

“Craft of Five”
Situation-Comedy Television Episodic Series
30x10 TV Series Show Bible
by
John Hamilton

Craft of Five is an episodic TV network series written by John Hamilton

TAGLINE

No one in Hollywood cares if you scream. (a parody of the “Alien” movie tagline)

LOGLINE

Five young, starving, artist, roomies trying to ‘make it’ without killing each other in the process.

SERIES OVERVIEW

In Hollywood, artists can become stars. These five characters, all in their twenties, are artists who want a piece of that stardom. They have talent in their own artistry craft. A painter, musician, model, actor and writer decide to live together in order to afford the high Hollywood rent and live in the hub of stardom to increase their chances. However, the five roommates quickly find that living together is not all it’s cracked up to be.

They all have their idiosyncrasies and are a bit eccentric. Their styles clash and the fireworks fire off indoors, rather than outside. Still, they rely on each other and become a support system for each other. However, they live like siblings and can’t wait to strangle each other. Meanwhile, the struggle is real, and stardom remains elusive. An elderly landlord, the ghost of the previous tenant, boyfriends and girlfriends, parents, and agents and critics are among the other characters that come in and out of the episodes to help drive the story around one of the five main characters.

Every episode is focused on one main character getting closer to that big break, but not quite getting there. The multi-camera episodes contain a full comedic story with a resolution in each half hour with a full three-act structure, teaser and a tag. This is perfect for viewing on network channels in the prime-time hours between 9-11. It does include some adult situations that may not be suitable for children, but okay for teens.

Each main character has their own arc, though their overall arc is for one or all of them to get that “big break”. Smaller arcs will include relationships outside of the apartment, the jobs they work while waiting for their big break, the small-time work they find in their craft, and the small disasters that are their lives as starving artists. Some cultural, social and technology situations help create the chaos that ensues.

A typical episode would open with a teaser to hook the audience to stick around for the rest of the show. To start the episode, one of the main characters is given a chance to get closer to their big break. On their journey through the episode they may encounter other characters or situations that get in their way. Or perhaps, the step towards stardom wasn’t as big as they thought. The episode would end with a comical tag closing the show.

Other episodes might include life in Hollywood and crazy California. From long DMV lines to crowded LAX, from freakish comic characters and huskers lining the streets, and

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from very posh and very ghetto landscapes, there’s plenty of fodder to bring to the table for this series to hit that funny bone and make you say, “Ouch!”

Just remember, *“In Hollywood no one cares if you scream!”*

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STORY WORLD (2 pages)

The location of this series is set in Hollywood, California. The main setting is centered around the apartment of the five roomies. This includes common areas and their individual rooms. This also includes the hallways and apartments of their neighbors who inhabit the apartment building, which at one time was a Victorian house that was converted to apartments. Some shots can show the outside of the apartment building as well.

Other locations include an outside seating area at the local coffee shop called, “Smart Bean” and a pizza restaurant called, “Mitzi’s Pizza Place” (formerly Martin’s Pizza Place). Another setting is Mrs. Chlumsky’s house. There’s “Power’s Gym” where the main characters go to work-out. Also, establishing shots around Hollywood, California, as well as Los Angeles.

Some unknown locations at this point might include a recording studio, nightclub, photo shoot or model runway, art museum, or movie studio. These are very limited in scope and are only added at this point because of the nature of the characters’ field or art might call for these sets.

The timeframe for this series is 2019. It’s the normal world that they live in with no extraordinary effects.

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CHARACTERS

KIANA PORTER (27) is a painter that has been painting since she was 14-years-old. She is Chinese and a daughter of migrant parents that live in Gardena, California. She paints, sculpts and draws various subjects. Her favorite artist is Monet, the French impressionist painter. Kiana has done and does commissioned artwork from time-to-time for different clients though most of her day is spent working at a flower shop. She graduated from USC where she got a bachelor’s degree in Studio Arts, where she met Justin Blake. Her and Justin quickly became friends and hung out a lot in school. Kiana loves to go running and is a vegan. She has taken coursework in horticulture and floriculture to understand plants and flowers, since she did lots of paintings of landscapes. She is interested in doing realistic photo paintings of human subjects so is currently taking coursework for that.

