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MOTORS

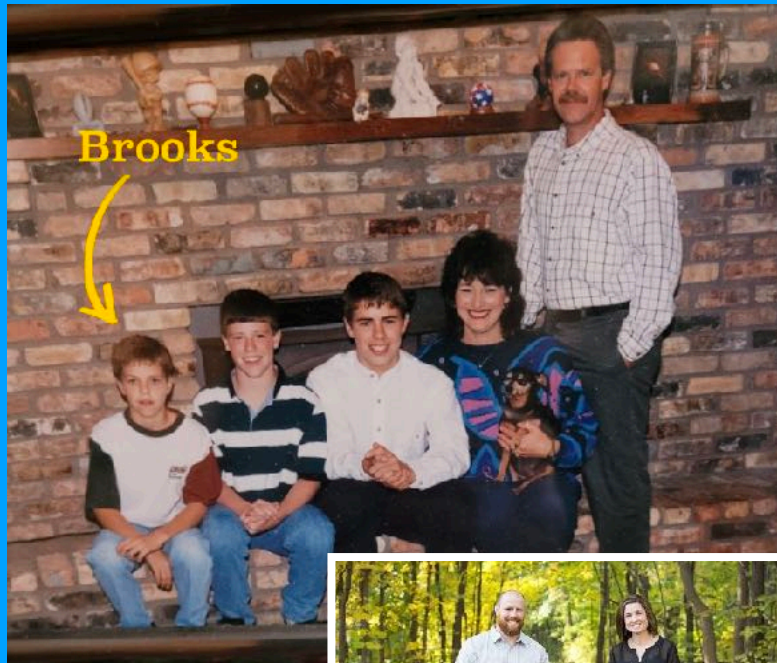




An uninspired writer is “tricked” into leaving New York City and returning to his batshit crazy family in rural Iowa, where he comes to the unpleasant realization that the dysfunction he left behind was the inspiration for his only good writing.

Wheelan Motors is a single camera, half hour family comedy that follows **Brooks Wheelan**, a barely successful writer who moved to New York City ten years ago. He returns to his hometown of Manchester, Iowa after his mom, **Chris**, “slightly exaggerates” about his Grandmother’s death.

Not much has changed in the decade since he left, and he immediately finds himself reverting to his childhood self: clashing with his eccentric, overbearing father, **Jim**, who recently left his used car business to open a fireworks stand, and trying to maintain the peace between his alpha dog older brothers, **Brett** and **Brad**.



Brooks & Isaac

Brooks grew up in Manchester, IA with two mean older brothers, a passive aggressive mother, and a maniac dad who bounced from one get-rich-quick scheme to the next. He bailed as soon as he could and ended up on one season of SNL which is the smallest amount of fame one can attain. Back in Manchester everyone thinks he's a famous asshole now, including his dad. Meanwhile, Brooks' brother is continuing the cycle with three boys of his own... which isn't ideal for the world.

Brooks created Wheelan Motors with writer/director Isaac Rentz, who's known for music videos that have been viewed by billions (Katy Perry, Nick Jonas, Cage The Elephant), and his Netflix movie, Opening Night (starring Topher Grace). He and Brooks sold the half hour scripted comedy MidWest Best to POP last year with Kevin Hart producing.

Both Brooks and Tim grew up around the car dealership business and know it's a perfect backdrop for comedy, filled with egos on both sides of the battlefield.





ABSOLUTELY

ABSO LUTELY

Abso Lutely Productions was founded in 2007 by comedians Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim and producer Dave Kneebone. It began as a means of producing the surreal sketch comedy show, Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job! for Adult Swim.

By prioritizing the amplification of fresh and unconventional comedic voices, Abso Lutely has since become a destination for ideas that push the boundaries of traditional comedy. It produces shows for major networks including IFC, Comedy Central, Cartoon Network, and Netflix, and is known for such breakout hits as Nathan For You, The Eric Andre Show, and Magic For Humans.

Meet Brooks Wheelan

Brooks wrote a viral short story in college that got made into a box office bomb. "*Friends... But They All Die*" went from being Brooks' meal ticket to a punchline that kept his writing career from having a second act.

