

A NEW DRAMA SERIES FROM GRAY OAK PRODUCTIONS



THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF
CAMP ABERCORN



COMPASS GUIDES *of* AMERICA

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Disclaimer Notice

This business plan is just that—a plan. Things change, problems arise and there are issues that we just cannot foresee. Because of that, this business plan is our roadmap. We will do our best to stay as close to our plan as possible, but we can't promise perfection. This is why we have assembled a team that will get us as close to perfection as we believe possible. When we wrote this business plan, we kept all of the above in mind. We will hope for the best, develop contingencies and produce the best series possible.

Nothing in this business plan is intended as an expressed or implied covenant.



Camp is a place where boys learn to be men. Where grown men act like boys. Where boys from all backgrounds and walks of life are forced together. Where mistakes are encouraged. Where you learn from your mistakes. Where you learn to accept others. Where you learn to accept yourself.



INTRODUCTION

BY SERIES CREATOR, JEFFREY SIMON

There's a question that I get asked over and over. As an openly gay man, why do you care about the Boy Scouts of America, when they clearly want nothing to do with you?

Here's what I know. It is clear to me that my journey into filmmaking was fostered by my experiences and training in the Boy Scouts. In Scouting I learned how to be an adventurer, take risks, be a leader and a supportive team member, value integrity, display values that support everyone's well-being, and stand up against injustice. The leadership training I received gave me the courage, skills, and principles to take on a career in the arts and now compels me to make *Camp Abercorn*, the series laid out in this book.

My journey as an artist has taken me on many treks and adventures. After studying production design at Savannah College of Art and Design, I journeyed to LA to begin my career in filmmaking. I spent three years working with an Emmy Award winning Production Designer. I worked on a wide variety of independent films highlighted by serving as Art Director for the successful Sundance Festival film *Filly Brown* which made it to national distribution. My work with Warner Brothers took me to London to work with one of the best Art Departments in the business on the film *Edge of Tomorrow*, starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt.



JEFFREY AT NOAC, 2003

Spending a year in London really opened up my eyes. I was able to reflect on growing up in America and in the Boy Scouts from an international perspective. I saw the fight that was happening over gay youth. (England, the birthplace of Scouting, is fully inclusive.) I could see the America that I hold so dear crumbling in the eyes of the world. I am in awe of what Scouts for Equality and their allies here in the US have done and are still doing to bring change to the BSA. Boycotts and activism can go far to change policy, but no amount of lecturing can change people. What can change people are stories. What can change hearts and minds are stories.

Camp Abercorn is a web series (like *House of Cards* is a web series) that focuses on an imperfect camp staff of the Compass Guides of America—our imaginary organization. It's not a campy happy-go-lucky show, but an authentic drama about the real situations young men face while away from home for an entire summer.

One of the most rewarding parts of my three summers working on camp staff was being able to give back to the next generation of scouts, and that's what I hope to do.

Through *Camp Abercorn*, I hope to inspire a new generation to take interest in scouting, remind veteran scouts and scouters how special camp is, and prove how the Boy Scouts can remain relevant in a modern America.

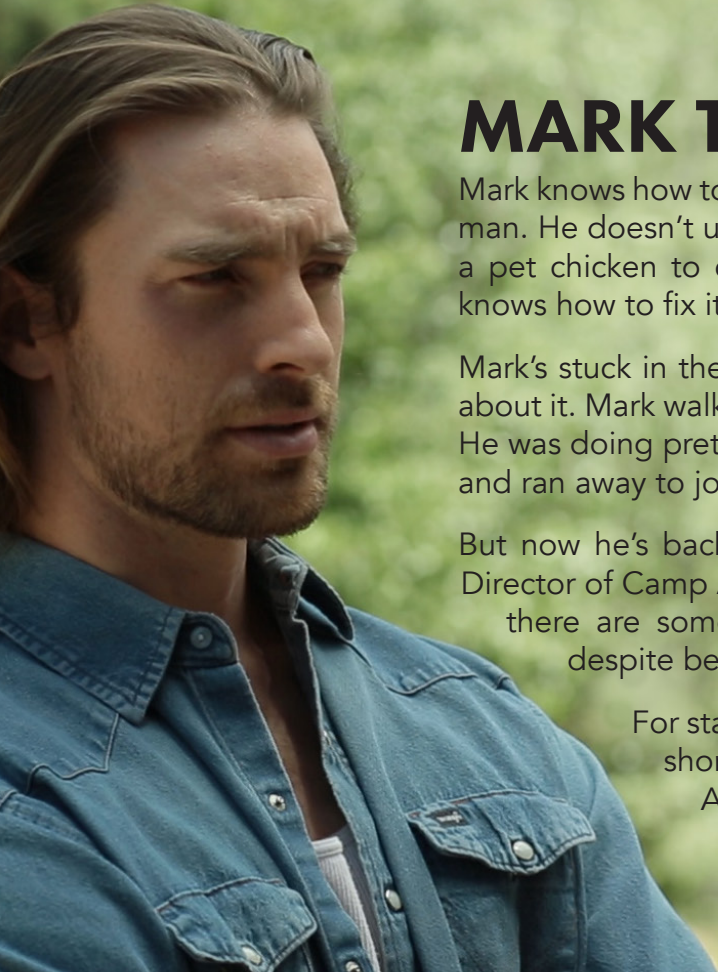
Nestled deep in the Rocky Mountains, 20 miles from the nearest town, untainted by cell phone service and high speed internet, is Camp Abercorn.

