

PRETIEMENT

How the older half lives.

Written by Melanie Abrams

After a series of misfortunes, glamorous twenty-something Madison finds herself living in her grandmother's retirement home.

Target 20-120, all broadcast

Half hour

15 ep/season

Dramedy

Madison Pott's life is perfect; successful business, gorgeous best friend, rich fiancé. But when a shady business investment goes south - dragging her engagement with it - her future crumbles at her feet. With nowhere else to turn, Madison arrives at the luxurious seniors-only community of her estranged, ill grandmother, only to find her dead in bed. But when Madison discovers that her grandmother's sprawling apartment is rent-controlled, she decides to keep her death a secret and remain there as her "caretaker". After spreading the word that her grandmother is convalescing in the apartment (complete with a dressed-up dummy), Madison finds herself the quirky queen bee of the retirees, entwined in the dramas of Bingo night *potlucks* (special brownies included) and geriatric gossip. Navigating the prying eyes of the building manager and the curious hearing aides of her peers, Madison finds herself unexpectedly entangled in the secrets, affairs and misdemeanors of her elderly neighbors. Peppered with vintage-style flashbacks from every decade and the glamour and drama of a modern-day soap, Pretirement is as hilarious, heartwarming and harebrained as your granny. Gas up your Jazzies for a wild ride through the Murrieta Astoria Retirement Sanctuary.

Production of this series hopes to bring awareness to the lack of adequate facilities and joy for the elderly left without caring family members, and to benefit Second Wind Dreams, a charity dedicated to changing the perception of aging through the fulfillment of dreams for those living in assisted living facilities.

Characters - Season One



MADISON POTT: A late-twenties business owner whose kind and trusting nature sometimes bites her in the butt. She's eager to prove herself as a female role model of empowerment and independence, but wrongly assumes everyone has her back. Sarcastic but sensitive, beautiful and brilliant, the Murietta Astoria Retirement Sanctuary is the last place you'd expect her to be. Secret: She didn't graduate from high school.

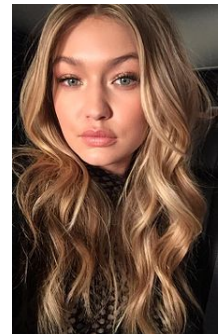
MICKY: Madison's best friend since preschool. Kind and charming; your classic 'nice guy'. Chasing the musician's dream in New York. Fun fact: Was one of the kids on Barney.



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ALEX: Madison's handsome fiancée. He's harsh and honest, even when it hurts. He loves Madison, but not more than he loves himself. A lawyer whose dream of owning the firm keeps him at work late often. Makes a business investment that leaves him one of the richest men under 30 in the world - for a time. Secret: Made a long-lost porno when he was 18.

CLEO: Mid-twenties top model, jetsetter and socialite. The face of Madison's company, she's sometimes embarrassed about being a model and eager to prove herself as an intelligent philanthropist and advocate...but that doesn't stop her from getting wasted on a different yacht every night. She isn't trustworthy - but sometimes she wishes she were. Secret: Has slept with Tom Hanks...and his son.



UNCLE GEORGIE: Mid 60s. Quintessential boisterous, jolly old man. Loves his dog Elvis, really loves the singer Elvis. A father figure to Madison. Secret: Once made it to round three of America's Got Talent as an Elvis impersonator.

GEMMA: Uncle Georgie's wife, mid 60s. The angel on your shoulder. Beloved by everyone, especially Uncle Georgie. Calm, gentle and realistic. Fun fact: Has a doctorate from Harvard.



DEBBIE: A tough-as-nails gay woman in her 50s. She works at the QuickMart and spends her free time going on motorcycle poker runs. Secret: She has a tramp stamp of a pug.

GRETCHEN: An emaciated English woman in her 90s. She always leaves a forgotten stray roller in her purple-tinged hair. Argues with Gloria like an old married couple. Gets around in a Jazzy. Fun fact: She worked at Bletchley Park.

