

Imagination For Hire Presents

— Anthology Series —

REST  
STOP





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Capturing the feeling of wonder, mystery and amusement you can only experience at a unique roadside landmark, REST STOP is an exploration of the altered perspectives one finds when they take the time to journey down the scenic route.

Inspired by current anthology series like *Black Mirror* and *Inside No. 9*, each episode of *REST STOP* is connected by the odd locations one tends to only encounter on a road trip. Rest stops, landmarks and roadside stopovers of all kinds serve a transient mix of people from all walks of life, and are often strange worlds in and of themselves. Our characters approach these unique spots carrying a sense of reality conceived by the world from which they came, but will leave with their realities forever altered. Following in the footsteps of the legendary *Twilight Zone*, *REST STOP* twists together a mix of genres and a myriad of interesting characters, appealing to a wide audience.



EPISODE GUIDE →



10 MINUTES TO PIE



Two young women, on their way to an annual weekend of outdoor debauchery with friends, discover the long abandoned Portico Diner, but when they return, just days later, the formerly dilapidated diner is suddenly fresh and full of life. Once inside, they will discover that things aren't always what they appear to be at the Portico Diner.

HEAR NO EVIL



While on the solo road trip of his dreams, Sherman removes his hearing aid in order to enjoy a peaceful picnic by a blaring highway, rendering him totally deaf and completely unaware of the chaotic events unfolding right behind him. An homage to the comedic greats of the silent movie era, most of this episode takes place in silence.

BIG THINGS



A newly formed family unit uses their move from the Gold Coast to Sydney as a bonding opportunity, road tripping to every famous "Big Thing" they can visit along the way, but a trip to the big " ? " that has just appeared on their map, might turn out to be the best bonding opportunity of them all.



## FROM OUTER SPACE



A group of tourists, trapped in a national park by the crash of an unidentified flying object, get wrapped up in a tense whodunit as the local ranger tries to figure out which one of them is responsible for the mysterious footprints leading away from the crash site. This tale of prejudiced perception is a re-imagining of Rod Serling's teleplay "Will The Real Martian Please Stand Up" enhanced by some modern storytelling twists.

## HAUNTING THE HIPSTERS



The small cast and crew of a reality ghost-hunting show, explore the most haunted highway in the world, but by going out of her way to assure they capture something film-worthy, their director might have scared up a few real spooks.

## CHERRY PIE



Back at the Portico Diner, the Waitress and Fry Cook, former low-level crims serving out a stint in purgatory, spend a confusing night trying to meet the needs of their only customer; two small children. As suspicion of the children's real reason for being at the Portico Diner mounts, so do tensions between the Waitress and the Fry Cook.





# FOUR ACES

## GAS ★ FOOD ★ LODGING

## THE WORLD OF REST STOP

REST STOP visits unique roadside locations, from famous landmarks to generic picnic spots, with each new episode. Because roadside stops deliver brief, transient moments to people from all walks of life, they bear a strange sense of place and possibility. Somewhere between the comfort of home and the excitement of a new destination, these spots feel like worlds unto themselves. Combining the familiar experience of a road trip with a touch of magical reality, REST STOP makes these odd and often underappreciated settings into stages for adventure.







## CHARACTERS →







Young girlfriends embroiled in an age old conflict, a deaf man celebrating the new freedom granted by his hearing aid, a well-meaning step-dad trying to win over his new family, a low level civil servant throwing his authority around, jaded hipsters attempting to keep their well crafted cool, and a pair of criminals making their final attempt to play it straight, are just a few of the characters featured in REST STOP. No matter how different their backgrounds, they all have one thing in common, they think life is only what they already know, only what they've already experienced, and the future is only what is right in front of them.

With such a vast array of stories to be told, the potential for casting is incredibly diverse. Audiences will doubtlessly see themselves, their situations, and their feelings, reflected through the unique lens that is REST STOP.

The journeys each of these characters undertake, both physically and emotionally, will expose them to new places, new people, new situations, and experiences they would never have thought possible. Throwing this wide variety of heroes into wild situations will give audiences a chance to escape into each character's world and undertake these journeys right along with them

It is only by accepting that things are not always what they appear to be on the surface that our characters open themselves up to change. By embracing the unlikely circumstances they suddenly find themselves in, and entering a world full of new possibility, our characters soon discover the power they have to affect change in their own lives. Each of these REST STOP's are instrumental in altering the once staunch perspectives of our many relateable heroes.

