

DEEPLY Superficial

A filmed comedy series by Keith Allen West



A gay entrepreneur, deep in the turmoil of his midlife crisis, confronts outlandish events involving his quirky, overbearing friends and family.



Take the show **FRIENDS**, then sprinkle in a little **QUEER AS FOLK** for the next **SCHITT'S CREEK**.

THE STORY

DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL is a shockingly contemporary comedic series merging **FRIENDS** with **MODERN FAMILY** for today's sophisticated television audiences. The project was written with streaming platforms or cable networks in mind for placement. It is the first television show to present an honest look at what being a middle-aged, gay, divorced man means.

Deep in the throws of his midlife crisis, a gay entrepreneur confronts outlandish events involving his quirky, overbearing friends and family. After being "gay married" for 24 years Marc Alexander gets "gay divorced" on a BRAVO TV show. He faces turmoil and an uncertain future. Hoping to escape the fallout from his turbulent marriage, Marc launches an acting career, reenters the much changed dating world and starts therapy to discover his true self.

Complicating his everyday life are the quirky, overbearing and emotionally challenged friends that make up his tribe. They all live or work in his Albuquerque version of Melrose Place.

The gang is diverse, opinionated, wildly inappropriate and deeply flawed. Underneath all their witty sarcasm and staunch opinions is a genuine love for each other that shows friends can be your family. They search for a healthy, productive life like it is a team sport.

THE STYLE & TONE

DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL is a half-hour comedy with the quick witted humor of a 1990s sitcom, but with the artistic styling of a modern single-camera show. While quick paced, the show will also deal with relevant drama via hard-hitting current events. Taking cues from the hits **MODERN FAMILY** and **SILICON VALLEY** the series is a 30-minute filmed format.

Rooted in the present day, the show explores the stark realities and drama-filled struggles Marc and his group face as they search for love, acceptance and careers while being constantly contrasted with unattainable ideals of happiness.



DeeplySuperficial.tv

Keith Allen West

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CENTRAL QUESTION

Why This Idea, Why Me, and Why Now?

Marc's life is the writer's life. Keith Allen West has a totally unique perspective on life after a long relationship ends. Keith spent 24 years in a bad relationship because he was afraid to be alone. His emotionally abusive marriage left him feeling worthless, broken and unlovable. After battling the divorce for two years, he is free to decide what he really wants to do with his life. He still has to navigate growing older in the gay culture that celebrates youth and trying to launch a career in the acting world which is equally judgmental.

Keith's friends make up the other characters we see. That give us Marc's friends and family, which verge on lunacy in what comes up, but they are the most loyal people Marc could ever count on.



RELATIONSHIPS

DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL features five series regular characters and Marc's pet potbelly pig. Marc's relationship with his personal life is the central focus. He is the sane, grounded member of the group, but his world is battered constantly by the influence of his tribe.

Marc is recently divorced after his 24-year marriage. He feels lost and out of touch with who he really is as a single man. Searching to heal from an emotionally damaging relationship, he embraces acting and divines the best path to a happy future.



Alexandra is Marc's astrology-obsessed talent agent and his closest confidant. She is quirky, flighty and nurturing. She secretly desires a life as full of opportunity and excitement as Marc has. She is a true blessing for his career, but less than astute at helping his personal life. She has always mothered Marc until his real Mom moves to town.

Now the two struggle over that role.

Marc and his Mom were close, but they have not lived in the same city together since Marc was in high school. She decides she cannot live in Ohio with his sister any longer and she shows up, unannounced, on Marc's doorstep.

Harry has been Marc's best friend since the early years of college. It is his influence that formed Marc's understanding of gay culture and guided his coming out during the AIDS epidemic. He has been Marc's rock... and also the snarky voice in his head. Harry married Stewart ten years ago.

Stewart is desperately optimistic in everything but he's completely unanchored in reality. Stewart and Alexandra dated in college before Stewart came out.

The group sees each other everyday with 24/7 unfettered access. No boundaries. There is no room for secrets or alone time.