It's ten years later and he returns to Iowa to see his dying grandmother (who's actually in peak physical condition) and decides to stick around when he realizes that his brother Brad is making the same mistakes with his family that their dad made with them. He decides to stay in Iowa for a bit to try and keep the 2020's Wheelans from becoming the 1990's Wheelans, and while doing so, *maybe* selfishly use his family as inspiration for his next big book

That plan quickly goes to shit, and his life picks up exactly where he left it a decade ago. He's working at his dad's car dealership, feuding with his ultra-competitive brothers, and even trying to date his high school sweetheart. Some might call it stalling out, but the low expectations of life in Manchester might be exactly what he needs.

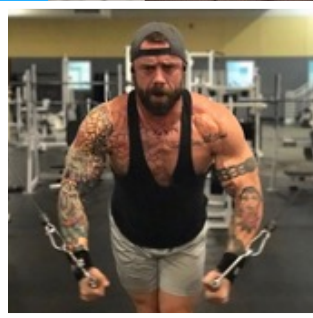


Meet Brad Wheelan (Tim Heidecker)

The oldest Wheelan brother, **Brad**, is the quintessential achiever. He's the general manager-in-training at Wheelan Motors, which he operates with the cut-throat intensity of Gordon Gekko.

It's hard to believe that a decade ago he had Axl Rose's haircut and drove a Camaro. Now he's a buttoned-up corporate asshole who drives a golf cart from his McMansion to work every day. He lives on the very edge of his means and runs from his problems by partying *HARD* every weekend.

He lets Brooks crash in his basement and even gets him a sales job at Wheelan and Sons. Even though his personal life is in shambles, he loves to give brotherly advice to Brooks. It's almost always completely wrong.



Meet Brett Wheelan (Tim Robinson)

Brett was a late bloomer. He failed out of college and lived with his parents into his 30's. Surprisingly, his plan to collect every existing Pearl Jam live bootleg didn't result in any income.

The only love in his life is wrestling, and he's found immense success as the head coach of the back-to-back defending champion Iowa high school wrestling team, The Waverly-Shell Rock Go-hawks. That might not sound like much, but in Iowa, wrestling coaches are only slightly less revered than God.

30 years of living with Jim has left Brett with intense resentment towards his own family. After one of his dad's many public affairs, Brett screamed at Christmas, "It's gonna take more than a printer to buy back my love." He's also upset Brad has refused to fight him ever since they were 20. Brett claims Brad is owed a severe beating.



Meet Jim Wheelan

The eccentric patriarch of the Wheelan family, **Jim** inherited a car dealership, *Wheelan Motors*, which he uses as a base of operations for his many get rich quick schemes, his latest of which is an attempt to cash in on Iowa's recent legalization of fireworks.

His rage issues have led to him being banned from the Hartridge Golf Course in Manchester, the high school athletics Booster club, and the Dubuque, IA IHOP. His extreme thriftiness once led to him ordering 50 Arby's roast beef sandwiches during a 5 for \$5 deal, so he could feed the family all week on a trip to the Wisconsin Dells.

He's intensely proud of his sons, and loves them, but he's chosen his own happiness over theirs at every pivotal moment of their lives.



Meet Chris Wheelan

The lone female presence in the Wheelan family, **Chris** might seem sweet and meek, but she secretly runs the show behind the scenes. Passive aggression, denial, and searing guilt are just some of the tools she employs to keep the family together. It's all done with love.

She's called Brooks on three separate occasions to warn of a grandparents imminent death in order to get him to come home. They're all still alive. Now that he's back, it's her personal mission to make sure he stays in Manchester for as long as possible, even if it means sabotaging his literary manager's voicemails. Brooks wakes up some mornings with Chris standing in the doorway, just staring at him.

Side note: *She doesn't like that I'm making this show, and is positive I should make one about a school bus driver instead.*



Meet Angie (Alyssa Limperis)

Brooks' infamous high school girlfriend, **Angie's** reputation for hard partying led to legendary incidents like the time she got so blasted that she rolled over on her pet Hamster in bed, simultaneously crushing its spine, and earning her the nickname, "Lenny."

