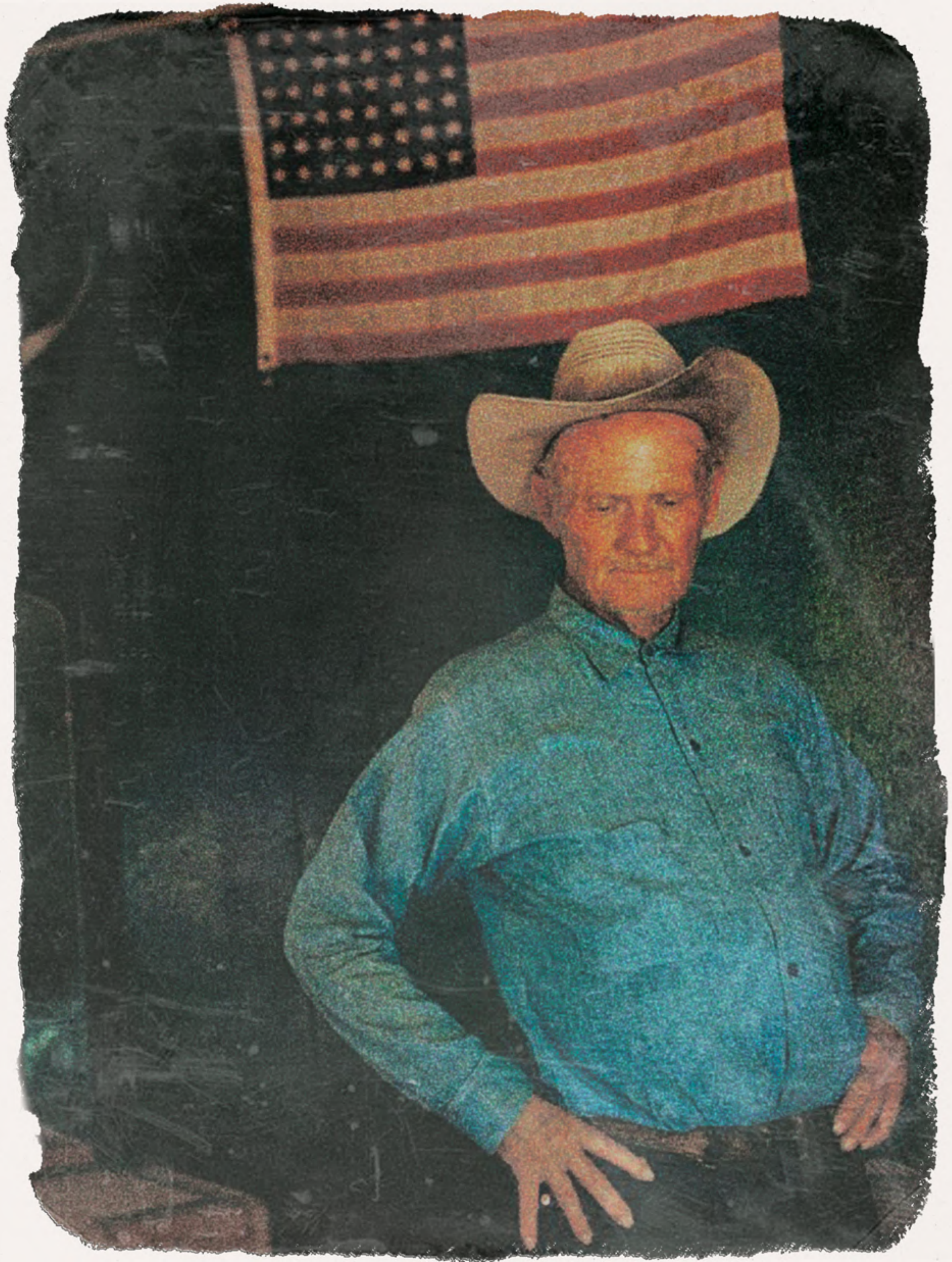
The rapt audience spontaneously bursts into applause when John huffs off. Juan, following close to his heels, says, sardonically, "Bravo. You might have won the battle, but you just lost the war, bro." But damn, it felt really good! And yeah, it might have, but John can probably kiss that zoning permit goodbye. Sitting in the back of the auditorium is Buzzy Janes, a local reporter for the Santa Rosa newspaper, who's covering the meeting. Some of the Santa Rosa residents' cameras have also recorded John's impassioned outburst—a moment in local history that will go viral. A radical, progressive blogger, Rock Marshall, is also there and a pain in the ass.

