BUSH LINES

Every message matters.

a screenplay by Gary B. Haley

Feature drama

The premise

A disgraced podcaster takes the night shift at an Alaskan radio station, where a grandmother’s eleven-year invitation draws her into a family’s grief. Then a blizzard makes their voices the only way home.

A feature drama with wry humor and survival suspense.

Tulik, Alaska

At KTLK, a hockey score and a mother’s invitation share the same microphone.

Messages travel between villages and isolated camps. The station’s pledge drive even accepts moose hindquarters.

A whole community within earshot.

The people at KTLK

Iris Kell, 38

A gifted host who turns other people’s lives into content. Alaska asks her to listen.

Agnes Pavila, 71

A sharp-witted Yup’ik grandmother. Failing eyesight cannot silence the promise she keeps.

Walt Dunham, 66

A stubborn station manager and bush pilot. His secret has protected Danny for years.

The invitation

“Supper is at six.
Your chair is still there.”

Every Thursday, Agnes reads a message to Danny, the grandson who vanished eleven years ago.

Danny’s mother is dead. Agnes is still keeping her promise.

Iris’s comeback

A Los Angeles producer offers Iris a way out of debt. She shares private recordings.

A viral trailer turns a family’s heartbreak into entertainment, and Tulik’s trust collapses.

Then three young men disappear in a blizzard.

The storm

Three boys lost on the river.
The signal cannot fail.

Planes cannot fly. KTLK carries the calls for help.

Iris and Benny fight the ice choking the transmitter. Agnes runs the board by touch.

The rescue

“Please bring my son home.”

A missing boy’s mother tells Danny the river accident was never his fault.

Her voice reaches him after eleven years in hiding. He rides into the whiteout.

The humor

BENNY

“I’m putting this on TikTok!”

IRIS

“Your phone’s dead!”

Pledge drives take moose meat. A faithful listener insists the hymn is too fast. Daily banter keeps the worst night human.

The sound of Bush Lines

Five seconds of dead air.
Nobody interrupts.

A familiar AM voice holds the community together.

When Lorraine finds the courage to speak, Iris finally gives her the silence she needs.

For filmmakers

An older woman at the center

Agnes gives an older leading actress a major role, balancing authority, wit, and grief.

An intimate setting

An analog radio booth anchors the drama. The whiteout rescue gives it a cinematic climax.

A story shaped by sound

Static, weather bulletins, and the pauses between words let sound carry action and emotion.

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Seeking a producer and director
to bring Bush Lines to the screen.

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