

WESTISH

BY
GRAYSON BERRY



WESTISH

"THE TOWN THAT TIME FORGOT...ON PURPOSE"

The Office meets Blazing Saddles....Principal Photography for Westish is set during the height of the California Gold Rush (early 1850s) and begins in the nothing town of Paris, TX.

Unlike many westerns, and despite being a Half Hour, 22 episodes per season Comedy, Westish is historically accurate, both in Wardrobe and Art Design. Likewise, our Pre-Set western locations give us immense flexibility to follow our 'dream team' of incompetent settlers across the country, and to their eventual land claim.

Grayson Berry has been Writing, Directing, and Producing Passion Projects, with the help of his phenomenal crew, for over 12 years. Their recent resume includes genres ranging from Horror and Medieval Fantasy, to gritty Westerns and Indy Comedies.

Grayson Berry Productions' latest feature, ***Vortex: A Film Anthology***, is repped by Indie Rights Distribution domestically and can be streamed on TUBI, Apple TV, as well as Amazon Prime and Google Play.

WESTISH LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS:

Logline: A group of uniquely incompetent settlers are gathered to locate and claim a legendary gold rush town after local Ash Campbell comes into a surprise inheritance.

Synopsis: Ash Campbell is a dreamer, working as a bar-back in Paris, TX circa 1855, when his wealthy uncle suddenly passes away, leaving him a sizable inheritance. Going nowhere fast in the conservative town of Paris, TX, Ash begins assembling his "dream team," among them: a young Nacona Native American boy, a nearly unintelligible Deputy, an eccentric Doctor, and an alcoholic Preacher. The rigors of frontier life become readily apparent, and how this group handle each other and the uninvited guests along the way prove to be a hysterical combination.

WHY WESTISH?

Viewers are starving for a new, character-driven, laugh track-free, comedy. And the Old West has long been an inexhaustible romanticized getaway, as evidenced by the success of *1883*, *Cowboy Bebop*, *Longmire*, and many more.

In the same way loyal fan bases tuned in to see Michael Scott and the colorful cast of *Dunder Mifflin*, or the money-grubbing, attention-deprived Bluth family (*Arrested Development*), the Westish fan base will tune in to see what classic western trope Ash Campbell and his bumbling settlers screw up next.

In today's social and political climate, a fresh take on a tried and true genre is a welcome breath of fresh air for the whole family.

KEY CHARACTERS

ASH CAMPBELL (Reluctant Hero: 40's, reluctantly handsome, ASH is the Paris town Bar-back and the purveyor of the western gold rush dream. Incompetent and naive, and the estranged nephew to the town magnate THOMAS HOSTETTLER, the entire town is tired of hearing the same ole song and dance from our bar-back, and his half-cocked manifest destiny plans. When THOMAS suddenly passes unexpectedly, ASH wins the lottery in the form of his Uncle's inheritance, pissing off the entire town, and making mortal enemies of the Hostettlers.

ANNIE MOSES (Love Interest): 30's, attractive and fiery, and based loosely on markswomen Annie Oakley. ANNIE is ASH's potential love interest, confidant, and shoulder to cry on when plans go awry, as they always do with you-know-who at the helm. A tomboy at heart, with a shotgun and target range in back of the bar (The Chapfallen) Ms. Moses and ASH have known each other since childhood and leaves her post as the hostess with the mostess at the Chapfallen ride or die with her pal.

KEY CHARACTERS (CONT.)

DAMIEN RYLE (The Jester): 50–60, weather-worn alcoholic Town Preacher who has lost his flock. Once a proud man of the cloth, who inspired a weekly sold-out congregation, DAMIEN is now reduced to sermonizing to a smattering of senile Paris townsfolk, and a young Native American boy (NACONA) who still sees genius in the aging orator. Still capable of summoning a strong start and getting a crowd to its feet, RYLE invariably fades into his cups and leaves people scratching their heads with his bizarre metaphors. Of course, DAMIEN joins forces with ASH. What does he have to lose?

AVA CRABTREE (Town School teacher): late 20's, AVA is a holdover from the seemingly abandoned land claim, and we find out later that was for a reason. She is narcoleptic and falls into sudden fits of deep sleep at inopportune moments. AVA is joined at the hip by SKYE, a 6-year-old female orphan with a very special skill set.

JOEL JEROME (The Realist): Late 30's, bookish and witty, JOEL is the editor of the Paris Newspaper (The Paris Constant Chronicle) and hates Paris almost as much as ASH, making them an ideal duo. JOEL has all but given up on his great American novel when ASH's sudden windfall alters his fate. JOEL will chronicle the mishaps, and possibly narrate some of our story.