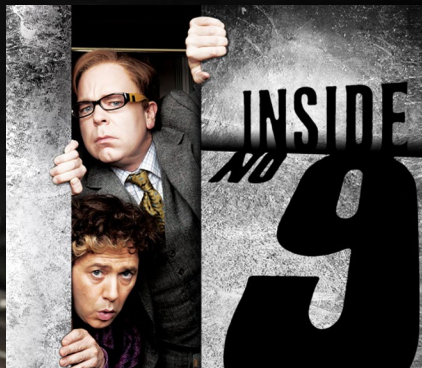


# COMPARISONS →

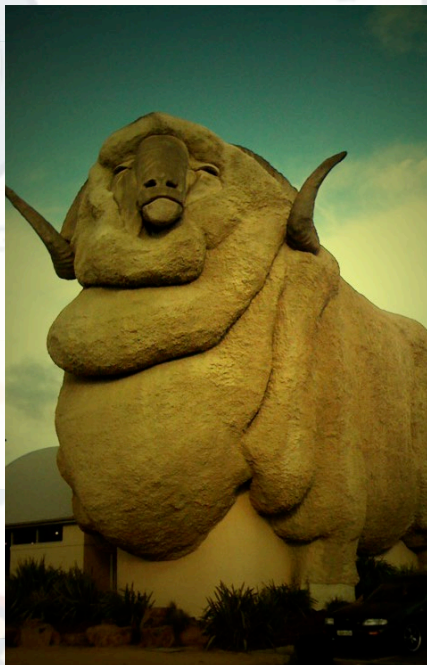




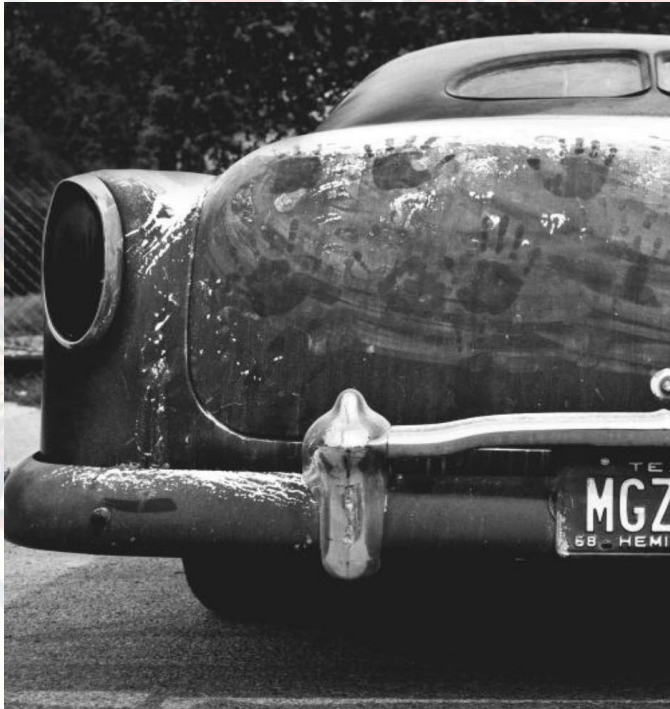
In addition to telling an array of different stories, REST STOP also features a huge range of characters who are being tested by circumstances that sit outside of their comfort zones. Each of these stories, though distinct, remain connected by the overarching concept that ties the series together. Audiences will be treated to everything from comedy to thrills, through scenarios that range from everyday to extraordinary, and often result in an even more unexpected twist.