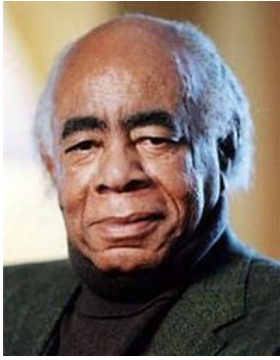


GLORIA: A chubby older woman in her 90s. Her lipstick and brooch always match, and even though she drives a Jazzy, she still wears heels. Fights like a cat with her best frenemy, Gloria. Carries a cane to hit people with. Secret: She's in love with Uncle Georgie.



TILDA: A Chinese woman in her 70s, whose pot brownies are the main event at Bingo night. She doesn't like Madison, and runs a strict social order at MARS. She towers over her husband, **CHANGPU**, 70s, a tiny, deaf Chinese man who follows Tilda around and never says a word. Secret: Tilda once had a yearlong affair with a much younger man. Changpu used to model men's briefs.





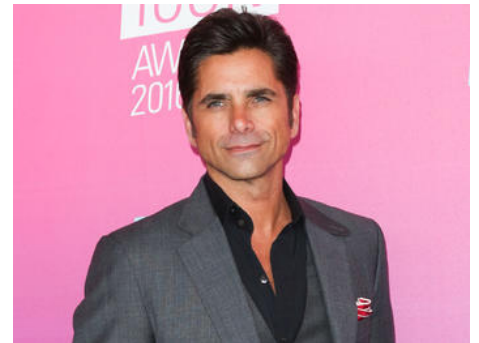
WHEELCHAIR WILLIE: An 80 year-old veteran, paralyzed from the neck down in Vietnam. But this hasn't dampened his spirit; he is a loud, jolly jokester. Secret: He isn't paralyzed. He just loves the disability checks.

SYNDI: The hawk-like building manager. Early 40s. She despises the old people and is suspicious of Madison. Only shows up to work to make enough money to fund her nightly happy hours and collection of ugly animal-print wrap dresses. Secret: Gets weekly tantric massages.



COSMO: Uncle Georgie and Gemma's gorgeous, geeky grandson. Introduced halfway through the season. Trauma surgeon, so he says he's "good with bodies". Fun fact: Used to be fat.

LAWRENCE: 50, handsome, charming, in great shape. Introduced late in the season, Lawrence's youthful personality and perfect teeth piss off the men and charm all the ladies, especially Madison. Secret: Auditioned to be Uncle Jesse on Full House.



STACEE: 50s, Madison's mother. Stacey is a hippie through-and-through, having raised Madison and her sister on a shoestring budget and tofu. She is full of bad advice but lots of love. Fun fact: Lived in a nudist colony when she was a teenager.

Season 1 Episode Synopses

PILOT - MADISON MOVES TO MARS

Our story begins in the Murietta Astoria Retirement Sanctuary, or MARS, where an unsuspecting Madison Pott finds her grandmother dead. We begin to unravel Madison's tale through her inexplicable present-day presence at MARS, and flashbacks to her life just weeks before.

In the flashbacks, Madison is living the dream life: what was once her small business has blossomed into a celebrity-endorsed mini-empire, she attends the hottest parties on the arm of her supermodel friend Cleo, her gorgeous lawyer boyfriend Alex proposes, and he makes a business investment that puts him on the list of richest men in New York. Now, Cleo is helping Madison invest *her* money, too, and her business - Lazy Lady, a line of exquisite high-end chic but ultra comfy furniture - is being featured on international superstar interior designer Jeanine Grey's TV show. What more could she ask for?

Back at MARS, Madison is meeting the still-living residents of the retirement home over a lively game of Bingo, where the old folks argue over seat arrangements, nicknames and pot brownies.

How did Madison get here, how did her grandmother die, and why did she leave behind her perfect life?

EPISODE 101 - YOU'RE SO VARICOSE VEIN

We open on a flashback: When Madison joins in on Alex's investment opportunity, their net worth jumps from Easy Mac to caviar. Bringing along Madison's excited best friend Mickey, they move right into an astronomically priced 9-bedroom penthouse on 5th Avenue. Amidst a whirlwind of wedding planners and business meetings, Madison's Bohemian mom Stacey comes to town, bringing with her unwanted monetary and relationship advice - and a request. She asks Madison to move into her longtime-absentee grandmother's retirement home to care for her, and Madison scoffs at the idea of giving up her glamorous life to care for a practical stranger. This all occurs in different flashbacks throughout the episode.