Deeply Superficial Pitch Packet

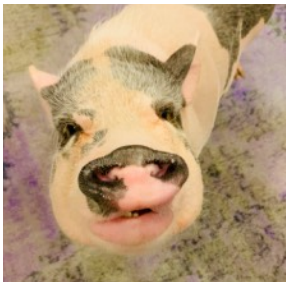


CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

SERIES REGULARS



Marc - *the sarcastic voice of reason* – 49, successful, gay business man who’s tired of the rat race and pretends not to be in a midlife crisis after an ugly divorce ended his marriage when his husband left him for a 22 year old. He loves luxury, diamonds, and all things that allow him to forget his poor childhood, but he’s kind at heart. His two addictions are coffee and PRADA. Marc launches an acting career, and wants to date again but gets distracted by sexy twenty-something guys. Just as he is adjusting to his life with his pet pig Priscilla, Pig of the Desert and peaceful his surroundings, his Mom moves in. (Keith Allen West)



Priscilla, Pig of the Desert - *the snarky loose cannon* - the much loved emotional support pig - 5 years old. Marc tells everyone Priscilla is smarter than any man he has ever dated and way smarter than his ex-husband. She sleeps with Marc every night and lives for meals, carrots and snacks! (Herself)



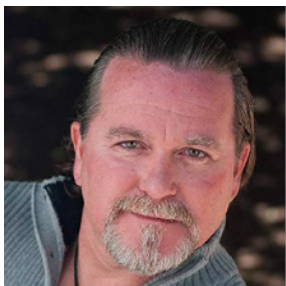
Mom - *the sweet, oblivious innocent* - 65, Marc’s mom is young at heart and is in her own universe. After living with Marc’s sister for 20 years, she decides they can no longer share a house. Giving no warning to Marc, Mom packs a bag and jumps on a plane to New Mexico. She shows her love with food. No one ever eats enough. The perfect family martyr that only does “selfless” acts, she is sure to remind everyone of her continued personal sacrifice for them. (Teddy Eggeston)



Alexandra - *the exciting eccentric* - 47, Marc’s agent and one of the few people he can have “real talk” with that is not judging him. Her life is a stressful mess, but she loves her actors and keeps them working. She’s obsessed with astrology, tarot cards and ghosts. Her kids are grown up so she plays Mother to the group. Alexandra loves karaoke and her daily horoscopes more than anything else in her life. (Angela Wilson)

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SERIES REGULARS (Continued)

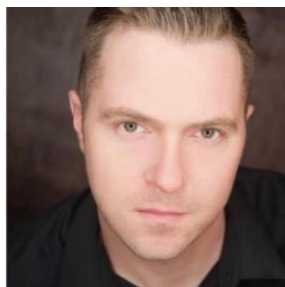


Harry - *the anxious over-thinking Leather Daddy* - 48, the gay bitchy friend that always has something snarky to say. Adds great banter to parties. He is overly logical and very OCD. Smart in everything except the advice he gives Marc. Staunchly vegetarian and very outspoken, he keeps Marc from letting people take advantage of him. He has vast wisdom from world travel, living through the AIDS crisis and the modern gay equality movement. Harry runs a theater group specializing in original musicals. (Vic Browder)



Stewart - *desperately optimistic comedic hero* - 55, Harry's husband of ten years. He's an overweight yoga instructor. He's not good at yoga or anything health related, but he thinks he is. Always frazzled, eating snacks and obviously clueless. He imparts wisdom occasionally with no clue where it came from. Calls everyone "Giiiiirrrrrlllll." He's probably an alcoholic, but functions well. (Doug Montoya)

Recurring Guest Stars



David - *the sexy, suave and seductive sexpot* - 30, Marc's former "Friend With Benefits" that moved to LA to launch a porn career. They only dated for 4 months while Marc dealt with the divorce, but they are great friends. Sexy and desired by all, he's moved back to Albuquerque. (Colin Jones)