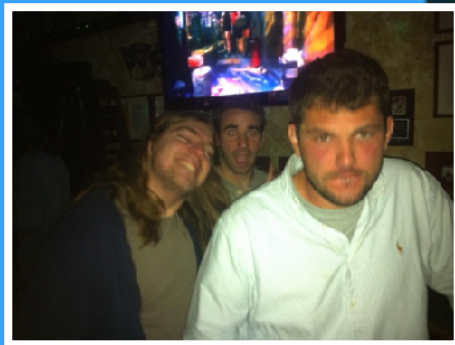
Ten years later she's a state parks ranger in Iowa and married to a townie. She's done her best to sand the edges off of her wild personality but when Brooks returns to Manchester it reignites her "Lenny" persona and she can't help but wonder if her life would be more exciting if she were still with him.



Meet Ries, Bubblegum, & Steve

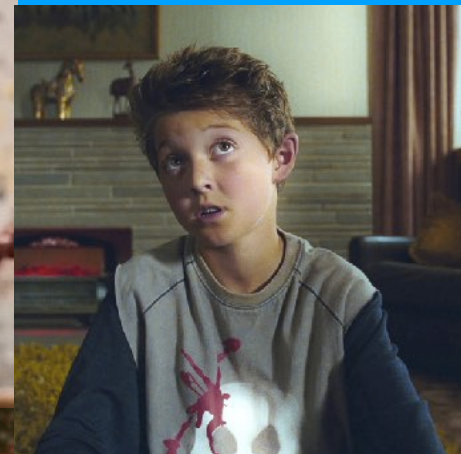
Within five minutes of his return to Manchester, Brooks' phone is flooded with text messages from his old squad, ready to party like college never ended.

And in a way, it never did. **Ries**, **Bubblegum**, and **Steve** all lead lives that basically resemble their glory days. Sure, Steve is rich now that he's CEO of his dad's commodity broker firm, Ries manages *Stokers*, the town's "young people" bar, and Bubblegum sometimes asks people to call him by his real name Ervin- *but that's stupid his name is Bubblegum*. They're all ready to get shitfaced at the drop of a hat and they bring a spark back to Brooks' life that he's been missing since he left Iowa.



Meet Lincoln, Landon, & Layton Wheelan

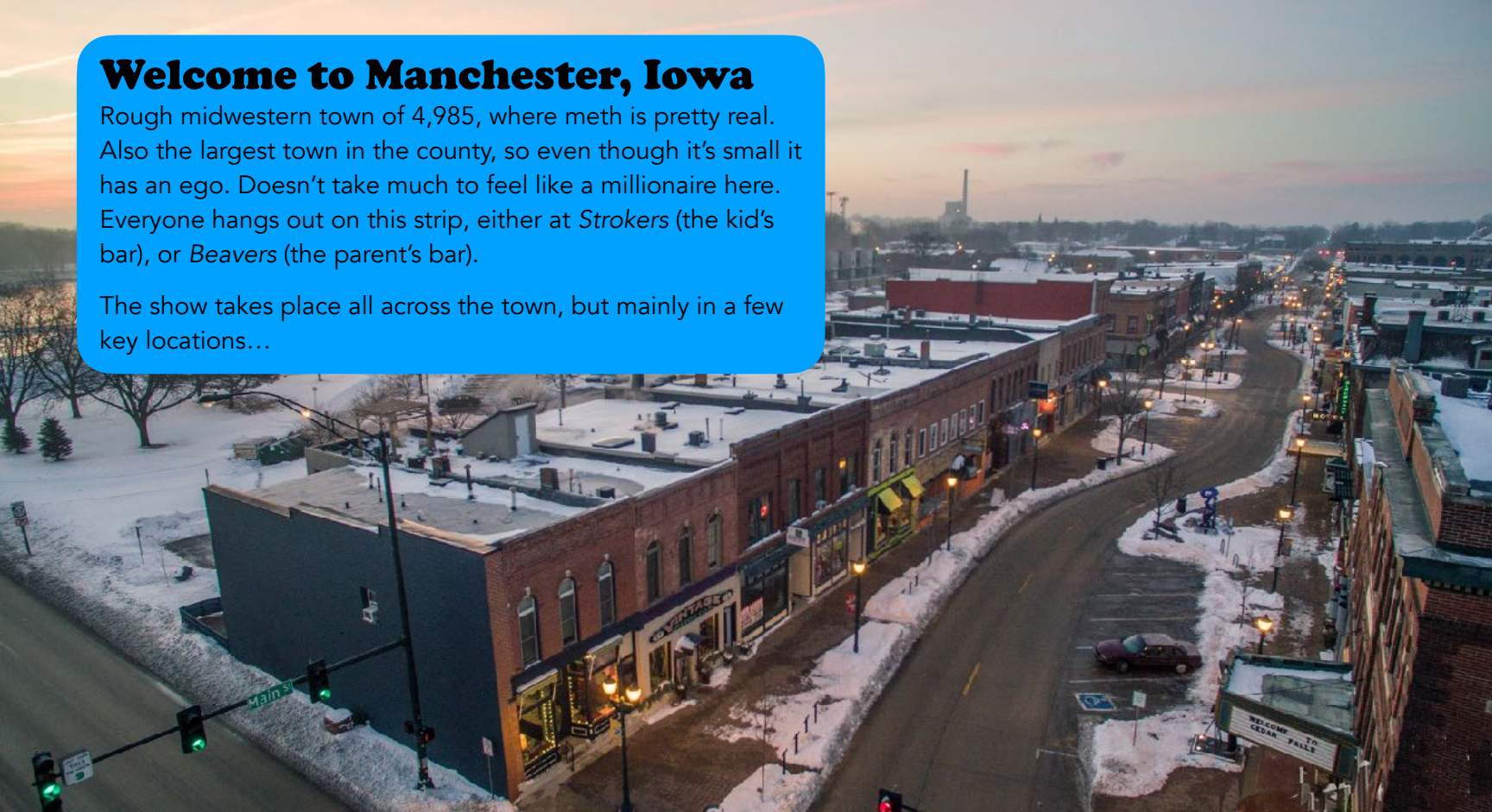
Brad's spawn; Ages 12, 10, and 6. The older two are mean as fuck but the little one is a sweetie. Brooks sees himself in Layton, and wants to help him survive being the youngest brother in a crazy family. He's not going to let this guy eat jelly beans in a closet with his guinea pig all through grade school.



