

A man and a woman are walking on a city sidewalk. The woman is pushing a shopping cart filled with various items, including a white plastic bag and a white garment. The man is walking alongside her, looking at her. In the background, there is a street with parked cars, a trash can, and a building with a sign that says "MUSEUM OF". The scene is set in a sunny, urban environment.

# SPARE CHANGE

A DIGITAL SERIES WRITTEN AND CREATED BY JESSE RANDALL





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# SERIES OVERVIEW

## LOGLINE

After being thrown out by his parents, a young homeless trans man endures the treacherous journey of surviving the gritty streets of Los Angeles until he's able to get on his feet again, and finally getting housed against all odds. Emmett learns the true meaning of family after an unhoused woman living on the streets for 16 years, Marge, shows him the ropes and welcomes him into her "army" of unhoused neighbors she's assembled.

## GENRE: Comedic-drama

Most people who experience homelessness become chronically homeless throughout their lives. Emmett becomes one of the few who survives and lives to tell about it.





# PILOT SYNOPSIS

Starving and penniless, Emmett, a young homeless trans man and aspiring artist, calls his estranged mother to ask for money. His mother offers to help him on the condition that he return home as her daughter, but Emmett refuses. Desperate, Emmett tries to negotiate with the obnoxious owner of an overpriced hipster food truck, Brock, to give away some food after he spies Brock giving free food to a pretty girl. Brock refuses, but promises to hook him up with some extra food if he can earn the money to pay full price.

After numerous failed attempts at panhandling, Emmett crosses paths with Marge, an older homeless woman living on the streets for 16 years and an expert panhandler. After a brief training session, Emmett asks Marge if he can follow her, but she insists he must learn to survive on his own. When Emmett takes a break outside a cafe, a patron sees him drawing a portrait of her in his sketchbook. Impressed, she gives him ten bucks, and Emmett realizes he can sell street portraits to earn money.

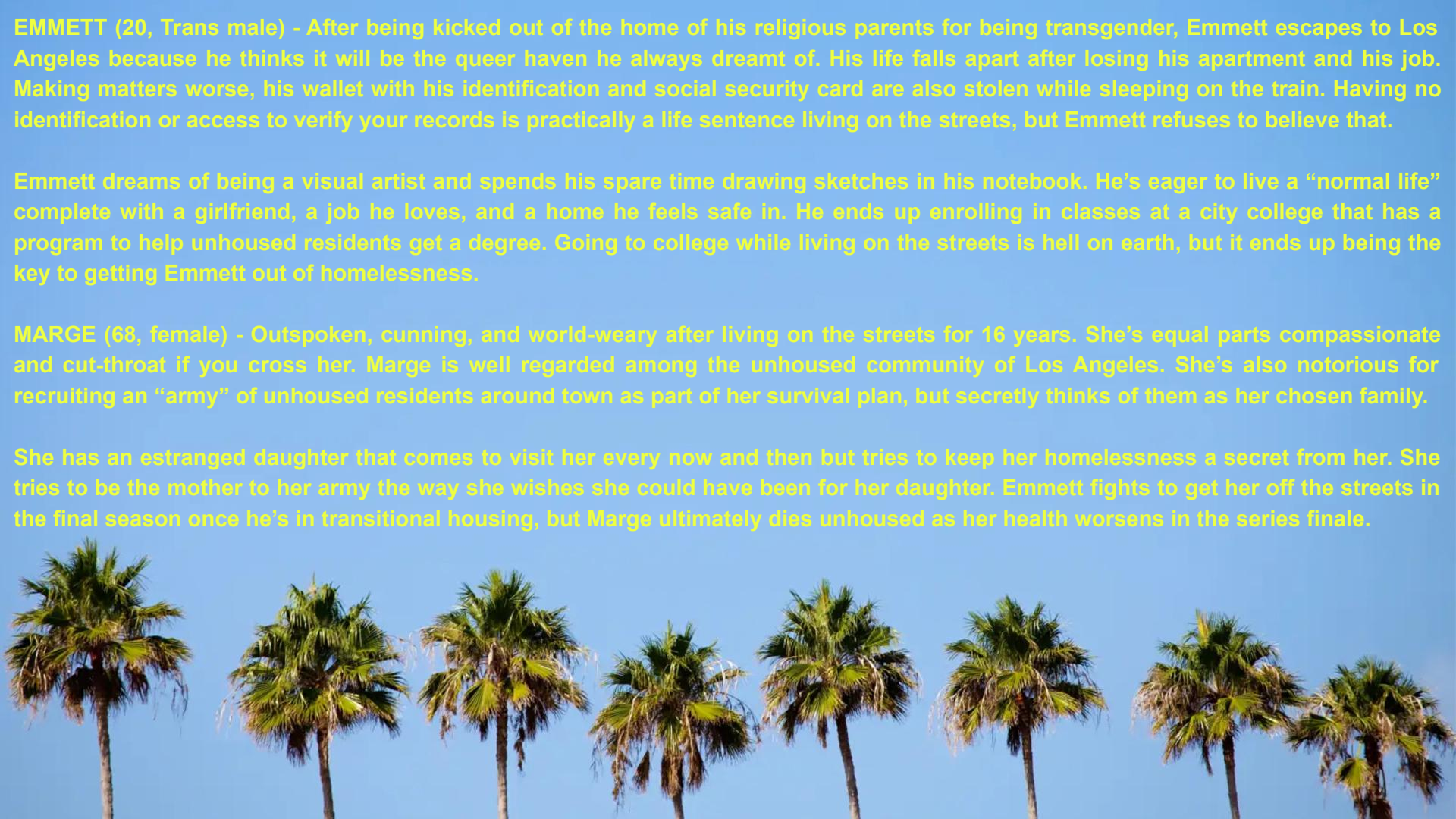
Later in the day, Marge is impressed to see Emmett making money as a street artist. Afterward, she stops him from wasting his money at the overpriced food truck, and invites him to join her for dinner with her community of unhoused neighbors. Emmett finally gets to eat and finds a new family.