Gloria - *the judgmental royal and pampered princess* - 50, Marc's Housekeeper. She's the widow of a former Russian nuclear scientist that worked at Los Alamos National Labs taking refuge in the USA during the Cold War. Wealthy beyond belief, but traumatized by living poorly in Russia, she has turned to hoarding money. She cleans houses for extra cash. Covered in jewelry, she loves Marc because they share the addiction to really nice, sparkly things. (Alaina Warren Zachary)



Bobby Lyne Maxwell - *the ego-driven cheerleader* - The top Casting Director in New Mexico. She's a lipstick lesbian that loves high-fashion and all things Hollywood, but she is always packing heat. She moved to Albuquerque to take care of her aging mother, get in touch with nature and toughen-up her girlfriend - the typical LA spoiled girl. She is an amazing ally or a horrible enemy based on her mood that day. (Amber Pohl).

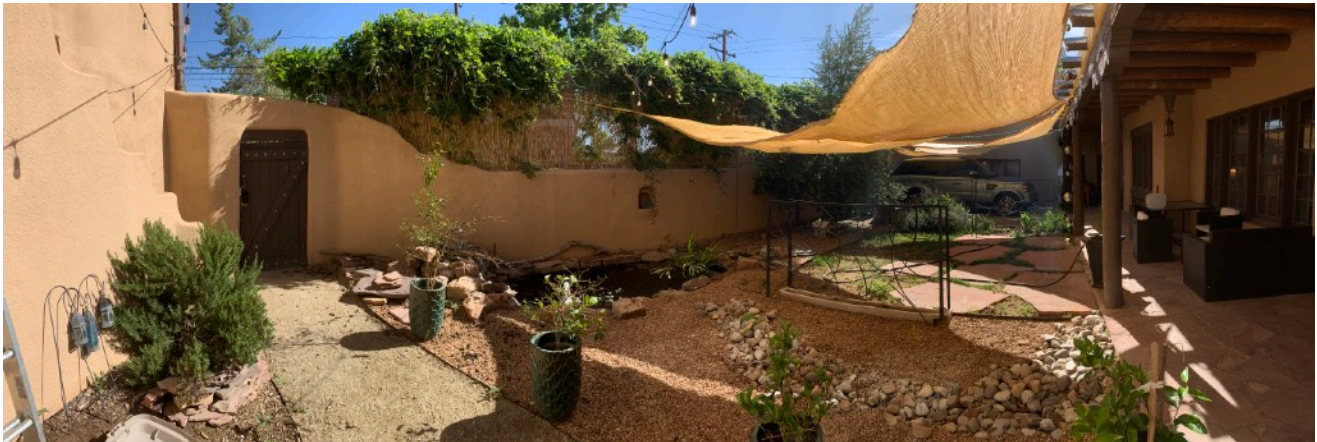
LOCATIONS

The Building - Broadway Manor

The building allows so much action to happen all in one filming location. Marc's building is a 9,000 square foot historic, former music school in downtown Albuquerque. Marc has his own apartment in the "West Wing", the skincare store, an apartment upstairs that Harry and Stewart rent, as well as a efficiency unit rented by Bud, an agoraphobic lesbian. It has a few extra offices open that allow people to movie in and out of the story as needed.



Marc's space is the perfect balance of historic New Mexico with a modern, minimalist flair. The remodel he did created an open cooking show style kitchen, second kitchen prep area known as the "Butler's Panty," open concept living room that features the original hand carved beams and fireplace. The very private courtyard is perfect for reading a book or entertaining hundreds at a political fundraiser.



The Store

Marc's retail home-goods store is located at the front of the building. He has a small staff that sells his cedar-infused skincare.



The Coffeeshop

The local breakfast, lunch and meeting space where Marc is well known. Bernard, the coffeeshop owner, is a married man that Marc thinks might be gay. Marc has his own table where he likes to work and eat. Bernard will make people get up from that table whenever Marc comes in.



The Casting Directors Office

A single room where Bobby has a desk and a camera to record auditions.