For ten weeks each summer it becomes a bustling wonderland of activity for young Compass Guides. Boys rush from the waterfront to the rifle range, the dining hall to the climbing tower. Guided by their fearless leaders—the camp staff.

Thirty boisterous men, young and old, live in tiny rustic cabins without heating or air conditioning. Rickety screen doors are all that keep the bears and mosquitos at bay. Almost every waking moment is spent smiling and teaching classes, putting on a show for the young Compass Guides as they come and go each week. But we're not here to talk about that.

Camp Abercorn is a series about what the staff get up to in their free time. For some, at 15 or 16 years old, this is their first time living away from home without parents. For others, camp is their refuge away from the pressures of school or married life. They may be Eagle Guides, but they're not perfect.





MARK TUNNEY 33 years old Camp Director

Mark knows how to take care of himself ... and that's about it. He is a practical man. He doesn't understand why everyone finds it so funny that he brought a pet chicken to camp—for fresh eggs. Obviously. If anything breaks, he knows how to fix it—as long as it has nothing to do with a computer.

Mark's stuck in the past. His dad was abusive and mom didn't do anything about it. Mark walked on eggshells carefully avoiding ending up like his dad. He was doing pretty well, too, until he knocked up his high school girlfriend and ran away to join the Army, Military Police division.

But now he's back! And he's ready to face the music. His plan? Become Director of Camp Abercorn so he can finally meet his 15-year-old son. Sure, there are some major pitfalls with this idea, but he's plowing ahead despite being woefully unequipped for the job.

For starters, he's not really "a kid person." Blunt, unsympathetic, short tempered, he's got little to no tolerance for nonsense. A Purple Heart Medal doesn't qualify a man to be Camp Director—but that doesn't stop Mark.

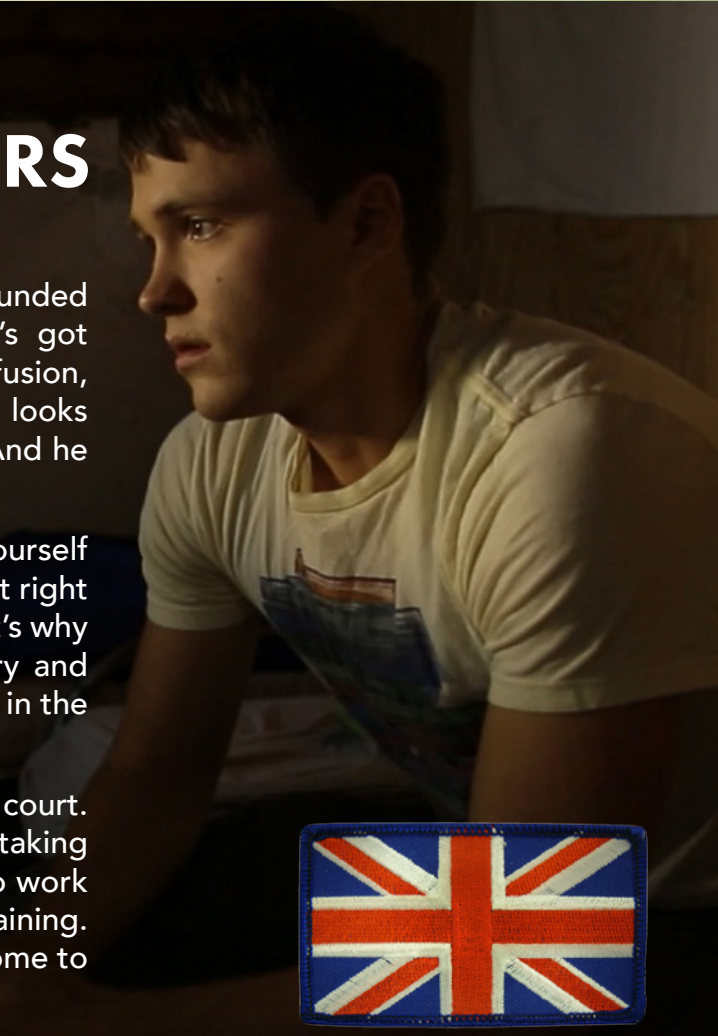
COLIN BENTON-POWERS

15 years old, Counsellor in Training

Colin's great great grandfather, Lord Benton-Powers, founded the Compass Guides in London a century ago. He's got Guiding in his Royal English blood, but like a bad transfusion, his body rejects it. Pale. Skinny. Headphones on. Colin looks like he's never left the comfort of his mother's home. And he wouldn't have if she didn't kill herself.

