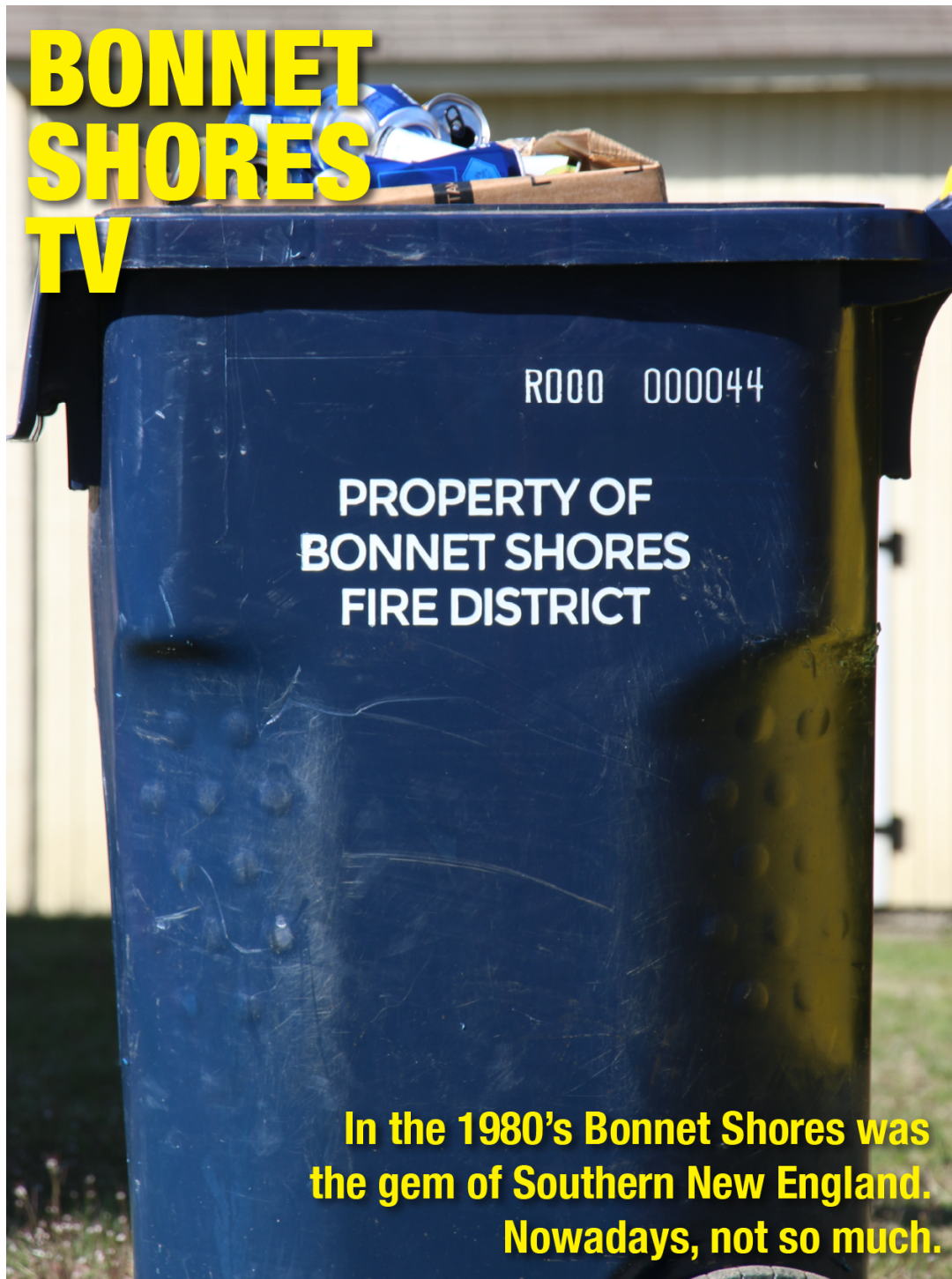


Bonnet Shores TV

Directed by Devin McRoberts
bonnetshorestv@gmail.com



Runtime: 9:23

Logline

Bonnet Shores TV is a mockumentary following the unpredictable lives of four college roommates and their neighbors while living in Bonnet Shores.

Bonnet Shores TV is a ten-minute mockumentary series.

Synopsis – Short (54 words)

Set in the coastal town of Bonnet Shores, a student film crew documents the chaotic lives of four college roommates and their neighbors. Bonnet is a typical if not somewhat substandard college town. Hosting a pizza place, liquor store, and gas station, it's a testament to the positive effect of alcohol on human resilience.

Synopsis – Long (120 words)

Set in the coastal town of Bonnet Shores, a student film crew documents the chaotic lives of four college roommates and their neighbors. Bonnet is a typical if not somewhat substandard college town. Hosting a pizza place, liquor store, and gas station, it's a testament to the positive effect of alcohol on human resilience.

Bonnet Shores TV incorporates the documentary style and interviews of *The Office* to capture the college-aged antics of *Workaholics*. Inviting you into a world as trashy and chaotic as *Trailer Park Boys* inhabited by characters with the emotional damage of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

Absurd, irrational, and hilarious, Bonnet Shores TV makes sense of the college town in the same way *The Office* explained the modern workplace.

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Director's Statement

The transition into adulthood looks different across all cultures. In America it usually takes the form of the “college house.” A group of young adults striking out on their own. Carving a path into adult life... At least trying to, anyways. People who as recently as a year ago would've had to ask permission to use the restroom in high school are now expected to operate with full autonomy. It's a recipe for disaster. A beautiful train wreck spanning the first few years of young adulthood.

