

Uncle Ron & The Ryan Express

by Craig Miller & Dustin Chafin

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A 30-min single cam comedy pilot
written by Craig Douglas Miller & Dustin Chafin.

Logline: A young ad copywriter in NYC struggles with career, love and money in the big city, only to have his life further upended by the arrival of an unexpected new roommate: his eccentric Texas Uncle, an outlaw cowboy type on a mission to finish his bucket list and amend for his beer drenched past.

Ryan



Ryan is a mid 20's advertising creative living in NYC. And like many of his compatriots, he's struggling with life, love and career in the big city.

He's got a big heart, and a quick wit. And yet, he never quite feels comfortable in his own skin in New York City due to his insecurity about his rural Texas upbringing, and he has only a trace left of his Texas drawl (at least until he gets a few beers in him).

Like many creative people, Ryan is prone to drift off, and often lives in the dream world of his imagination, which sometimes manifests itself literally in the show.

He loves to try new things, (he did move to NYC from Kilgore, after all), but he tends to overthink things, and unlike Uncle Ron, he has trouble taking things as they come. But in those rare moments when he lets go of his worries and insecurities and just lets it rip, he really shines.

Uncle Ron



If Waylon Jennings and Ferris Bueller had a love child, he'd probably be quite a bit like Uncle Ron. In many ways, Ron is a classic stereotypical Texan. His accent, black cowboy hat, as well as his love of guns, hunting, fishing, and outlaw country music are pure Lone Star State. Not to mention his "shoot from the hip" personality, and lack of political correctness.

But Ron breaks the stereotype by being surprisingly open-minded once he's exposed to new cultures, and quick to abandon his preconceived notions about race, culture, and sexuality once he's experienced them for himself.

Ron could make friends with a fencepost if you let him, and his newfound sobriety has unlocked his long dormant sense of adventure and desire to see the world. And with middle age rapidly giving way, he's determined to suck every last drop out of his remaining years.

More Characters



Eve

Eve is Ryan's girlfriend, or is she? The two have been having some issues, as Eve's ambitious hard driving personality is having trouble with Ryan's indecision and angst.



Osama

Osama is an advertising art director who is Ryan's partner at work. He's got incredible talent, but tends to miss a lot of work because he's out protesting for the cause du jour. His leap before looking personality is a foil for Ryan's cautiousness.

More Characters



Razor

Razor, Ryan and Osama's boss, is a legend in his own mind. He sees himself as a true motivator of the new millennium, and likes to spout off platitudes and metaphors that make zero sense whatsoever. He's the classic example of the employee who manages to fail upward, and his incompetence is the bane of Ryan and Osama's existence.

George Jones

George Jones is Uncle Ron's best friend and companion. Stoic and unflappable, George's presence can bring a modicum of calm to even the most insane situations.

Pilot Synopsis

Our country is as divided as ever. But is it really that hard for us to get along? We're going to find out in "UNCLE RON AND THE RYAN EXPRESS," the show where South meets North. Red meets Blue. Grits meets glitz. And most of all, NYC meets Kilgore, TX.

It's the story of RYAN (26), a rookie advertising writer struggling to overcome his small town Texas roots, and make it in the big city. He's got troubles at work with his buzzword spouting boss RAZOR, a man with more fedoras than good ideas. Not to mention his partner OSAMA, a gay middle easterner who likes to use social activism and attending protests as a means for getting drunk and playing hooky from work.

Then there's Ryan's girlfriend EVE (24), a strong black woman whose hero is Brene Brown, and who's getting quite impatient with Ryan's failure to "find his authentic self." Add in the financial pressure of student loans paired with NYC rent, and Ryan is hanging by a thread.

That's where we find Ryan, desperate to prove himself, and teetering on the edge of having to pack in his dream of becoming a New Yorker, and go back to Kilgore, TX. And just to prove things can always get more difficult, Ryan opens his door one day to find his estranged UNCLE RON (62) on his doorstep wanting to move in. Uncle Ron, who proudly has never set foot out of Texas until now, is the ultimate fish out of water in New York City, an outlaw cowboy type with Waylon Jennings' fashion sense, Hank Hill's outlook, and a trusty sidekick in tow: a huge bloodhound named GEORGE JONES.