Colin's got a silver tongue. He can make you pee yourself you're laughing so hard or shoot a perfectly aimed insult right between your eyes. Either way you wet your pants. That's why his YouTube Channel is so popular: social commentary and some wicked piano riffs. He may not have many friends in the flesh, but he does on the internet.

Unfortunately for Colin, YouTube views don't help in court. His Uncle Bob—an American and his legal guardian—is taking him away from London to Colorado, and forcing him to work at Camp Abercorn for the summer as a Counselor in Training. That is until his sister turns 18 and he can move back home to live with her.



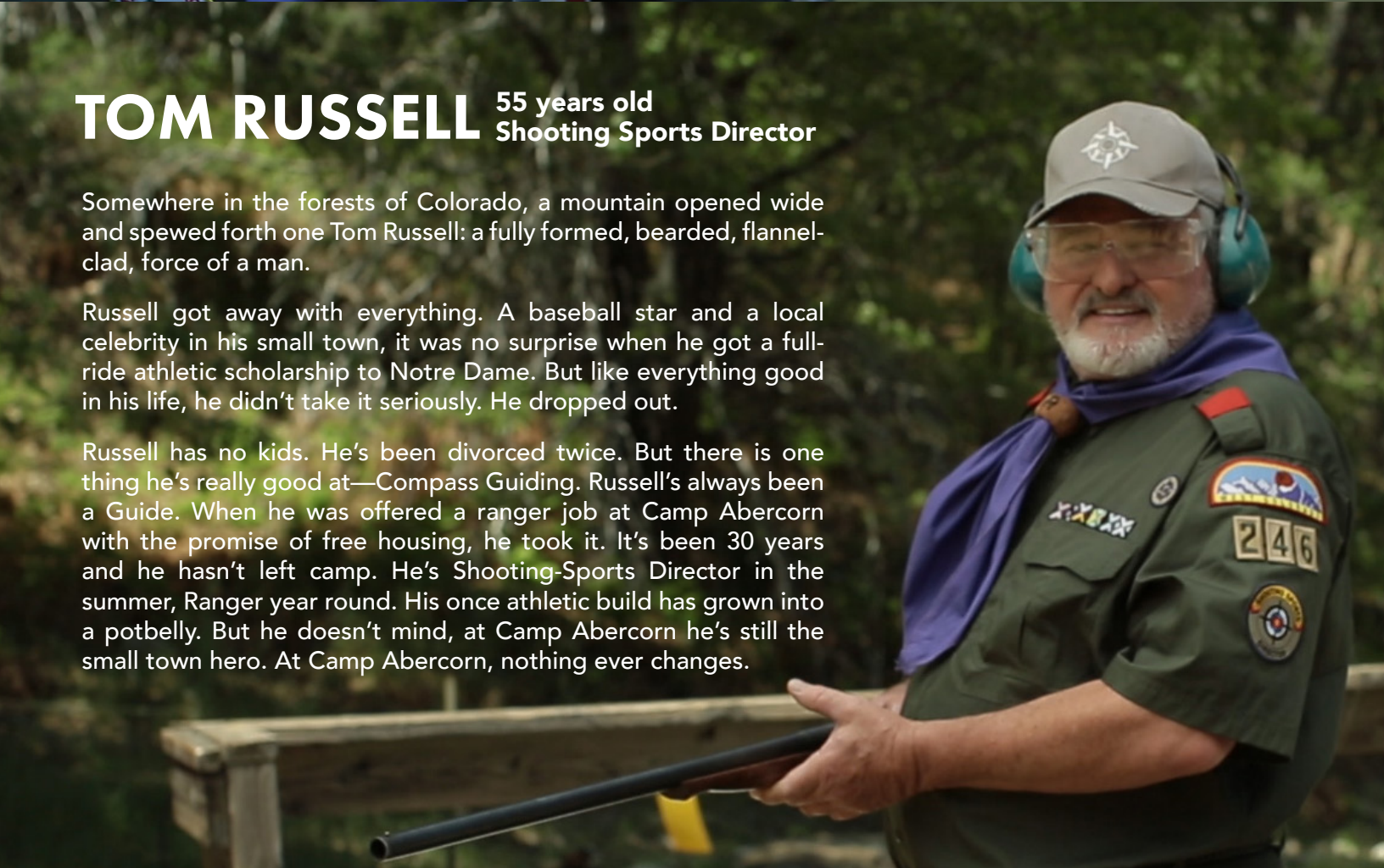


ZAK FILINKOV 17 years old Archery Instructor

You know those Norman Rockwell paintings of boys? That's Zak. He's handsome, personable, humble, athletic, smart, considerate, all that stuff. Pick any moment of his day and slap it on the cover of *Compass Guide* magazine.