Buzzy comments in her inimitable fashion that they'll give anyone a press pass these days. Rock labels John the next AOC, misjudging him and putting him on an unwarranted pedestal—a pedestal he'll yank him off of later. John's going to be hailed as a local hero who stood up to an uncaring, inept, bloated city council. But his 15 minutes of fame will turn into much more than that—it's a life changing event and it happened in the blink of an eye and John didn't even notice. If he becomes governor one day, in retrospect, this will be his defining moment. Buzzy tells John and Juan that a city council seat is up for grabs and that she will leave the paper to be his PR representative. She tells him that if he ever wanted to go into politics, now's the time. Local political players think they know John.

Everyone in town, on the right or left, seems to project what they want onto John, jumping to their own conclusions, but missing who he really is. Local political players think they know John. They think he's one of them so they try to get him to run for office.

By the end of the day, the incident brings about a national onslaught of bad press for the city council. As a result, the city counsel is now encouraging John to play nice and to thank them for his freshly granted, new permit and publicly accept their apology so they can look good or at least look responsible in the public eye. The question is: Will he do it?





John is somewhat appeased as it looks like he is going to at least get his permit. Yes, he could take the permit and that would be that, but something is not right. Juan points out that it's bigger than just him, bigger than just some permit. What about all the other people who were there that day—the workers, the business owners, the homeless advocates, the regular citizens? Where are their permits? Who's going to help them? John lets this sink in and the two of them strategize, along with their dedicated and smart wives, Natalie and Cat, at a kitchen table conference. Juan naturally sees things John can't and vice versa. It's a big part of why they're friends—they call each other out on their bullshit. Cat and Natalie do the same, but it feels more like criticism coming from them; whereas it's funny when your friend busts your balls.

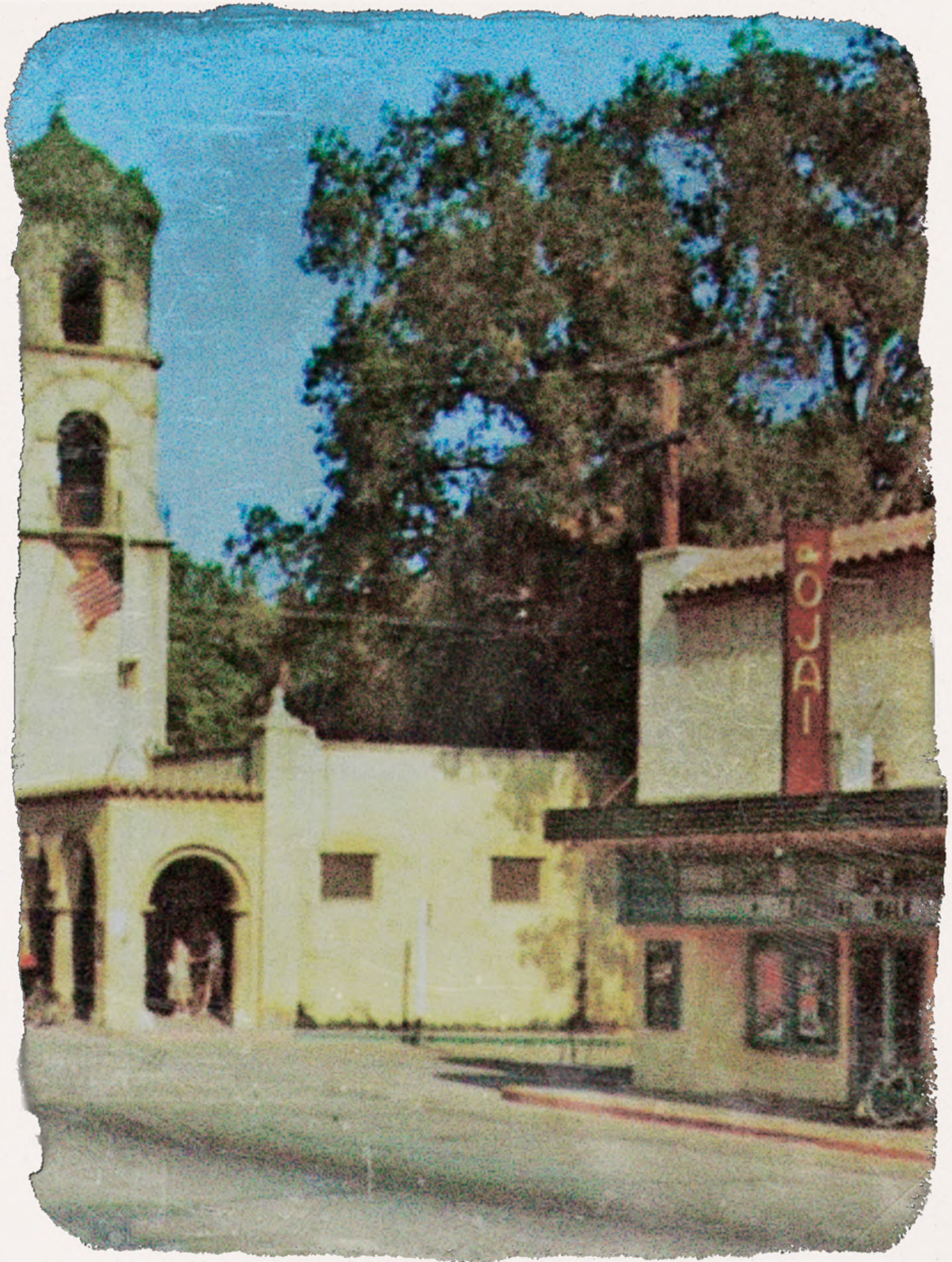
"He just repeated what I said and you laughed." "Yeah, but he's kinda funny and you're sorta mean." John goes to the city council in private and asks them if they'd be willing to help with the other townies' requests. "What a great story that'd be, huh? You'd all look really good."