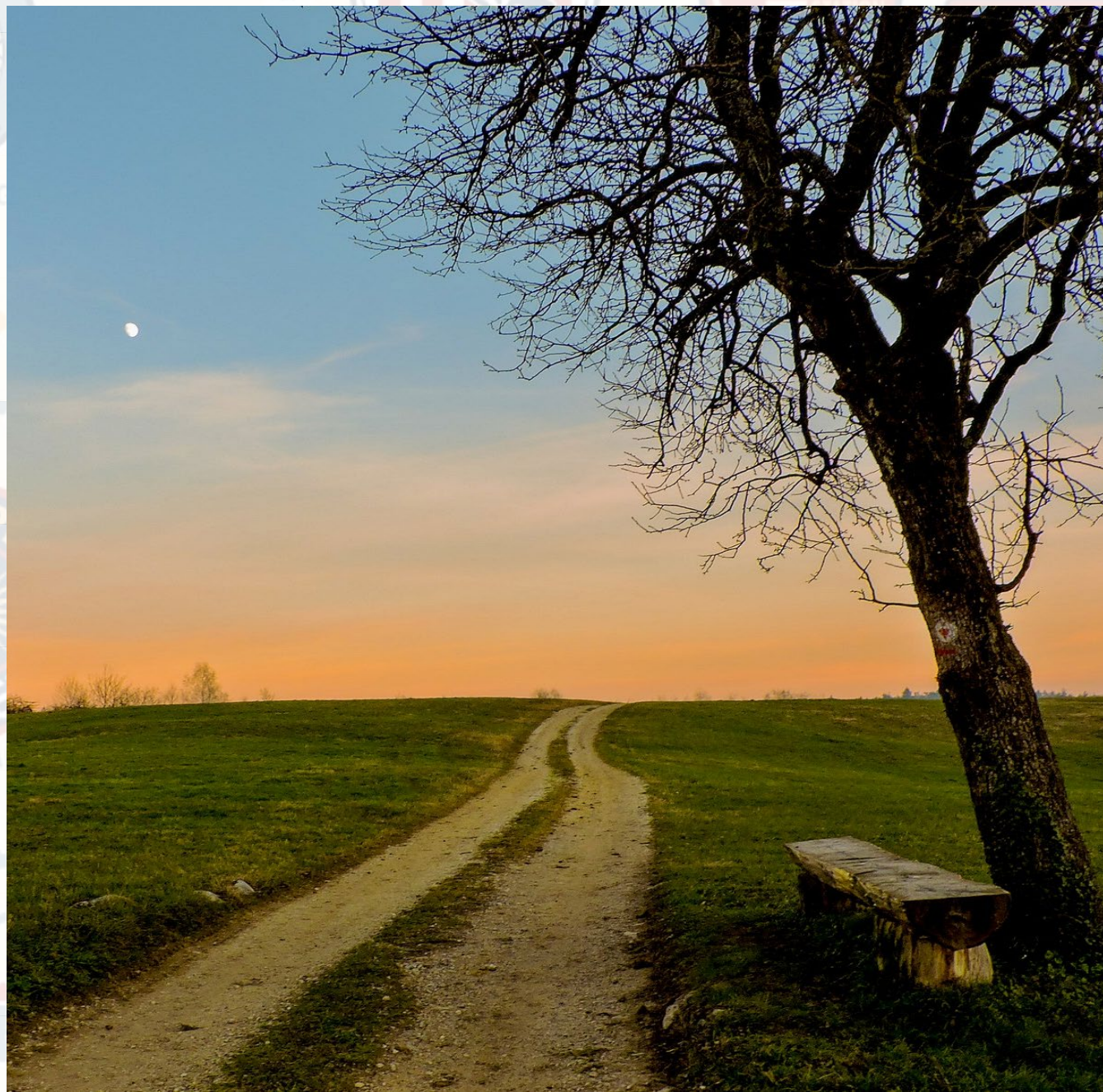
## INSPIRATION AND VISION

I love storytelling that makes us believe in magical possibility. Just as *Twilight Zone* encouraged me to believe that something as simple as a book, a stopwatch, a camera or a coin toss, can gift you with powers you never thought possible, I wanted to create something which suspends our often cynical disbelief and encourages us to see the magic in our everyday experiences. My childhood was rife with road trips, where time was demarcated by the oddities we passed, like the world's tallest thermometer, the mountain range shaped like a sleeping giant, and the restaurant/gas station that advertised its services on a tall water tower that simply read "EAT GAS".

These places inspired wild imaginings about what kind of stories they had seen unfold over the years, and what kind of life lay just over the horizon. We passed by them so quickly, I could never really know the answer. All I was left with, was the sense of wonder.

That feeling is what I aim to capture with REST STOP.









## WRITER DIRECTOR

Margaret M. MacDonald

Having lived and worked in Los Angeles, New York and Sydney, my twenty years of experience spans several roles in filmmaking and the arts. A background in production design has helped me to hone a uniquely visual voice, which conveys a tangible sense of place, inviting readers into the story world.

My body of written work includes twelve features, three series and a novel trilogy. I have written on spec, on assignment, and adapted my own material to suit production and publication. I have also directed three short films and am working toward directing my first feature. I've been lucky enough to earn a few laurels along the way, and hope to earn more in the future.

I love telling stories that are character driven, and enjoy the challenge of infusing them with a mix of genres and a twist of the fantastic. I am passionate about creating films which transport people into other worlds, and help to make this one a little more extraordinary. Want to learn more?

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THANK  
YOU FOR  
VISITING