SEASON ARCS

Season One

Now that his two year divorce battle is resolved, Marc and his pet pig, Priscilla, are enjoying their fresh start. He's successfully growing his store that supports his posh lifestyle and is recreating his personal brand launching an acting career in the bustling New Mexico market.

Episode One (Dinner Date) introduces us to Marc's chaotic and wonderful life of friends, family, business and his attempt at dating. A burnt roast, a happily snorting Priscilla, his overly dramatic mother, and his cadre of friends lovingly bombard every moment of his spare time. Marc finds himself wondering how to navigate his life as a newly single 48-year old divorced gay man. How does this dating thing work?

Episode Two (Back to the Porn Star) finds Marc investigating his friend Harry's involvement with a young hot man, only to discover Harry is giving the man acting lessons. Are Harry & Stewart headed toward a divorce? His agent and best friend, Alexandra, comes close to losing her agency because of a vindictive former client. With his mom living with him, Marc gets to re-visit his early childhood trauma. Luckily, his booty call from L.A., David, moves to Albuquerque and heats things up in the bedroom while Priscilla continues to support him with love and pig snorts. What is true love?

Episode Three (Singing Fixes Everything) starts with Marc's Dad coming to visit as he tries to reconnect with Mom, but all the same old family issues bubble to the surface. Harry is in a pinch and needs money for his theater to put in the next hit musical. Marc goes to therapy to deal with his childhood issues only to learn he has a lot of emotional baggage. David still cannot find an apartment so he's living with Marc. Does age and career matter in dating?

Episode Four (Everybody gets Some) has David searching for an apartment (or at least he says he is looking for an apartment) without much luck. He and Marc decide they definitely should not date. David has a date over to the house and Marc ends up in a threesome. They wake up the next morning and run into Mom and her much younger and very masculine overnight guest in the kitchen. Alexandra loses her biggest client to a new agent in town, and the gang tries to cheer her up. Stewart decides he wants to buy a yoga studio, but the

owner is the mean landlord that kicked Alexandra out of her office. Can they negotiate a deal?

Episode Five (Yes, and... I mean No) has the gang at an improv show where the lead actor shows interest in Marc until the guy realizes Marc is wearing a wedding ring. Once Marc clarifies the situation they go on a disastrous dinner date where Marc figures out the guy is way more OCD than Harry and a big over-sharer. Bud, the agoraphobic lesbian tenant in Marc's building dies leaving an opening in the manor. Stewart moves forward in the purchase of the yoga studio. Is life really like an improv show?

Episode Six (But I am GAY!) forces Marc to confront his gender and label bias when he realizes he is falling for Dan, a closeted trans-man that is also an actor. Alexandra gets jealous over Marc dating and not spending as much time with the gang which erupts at a drunken karaoke event. David wants to move into the open apartment, but that leaves Marc wandering if that would be good for either of them. Harry's theater gets vandalized by bigots that paint "death to fags" all over the walls. Why is there so much hate in the world?

Episode Seven (Pig in a Hospital Bed) exposes Marc's vulnerability as they find out he was passed over for a major role, but his name is out there now so the auditions come rolling in. Mom passes out and breaks her hip. She almost dies in surgery. The gang rallies together to support Marc. They even sneak Priscilla into the hospital to see her grandma. Stewart announces he is opening his yoga studio the following week after getting money from an Angel Investor. Does it take a crisis to bring people closer?

Episode Eight (Downward Porn Star?) shows Marc's loving and supportive side when he hosts a fundraising party for Harry's theater, but Priscilla escapes during the party. David admits he's the investor in Stewart's new yoga studio so he can transition to a new "legit" career. Marc auditions for a role in a big budget movie. Three call-backs in and the pressure get's intense. Could the gang handle things if Marc is gone for six months filming in Croatia?

Season Two

Now that we're entrenched in the core relationships, we make the situation even more chaotic. As the acting world heats up in New Mexico, Marc lands a lead role on a crime drama filming in Albuquerque. Just as Marc thinks he has the dating world under control, he is thrust into the tumultuous world of serial television. Long days and demanding schedules cause strife within the tribe as they all battle for Marc's little free time. His relationship with David get's more complicated as David wants Marc to settle into a monogamous relationship.