"Relax, John. There's no cameras here today." Not only do they not agree with John's win-win offer, they threaten him with a media smear campaign and things start to go south real fast. When they reach an impasse, John threatens to call in his mother-in-law, Eleanor, only to find out that Eleanor made the council say no to his permit request in the first place.

John is completely disillusioned and leaves empty-handed with just a shotglass of his dignity intact. He thought he was holding an ace. Although John feels like he failed, Juan sees it differently. In fact, the way he sees it, now is the perfect time to run for that city council seat! "No, no way! Why would I take a seat with the very organization that I deplore?" Juan argues politics is the only way to achieve any real progress or change... maybe for everyone.

John and Natalie confront Eleanor for her part in blocking their permit, but she dismisses them. "Why didn't you come to me first? That was hurtful." But Eleanor soon realizes that maybe it would be to her advantage if John actually did get on the Santa Rosa City Council. Plus, she wouldn't have to be embarrassed about him being her son-in-law anymore! She promises to help him out, but states emphatically that it won't be free. "It's quid pro quo and even though you don't know what that means, you're welcome." She's a force of nature, but more frightening. Natalie reminds John that he's always been searching for purpose and that he always talked about being of service to people. John: "Yeah, but that was just talk, baby." Late at night, John soul searches, as he drives alone through his hometown with fresh eyes. He sees what's beautiful and he sees what's broke. He looks good and hard at both the good and the bad. Now, with a chance to possibly help, it all looks so different.

The stage is set. Will John run for the council job?





**CHARACTERS****JOHN WALKER**

John Walker...is in his 40's. He is a father, a small ranch owner, and husband to Natalie, who's definitely been his charm. Highly flawed but a good man, John has trouble not reacting to people and situations and might even punch you in the face, but he will always regret it afterwards. He is devoted and loyal to his family, especially when it comes to Juan, his oldest and best friend since high school when Juan backed him up in a fight with bullies. They've been inseparable ever since. In fact, Juan and his family live on the ranch too. John might have lost the ranch had it not been for Juan's ability to make good business decisions and hire the right help. John trusts Juan completely and will end up giving him half the ranch, making them actual partners. John has a checkered past that might have mattered in politics, way back in the day, but seems to have lost all meaning in 2020.

One man's flaws are another man's attributes. Politicians don't usually own their mistakes, but that's a narrative John will turn on its head with his absolute honesty and lack of filters. That's a big part of why the people will choose John to represent them. He never cared much for politics, but he cares about justice and honesty, so he reluctantly joins the race when he realizes being mayor might help him right the wrongs that make his heart ache for his hometown. Oh, and one more thing...he swears. A lot. I've heard it's a sign of intelligence.

## JUAN ALVAREZ



Juan Alvarez...is in his 40's and is bright, stoic and observant. Nothing was handed to him. When he was a kid, if he needed shoes, he had to work for them. Juan knows the hard side of the world, and yet his way is not bitter but pragmatic. He never judges John for his ignorance of that side of life and will be the power behind John's throne. Juan is John's best counsel.