**EMMETT (20, Trans male)** - After being kicked out of the home of his religious parents for being transgender, Emmett escapes to Los Angeles because he thinks it will be the queer haven he always dreamt of. His life falls apart after losing his apartment and his job. Making matters worse, his wallet with his identification and social security card are also stolen while sleeping on the train. Having no identification or access to verify your records is practically a life sentence living on the streets, but Emmett refuses to believe that.

Emmett dreams of being a visual artist and spends his spare time drawing sketches in his notebook. He's eager to live a "normal life" complete with a girlfriend, a job he loves, and a home he feels safe in. He ends up enrolling in classes at a city college that has a program to help unhoused residents get a degree. Going to college while living on the streets is hell on earth, but it ends up being the key to getting Emmett out of homelessness.

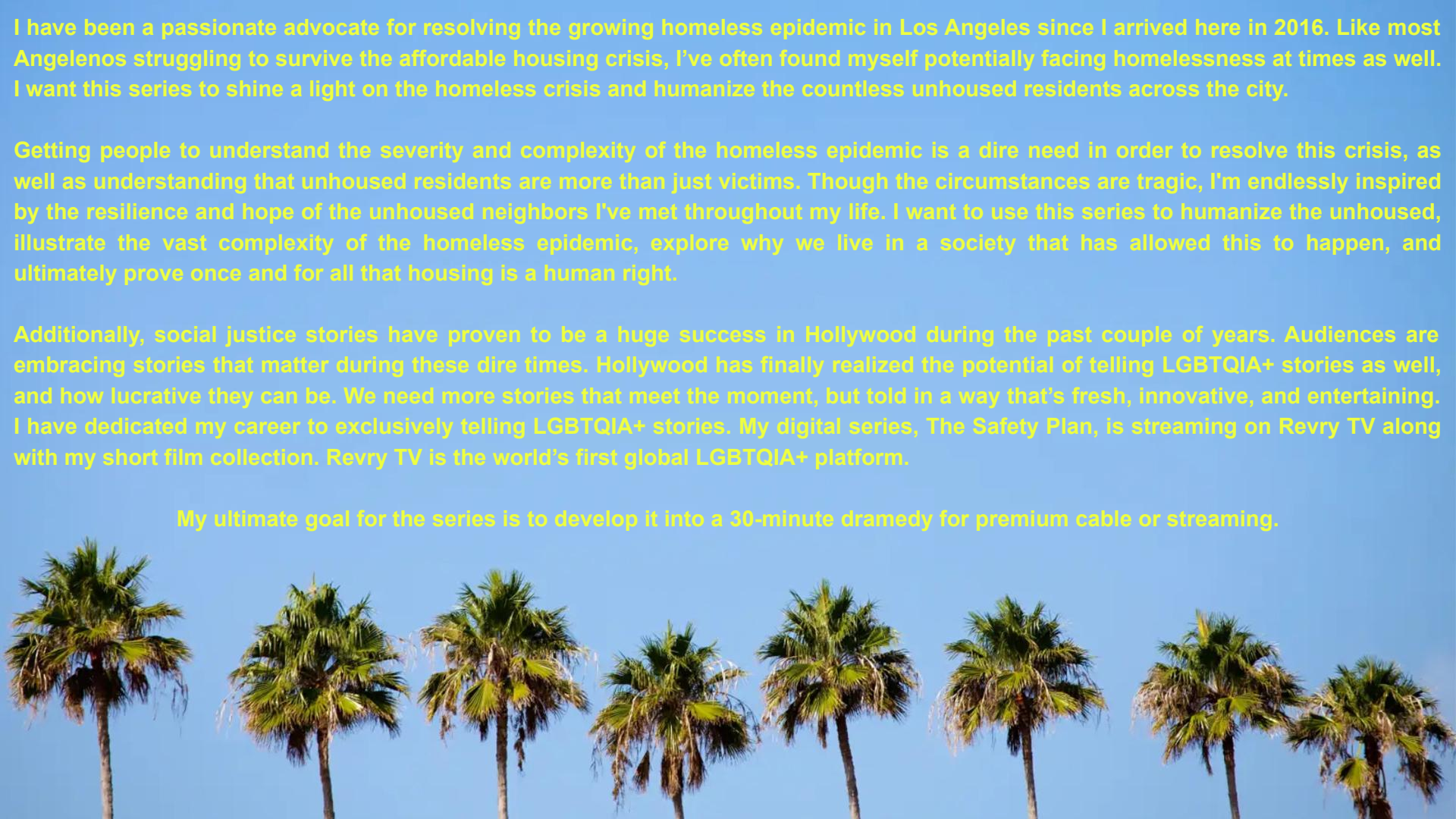
**MARGE (68, female)** - Outspoken, cunning, and world-weary after living on the streets for 16 years. She's equal parts compassionate and cut-throat if you cross her. Marge is well regarded among the unhoused community of Los Angeles. She's also notorious for recruiting an "army" of unhoused residents around town as part of her survival plan, but secretly thinks of them as her chosen family.