And while he's a suburban goodie-two-shoes looking teen, his life is anything but picture perfect. The kid is brutal on himself. His inner happiness is dependent on a strong need to please and impress other people, and while he does pull it off, it's at much cost. His crosshairs are on making the Olympic Development Soccer Team, getting straight A's and being Prom King. Only problem is ...

Zak's not into girls and it scares the crap out of him. He's known for a long time. His inner turmoil is clutching him like the squid on the Nautilus. He longs to be free of this facade he's created—a facade that everyone loves and believes in.



TOM RUSSELL 55 years old Shooting Sports Director

Somewhere in the forests of Colorado, a mountain opened wide and spewed forth one Tom Russell: a fully formed, bearded, flannel-clad, force of a man.

Russell got away with everything. A baseball star and a local celebrity in his small town, it was no surprise when he got a full-ride athletic scholarship to Notre Dame. But like everything good in his life, he didn't take it seriously. He dropped out.

Russell has no kids. He's been divorced twice. But there is one thing he's really good at—Compass Guiding. Russell's always been a Guide. When he was offered a ranger job at Camp Abercorn with the promise of free housing, he took it. It's been 30 years and he hasn't left camp. He's Shooting-Sports Director in the summer, Ranger year round. His once athletic build has grown into a potbelly. But he doesn't mind, at Camp Abercorn he's still the small town hero. At Camp Abercorn, nothing ever changes.



THE STORIES

A SELECTION FROM SEASON 1

THE RIVALRY When outsider, MARK, is brought in to be the Camp Director, thirty year veteran counselor, RUSSELL, is determined to make his life hell. Russell didn't necessarily want the job—too much paperwork, too many meetings—but he did want the offer. They are instantly rivals. Mark is the designated leader. Russell has the respect of the staff. Fun pranks turn into fierce competition throughout the season as Russell and Mark face off. Can they put aside their differences and lead Camp Abercorn together?

BUNKMATES ZAK and COLIN are the opposite in almost every way and become immediate enemies. Unlucky for them, they're bunkmates. Colin hates that he's stuck at camp. This is Zak's seventh summer. Zak thrives on attention; and Colin just wants to be left alone. Zak's gay, Colin's straight. When their personal dramas simultaneously come to a head, they form a bond of friendship the likes of which can only be made at camp.

THE PROTEGE RUSSELL sees himself in ZAK. Zak is the Eagle Guide and athlete that Russell never was. Success for Zak means success for Russell. But when Russell finds out about Zak's sexuality, he's wounded to his core. How can someone he's mentored for all these years, personally betray him? A dark side of Russell boils to the surface. Can he find it within himself to accept Zak for who he really is?

COMING OUT ZAK has known for a long time that he's gay, but as an Eagle Guide and athlete coming out has never been an option. But when his boss, RUSSELL, sets him up on a date with a girl, he decides once and for all that he can't live forever in the closet. YUCK! Through his friendship with COLIN and his secret relationship with JULES (16), he comes to terms with his sexuality. That is until he turns 18 in the final episode. Will he keep his sexuality a secret or risk being kicked out of the CGA?

GET ME OUT OF HERE Scout Executive, BOB BENTON-POWERS, has promised his nephew COLIN that once his older sister turns 18 he can move back home to London and live with her. Colin vows to keep his head down, stay out of trouble, and make it through the summer. He quickly learns that laying low isn't possible on a camp staff. When the unexpected happens—his sister decides she can't take him—will Colin rebel or accept his new life in America?

JUST A JOB For MARK camp is a temp job, nothing more. Coming from the military police, he thinks babysitting a bunch of kids for a summer is going to be a cakewalk. But this isn't how camp staff works. Quickly Mark becomes emotionally attached to his staff. Their success becomes as important as his own.

FATHER & SONS

The *real* reason MARK accepted a job at Abercorn is because his estranged son is a camper there. He thinks if his son sees him as a capable leader and friend, he'll respect him enough to look past fifteen years of abandonment. Over the course of the summer, Mark's relationship with his younger staff members grow. His relationship with COLIN becomes particularly meaningful, and he begins to realize what it really means to be a dad. Will Mark make a mistake telling his biological son he's his father?

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

It's July at Camp Abercorn and that means cheap presents and RUSSELL in a Santa outfit! But when MARK'S a grinch and doesn't see the merit of spending funds on something frivolous like a staff party. Will Mark learn that traditions like these are the reason boys come to work at camp?