When he wrangles John into running for office, he makes sure John still thinks it's his own idea. While John is reactive, Juan plays the long game and he uses strategy—he is very analytical. He has a gift for extrapolating to think/be ten steps ahead of the crowd. If not for Juan, the ranch would have gone belly up long ago. Juan is like a brother to John, and John has always treated him as such. Juan came to this country under difficult conditions, but he's never felt like an outsider with John. His difficult past made him tougher than you'd suspect from his generally happy demeanor, but he knows what he knows. John's his ground wire.

They have a mutual understanding. They're absolutely partners. They serve to complement and balance each other. Juan's married to Cat who is kind and savvy. She's politically intuitive and will be a huge asset to the team. Juan is man enough to make use of her gifts, but not to give her credit. C'mon he's a man. Together, they engineer a campaign that will catapult John into American politics. Juan and Cat have children who are dreamers. Everyone wants better for their children than they had for themselves and this will be one of the driving stories for their family and the series.

## NATALIE WALKER



Natalie Walker...is John's tough, tatted, 30-something wife. She is a bit younger than John and is the mother of their two little girls. Natalie has absolutely no tolerance for bullshit. She is occasionally sweet, but hates small talk and denial, since that's the house she grew up in—Eleanor's house.

She's definitely not afraid to speak the truth, but she speaks so diplomatically that you sometimes have to wonder... was I just insulted? She is very loyal to John, but calls him and Juan out when they need it.

"Do you want me to tell you the truth or do you want me to lie and make you feel better?" Natalie has the math and mind to keep track of the ranch's books and take on fundraising for the eventual mayoral campaign. She's sober.

## CATRINA ALVAREZ



Catrina Alvarez...is married to Juan. She is 40-something and is also a mom, a part-time public radio host and a poly-sci major originally from So Cal. Juan and Cat met in college but hooked up after they'd already both married the wrong people. Cat is strategic and knows to watch but not give away her position.

"Never let anyone outside the family know what you're thinking!"

She's intuitive like Juan, but without the male ego to occasionally fuck things up and burn down the house. Cat is also the power behind the power behind the throne and Juan always takes credit for her ideas, retelling John, unashamedly. And like a true Power, Cat's not bothered by it.

"Go ahead, Juan. The ends justify the means. And you almost thought of it, sweetie."

## ELEANOR BRODERICK



Eleanor Broderick...is Natalie's mother and in her 60's. She is a wealthy, a big drinker and a little slutty while at the same time an elitist and a deeply judgmental priss. Eleanor's part of the 1%, but is still a crass, low rent Karen/Becky. She sorta hates John but that didn't stop her from getting sloppy and making a drunken pass at him one night. But she'll magnanimously let bygones be bygones IF John can help her with his new political power. John's never been good enough for Natalie, but then Natalie's too good to have Eleanor as a mother, yet here we are. Eleanor is full of vices while simultaneously projecting upper class airs and moral pronouncements.

Eleanor doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit", so she'll never stop drinking. She uses material goods to fill the void of her shallowness, though they never do. And finally, she's always shopping for new plastic surgery because, for her, looking good trumps feeling good.

Eleanor's on Insta and Twitter as a vacuous, status-driven influencer. She always refers to her daughter Natalie as her "sister", if anyone asks. Eleanor's out of touch and almost lost in her own life, not seeing the value in her own family. But in the end, she does know a thing or two and will prove to be an asset to the team.

## BUZZY JANES



Buzzy Janes...is a pretty, 50's, granola chick. She is a local reporter and tree hugging libertarian. Buzzy is a hot mess who still dresses like a substitute art teacher at Woodstock. Yes, she has armpit hair and she's not afraid to show it. She's covered city hall and politics for years, BUT...

Buzzy knows propaganda and how to rile up voters. She'll be John's press secretary and, like Eleanor, a part of the solution AND the problem—all at the same time. Buzzy, like all media, is extremely self-serving. She knows where all the bodies are buried...if she could only remember. Buzzy loves the weed. She's Tommy Chong as a woman, albeit hairier. "Buzzy" isn't just a nickname, it's a way of life, dude. Buzzy is also a closet pot farmer which has made her secretly and illegally very wealthy.

## MAYOR DUTCH BOWRON



Mayor Dutch Bowron...is in his 60's and is a suit, a haircut and a compromise. Whatever you want to call him, the mayor is a political animal that'll be hard to kill. John wonders when exactly Dutch lost his heart and soul. Dutch sees John for what he is: a populist...therefore a threat. Since Dutch and Eleanor are close, they backchannel and scheme his run for mayor—sort of like picking your opponent.