I spent the beginning of my adult life in this exact setup. Living in a house with five roommates. There was always something happening whether you liked it or not. Unable to cook, we were sustained by Mac and Cheese and Gatorade. I remember teaching one of my roommates how to do his laundry. Our lack of life skills combined with our willingness to do stupid things led to more than a few dubious situations. Most of which involved the overconsumption of alcohol, sleep deprivation, and unhappy neighbors.

With my experience in this environment I strived to create a project that gave the viewer a semi-satirical look into this wild world. The “college house” is an iconic symbol and experience and I aimed to preserve that feeling. Bonnet Shores TV is a satirical firsthand look at what it's like to mature in modern day America.

- Devin McRoberts

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why did you choose the mockumentary format?

The Mockumentary format was the best system we had to tell our story. The end goal was to capture the chaotic energy of living in a house with a bunch of rowdy roommates. Being able to include interviews and more importantly, letting the characters acknowledge the presence of the camera, really helped drive home the theme of Bonnet Shores TV.

Q: What are your influences?

My filmmaking idols are Robert Rodriguez and Spike Jonze. I have loads of respect for their DIY attitude towards filmmaking. I've read and watched tons of material they've created. Especially Robert Rodriguez's *10 Minute Film School* and *Rebel Without a Crew*. I have a DVD that contains Spike Jonze's best work as a director and I'll frequently sit down and watch it for hours at a time.

The network *Adult Swim* has always been a massive inspiration. It comes back to the low-budget DIY style. They've created some of the funniest and most inventive shows I've seen. *Adult Swim* has been a huge influence on my personal style of comedy.

As far as things that directly influenced Bonnet Shores TV. I'd say *The Office*, *Trailer Park Boys*, and *Workaholics* are among the top contenders.

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Q: What was it like working with inexperienced actors?

This ties back into our choice to film Bonnet Shores TV as a mockumentary. Most of the characters in the show are playing an exaggerated version of themselves. Except for Brett. Brett's a lot different in real life thankfully. The actors had to put in a bit of practice, but overall the process was incredibly smooth once we got the ball rolling.

Q: How did you work around your budget constraints?

I took advice from the filmmaker Robert Rodriguez who in his book *Rebel Without a Crew* gave lots of tips on working with a shoestring budget. The script was written around the props we had available to us. The pilot episode of Bonnet Shores TV was produced for \$75. Most of that was spent on pizza and beer for the cast and crew. I think we spent about \$20 on a monopod to get our shots stable and \$5 on the cheese that's covering the car in the beginning.

Q: If you had to do it again, what would you do differently?

I'm actually pretty happy with how the pilot came out. But there is one thing I would change in a heartbeat. Our sound. We used a Rode shotgun microphone. It's a fine product but occasionally we would have static interference. Especially if we were filming near a router or other device with internet connectivity. Strange, I know. So, if I had to do something differently I'd use a different microphone.

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Q: Where did the idea for Bonnet Shores TV come from?

I'd spent a long time trying to find an idea for a series I could produce using my community. Eventually it hit me. Like a train. We could produce a show about a universal experience that we'd all been through. Most of the actors have lived together at one point or another. Lots of the drama on the show is actually based on real events. Ultimately, I wanted a project that would work with what I had in my immediate surroundings.

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Biographies

Devin McRoberts, Director, Writer

Devin McRoberts is a self-motivated filmmaker and student that's created opportunities for himself and peers through hard work and intelligent decision making. Currently an undergraduate film and marketing student at the University of Rhode Island, Bonnet Shores TV is his first major project. He's an experienced writer, director, and editor as well as serving as the first assistant director on a variety of his peer's projects.

Devin's current goal is to become a staff writer on a comedy series and further hone his skills in a professional environment.

Connor Steere, Director of Photography, Producer

Junior studying Film/Media and Computer Science at the University of Rhode Island. Connor served as the DOP and Producer on Bonnet Shores TV. He developed an interest in videography and cameras at a young age and has taken numerous courses in both film and photography. He hopes to one day leverage skills to develop content independently or for a production company.

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Diego Torres, Producer, Actor

Diego Santana Torres is a Mexican-American filmmaker and actor from South Kingstown, Rhode Island. Diego started making videos and short films at a young age. In his freshman year of high school, he created the YouTube channel, Gregg N Friends which evolved into Detour Films. He has two short films, Diego Unchained and Bloody R.I. under his belt and plans to continue making more. Diego's strengths come in his creativity and ideas especially when he is writing a script or acting in someone else's project. One day Diego hopes to be a full-time director or actor making his films.

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Production Facts

- The pilot episode of Bonnet Shores TV was reshot three times
- The final version of the pilot was shot in a single day
- The car that's trashed at the start of the pilot actually belongs to the director Devin McRoberts
- We used a \$20 monopod for all of the interviews
- The actor that plays Jackson the "Bonnet Shores Roadkill Collector" actually cleans roadkill for a living in real life
- The convenience store scene was shot on an iPhone and completely improvised
- Bonnet Shores is a real town in southern Rhode Island and it's full of crazy college drama
- A college student in Bonnet Shores would pay the same amount of rent for an entire semester that a tourist would pay for a single week in the same house during the summer
- A rabid dog crawled into the middle of the road right before we started filming the scene where Danny assaults Brett

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Full Production Credits

Directed By

Devin McRoberts

Written By

Devin McRoberts

Producers

Connor Steere

Diego Torres

Devin McRoberts

Lead Cast

Jackson Gleason

Nick Jin

Danny O'Keefe

Diego Torres

Devin McRoberts

Supporting Cast

Pierre Ghorayeb

Sarah Zaniewski

Nate Rasmussen

Tyler Heroux

Director of Photography

Connor Steere

Edited By

Devin McRoberts

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Filmmaker Contact

Director

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