GIRLS & GOATS

Stealing the pet goat (and mascot) from the Girl Guide camp across the lake is a Camp Abercorn tradition. Fueled by hormones and Mountain Dew, BRAD and a small task force set out for the annual kidnapping; but this time something goes terribly wrong: their boat tips and the goat accidentally drowns. Can they find a replacement before the Girl Guides realize SYLVIA is missing?

R.I.P. CAMP ABERCORN

The CGA is an organization dependent on donations. When MARK upsets a wealthy Scoutmaster and longtime patron, he loses major funding for Camp Abercorn. What happens when Mark is forced to make a choice between morals and money?

CONDOMNATION

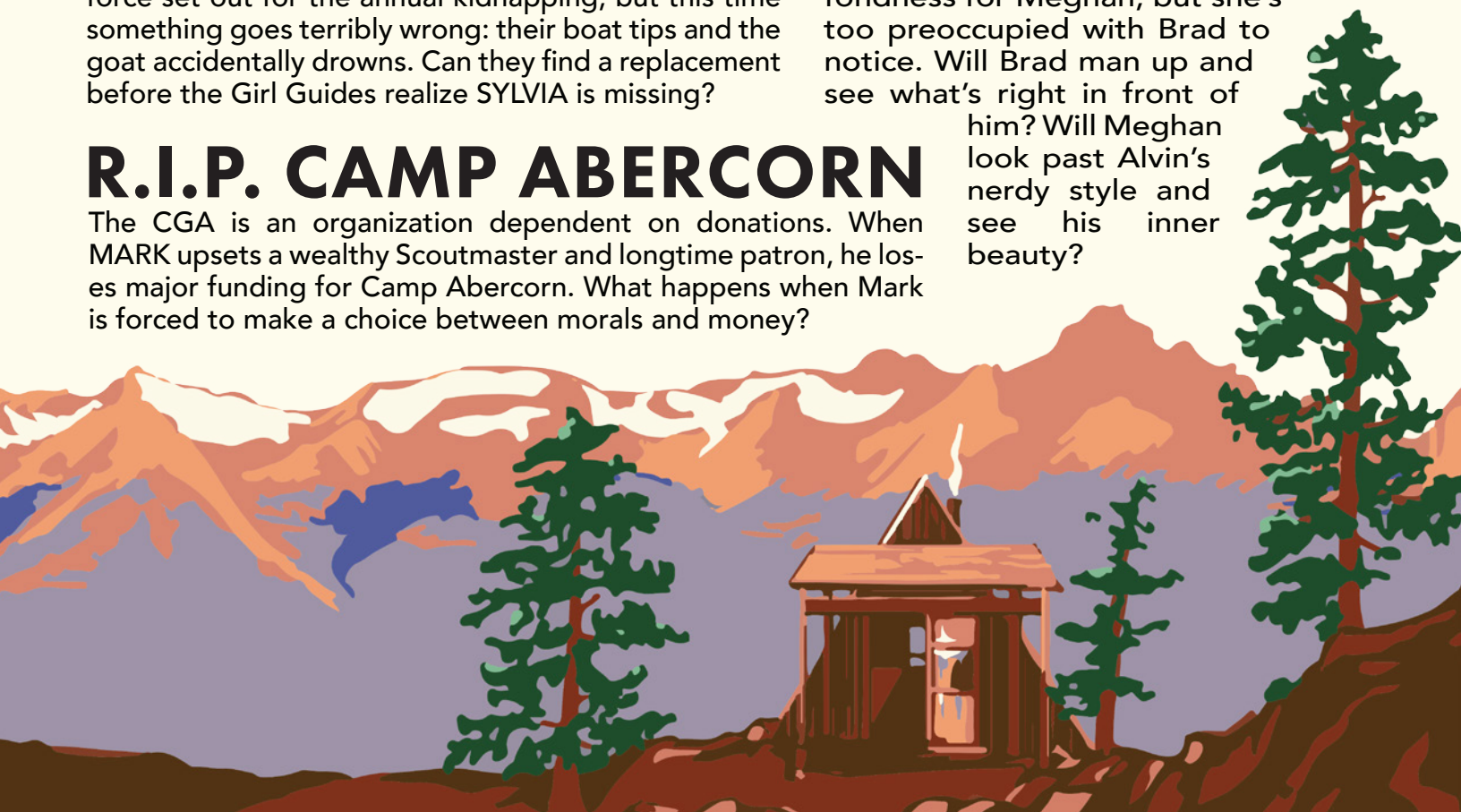
Every trip to town, BRAD makes a point to buy a new box of condoms. He boasts of his sexcapades, but nobody has any proof. When his collection of unopened condom boxes is discovered, he's caught in a lie. What will his friends think if they find out he's a virgin? Will they condemn him or will they think, "who cares? Let's have an epic 'water balloon' fight".