But will the election go the way they want? Politics (and John's mother-in-law) are a bitch. Dutch initially hates John because he reminds him of his son—an ingrate liberal who loves to fight with him. Dutch's (third) wife, Joan, sorta likes John... complicating the entire issue. Plus Joan and John are the same age which somehow positions them even closer. Mayor Bowron has a son, TRIPP, who's a progressive and opposes him at every turn.

He also has a conservative daughter, Liz Bowron, whom he's very proud. (Think Megan McCain) In fact, she's the son he never had. She has appointed herself the head of his team, and plans on replacing him when the time is right. \*\*\*(This could be a primary race, progressive versus old guard Dem or the actual election between two different parties, or Independent, not specified.)

## **MRS. JOAN BOWRON**



Is in her 40s and is a lovely woman. Yes, she is considerably younger than the Mayor, also a 3rd wife, but believe it or not, she married for love. Dutch's daughter hates her, but she's his humanity and a big part of Mayor Bowron's change of heart towards John. When the Mayor dies, Joan will step up and publicly endorse John as mayor, splitting her own family into two.



## ABUELITA



Juan's grandma has seen it all. She knows it all. She's always right and very intuitive.

John: "Your grandma's mean." Juan: "My Grandma? I thought she was your grandma?!"

Abuelita always takes off her sandal to beat them. She's Red Forman in a falda. When her backstory is revealed, we'll see all that she's sacrificed and been through, and how hard it's been for Abuelita. You'll get her wisdom and her methods. Abuelita also tells John he's going to win and later on insists that he not get on that plane.

Abuelita also has a best friend, Mercedes, who's EXACTLY like her and even though they're best friends, they talk shit about each other to their family and call each other Bruja. BUT: they will cut YOUR throat if you criticize the other. PLUS: Gerry, the cop (Geraldo) is Mercedes' grandson which is a horrible stain on her family. Juan's family has fights over who Abuelita gets to live with, but Abuelita likes Juan the best and engineers things to work out for her the way she wants them to. She's cagey like that. Abuelita will meet Harold at some point. He's a teenager who works at Abuelita's and Mercedes' local restaurant. Teenage Harold falls in love with the 70-something Abuelita. She finds it absurd but secretly enjoys the attention.

Harold is a bit strange, but he really does love her. They do bizarre things together like attend open houses, sneak into movies and follow the police scanner. They're both just a bit lonely. Juan wants to kick his weirdo ass but Abuelita won't hear of it. "He's an amazing young man with excellent taste." Somehow, this thing works on whatever level it's on.

## MIKE WALKER



Mike Walker...is John's older, more successful (at least on paper) brother who's actually mortgaged to the hilt. He's a country club, opinionated, developer guy who begs John and Juan not to reveal that their family has any Mexican blood. Juan asks why and Mike defends himself with: "Okay, if you must know, my wife, Mandy, is racist, okay!? There, I said it. Plus it might hurt me at the bank...and at the country club...and in life." Juan: "Riiight. Mandy's a racist?" What Juan sees is that Mike has always been the guy who said "Racism doesn't exist," (and for him it didn't) but now... well, we all know how that works. Nothing in the world matters to some people until it smacks them personally right in the face. The turn comes when Mike realizes there are people who want him to build condos for them BECAUSE he's Mexican.

Some wealthy Mexican investors assume he'll do right by them and give him their business. And the gringos do so as well, not out of a sense of simpatico, fairness or equality, but because it makes them look good. Optics, cabron! This will cause Mike to go turbo-Mexican, hanging a huge painting of Pancho Villa in his living room. Mike will also try to develop and build condos on a Native American burial ground and John will torpedo that project. Juan: "I never knew you cared about Indigenous rights, John." John: "Yeah! Totally down with it. Plus my brother Mike's a dick, so... Win/win." Mike, of course, can't see why it might be wrong to build there. "They're INDIAN burial grounds, you guys! They're not Mexicans. Oh, are you afraid of like a "poltergeist thing" happening here? Cause that's just stupid." An unintended side effect of Mike's Hispanic heritage? Mandy is totally turned on by it and they start role playing, going at it constantly after a very long dry spell. Mandy: "Mexican men ARE better lovers..." Mike: "Right!? I told you. My inner jaguar has awakened." Spice, am I right?





