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# GEOFF, FROM SPRINGWOOD

SERIES TREATMENT  
BY  
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## FORMAT DISCRIPTION

8 x 28 minute episodes.

## LOGLINE

An original, offbeat and open ended suburban comedy. Geoff, From Springwood chronicles the dysfunctional, lacklustre and absurd life of a young man with a disability.

## SYNOPSIS

Geoff, From Springwood is a new 'sitcom-esque' television/web series set in the suburb of Springwood, QLD, 4123. The series uses a loose narrative structure and slow realist pacing to chronicle the seemingly unremarkable and ordinary suburban events and activities of program namesake Geoff (25) and his best friend Jeremy (also 25). The series follows both Geoff and Jeremy through narratives that are far from epic, far from refined and far from predictable. These realist based fiction tales propel Geoff and Jeremy into a myriad of apparently normal yet absurd suburban interactions which include; their attempts to gain official lifesaving credentials at the local swimming pool, the befriending of a local Catholic priest, the purchasing of the entire 'Australian Cinema' DVD collection at a Local Video Rental Store's liquidation sale and the coordinating of a disastrous 'Disability Disco' at a local PCYC. No matter how normal the situation may seem, the absurdity, the comedy and the drama never fails to show itself. These regular yet obscure happenstances illuminate the trivialities of suburban life to dissect and analyse a range of topics, from the pressures of societal expectation and consumerism to Indigenous History, mental health, unrequited love, immigration and most importantly the idea of what it means to be 'disabled'. This is both the most significant and anonymous theme of the series, as Geoff's disability (low level Cerebral Palsy) is never explicitly mentioned or inferred. While his ungainly appearance and unrefined motor-skills make Geoff's 'disability' noticeable to both onscreen characters and off-screen viewers, Geoff goes about his everyday life undeterred by the inquisitive gaze of others. It is this positive attitude teamed with his unique personality quirks that make Geoff, From Springwood so affable, so unusual, so unique, so real and so entertaining.

## CHARACTERS

**Geoff (25):** A lively and affable twenty-something, Geoff blurs the lines between the conventional and the absurd. With low-level symptoms of Cerebral Palsy, he is a loveable, intelligent, articulate, humorous and awkward presence that is often treated differently by outsiders on account of his disability. His ostensibly normal yet never dull suburban existence primarily revolves around his employment at a small Springwood based Art Framing store and hanging out with his best friend Jeremy.

**Jeremy (25):** Geoff's childhood and current best friend, Jeremy, is a longhaired and free spirited jack-of-all-trades. A polite and well-mannered young slacker who never stops questioning the merits of conventional life, his friendship with Geoff is an ever-present feature of the series. Loved by many, hated by few, Jeremy is known for being an extremely odd and strangely open individual who both regulates and encourages socially dysfunctional behaviour.

**Charlene (age 55):** A diminutive and sassy Chinese immigrant of roughly 50 years of age, Charlene is the co-owner of 'Art Works Framing Store'. A tireless worker, ambitious businesswoman and speaker of 'Broken English' with a thick accent, her straightforwardness quite often pushes Geoff to the brink. Being a fierce authoritarian small business owner, Charlene is known to treat both her employees and family with extreme contempt and understanding.

**Peter (age 60):** Geoff's father, friend and occasional foe, Peter, jumps in and out of episodes, scenes and narratives. An ever-present yet unassuming character, Peter spends a large portion of the series sleeping on Geoff's couch after being kicked out of his home by his wife, Geoff's Mother. A man of conservative morals and admirer of institutional ideals, Peter's deeply humorous nature makes him well liked by most people.

**Elizabeth (age 60):** A reserved, peculiar woman whose face almost always expresses a look of concern, Geoff's mother, Elizabeth, is a warm yet stern motherly presence who persistently attempts to steer Geoff, Peter and Jeremy in the direction of reason. She is an uptight, caring mother and wife, constantly quarrelling with both her son and husband while always having something to say irrespective of the conversation topic.

**Alexandra (age 16):** Jeremy's younger sister, Alexandra, is an extremely intelligent academic Senior of Springwood High School. She has a close relationship with Jeremy and Geoff and is known to sneer at their foolhardy ambitions and casual endeavours. Her highly intellectual nature separates her from both her schoolyard peers and people of her own age, which is a frequent source of torment and angst.

**Julius (age 25):** A close friend to both Geoff and Jeremy, Julius is a shy introvert who suffers from social anxiety and Bipolar. He is a resident of his mother's vehicular garage and is an inconspicuous peripheral character who floats in and out of episodes, narratives and scenes.

## EPISODES

### EPISODE ONE

Late night radio quizzes, sons' of bitches, off key singing, ALF, synchronised swimming and foreign sitcoms. Inspired by an intimidating local Fireman, Geoff and Jeremy attempt to acquire official lifeguarding credentials. Meanwhile, Geoff's Father, Peter, is expelled from his home by Geoff's mother, Elizabeth, for watching a racy foreign sitcom.