Mom admits to the gang that she is battling cancer and has a very serious prognosis. While she and Alexandra have battled for the lead role mothering Marc, Alexandra steps up to be Mom's primary caregiver.

The season ends with Marc not knowing if the crime show is renewed for a second season, what he wants from David and how his tribe will survive added stresses from the outside world.

Season Three

We start with the celebration when Marc's show is renewed for a second season. Dan (the closeted trans-man from Season One and now a big name Hollywood celebrity) is added to the show which reduces the size of Marc's role. David gets jealous of Dan and creates a few emotionally charged scenes on the set of the show.

Mom loses her battle with cancer which leaves Marc devastated. Her death brings his estranged father and drug-addicted sister back into his life. It looks like they are moving to town for good.

Alexandra sees continued growth in her talent agency and opens an office in Los Angeles to represent even more talent. Harry offers acting classes in the hopes of keeping his struggling theatre alive.

The season concludes with Marc's show being cancelled. He gets an offer to work on a new show but must relocate to Los Angeles. Is it a blessing to get away from his family or a bad decision for his life and acting career?

TV INFLUENCES

It is the relationships in **FRIENDS** that made the show such a long running hit. It followed the personal and professional lives of six twenty- to thirty-year-old friends living in New York as they navigate their way through life and learn to grow up.

Much of the comedic timing in **THE OFFICE** is rooted in its unique visual style. **DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL** follows suit making the camera an intimate part of the show.

SEINFELD built a comedy empire on trivial minutia. **DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL** uses a lot of the conflict around frivolous, trivial tangents that suddenly seem urgent to the tribe.

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT illustrated a central character attempting to hold things together amid routine, humiliating situations. **DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL** puts Marc under the same pressure while dealing with the gang.

THE TEAM



Keith Allen West - Writer, Showrunner, Producer

Keith is a dynamic actor that portrays powerful, complex and authentic characters in feature films and tv shows. Through out his career, he has worked with actors and directors from multiple Academy Award winning films. He stars in a new sitcom **DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL** and has a lead role in the independent film **THIRD ACT**. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, he has been entertaining crowds and appearing on major media since his college journalism degree. He works in TV, film and commercials throughout New Mexico, Los Angeles, CA and globally.

His career includes CBS ALL ACCESS's Interrogation, BRAVO's Untying the Knot, HGTV's You Live In What, Hell or High Water, Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, Better Call Saul, Longmire and many more. He's featured in People Magazine, USA Today, VOGUE, Huffington Post, The Guardian, LA Times, NY Times, FOX, CNN, NPR and many more media outlets. His small business online reality series THE STARTUP reached 24 million subscribers.



Michelle Tomlinson - Director

An Actress with a long list of IMDb credits, Michelle Tomlinson thrives on being a creative woman in the film industry.

Tomlinson was first inspired by a conversation with former Governor James Mountain of San Ildefonso Pueblo about language being a living thing that can die and lead to catastrophic events for Native American cultures. That conversation started the journey that has become the documentary, "EDGE." Tomlinson is directing the film and co-producing it with Lori Bowen.

Tomlinson is the Casting Director for the groundbreaking Narrative Podcast "FRIJOLES y ARROZ" for creator James Charleston, and she is Directing the Documentary, "RISE OF THE MILLENNIAL", with partner Kimberly Amato.

Tomlinson recently Directed the comedy pilot "DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL" for creator Keith Allen West.

Tomlinson also just released her Children's Book, "GROWING UP MAY" on Amazon for Kindle and paperback readers, alike.

Patrick Arrellin - Director of Photography

Patrick Arrellin, often endeared as "Punch" is a multi-award winning independent director of photography and internationally published photographer. Making his living as a camera operator, gaffer, dolly grip, rigging grip, theater/concert hall and stage director. In his free time he and volunteers and mentors in his various trades as a teacher.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

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