## JOHN & DUTCH'S SEASON LONG ARC



Mayor Dutch Bowron is an old-school politician who started out idealistic and optimistic, but has become cynical and jaded. Over the years, he's somehow justified normalizing the dark parts of politics as just a little business as usual. "You can't fight the ocean. You will always drown, son." Dutch starts out glad handing and patronizing John, ("Look at you! No more training wheels, big boy!") but soon realizes he's a danger and gets perturbed, then vicious and eventually becomes sick of the whole political game. Even worse, he grows to actually like John. "Maybe I'm getting too old for this." In order to win, Dutch will have to do something he might not be able to live with and a conscience is not a plus in politics. Destroying John feels distasteful and amazingly the two of them slowly start to become friends during the campaign process. In the end: Richie Valen's "Donna" plays as Dutch offers John a ride on his private plane to the last televised debate the two men will have weeks before the election. In fact all throughout this episode we'll play songs from people who died in plane crashes and Fire & Rain, James Taylor, John Denver, American Pie, etc. (When people watch it a 2nd time they'll get it).

Dutch ends up being the only one who gets John and vice versa. But heavy is the crown... During their last conversation, Dutch wonders if it isn't time for the old man to step aside and let someone with vision take over. "You're a good man, John." (They both actually want the same thing for their people they just go about it differently) Dutch is leading in the polls and John probably won't win but still... John and Juan miss the free private plane ride and tragically, it crashes. John cries as he speaks about Dutch and Dutch's widow, Joan, surprisingly endorses John for mayor. She knew how Dutch actually felt. But another, much worse opponent is waiting in the wings—Dutch's angry "liberal" son (who John rebuffed when he offered him dirt on Dutch) and his hard-core alt right daughter, Liz Bowron, who'll run in her father's place.

## RUN, JOHN, RUUUN

When the mayor steps in and pisses John off with a very public smear and questions his "everyman" status, it changes the equation dramatically. Buzzy Janes convinces JUAN AND JOHN to let her be their press secretary.

John needs someone to fight for him in the media. Though Buzzy's brilliant, she's also a total whack job. She does occasionally make sense and knows how to read the tea leaves of public opinion. Buzzy implores John not to trust Eleanor. As the campaign progresses, no matter what comes out about John, people still rally around him. Divorce, DUI's, unpaid child support, bad loans, court cases, fist fights...it doesn't matter. "He's just like us!" Truthfully John is very likable and plain-spoken. Rather than deny or make excuses, John takes the hits and the responsibility for his actions.

The people have chosen their candidate. When the mayor takes the city council's side over John's (since he refused their deal) Juan decides maybe John should go after the mayor's job instead. "It's not personal, it's just business." Again, with the Godfather quotes? John's journey will be clumsy. He may be flawed, but at least he's honest. Our hero is instinctual but unpracticed. Like the Dalai Lama, he shows his humanness upfront and you can't help but be inspired and place hope in him. This unlikely team has been assembled. Now they'll all pull together to either catapult this man of the people into the mayor's office or destroy his life so he's labeled a loser forever, like that Clinton lady.



## JUAN, TWO, THREE, FOUR

Juan decides John has to pretend to be Hispanic to get enough votes to win. Cat and Juan have worked it out mathematically in counting all the county's districts and it's key to winning. John is totally against the idea. It's like pretending to be Native American to get into college and he just won't do it. "It'll be a scandal! I'll be killed, like that Native lawyer lady, Pocahauntus" They go back and forth, until Juan threatens to spit in a cup and send it away in John's name to an ancestry service.

"It'll be just like Obama's birth certificate. "No one will believe you if I have proof-in-a-cup and if you deny that you're Mexican, you'll look racist. It's win/win for me, John!" Natalie thinks John may be hispanic anyway. He's never done the "23&Me" thing because... "I might have some bastards out there, baby.

I was a real player." Juan thinks that's hysterical, but John's brother, Mike, a local real estate developer (and the complete opposite of John) tells him to stop looking for his nationality cause "We're goddamn Americans, okay?" But Natalie secretly sends away a DNA test and it turns out John IS Hispanic. Wooo-hooo! But now brother Mike begs John not to say anything. He's super white-bread—a country club member and big deal developer with lots of uptight, fancy friends.

"Help a brother out, Brother." The answer is an emphatic HELL NO! Overnight Juan changes all the campaign copy and switches out all the political yard signs to read "Vote For Juan." Everyone's a bit confused about the name change. "I thought he was Juan?" "He is. But I'm Juan, too." It inadvertently becomes a big media story. "See? Win, win, brother."