Meanwhile at MARS, Madison, Stacey and Mickey plan an under-the-table funeral for the deceased grandmother amid a flurry of inopportune visits from neighbors. When Stacey mentions that the apartment is rent controlled for a *very* low price, Madison decides to keep her grandmother's death a secret from the neighbors and stay while she figures out her future. We meet Syndi, MARS' hawkish residential manager, who becomes very suspicious of Madison.

EPISODE 102 - SENIOR CITIZEN CANES

Madison begins to learn the social hierarchy of the retirement home and finds friends in Uncle Georgie and his wife Gemma, a colorful, jolly duo in their mid-60s. On a tour of MARS, Uncle Georgie teaches Madison how to scam the vending machine, hide her library computer browser history, and turn up the padlocked pool heater. Tilda, the 80-something pot brownie supplier, lets Madison know that *she* runs the ship around MARS. We get to know Uncle Georgie and Gemma through stylish flashbacks of their

bourgeoning romance in the 70s.

EPISODE 103 – FAMILY TREE HUGGER

We open on a flashback: Madison and Alex's investment has gone south – *deep* south. In different flashbacks throughout the episode, we see Madison comforting a traumatized Alex, assuring him that money doesn't matter when they have each other, and that they should be looking forward to their wedding taking place the next day. But Alex doesn't show up at the altar.

Meanwhile at MARS it's the annual Family Friday, and with it comes a bevy of sons, daughters, and grandchildren – one of them Cosmo, Uncle Georgie and Gemma's 30-something grandson. Madison plans to spend the day inside reading – but Uncle Georgie insists that she join their picnic.

At the picnic, Cosmo (an unfathomably good-looking doctor) and Madison unexpectedly hit it off, and Uncle Georgie and Gemma are thrilled at the prospect of a potential romance. Meanwhile, Syndi is suspicious of Madison's grandma's whereabouts during Family Friday.

EPISODE 104 – 100 IS THE NEW 30

It is loveable Gretchen's 100th birthday, and a few residents have set up a humble party in the MARS clubhouse. Expecting a dull afternoon (but enticed by Gemma's cooking), Madison joins the party to be surprised by Gretchen's lively retellings of her fascinating life story, accompanied by fantastic flashbacks of the mysterious and fashionable 1930s and 40s. But Gretchen's birthday suffers a damper as the day progresses without a highly anticipated phone call from her beloved grandson. Heartbroken upon seeing Gretchen's disappointment, Madison sneaks into Syndi's office to find Gretchen's emergency contact form, and reminds her grandson of the day's celebration. That evening, Gretchen's grandson shows up in person, flowers in hand. Gretchen's unbridled tears of joy prove contagious, and Uncle Georgie suggests to a moved Madison that perhaps she should be the official MARS humanitarian.

EPISODE 105 – I GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM DEPENDS

We open on a flashback: Madison is crying in her wedding dress as Mickey consoles her and Cleo assures her Alex isn't worth her time. In different flashbacks throughout the episode, Madison receives a text from Alex, in which he explains that a married life in self-inflicted poverty is not somewhere he can be happy. Horrified and ashamed at her naivete, poor money management and public dumping, Madison, aided by Mickey, begins to move her belongings out of the home she can no longer afford. Mickey opts to move in with a bandmate, and with only a meager savings account to her name, Madison opts to visit her ailing grandmother, asking Cloe to handle business for a few weeks.

Meanwhile at MARS: Madison follows the smell of coffee to find the annual Fit and Fun til 101 event in full force. A bevy of doctors is leading the neon-clad masses of seniors through a series of physicals and tai-chi. Madison is horrifically aware of the bags under her eyes when she realizes one of the doctors is Cosmo.

At Fit and Fun til 101, Cosmo offers to give Madison the geriatric physical test, and she is embarrassed to discover that her stamina is not on par with many of her elderly peers.

Cosmo convinces Madison to join him on one of his 6 am jogs, giving her no choice but to learn the benefits of “early to rise” from a handsome MD.

EPISODE 106 - GAY, STRAIGHT AND BIFOCALS

Mickey has come to spend the weekend with Madison. Late 50’s lesbian biker-chick Debbie has purchased a 1955 has-been hot-rod as her summer project, and Mickey, an avid vintage car enthusiast, agrees to help her work on it. We see a fascinating history of LGBT rights through flashbacks of a 20-something Debbie in underground gay bars throughout America on a cross-country bike tour in the 80s.