Welcome to Manchester, Iowa

Rough midwestern town of 4,985, where meth is pretty real. Also the largest town in the county, so even though it's small it has an ego. Doesn't take much to feel like a millionaire here. Everyone hangs out on this strip, either at *Strokers* (the kid's bar), or *Beavers* (the parent's bar).

The show takes place all across the town, but mainly in a few key locations...



BRAD WHEELAN'S HOUSE

Brooks crashes in the plush basement. It's a giant McMansion filled with Pearl Jam posters and Iowa Hawkeye gear.

WHEELAN MOTORS CAR DEALERSHIP

A small Nissan and Pontiac dealership started by Jim's grandfather. Jim is the owner, but Brad has taken over as General Manager in training and is the clear heir apparent. In lieu of paying rent, Brad hires Brooks as a salesperson.

STROKERS

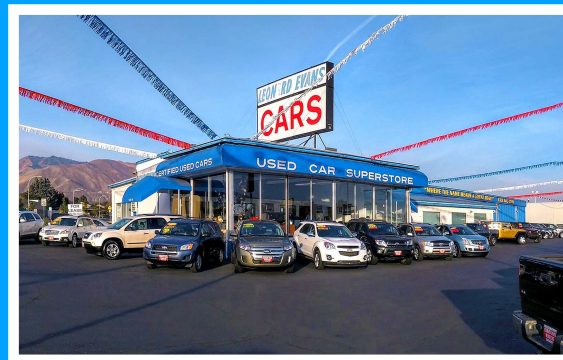
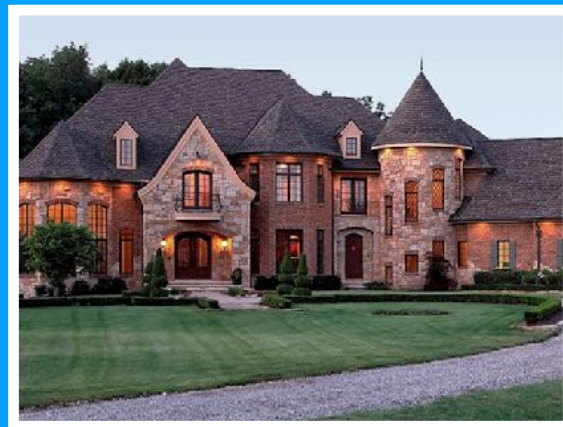
Steve used his dead dad's money to buy his favorite place in the world. It's a run down bar with a pool table that's missing 3 balls, but the games are free so shut up. Brooks and his crew are there almost every night.

