

TENDERLOIN

TREATMENT FOR A
MULTI-CAMERA SITCOM

CREATED BY

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AL SOPHIANOPOLOUS

REGISTERED WITH THE WRITERS
GUILD WEST



TENDERLOIN

**A BLOOD BATH IN HIGH
HEELS...**

LOG LINE

CAN A MACHO, HETEROSEXUAL, MAGA HAT-WEARING DRAG QUEEN, AND HIS POLITICALLY-AMBITIOUS, FLAMING LIBERAL, ESTRANGED GAY YOUNGER BROTHER PUT ASIDE THEIR PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES TO SAVE SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMELESS COMMUNITY CENTER FROM DESTRUCTION?

IT'S A BLOODBATH IN HIGH HEELS WHEN THIS MUCH-DECORATED, EX-MARINE IN PUMPS AND HIS ULTRA-LIBERAL, RISING POLITICAL STAR QUEER KID BROTHER CLASH.

A SATIRE OF BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT, *TENDERLOIN* ALSO EXPOSES THE INHERENT INJUSTICE IN THE WAY AMERICA TREATS THE LEAST AND THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US.

THE WORLD

TENDERLOIN HOUSE IS IN CONSTANT CHAOS BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS A MILLION THINGS HAPPENING AT ONCE WHILE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE PASS IN AND OUT. IN THE EVENING, HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE ASSIGNED A MAT OR AN SRO IF THEY'RE LUCKY. IN THE MORNING, THEY'RE SHUTTLED OUT LIKE CATTLE SO THE STAFF CAN CLEAN AND START OVER AGAIN. THE HOUSE SERVES THREE MEALS A DAY. THERE ARE AA MEETINGS. GROUPS FOR PTSD. JOB COUNSELING. HIV COUNSELING. COUNSELING FOR NAVIGATING MEDICAID AND VETERAN'S BENEFITS. OCCASIONALLY, THE ART CLASS WILL SKETCH A NUDE MODEL, UPSETTING THE BIBLE STUDY CLASS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A PARTITION, NOT TO MENTION THE OCCASIONAL CITY INSPECTOR

THERE ARE PERSONALITY STRUGGLES AND PERSONALITY DISORDERS AMONG THE STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE AND BETWEEN HOUSE MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY COUNCIL. A DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM HAS OFFERED HUGE MONEY TO THE CITY TO GENTRIFY THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND TURN THE HOUSE INTO A MAJOR ARTS CENTER. THE COUNCIL WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SWEEP THE HOUSE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN WHERE IT CAN BE IGNORED – BUT OF COURSE, THE PEOPLE IT SERVES WOULD HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING THERE, AND "CHAMP," THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FORMER CLIENT, REFUSES TO CONSIDER THE IDEA.



PILOT STORY

TENDERLOIN HOUSE IS A FORMER GRAND HOTEL THAT TAKES UP AN ENTIRE SAN FRANCISCO CITY BLOCK. IT'S RUN BY **CHAMPAGNE BRADSHAW**, KNOWN AS "CHAMP," A DRAG QUEEN WHO CAME OF AGE IN THE EARLY 2000S. THROWN OUT BY CONSERVATIVE NOB HILL PARENTS, CHAMP JOINED THE MARINES AT SIXTEEN (THE ONLY LIE HE'S EVER TOLD). ALTHOUGH DECORATED FOR BRAVERY DURING A COMBAT, CHAMP WAS UNABLE TO SAVE HIS BEST FRIEND, AND OVERWHELMED BY GUILT, HE LEFT THE MILITARY, REFUSED HIS BENEFITS, AND WOUND UP ONE OF MANY HOMELESS VETS SUFFERING FROM PTSD. CHAMP'S LIFE WAS SAVED BY TENDERLOIN HOUSE, AND HE EVENTUALLY WORKED HIS WAY UP INTO THE DIRECTOR POSITION. IT'S ALL HE'S EVER KNOWN THAT HASN'T BEEN SUPPRESSED. ALTHOUGH HE LEFT HIS CONSERVATIVE PARENTS BEHIND, THEIR INFLUENCE REMAINS. CHAMP MAKES NO BONES ABOUT HIS DISDAIN FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR, HOMOSEXUALS, OR WOMEN WHO CAN'T PULL THEIR WEIGHT. HIS IS AN EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY PREJUDICE. HE THINKS "TOUGH LOVE" IS FOR WEAKLINGS. HIS LOVE IS BRUTAL. HE IS BY NO MEANS WELL-LIKED AT THE HOUSE OR BY ANYONE IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT. HE IS, HOWEVER, GREAT AT HIS JOB AND KNOWS WHAT THE PEOPLE HE SERVES NEED. HE GETS NO THANKS FOR THIS.





PILOT STORY (CONT.)