DEPUTY DUPREE (The Deputy): Early 40s, a prototype of all old west outlaws in physical appearance and demeanor, DUPREE is a reject from the famous DUPREE gang that encounters our travelers at the outset. DUPREE is a dead-eye shot with the iron, and great in a scrap, which is great news for our group. One problem: DUPREE is virtually unintelligible, and uneducated, making his opinions and warnings a bit hard to decipher.

IRA HOLT (The Doctor): Late 40's, a manic and wirey assistant to the Paris town Doctor. IRA has a number of innovative ideas on how to treat old west illnesses, and always has a trusty cadaver on hand for his 'research.' IRA sees an opportunity to 'save lives' with the departing gang, and start his own 'practice.'

NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER: THOMAS RYAN WARD

Westish is a TV nostalgia and Comedy gold mine!

Picture the most charming moments of classics like Silverado, Young Guns, and The Three Amigos, with a heart of gold at its center. Aside from the pure fun of traveling back to a more innocent time, Westish is the gift that keeps on giving, with an unlimited resource of plot lines, conflict, and character arcs.

Our locations are affordable and authentic, with the ability to double and triple for 'other towns' just a few paces away. Likewise, our vast western re-enactor community has donated their time and energy to ensure that everything from the covered wagons to the horses, and guns are period-correct. An unexpected bonus!

Finally, you won't have to look far for an audience and demographic, as Westish endears viewers of all ages and backgrounds, hungry for a fresh comedic take, and authentic on-screen moments.

WESTISH SCENE SAMPLE:

INT. PARIS BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY (CONT)

HERO SHOT of...DAMIEN RYLE, town preacher, wild-eyed, 40's, mid-sermon at the pulpit...Half-finished bottle of whiskey nearby.

DAMIEN

(full throttle)

And the lord said unto him, behold, a morning angel, a heavenly vision,...and when judgement day comes friends, and it will come make no mistake, you will be the lone holy survivors...so I want you all to rise now...speak out to the unbelievers..."

CUT TO:

NACONA, native American, teens, wipes a single tear from his cheek, and starts clapping prematurely.

Another single parishioner begins to clap awkwardly in the otherwise EMPTY church.

WESTISH SCENE SAMPLE (CONT.)

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

The many colored beast...will tempt you with (trailing off) with forbidden fruit...crap...(losing it now) And the angel spoke saying "Get your feet off the damn couch, Damien, before your father gets home..."

NACONA has seen this routine too many times but HOPES that DAMIEN can finish.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Screw it...

DAMIEN takes a pull from his whiskey bottle.
NACONA wipes another tear.

INT. PARIS BAPTIST CHURCH - ENTRANCE VIEW

SUDDENLY, light fills the church, as doors fly open.

A shadowed ASH CAMPBELL gets slammed by the doors...OW! Let's try this again.

Gazing straight at DAMIEN.

DAMIEN

"Serve eagerly as if you were serving your heavenly master and not merely serving human masters"...I heard about your uncle.

ASH

Can't go west without a great preacher.

DAMIEN

I'd have to leave my congregation.

ASH

I can promise you food, a daily wage, and a clean church.

DAMIEN

You had me at food.

END Sample Scene.

WESTISH: VISUAL FEEL

A mixture of 'Panoramic Wide Screen' to capture our locales and backdrops, and 'Handheld,' with the DP an almost meta-presence on the set. The camera is not only a lens for the audience but the person behind it.

The camera work shapes the narrative and participates in the story in all sorts of productive ways that are not traditional in television or films.

Whip pans for witty dialogue and GIBS to establish arrivals and departures, *Westish* will satisfy the old-school spaghetti western fan and the discerning comedy critic.

Westish will feature a selective use of color palettes, ranging from soft blues to soft greens to emphasize our heroes, as well as soft reds for the antagonists.

WESTISH VISUALS



WESTISH VISUALS (CONT.)



WESTISH: A FEW WORDS FROM THE (POTENTIAL) DIRECTOR, GRAYSON BERRY

As a Texas native, I was raised on *The Alamo* (John Wayne as Davey Crockett) and *Lonesome Dove*, as traditional staples in the Berry household. Though many years removed from the old west, there remains a longing for that simpler time, without cell phones or social media, and a real sense of community. Having filmed a series of western projects, I can honestly say, very few genres produce such a universal love amongst the cast & crew during Production. A character-driven half-hour comedy, you will get to know the ***Westish*** cast intimately and enjoy the palpable chemistry and interaction like the best comfort food you've had in years.

Grayson Berry Productions:

GBP specializes in the creation and development of Passion Projects. We have several outstanding projects currently under our umbrella for investment development and distribution. Everyone deserves to have their music heard.

Contact us at: contact@graysonberryproductions.com

WATCH THE WESTISH TRAILER