## OTHER CHARACTERS

### MOM & DAD

John always visits his dad, Jack, in the nursing home. He has dementia. His dad has some amazing, rare days of cognizance but most of his them are filled with confusion. John's father was his North Star and he could really use him right about now but that's how it goes. His dad's a veteran and John always went to him for advice, but he can't anymore. John's dad also mistakenly thinks he's married to another woman living in the nursing home with him. Her name is Dottie and she never speaks. Jack's actual wife (and John's mother) Laura walks about the grounds with both Jack and his new "wife" Dottie who's convinced Jack's her husband. The three of them walk, hold hands and visit, as though it's completely normal because it kind of has to be. It's sweet and tragic, but John cannot reconcile it. Laura will talk him through it and if Laura's okay with it, John has to be too. Another truth: John's mom has always been solid counsel to him. "Where do you think your father got all that good advice, John?"

### ELEANOR, MILF

John tells Juan that a drunken Eleanor french-kissed him at a party once and his guilt surfaces now that she's so involved in their campaign. But a secret doesn't last long in this circle and soon everyone knows. In the end, we find out that Eleanor doesn't even remember, and she doubts it even happened because John's "nasty". Natalie already knows her mom's a ho and loves to hook up with trucker types and finally: Juan slept with Eleanor himself before he married Cat. John's hurt that Juan never told him. But Juan doesn't kiss and tell so man up, bro.

### MAYOR DADDY

Amazingly, the "23&Me" test does turn up a kid John never knew about. But she's in foster care and her mother's no longer around. After some soul searching, Natalie and John take her into their home. Eleanor turns the entire story around when the press tries to use it against John. "Teflon John" is now on a collision course with Mayor Bowron and he's wondering if he needs to take off the gloves? Bowron is pretty vicious. But when you mess with John, you get a big dose of Juan and Juan never keeps the gloves on when it comes to his friend. In Juan's heart, the ends will justify the means since Bowron's never helped the community anyway. How much worse could John do? Ohhhh.

## ELEANOR INTERRUPTED



Eleanor goes to rehab (but she tells everyone it's a "spa") after a particularly embarrassing display at a campaign event. She also sends out a "private" press release to all media when someone finds out so her wealthy friends can rally around her. "It's a disease! How dare you judge." Of course she does this every now and then to just lose weight (or get rid of the whiskey bloat) and to get a nice tan. When Natalie, Juan and Cat have a scandal, it goes off the rails and Buzzy is kind of useless in this particular crunch. Plus she's high...like, a lot. Buzzy can relate: "I have PTSD from the 80's."

"The whole decade. It was awful, man." Eleanor comes back refreshed and everyone realizes while she was gone that she actually does serve a purpose in the campaign—if only for her contacts and absolute viciousness.

THE JOHN WHISPERER

John and Juan are on TV. John's gotten national coverage after going viral, but during the interview, one of the ranch dogs acts up and tries to bite. Cesar Milan emails them, offering to help and also to put them on his show. They take him up on it, not realizing Cesar trains people, not dogs. But as John bitches about what an asshole Dutch is, Cesar herds John towards the conclusion that he just needs to figure Dutch out. He's been taking the wrong approach which Juan thinks is bullshit. This plants the seed that grows into an eventual understanding between Dutch and John. Abuelita loves Cesar and tells Juan to pay attention. After Cesar leaves town, the ranch dog bites Juan again. Juan calls Cesar that his training didn't work and the dog's still an asshole. Cesar: "Is he though? Really." But that damn dog does everything Abuelita tells it to.

ROCK MILLER

Rock Miller is a millennial progressive, a woke, strident, holier-than-thou guy who writes for a small internet site and thinks he's Julian Assange. He's ultimately (inadvertently) a tool of the mayor and the local right wing. At first he loves John, but then becomes disillusioned, then petulant and angry. Buzzy thinks he has "daddy (or mommy) issues" and needs to grow up. Maybe... get a job? She can't believe who gets a press pass these days. He comes from a wealthy family and that's actually part of his private shame. Unfortunately his vitriolic blog is read by a small group of posers and Mau-Mau-chic-style radicals. It's Cosplay, in truth, not the genuine article. But a mentally unstable reader, Horst, a lonely, Q-Anon tinfoil hat kid, takes Rock's incendiary garbage, conspiracy rants and biased opinion/editorializing much too seriously with tragic results. Don't yell "fire" in a theater.