SUMMER LOVIN'

JULES, a first year waterfront instructor, has a girlfriend back at home that he talks to every night. Those phone calls don't stop him from falling for ZAK, but when Zak's outed, Jules retreats into his Catholic roots. What really happens when two boys build a relationship at camp?

LOVE GUARDS

MEGHAN'S worked on the waterfront staff for three summers. Every year she's lusted after hot-shot BRAD. Every year he's broken her heart. ALVIN, across the lake in the nature department, grows a fondness for Meghan, but she's too preoccupied with Brad to notice. Will Brad man up and see what's right in front of him? Will Meghan look past Alvin's nerdy style and see his inner beauty?







BUDGET

TOTAL SEASON 1 COST

\$500,000

7 EPISODES



COST PER EPISODE

PRE PRODUCTION

\$1,525

TRANSPORTATION

\$2,200

LOCATIONS

\$2,500

CREW

\$22,375

EQUIPMENT

\$3,200

INSURANCE

\$750

ART DEPT.

\$2,700

CAST

\$11,925

POST PRODUCTION

\$9,575

COSTUMES

\$550

CAMERA

\$1,200

OVERHEAD

\$1,085

ACCOMODATIONS

\$2,025

FOOD

\$3,325

CONTINGENCY

\$6,494

TOTAL COST PER EPISODE

\$71,429

MARKETING

SHORT FILM BLITZ - A daily release of videos throughout the Indie Gogo campaign, introducing characters and the world of Camp Abercorn, as well as a look behind the scenes.

WEBSITE - GrayOakProductions.com will act as our home page and blog.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, you name it, we're on it. A private Google + community will be set up exclusively for backers.

NEWS MEDIA - The BSA has been in the news a lot this year. We've been collecting contact information for anybody that's written an article about the Scouts. We will be sending out press packets to all these people.

DISTRIBUTION

YOUTUBE - Available to watch on almost every available device (phones, TVs, computers, tablets, AppleTV, ChromeCast, ...) We'll build off the subscriber base that we have collected through our Short Film Blitz. Ads on all videos will bring in money.

GRAYOAKPRODUCTIONS.COM - We'll host videos on our site, too. They'll have added features and a higher quality viewing experience unavailable elsewhere.

NETFLIX, HULU, BLIPTV - After our initial launch (or simultaneously if we strike a deal) we'll expand to other streaming options.

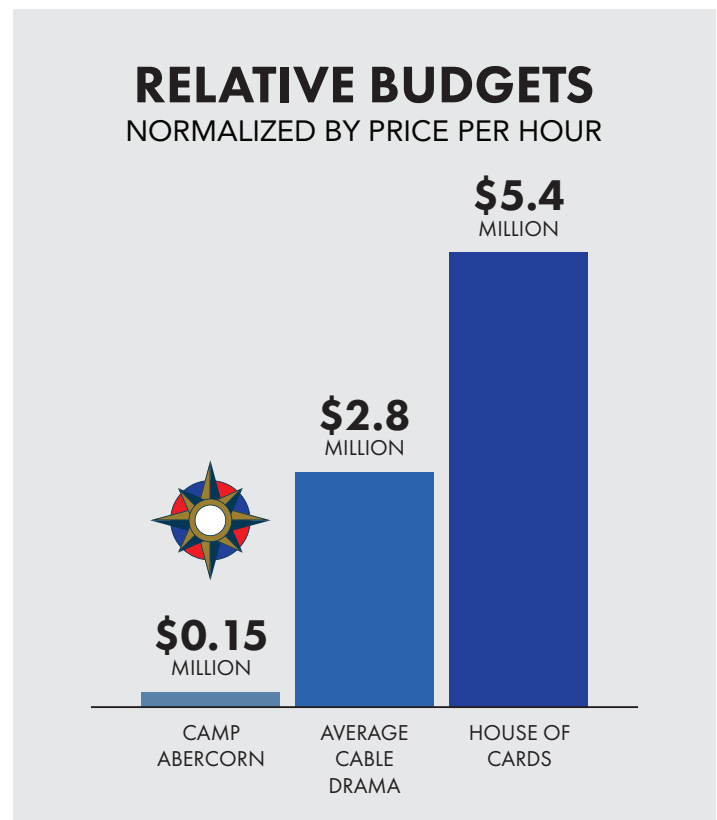
CABLE - Successful web series (Broad City [MTV], Children's Hospital [Adult Swim], Sanctuary [SyFy], Web Therapy [Showtime]) have been known to migrate after a few seasons to cable. We're filming 25 - 30 minute episodes, so transitioning to a cable station would be smooth and painless.

