THE COUCH

a short comedy film

written by cheryl hughes



craig david rosen | david beckles, jr. | sheri rak | tim brandt | cheryl hughes | christina rose yasi

BEST SHORT WINNER
Chalachitra International Film Awards
2026

SHORT WINNER
London Indie Film Festival
2026

BEST SHORT WINNER
Kyoto Cinematica Film Festival
2026

FINALIST
Cine Vista Oasis Film Awards
2026

FINALIST
Pageant Film Festival
2026

FINALIST
Milan Indie Film Festival
2026

SEMI - FINALIST
London Women Film Festival
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
PNN Academy Comedy Film Festival
2026

SEMI - FINALIST
Red Flight Pictures Screenplay Awards
2025

FINALIST
California Women Film Festival
2026

SAG·AFTRA



LOG LINE

Dave Johnson, an OSU football diehard dad, spirals into a comedic crisis when his wife, Becky, sells his game-day couch to a Michigan fan on their daughter's graduation, forcing him to choose the cushions that bind him or the marriage that needs him.

THE CONCEPT

The Couch is a character driven comedy short film that explores themes of marriage, personal growth and the symbolic battle between comfort and change.

Tone: Comedy with genuine emotional depth delivering a satisfying resolution. It’s a modern day take on “Married With Children”.

Visual Aesthetic: A creature of comfort in a homey atmosphere.



SYNOPSIS

The story follows Dave Johnson, a couch-devoted OSU football fanatic, and his wife Becky on the day their daughter Jill earns her PhD from Yale. Dave has grown so attached to his couch that he refuses to dress properly for the ceremony. When he finally does make a heroic effort to get up and shower, Becky seizes the opportunity to sell it to their Michigan-obsessed neighbors, Tom and Mike.

After Dave discovers the couch is gone, he unravels in a rage and stages a protest by feverishly planting a lawn chair in its place. Exhausted by his antics, Becky and Jill abandon Dave, alone in the chair.

Confronted by flickering memories on the TV screen, Dave realizes his marriage and family are at stake. Choosing FAMILY over his sedentary habits, he takes off his remote-control necklace, puts on a suit, and heads out to join Becky and Jill at the graduation.



“This outfit is acceptable in all fifty states”

DAVE JOHNSON

Dave starts as a sedentary, TV-obsessed middle-aged man who has become overly comfortable on his favorite couch. He's resistant to change, defensive about his lifestyle, and initially seems disconnected from his family. Throughout the screenplay, he experiences a gradual transformation triggered by the removal of his beloved couch. He moves from being stubborn and immovable to ultimately choosing his family over his comfort zone. His final act of TAKING OFF his TV remote necklace, putting on the suit Jill found and physically attending her graduation represents his willingness to step out of his comfort and reconnect with his family.

Archetype: The Everyman

BECKY JOHNSON

Becky is frustrated with Dave's passive lifestyle and takes active steps to force change, most dramatically by selling the couch. She's supportive of her daughter but exasperated with her husband's lack of motivation. Her character arc involves trying to push Dave out of his comfort zone and ultimately succeeding by creating a situation that forces him to make a choice between his sedentary habits and his family relationships.

Archetype: Caregiver



“I sold the couch”



“Dad, you’re embarrassing.”

JILL JOHNSON

Jill is a high-achieving daughter graduating Summa Cum Laude from Yale. She starts as slightly embarrassed by her father's behavior but remains fundamentally loving. Her character arc involves being the catalyst that helps her parents reconnect, symbolized by her finding her father's suit and her warm embrace of him at the graduation.

Archetype: The Caregiver

CAROL

Carol is Becky's best friend and Tom's wife, serving as a catalyst for change. She represents the voice of reason and action in the neighborhood. Carol has put Tom on an exercise program, showing that she, like Becky, is trying to push her husband toward better habits. She represents the support system that allows Becky to follow through on her difficult decision of selling the couch.

Archetype: The Caregiver



“It’s gonna be epic”



TOM

“I have the body of a D one athlete.”

MIKE

“You’re a hamburger away from exploding”

TOM

A supporting character who represents an energetic, fitness-obsessed neighbor. His minor arc involves attempting to prove his physical prowess while helping Becky remove the couch, providing comic relief and contrast to Dave's sedentary lifestyle.

Archetype: Jester

MIKE

Similar to Tom, Mike is a supporting character who helps remove the couch. He provides comic relief through his banter with Tom and serves as a background character facilitating the plot's main conflict.

Archetype: Jester





THE JOHNSON FAMILY ROOM

The Setting: Imagine stepping into a cozy, intimate living room den that pulses with a blend of warmth and surreal domestic theater. Minimalist decor—think a couple of carefully framed family photos, a modest shelf lined with books, and subtle wall accents—sets a calm stage for the unfolding drama.

The Central Piece – The Couch: At the heart of the room lies an overstuffed, well-worn couch that tells a story. Its fabric, slightly faded and creased by time, now plays host to an eclectic cast of characters.

THE TARGET AUDIENCE

Is EVERYONE who enjoys sitting on the couch whether it be to relax while watching their favorite show or game, or to connect with family.This relatable film will touch the hearts of many and appeal to family oriented comedy lovers.

MILLENNIALS/GEN-Xers: Fans of Married with Children would appreciate a nostalgic reboot done with a modern twist.

YOUNGER AUDIENCES: New viewers drawn to irreverent, edgy humor reminiscent of modern shows like Family Guy and Rick and Morty.

MARKET POTENTIAL

A modern day *Married With Children* short film could have strong upside especially if it taps into nostalgia while updating current themes.

STREAMING PLATFORMS AND DISTRIBUTION

VOD Platforms: Hulu, Amazon Prime or Netflix, which cater to adult comedy.

YouTube/Vimeo: Potential for viral success, especially with bite-sized, edgy content.

Short film Festivals: Genre festivals could generate buzz and credibility.

POTENTIAL MONETIZATION

Ad Placement Revenue on Streaming/YouTube

Sponsorship/Brand Integration

Licensing and Pilot Spin-offs

