She has an estranged daughter that comes to visit her every now and then but tries to keep her homelessness a secret from her. She tries to be the mother to her army the way she wishes she could have been for her daughter. Emmett fights to get her off the streets in the final season once he's in transitional housing, but Marge ultimately dies unhoused as her health worsens in the series finale.

A young man with dark skin, wearing a brown knit beanie and a red and black plaid shirt, is talking on a grey payphone. He is looking slightly to the left with a serious expression. The background shows a window with a view of a city street and a building. A dark green metal structure is visible on the right side of the frame.

WHY THIS SHOW?





I have been a passionate advocate for resolving the growing homeless epidemic in Los Angeles since I arrived here in 2016. Like most Angelenos struggling to survive the affordable housing crisis, I've often found myself potentially facing homelessness at times as well. I want this series to shine a light on the homeless crisis and humanize the countless unhoused residents across the city.

Getting people to understand the severity and complexity of the homeless epidemic is a dire need in order to resolve this crisis, as well as understanding that unhoused residents are more than just victims. Though the circumstances are tragic, I'm endlessly inspired by the resilience and hope of the unhoused neighbors I've met throughout my life. I want to use this series to humanize the unhoused, illustrate the vast complexity of the homeless epidemic, explore why we live in a society that has allowed this to happen, and ultimately prove once and for all that housing is a human right.

Additionally, social justice stories have proven to be a huge success in Hollywood during the past couple of years. Audiences are embracing stories that matter during these dire times. Hollywood has finally realized the potential of telling LGBTQIA+ stories as well, and how lucrative they can be. We need more stories that meet the moment, but told in a way that's fresh, innovative, and entertaining. I have dedicated my career to exclusively telling LGBTQIA+ stories. My digital series, *The Safety Plan*, is streaming on Revry TV along with my short film collection. Revry TV is the world's first global LGBTQIA+ platform.

My ultimate goal for the series is to develop it into a 30-minute dramedy for premium cable or streaming.



# KEY CREATIVES

## WRITER, DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - JESSE RANDALL

Jesse Randall is based in Los Angeles and has dedicated his career to creating LGBTQIA+ content. His work has over twenty distribution deals. His digital series, *The Safety Plan*, is streaming on ten streaming platforms including Plex TV, Revry TV, Momentu, and more!

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS - DYLAN SHIELDS, JOE PERACCHIO

## CO-PRODUCERS - ASHA DOUCET, ELIZABETH BACHER

## CINEMATOGRAPHER - GAVIN WINNETT

## CAST

EMMETT - ASHA DOUCET (Citi Bank's first Transgender inclusion commercial)

MARGE - HOLGIE FORRESTER (*Days of Our Lives*, *The Young and the Restless*)