THE PERSON IN CITY GOVERNMENT WHO PERHAPS HATES HIM THE MOST IS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER **HOMER BRADSHAW**. HOMER, WHO IS GAY BUT CLEVER ENOUGH TO HIDE IT UNTIL THEIR NOB HILL PARENTS HAD PAID FOR HIS COLLEGE EDUCATION, IS A RECENTLY DISGRACED CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WHO JUST BARELY ESCAPED JAIL THROUGH THE MERCY AND GOODWILL OF HIS CONNECTIONS. HOMER BRIBED AN ADMISSIONS OFFICER TO ADMIT HIS DAUGHTER TO THE BEST PREP SCHOOL IN THE BAY AREA. IN EXCHANGE FOR JAIL TIME, HOMER HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO PUBLIC SERVICE AT TENDERLOIN HOUSE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF HIS ESTRANGED BROTHER, WHO HAS NEVER FORGIVEN HIM FOR BEING A COMPLETE AND TOTAL LIAR WHEN PUSH CAME TO SHOVE. THE SILVER LINING TO ALL OF THIS IS THAT HOMER THINKS HIS EXPERIENCE AT TENDERLOIN HOUSE WILL CATAPULT HIM TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS. THE SILVER LINING TO CHAMP, ALTHOUGH HE'D NEVER ADMIT IT, IS THAT HOMER IS A PEOPLE PERSON. HE HAS ELEVATED SCHMOOZING TO AN ART FORM. EVERYONE LOVES HIM EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT REALLY QUALIFIED TO DO ANYTHING. HE COASTS THROUGH LIFE ON HIS CHARM AND ABILITY TO READ THE ROOM. HOMER IS ABLE TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE INTO DOING THINGS FOR HIM — SOMETHING CHAMP CAN'T DO DUE TO HIS GENETIC INABILITY TO SUCK UP.

PILOT - "A" STORY

WHEN WE FIRST MEET THE BROTHERS, TENDERLOIN HOUSE IS IN CRISIS MODE. WHICH ISN'T UNUSUAL. BUT THIS IS MAJOR CRISIS MODE. A DEVELOPER HAS APPROACHED THE CITY WITH A PLAN TO COMPLETELY REVITALIZE THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT WITH NEW LUXURY HOUSING, SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS, A LUCKY STRIKE BOWLING ALLEY, AND A BRAND NEW, WORLD-CLASS ART AND THEATER COMPLEX – ON THE VERY BLOCK WHERE TENDERLOIN HOUSE NOW STANDS. THE DEVELOPER HAS OFFERED TENDERLOIN HOUSE A MUCH-NEEDED ENDOWMENT OF \$10 MILLION DOLLARS TO MOVE ITS ENTIRE OPERATION ACROSS THE BAY, WHERE OPERA LOVERS WON'T HAVE TO SEE ITS SHABBY-BUT-NOT-CHIC CLIENTELE. THE CITY IS PRESSURING CHAMP TO MOVE, AND THEY ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON HOMER TO EITHER GET MEASURED FOR AN ORANGE JUMPSUIT OR TALK HIS SURLY DRAG QUEEN BROTHER INTO TOWING THE PARTY LINE. THE ONE THING THAT CHAMP HAS ON HIS SIDE IS THE HOUSE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER *THE TENDERLOIN DISPATCH*, A TENDERLOIN HOUSE PET PROJECT RUN BY **MAGGIE STRUCKERT**, A FORMER ARYAN SISTER. MAGGIE IS AN EX-CONVICT-TURNED-STREET-POET WHO HAS AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR JOURNALISM AND FOR PUBLISHING STORIES THAT GET UNDER THE COUNCIL'S SKIN -- LIKE HOW THE HOMELESS AT THE SHELTER SLEEP TWO TO A MAT, ARE LEFT TO DIE IN THE STREET DUE TO LACK OF RESOURCES AND ARE MOSTLY **LGBT** TEEN RUNAWAYS KICKED OUT BY CRUEL PARENTS.



PILOT – “A” STORY

WHEN MAGGIE HEARD ABOUT THE DEVELOPER’S OFFER, SHE PUBLISHED AN EXPOSE’ ON PRISONERS WHO END UP HOMELESS AFTER RECEIVING NO REAL HELP FROM THE FOR-PROFIT PRISON SYSTEM, USING HER OWN LIFE STORY AS AN EXAMPLE. THE TIMING DURING THE HOLIDAYS COULDN’T HAVE BEEN BETTER. A MARY MAGDALENE STORY OF REDEMPTION. IT GARNERED ALL KINDS OF PRESS, MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE CITY COUNCIL WHO ONLY WANTS POSITIVE STORIES ABOUT WHAT A FABULOUS, PROGRESSIVE CITY SAN FRANCISCO IS – WHETHER THAT HAPPENS TO BE ACCURATE OR NOT.