HORST (MAN CALLED HORST)

Horst, 19, lives with his Aunt Helen, 60's (who's also a part time clown at children's parties and it's pretty disturbing) and Horst has been deemed unworthy of owning firearms by California. He's still mad that the cops took his weapons and wishes he could get the key to Aunt Helen's gun safe which is on a silver chain around her neck. He pleads "just to look at them" but Aunt Helen knows better. He has powerful delusions and serious issues, but it's not been that big of a problem. Not yet, anyway. Horst is an Incel (involuntarily celibate) who's lived with his Aunt Helen ever since his mom and dad realized they didn't want to or just couldn't really handle him anymore. Helen, however, has experience with caretaking and problem kids and is a single woman. She is extremely patient, kind and truly committed to raising Horst herself. He lives his life online, with multiple accounts and compulsive usage. Obsessed with the election, he starts to have absurd fevered dreams that John becomes first mayor, then governor, and finally the president. He has delusions straight out of "The Dead-Zone" and convinces himself that John's truly bad and has to be stopped. He gets worse and worse until even Helen can't handle him anymore. The phone at their house rings and rings... Horst's mom and dad are concerned. They drop by and find Helen is dead and the key is gone from around her neck. Horst surprises them and shoots them both. He's going to assassinate John, like Hinkley or Chapman. He'll be a hero.

## **JUAN & JOHN'S HOMETOWN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

This is a group of friends that Juan and John have always hung out with. Each one has a part to play and fits into the bigger narrative of John/Juan and the election as side stories along the journey.



#### GUILLERMO, THE VETERAN

Guillermo is a veteran of Afghanistan who can be relied upon if you need a ride, cash or to hide a body. That's when you'd call him up. He's a been there, seen that, done that kind of guy. Guillermo thinks he's a citizen since he served his country but, tough as he is, one night ICE jumps him, black bags him and dumps him down in Mexico, on a tip from the mayor's camp. It was supposed to be Juan, but ICE doesn't care that they got the wrong guy. Kidnapping is no worries for a guy like Guillermo, but his journey back home will stretch out over part of the season. Another storyline will follow a wealthy family that Juan and John meet with to get financial backing. This "old money" family stays on the fence until their granddaughter is mysteriously raped/killed. Juan introduces them to Guillermo. He finds out, through back channels, that she was killed by a highway patrolman. The family seeks Juan's help and he introduces them to Guillermo who takes care of it. They're grateful and John's campaign gets the backing it needs.

#### CHUCK, THE QUARTERBACK

Chuck is that jock from John and Juan's high school days. He was really popular because he was actually a nice guy. But Chuck's glory days are behind him and now he's divorced, drinking too much and bummed out about the way his life's going. Juan and John bring Chuck into their campaign to do odd jobs if, for no other reason, to keep him busy. Chuck's actually competent and motivated. He's always been a player and when a new, beautiful bartender, Elektra, shows up at their favorite bar, Chuck makes a full-court press on her. Good-looking as he is, she ignores him and says he's barking up the wrong tree. They slowly have a relationship develop and build over the course of the season till it all comes down to one night, and before anything sexual happens, Elektra tells Chuck she used to be a man. There is a moment but then... Chuck: "Well, damn... too late. I'm in love with you, Elektra." Chuck refuses to keep it a secret and actually brags about Elektra to the gang. And NO one says anything because Chuck was on such a downward spiral and Elektra is a force for good in his life plus they love their friend. They're all mostly cool and they just want Chuck to be happy. But was she really born a man? Or is this a ploy for Chuck to prove his love? Ultimately it's not important, a mystery is fun and love is love.

**GERRY THE COP**

"Gerry (Geraldo) The Cop" is a local, sorta spit & polish, mirrored sunglasses, nasty kinda cop who went to high school with John and Juan, but was never invited to the cool parties... so now he's making everyone in town pay for it. Juan notices how John wishes he were Mexican and Gerry wishes he weren't. He tells Gerry "Hey, take that DNA test! Maybe you're not even Mexican? Cause you sure as shit act like a gringo prick, bro." Gerry will (accidentally) save Juan and John's life and then get brought onto the campaign as pseudo Secret Service. There will be more play acting, or cosplay, which is kind of funny right up until the assassination attempt. Gerry just keeps saving their lives! Definitely a low level antagonist/bro who will eventually enter the inner circle. Even though he's still Gerry, the guys will learn to tolerate him. "Getting along with people you disagree with is how a community works, bro."

**HAROLD**

Harold is a teenager working at a restaurant. He's kind of a weird kid in that he's into off beat things and a bit of a throwback and an outsider—which isn't that different with some Generation Z kids. Many lack social skills because of internet, video games, etc. But for whatever reason, be it chemistry, science, emotion, etc., he falls for Abuelita. Yes, It's very Harold & Maude.



## SEASON ARCS & EPISODE IDEAS

In the upcoming season, John will ascend the ladder to become mayor.

As mayor he'll have to face developers, fracking companies, dreamers, fast food chains, immigrant sanctuaries, political power brokers, campaign financing and health care clinics.







Created by

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