### EPISODE TWO

Deep-sea aliens, horse heads, Australian cinema, neighbourly duties and happy endings. Jeremy attempts to start up a community cinema after buying the entire 'Australian Cinema' section at the Local Video Rental Store's liquidation sale. Geoff and Jeremy innocently assist in the burglary of a neighbour's home while moving the collection into Geoff's garage.

### EPISODE THREE

Giant canines, the commemoration of war, voyeurism, cowboy attire, apologies and smashed guitars. Geoff adopts a new 'cowboy look' and befriends a local priest after spotting an eye catching notice board message at a local Catholic Church. Jeremy deals with the fallout over a controversial high school history essay written by his sister, Alexandra.

### EPISODE FOUR

Skills testers, sandals, Native Americans, grow houses, home ownership and malfunctioning elevators. Geoff and Jeremy secure part time employment as commercial Christmas decorators. Geoff's moonlighting disturbs his regular employment at Art Works, where Charlene's determination to 'upsell' weighs heavily upon him.

### EPISODE FIVE

Complicated jokes, Pirates of Penzance, turf farmers, military men and the pursuit and attainment of mental 'normality'. Geoff and Jeremy visit their close friend, Julius, in hospital after his mental breakdown and are sent to look for two local turf farmers named Dicky Power and Sergeant Buckmeister in a search for answers.

### EPISODE SIX

Queen Elizabeth's Corgis, malfunctioning automobiles, Bob Geldof and The Boomtown Rats, funeral proceedings, foreign profanities and Hollerback Girls. Geoff finds himself in a strange predicament after the unlikable teacher of his Polish Language class wants to befriend him. Jeremy and Peter are forced to spend a long day in the waiting room of a local Mechanic after Geoff's car breaks down.

## **EPISODE SEVEN**

Thou Shalt Not Steal, Tanya from Who Dares Wins, haircuts, attempted infidelity and KFC. Geoff attends a high school careers day where he encounters an old love interest. Inspired by a thought provoking Kev Carmody song that Geoff heard on the radio, Jeremy arranges for his Uncle, Sam, to conduct a guided walking tour of Indigenous landmarks in suburban Logan.

## **EPISODE EIGHT**

Hunting knives, community involvement, stolen bicycles, misbehaving pre-teens and David Bowie. Geoff, Jeremy, Peter and Julius volunteer as chaperones for a disability disco event at a local PCYC. The event turns to shambles when a notoriously troublesome youth steals a raffle prize and a young homosexual disco goer attempts to commit suicide.

## **THEMES**

With real and uncompromising character portrayals, the series aims to shine a light on unconventional individuals, groups, events and social happenings that are too often overlooked by conventional television and web features. Geoff, From Springwood aims to depict and illustrate a real and authentic suburban existence that is punctuated with absurdity and enlightened by unusual faces, familiar places and everyday situations. It is these situations that provide the most memorable and stimulating moments of drama and comedy that are gleaned from disconnected dialogue, deadpan punch lines and dramatically undramatic moments of melodrama.

## **NARRATIVES**

The series makes use of a fluid narrative structure throughout each Episode to place a strong emphasis on individual scenes, moments and dialogue. Overarching narrative resolutions are pushed aside to allow for a realist study of suburban life where convenient and tidy endings are few and far between. Each episode chronicles a singular narrative and all major plot arcs are played out in their entirety. That being said, small events such as Geoff's broken car door handle or Peter's residence in Geoff's living room couch do in fact link episodes, giving an awareness of time and a feeling of familiarity.

## **STYLE**

The series is to be filmed and edited in a simple, unassuming verite style to emphasise its real and unaware suburban surrounds and characters. Flowing dialogue scenes and quirky physical situations are to be filmed using long and static shots. No fuss editing and minimal use of non-diegetic sound and music will compliment this unassuming style, to create the honest and effective realist scenes and scenarios that are the programs driving force.

## AUDIENCE

The unfamiliarity, individuality and innovation of Geoff, From Springwood lends itself to a wide audience demographic. While its slow pacing, comedic subtly and obscure moments of drama are a far cry from conventional televisual experiences, it is sure to capture, intrigue and entertain a wide range of curious viewers. The series' label of 'sitcom-esque' provides great 'tap in' potential for mainstream audiences, while its abandonment of conventional characters, narrative structures and comedic timing is suited to attuned viewers who are in search of something more than just light hearted comedic relief and cheap melodrama.

## INFLUENCES

While Geoff, From Springwood is an extremely original series, it does draw on outside influences to achieve its unique style and tone. Television programs like *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (2007-), *Louie* (2010-) and *Baskets* (2016-).

## SOCIAL IMPACT

The use of a disabled protagonist is undoubtedly the most important, original and appealing feature of Geoff, From Springwood. A well overdue accomplishment in the film and television industry, the overwhelming emphasis of the series is to portray the normal life of an articulate, humorous and real twenty-something who lives with a disability. At the same time, the quirky characters, bizarre narratives and avant-garde film style are sure to entertain. The deep seeded themes addressed in the each episode aim to shine a light on marginal social groups while questioning ideas and perceptions of 'normalness'. After all, living with a disability might not be 'normal' for most people, but it is the only normal that Geoff, From Springwood knows.