RUFUS JABEEN (23) is a black actor that has done some commercial work and bit parts in movies and television shows. He works as a personal assistant at a famous studio. Earlier in his career, he did some stage work in smaller, off-Broadway productions in New York, but wanted to be a film actor, so he moved to Los Angeles. He became friends with Anna Viliano when they worked on a short film together, years ago. Rufus graduated from USA with a bachelor’s degree in Acting. Rufus’ family still lives back in New York. He has had several girlfriends but is currently single.

ANNA VILIANO (29) is a writer who currently writes screenplays. She’s also writing books and does other writing projects and works doing some writing assignments that her agent finds for her. She is Italian and her family hails from little Italy in New York. When she was 17, she wrote stage plays which was produced in a local, independent theater. Then, she was asked by a friend to write a screenplay for a short film and loved it. So, she stopped writing plays and focused on screenplays. At this time, she started working on a novel. She worked with Rufus Jabeen on the short film as he was one of the actors. They quickly became friends. When she was 21, she moved to Los Angeles to start writing screenplays for films. She then ran into Justin Blake, a musician, who asked her to write a song for him. She taught him how to write songs and they became friends.

JUSTIN BLAKE (25) is a musician who has lived his whole life in Los Angeles, California. He works part-time as a performing and session musician for a local recording studio but wants to be a songwriter and touring musician for a rock band. He graduated from USC with a bachelor’s degree in Music Theory and Composition, where he met Kiana Porter.

MADELYNE ROMASKOYA (21) is a model who migrated from Russia, where she was also a model. She used to model kid clothes for magazines and commercials. When she was eighteen, she started modeling all kinds of women’s fashion, including lingerie. She works as a part-time model, but her daily job is a secretary in a law firm but is more eye-candy than secretary. She had a boyfriend until he cheated on her, so she left him. His name is Jeff Kruhmb. He still wants to be together with her and comes around trying to

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get her back. She refuses to listen his lies, even though she still has feelings for him. Jeff was her talent agent, before they started an intimate relationship.

MRS. LESLIE CHLUMSKY (67) is an elderly widow who owns the apartment building where the five roommates live. She had migrated from Czechoslovakia with her husband a couple of decades ago. She speaks good English, though her Czech accent is still heavy. Her husband had first bought the place as a house for their family to live in. All the kids are now grown and have families of their own with plenty of grandchildren for Mrs. Chlumsky. The apartment was converted into apartments years later, after their kids moved away, by Mr Chlumksy.

JEFF KRUHMB (21) is the Irish, ex-boyfriend of Madelyne Romaskoya. He used to be Madelyne’s small-time talent agent and soon the pair became intimately involved. Madelyne came home one day after a photo shoot to find him sleeping with another model.

ED CARLSON (72) is a ghost who was the previous tenant who slept in Kiana’s room. He’s an older American white man and has no other family, except for one brother who he never kept in touch with after they had a falling out years ago. Ed haunts his old bedroom because that’s where he died, though he doesn’t seem to haunt the rest of the apartment, so the other roomies don’t believe Kiana when she eventually tells them the room is haunted.

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STORY ARCS

- The biggest story arc is common among all roomies. They want to become successful artists in their craft. So, relying on each other and being a means of support for advice and friendship is going to be shown throughout the series.
- The pilot goal is for them to all find a place to rent or lease in or near Hollywood, California. This arc is specific to Kiana and Anna to let go of their wanting to be the chief lease holder. They eventually become friends by the end.
- This is an episodic narrative so the smaller arcs will conclude within the episode while the overall arcs will take place during the season.
- The pilot is where the top two arcs occur, the overall and Kiana/Anna’s.
- Each character will have their own arc, though it hasn’t been developed, yet.

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PILOT TREATMENT (1-3 pages)

TEASER

KIANA PORTER (27, painter) is going to the apartment to get an application from MRS. CHLUMSKY, the 67-year-old, widowed, landlord. She later meets JUSTIN BLAKE (25, musician) at the local coffee shop and discuss the place she found for lease.

ACT 1

Kiana is a painter and thinks moving to Hollywood would improve her chances at being a successful artist, since her muse is on strike. With a little luck she finds a place for rent, but it's bigger than what she needs and can't afford it. However, with a couple of friends, Justin and MADELYNE ROMASKOYA (21, model), they decide to lease it together. But, when they arrive to get the keys, the landlord also leased the apartment to someone else and they're already moving in.