INTERNATIONAL - We live in a multilingual world. We'll work quickly to offer subtitles in as many languages as we can. Specifically: Spanish, Japanese, German ...

FINANCING

INVESTING - We're reaching out for private investment opportunities. If you're interested in investing or establishing a donation matching opportunity, please contact us directly.

CROWDFUNDING - The primary source of funding will come from an IndieGoGo campaign. Crowdfunding is also an ideal marketing tool. It allows fans to be involved in the process and builds an audience in advance of the show airing.



DONATIONS - Our website has a live link to make a donation to the show if you think it's a good cause. This is live now and will continue beyond our crowdfunding campaign.

SPONSORSHIPS - From brands that want to identify themselves with millennials, the outdoors, camping, and technology.

MERCHANDISE - We'll give out T-shirts, patches, neckerchiefs, and other cool things when donations are made through our website.

**Detailed budget available upon request*

OUR TEAM



JEFFREY SIMON - Writer/Director/Producer

Eagle Scout, Founders Award, Vigil Honor, two-term Lodge Chief of Pachsegink 246, Camp Staff at Mach-Kin-O-Siew, Shin-Go-Beek, and Napowan Adventure Base.

Jeffrey studied Production Design at the Savannah College of Art and Design. After school he worked as the Art Director under Emmy Award winning production designer, Jimmy Cuomo (*Pee-wee's Playhouse*) for three years. *Filly Brown*, an independent film he Art Directed, premiered at Sundance in competition. He was sponsored on a creative arts visa to work in London as an Assistant Art Director under designer Oliver Scholl on the Tom Cruise/Emily Blunt movie, *The Edge of Tomorrow*. Since then he's taken on the challenge of writing and directing *Camp Abercorn*, which has been in development for the past year.

ALEX PARKER - Cinematographer

Alex received his undergraduate education in Cinema Studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. At Illinois, he developed a growing interest in photography and cinematography before moving to Los Angeles in 2009 to study at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. In 2012 he earned an MFA in film production with a focus on cinematography.

During his time at USC, Alex shot a variety of projects ranging from both dramatic and comedic fiction to documentary, commercials and music videos. Recent achievements include the USC advanced production, *Paulie*, which won the Panavision Grand Jury Award at the Palm Springs International ShortFest as well as Best Comedy at the LA Shorts Fest, and the web series *Thoroughly Melted Minnie*, which was created for Subway's Fresh Artists competition.

MATTHEW ANDREWS - Writer/Producer

Matthew Andrews is a Los Angeles native who started making movies in high school. He continued with his passion in college where he studied film production and critical studies at UC Santa Cruz. His senior thesis was a modern fairy tale involving children and puppets. Since then he has produced an educational series in collaboration with children's author, Karen Burnett, multiple spec commercials, and was a finalist with his film submission in the National Film Challenge.

MEG GRGURICH - Writer

The next best thing to working at camp is to write about it, in Meg's opinion. An accomplished scenic painter living in Chicago, Meg is ready to swap her paintbrush for a pen and help create some meaningful TV. Her training at Second City brings a comedic perspective and her five summers working at Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School in Colorado brings the camp. Although she can't say she's ever been a Boy Scout, she knows how to build a fire and keep bears from getting in your trash.

CASE BARDEN - Producer

Lodge Chief of T'Kope Kwis Kwis, Founders Award, James E West Award, NLS Trainer, and two year OATC Foreman and Vigil and Eagle Scout and even a Tiger Cub.

Case was raised in Seattle and relocated to Los Angeles over five years ago to work in the profession he loves, independent film. He has spent that time honing his skills as a writer, director, and producer. He works in production on feature films that often premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. He's written two scripts that were finalists in the Sundance Institute's Screenwriters Lab. To date he has produced two feature films, *Broken Leg* and *Winning Dad*, that are slated to be released later this year.

BRAD LELAND - "Russell"



Brad Leland has appeared in 20 feature films, 25 television shows, and numerous theater performances. Famous for his role as "Buddy Garrity" in *Friday Night Lights*, Brad graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Acting and Directing from Texas Tech University. An avid golfer and sports enthusiast, he is loyal to the Plano Wildcats, the

Texas Tech Red Raiders, and the Dallas Cowboys. Began performing at the Crazy Horse Saloon in Disneyland in 1959 after returning from Japan with his parents, Bill and Shirley Williams.

Brad is an avid golfer and supports the annual "Beyond the Lights" Celebrity Golf Classic in Austin to help those with spinal cord injuries.

Brad's wife, Freda, is also an actor, and together they have two daughters, Thea and Leah.