BEAVERS

Straight out of the 70's. Carpeted bar floor, darts, dollar Busch light drafts, and help yourself popcorn. Jim is a regular, and instigates the majority of the town's drama from his favorite booth.

FIREWORKS STAND

A soft top tent set up in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Packed to the gills with fireworks and a credit card machine that Jim can't figure out. There's room for an air mattress for Jim to sleep on at night to keep from getting robbed.



The Look

Wheelan Motors has the authentic look and feel of a real small town in Iowa. From the locations to the extras, it'll capture the unique flavor of Manchester, IA.

Filmed handheld with natural lighting, the visuals will mirror the theme of disfunction within the show. Imagine the gritty realism of *Shameless*, combined with the understated cinematic flair of *Eastbound and Down*.



The Pilot Episode

Cold Open

Montage of 22 year old Brooks turning in a short story, his teacher loving it. It climbs the New York Times Best Seller charts, headlines of "*FRIENDS, but they die*" greenlit by Universal, Ben Stiller attached to "*FRIENDS, but they die.*" A 20 year old Brooks moves to New York City excited.

ACT 1

12 years later things haven't worked out. Brooks' movie adaptation was a giant bomb and he hasn't written anything remarkable and is living in the shadow of a movie he had no control over. He gets a call to go back to Iowa to see his dying grandma. He gets home to find out she's not dying and his family is exactly as he left them: in complete disarray.

ACT 2

We meet Brooks' family. They have a terrible dinner where lots of terrible things are said and even more terrible things are brought up. The dysfunction is at an all time high. Brooks sees that Brad's family is just a continuation of what happened to him. There's a cringe-worthy shrine to Brooks' movie in the living room. Brooks finds out his old room has been turned into a memorabilia showroom for Nascar legend Tony Stewart, so Brad invites him to stay at his mansion with his nightmare kids. Brooks says thanks and heads out to meet his old college friends.

ACT 3

Brooks meets all his pals from growing up, including his ex, Angie (now married, and a state park ranger), at Stokers, and has the time of his life. It's the first time we see him happy since the cold open. Maybe this is what he's been missing in New York. He wakes up the next day, hungover, and laying next to Angie in Brad's basement. They realize they made a huge mistake, and she sneaks out the window.

Brooks walks out to Brad's kids going ape shit. Brooks asks Brad why he's repeating what Jim did to them as kids. Brad claims it's nothing close. We see two of the kids beating the shit out of the third and then flashback to this exact same scene happening to Brooks as a child while Jim sat there. Brooks decides that he's going to stick around Iowa for "just a little while" and pulls the kids apart. Brad says that's fine but he can't live rent free. He needs to work at the Wheelan Motors. They shake hands.

SEASON ARC

Throughout the season we'll see flashbacks to Brooks' childhood, revealing why his family is so dysfunctional. We'll see parallels between the brothers' upbringing and Brooks' nephews.

Brooks will come to terms with the fact that being home could actually make him happy. He'll have to accept that "FRIENDS, Except They Die" didn't ruin his life, and may have actually helped him grow. He'll reconnect with his old friends while trying to be a good uncle to his nephews, especially the sensitive one that reminds him of himself. He'll head back to New York at the end to sell a book that exploits his family, but have to return immediately because his father is now suing him.

SERIES ARC

Over the course of the series, Brooks gains his confidence back in unlikely places. He gets back together with Angie and moves past the bitterness of his "past failures." He writes a book about families overcoming dysfunction. It is mildly successful, and he refuses to sign away the movie rights. He doesn't need that anymore. Jim can't believe he's in the book and doesn't even care that he comes off looking terrible. He's just glad that he's now as famous as his son, "Mr Hollywood." He skips out on an Iowa Automotive Association Gold Diamond Award ceremony and decides to take Brad's kids on a camping trip to the Tetons instead, a trip that he always promised to his sons, but never came through on. Brett finally gets Brad to fight him and Brett once again gets the living shit beat out of him.

**SEE YA IN
MANCHESTER!**