ACT 2

ANNA VILIANO (29, writer) and RUFUS JEBEEN (23, actor) also leased the apartment. They decide they can't afford it separately and agree to live together. However, Anna and Kiana still disagree about who should be the main leaseholder. This sets off a chain of reaction where the two girls try to win allies, “Survivor” style, to win the lease.

In the meantime, Kiana finds out later from Mrs. Chlumsky that the previous tenant, ED CARLSON, died in her bedroom. In a sly ploy, Kiana, who's afraid of ghosts, tries to trick Anna to take over the master bedroom in exchange for giving up her lease. Anna refuses. Ed makes a night-time appearance, reminiscent of “A Christmas Carol”, giving advice about her situation and what she should do about it or she will end up like him. Dead and regretful.

ACT 3

In the end, they take a vote. Kiana wins three to two. She gets to keep her lease. Later, Kiana, in a nice gesture (because of her haunting experience), says Anna can keep the lease. Anna was also given some friendly advice by the other tenants to let it go. So, she does. Kiana retains her lease and bedroom. The two girls are now “friends”.

TAG

All the roomies are watching Anna's only movie credit called, “Gorilla girls from Borneo” and making fun of her. The ending laugh is when Rufus says that one of the gorillas was played by a girl actress.

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SPRINGBOARDS

Pilot: “Roomies”

Refer to the synopsis in the pilot treatment found earlier in this document.

S1E2: “Empty Cup”

Justin takes coffee orders from the other roomies and comes back with empty cups. He returns again to only return with empty cups. This episode was influenced by the knowledge that in most shows and movies, most covered cups, and uncovered cups, are empty. Actors fling cups around that are supposed to be filled with hot liquid, but virtually runs an obstacle course without spilling a drop or have the cups go flying out of cup holder(s). It’s an inside joke by the series writer.

S1E3: “The Kruhmb Bum”

This episode dives deeper into the relationship between Madelyne Romaskoya and Jeff Kruhmb. Jeff wants to get back together, but Madelyne resists. Eventually, the relationship will still remain the same with them being separated. Future episodes will have Jeff coming back for either episode roles or cameo roles. This is Madelyne’s arc to get over Jeff, her former agent and boyfriend.

S1E4: “Homesick”

Everyone who came from outside of Los Angeles, California starts to feel homesick, especially Madelyne, who migrated from Russia. A couple of them are thinking of wrapping it up and go back home, but by the end of the episode, they decide to stay.

S1E5: “Small taste of success...Yuck!”

Kiana gets a small taste of big success and doesn’t like it. Of course, the success is short-lived, but a major credit, somehow. Still, the compromise isn’t sometimes worth the success.

S1E6: “The Mysterious Envelope”

A mysterious envelope shows up being slipped under the door. It’s not addressed but does include a hand-written letter describing what the sender wants. It could be attributed to any one of the roomies and has some very personal information, though generic. This dives deeper into each character’s fears, inner motivations or inner conflicts.

S1E7: “You’ve got to put the past behind you”

Rufus’ past catches up with him. He came from the hood, but tried to stay out of gangs, though his older brother, who is now dead, was in the gang. They’ve come to get Rufus to join and take his brother’s place.

S1E8: “Cover your mouth when you cough”

One of the roomies gets a cold and passes that to all the other roomies. The sickness soon spreads outside of the house among co-workers, bosses, and even Mrs. Chlumsky, the landlady. In a late-night visit, Ed Carlson, the previous tenant in Kiana’s room who died before they got the apartment, has also come down with the flu. Who knew ghosts could get sick?

S1E9: “Do you mind?”

Justin must learn a few cover songs for an upcoming gig, but his headphone jack on his amp broke and he can only play through the speakers. Of course, this drives tempers to boiling. Soon, the others become agitated when the others start making noises of their own.

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S1E10: “Season Finale (?) – Madelyne may have to go back to Russia because of an immigration screw-up. Mrs. Chlumsky has an angina attack, but everyone is sure she’s had a heart attack. Jason’s flavorist guitar gets stolen at a gig. Rufus gets a leading role in a big movie, but it may be pulled out from under him if a big Hollywood star decides to take the role instead. Anna faces a lawsuit for copyright infringement. Kiana tries to console and help everyone, being the rock in the storm.

*The scripts for the first season have not been written, yet.
More episodes for a second can be put in development.*