THE COUNCIL HAS ENLISTED HOMER TO INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF WITH HIS BROTHER AND GET HIM TO JUST TAKE THE OFFER AND GO AWAY. CHAMP REFUSES. THE HOMELESS AREN’T GOING TO SWIM ACROSS THE BAY. THEY’RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, AND NEITHER IS HE. AND IF HOMER WANTS HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT, HE’D BETTER FIND A WAY TO HELP CHAMP BECAUSE CHAMP HAS A DIRECT LINE TO HOMER’S PAROLE OFFICER. STUCK BETWEEN GOING TO PRISON BECAUSE HE’S DISPLEASED THE COUNCIL OR GOING TO PRISON BECAUSE HE’S DISPLEASED HIS BROTHER, HOMER DECIDES THAT IT’S IN HIS BEST INTEREST TO HELP HIS BROTHER AND TO WINDOW DRESS THE HOUSE SO THAT IT’S A FEATHER IN THE CAP OF THE CITY COUNCIL. SO, THEY’RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A HUGE PUBLICITY PUSH TO GET THE CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO, ESPECIALLY THE RESIDENTS OF THE TENDERLOIN, ON THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE.



PILOT – “A” STORY

HOMER ARRANGES FOR A REPORTER FROM THE CHRONICLE TO DO A PROFILE ON MAGGIE AS A FOLLOW-UP ON HER LIFE STORY. BUT BEFORE ALL THAT HAPPENS, THE SHELTER NEEDS A MAKEOVER. NEW PAINT. MATCHING TABLECLOTHS. AND GET RID OF ALL THESE DIRTY, UNATTRACTIVE PEOPLE. HOMER ENLISTS A CREW OF MODELS FOR THE PHOTO OP WHO LOOK LIKE THEY BELONG ON DONNA KARAN’S RUNWAY.

WHEN THE REPORTER ARRIVES, MAGGIE GETS FLUSTERED BY ALL OF THE QUESTIONS, FLUBBING SEEMINGLY SIMPLE DETAILS OF HER INCARCERATION – LIKE HER PRISONER NUMBER. THE REPORTER IS UNABLE TO FIND HER FINGERPRINTS OR ANY PRISON RECORD ON HER. WHEN THE REPORTER LEAVES, MAGGIE CONFESSES THAT SHE WAS NEVER IN PRISON. SHE JUST LET THAT RUMOR RUN AMOK BECAUSE IT GAVE HER STREET CRED. SHE’D BEEN IN JAIL ONCE FOR A NIGHT, BUT HER ARTICLE IS A COMPOSITE OF STORIES FROM THE PEOPLE SHE’S MET AT THE SHELTER. IT WAS TRUE. IT JUST ALL HADN’T HAPPENED TO HER, IN PARTICULAR.



PILOT – “A” STORY

THIS IS A DEATH SENTENCE TO THE SHELTER. IF HOMER AND CHAMP TELL THE REPORTER THE REAL STORY, IT WILL LOOK LIKE THE HOUSE IS JUST A SHAM. IF THEY COVER IT UP, THE REPORTER IS SURE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH. HOMER DECIDES THAT THE ONLY THING THEY CAN DO IS COME CLEAN, BUT THEY NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE RESIDENTS.

HE PITCHES MAGGIE’S STORY TO THEM. TELLS THEM THAT HER STORY GOT EXAGGERATED, BUT SHE DIDN’T MEAN TO LIE. SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP KEEP THE SHELTER GOING. IF THEY VOTE TO LET HER STAY, THEN THEY CAN SELL AN EVEN BETTER STORY OF REDEMPTION TO THE REPORTER. THE RESIDENTS AGREE TO LET MAGGIE STAY. THE STORY IN THE PAPER SPURS THOUSANDS IN CONTRIBUTIONS, RENDERING THE DEVELOPER’S OFFER MOOT.

CHAMP’S SURLY PASSION FOR HIS PEOPLE, AND HOMER’S INTERPERSONAL SKILLS HAVE SAVED THE HOUSE. AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. THE COUNCIL AND THE DEVELOPER VOW TO REGROUP AND GET THE SHELTER BUILDING SOMEHOW. THE BATTLE ISN’T OVER.



PILOT – “B” STORY

TENDERLOIN HOUSE’S ART PROGRAM DIRECTOR **SOPIA DE MORALES**, AGAINST THE RULES, ALLOWS A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN TO BRING THEIR DOG INTO THE HOUSE. **MAGGIE**, WHO’S A STICKLER FOR RULES, REPORTS THE FAMILY TO **CHAMP**. **CHAMP** RELUCTANTLY AGREES TO LET THE DOG STAY, BUT THEY HAVE TO HIDE THE DOG FROM **MAGGIE**, **HOMER**, AND ANY VISITING COUNCIL MEMBERS SINCE THEY COULD LOSE ACCREDITATION. **MAGGIE** AGREES NOT TO REPORT THE DOG IN EXCHANGE FOR HELP RESOLVING HER QUESTIONABLE JOURNALISM PRACTICES. THE DOG ENDS UP ON THE HOUSE’S MOST POPULAR HOLIDAY CARD.



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