DECLAN MICHAEL LAIRD - "Colin"



Declan Michael Laird grew up in a small village on the outskirts of Glasgow, Scotland. Growing up he was concentrated mostly on soccer playing from the age of 7. Once Declan-Michael left high school at 16, he signed a 2 year contract with his local professional side and juggled his time between soccer and his

college course in Television Production in which he received a HNC qualification. It was at the age of 17 that Declan-Michael got himself into acting after securing a place in a showcase program in Los Angeles, shortly after this he secured his first television role and several short films while back in Britain. Since August 2011 he has been studying at The Stella Adler Academy Of Acting in Los Angeles on scholarship. Declan-Michael's other passion of Soccer still plays a major part in his life as he follows his favorite team as much as he can while located in Los Angeles.

TYLER COOK - "Mark"



Tyler Cook was raised in a small community in northern California. Always active, he spent most of his time playing soccer, wrestling, or riding bmx. His interest in acting began when he landed a lead role in a school play and theater remains a prominent part of his life today. Now based in Los Angeles, Tyler's theater credits include the

original pieces "Detained in the Desert", "Berlin Cowboys" and most recently "The Birdhouse" at the Wells Fargo Amphitheater. His diverse body of work ranges from dramatic independent film leads to comedy improv with the Upright Citizens Brigade to performances on network shows for ABC, NBC and Disney. When he's not performing Tyler is out climbing, hiking and volunteering at different local foundations (NKLA and MPTF).

MORGAN WEST - "Zak"



Born in the heart of the midwest, Morgan's passion for acting soon took him to New York City where we received his BFA in Drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. In NYC, Morgan excelled on both stage and screen, performing to critical acclaim Off-Broadway and in numerous films and television specials—many of which for

NBCUniversal. After great success in New York, Morgan recently moved 'left' and now resides in Los Angeles, CA where he has been busy working primarily in film. This past year, Morgan starred opposite Dean Cain and Robin Givens in the Action-Comedy *Airplane vs. Volcano* and in the Syfy thriller *Age of Tomorrow*. Favorite credits include: *Airplane vs. Volcano*, *Age of Tomorrow*, *Pig Lady*, *Remains: Road to Reno* Theater: *Avenue Q*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Evita*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *42nd Street* - (...yes he can tap dance, but don't tell anyone!)

WHY THIS SHOW IS SO IMPORTANT

EVERY BOY THAT'S EVER BEEN TO BOY SCOUT CAMP HAS A STORY. One boy learned to build a fire. Another learned how to water ski. These are the things that bring us to camp. The promise of adventure, the thrill of the outdoors, of trying new things. But in time the specifics of how to tie a square knot wear off. You may forget the seven wilderness survival principles or the proper way to carry an axe. You come to realize scouting is not about collecting merit badges; it's about becoming a person of merit.

Home, church and school all have definite rules. We grow up being told what is right and what is wrong but never understanding why. Until you are in a position where you make the decisions for yourself—not because you are told—you'll never understand why those decisions are valuable or not.



After a lifetime of being told what to do and who to be from every direction, our youth need room to make their own mistakes, to mature and develop their own individuality, and that's what camp is for.

Boy Scout Camp doesn't have rules, it has guidelines. The scout oath and law never explicitly tell the boys what to do, but how to be. They offer moral boundaries and camp offers the time and place to explore those boundaries.

Unlike schools, which are generally grouped by neighborhood, and therefore class, Boy Scout Camp brings together boys from diverse economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Perhaps most important is that you learn to interact with adults who have explored the boundaries before you. They aren't there to tell you what to do but to help you find your way.

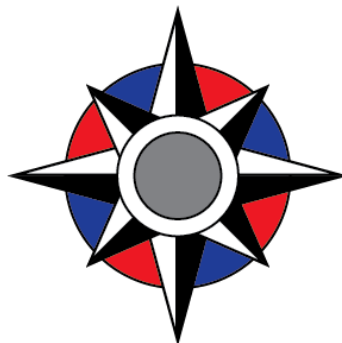
There is a phenomenon that is unique to camp. You are free to be anybody you want. Surrounded by a staff made up of former campers, you feel safe to express yourself without consequence. You are free from the constraints of societal social norms, free to find a truer side of yourself than you've been able to explore back at home.

But when the fundamental boundaries (oath and law) are compromised by discrimination, then camp, then the organization is sabotaged.

The Boy Scouts is a youth run organization. It empowers boys to make their own decisions. Through supervised leadership roles, young men experience independence for the first time.

When you put youth in charge remarkable things will happen, but along the way they are going to make mistakes. *Camp Abercorn* is a show about the blunders and the victories—an authentic portrayal of life on a *Boy Scout Compass Guides* Camp staff.

Our mission is to share the *Compass Guides* experience, an unparalleled model for teaching leadership skills to boys, through stories. We hope to reinvigorate the American people on the awesome power of Guiding. And with any luck, we'll do a small part in influencing the Boy Scouts of America to understand that equality and diversity are equally important in the growth of our future leaders.





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