After 20 years spent Swilling Lone Star longnecks in nearly every honky-tonk in Texas, Uncle Ron has now gotten sober, and come to New York to make amends for never keeping a promise he made to Ryan's Medal of Honor winning father: to teach Ryan about "bein' a man." After some convincing, Ryan reluctantly agrees to let Uncle Ron stay with him in exchange for helping with his rent and student loan payments. From here, our show is off and running.

Story Engine & Character Arcs

Each week, the two of them will dive into New York City culture headfirst, embarking on a series of misadventures driven by Uncle Ron's various schemes to "rustle up some greenbacks" and help Ryan pay his debts.

In the process, Ron will open his mind in ways he never dreamed, as he finds his lust for life and unabashed individuality make him far less of a fish-out-of-water amongst the "misfit toys" of New York City than he would've ever expected.

And by getting to know the timeless values underpinning Uncle Ron's eccentric personality, Ryan will learn a few things his father wasn't there to teach him, about the power of believing in yourself, and staying true to your core values, no matter where you are.

Look and Feel

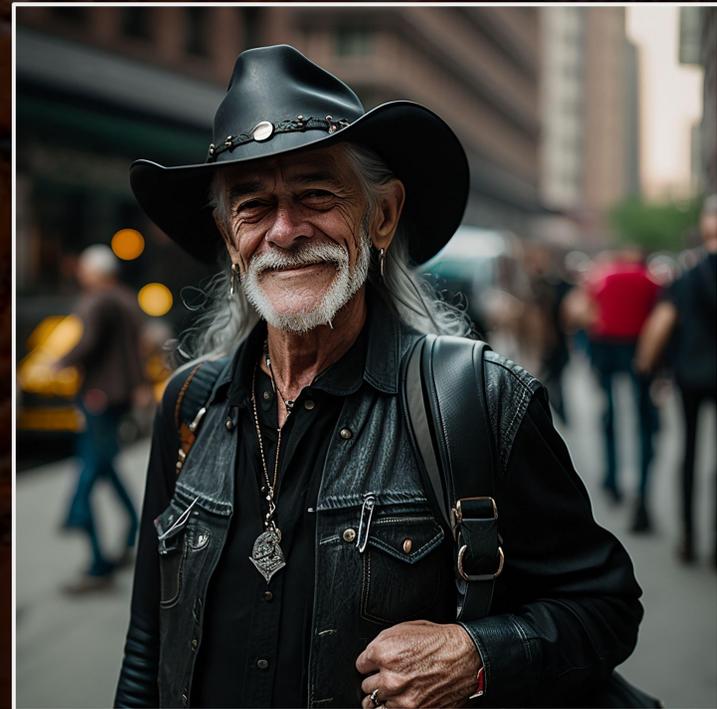
This show should feel like a hybrid of a modern Western like *Yellowstone*, and a gritty NYC drama. Realism is the key to making Uncle Ron feel stunningly out of place in the big city, and to showing the daily slings and arrows Ryan must navigate to make his New York life work.



Why this project needs to be made...

America is in the midst of a bitter culture war, where both sides seem to hate each other with a white hot passion, focusing only on each other's worst qualities. But the truth is, we're not all that different. And Americans are aching to see a show where Red and Blue come together, get along and help each other become our best selves instead of our worst.

Uncle Ron and Ryan share an ability to sniff out bullshit in all its forms. And if you can get people past that stuff, we're all pretty much the same. This show has the potential to open a lot of minds, while engaging people in a fun and heartwarming way.



Writers



Like our show's hero, **CRAIG DOUGLAS MILLER** is an 25 year veteran of the advertising industry as a creative director and writer. He is proud of his Southern roots, despite moving to New York City in his 20's to become a godless liberal. When he's not screenwriting, he can be found writing and recording music under the moniker Blueburst.



DUSTIN CHAFIN is a bi-coastal stalwart of the standup comedy world. Dustin sprang up from The South in Kilgore, TX before heading to NYC for a couple decades, then relocating to L.A. where he resides now. Like Uncle Ron, Dustin also loves all things Johnny Cash related, and can usually be found donning a cowboy hat, and touring with Nate Bargatze.