Meanwhile, Uncle Georgie has devised a secret plan to oust the widely-despised Syndi, who eschews her responsibilities but takes full advantage of her salary – and her free manager’s apartment. His plan? Have every resident sign a petition to replace her with Madison.

EPISODE 107 – LET’S GET PHYSICALS

We open on a flashback: Madison and Cleo are hugging in Grand Central Station. Madison assures Cleo that she’s just going to hide out at her grandma’s for a few weeks until the worst of the heartache and humiliation passes, and until the sales from Jeanine Grey’s episode start pouring in. Cleo assures her that they’ll hold off on all business until Madison is ready.

Back at MARS, it’s Movie Monday. Fielding Syndi’s questions about Madison’s grandma’s health, Madison and Mickey curl up in armchairs with some popcorn to enjoy the Hallmark Channel romcom with everyone, and it is the first time since coming to MARS that Madison seems somewhat content. Uncle Georgie is sneakily passing around the petition to oust Syndi.

During the movie, a commercial comes on for LAZY LUX, a new line of custom comfortable recliners and couches designed as high-end furniture – a total knock off of Madison’s business.

EPISODE 108 – BALD THING, YOU MAKE MY HEART SING

We open in Madison’s apartment, where Mickey is mixing drinks and Madison is frantically calling an unanswering Cleo, cursing the day she trusted her. Mickey assures Madison that no one can legally take her idea or company. But throughout the episode, we cut to flashbacks in which Madison signs away 51% of her company to Cleo in order to get funding. She is no longer the majority shareholder or decision maker – she relied on trust and teamwork.

Meanwhile at MARS: A new resident moves in, sending all the girls into a tizzy – Lawrence, a gorgeous mid-50s retired lawyer who still hits the gym daily. That evening at Bingo over one of Tilda’s brownies and a few glasses of wine, Madison shares her dilemma. Lawrence offers to take on her case pro bono as his last hurrah.

EPISODE 109 – SEXUAL HYPERTENSION

We open on a flashback: it is Christmas and Madison opens presents with her family, including a then-alive grandmother, Marilyn. Marilyn is distant, cold, and gifts Madison a scale. We get familiarized with Madison and Marilyn’s contentious barely-there

relationship through additional flashbacks of Madison's childhood, including her father's untimely death and Marilyn's lack of support through it, and her refusal to help fund the beginning of Lazy Lady.

Meanwhile at MARS: Madison and Lawrence get to work on Madison's case, with cakes and coffees supplied by a supportive Gemma. Madison recounts her company's history, and supplies all the documentation of Cleo's investment and the agreement with Jeanine Grey.

Ever-suspicious Syndi approaches Madison to tell her that she will be sending the maintenance man to check on Marilyn's pipes. Madison panics.

EPISODE 110 - I'M NOT SAYING SHE'S AN OLD DIGGER

We open on a flashback: A loud and terrible war scene, through which a young Wheelchair Willie runs, tripping on a fallen foe and narrowly avoiding gunfire.

Back at MARS: With the help of Mickey's acting skills and disguised feet, Madison deters the handyman's prying eyes by telling him the sleeping lump in bed is her sick grandmother. Lawrence stops by to tell Madison that he's formally served her case to Cleo and Jeanine's lawyers. Reeling from a morning full of potential crises, Madison and Mickey join their senescent sidekicks for donuts and coffee - where they are pleased to find Cosmo. Uncle Georgie hurriedly stuffs his "Make Madison Manager" petition out of sight under the table as Madison approaches.

Cosmo asks Madison to join him for dinner at the local diner, 'Country Cookin'. Uncle Georgie and Gemma are giddy, but Wheelchair Willie, a paralyzed Vietnam veteran, is jealous; Country Cookin was his favorite restaurant. Madison is intrigued by Willie's tragic past, which we relive through dramatic flashbacks. According to Willie, he escaped the war unscathed but became paralyzed in a car accident years after. One of the things he misses most about life before the accident is cooking - especially fried green tomatoes.

Madison's and Cosmo have a wonderful dinner, and touched by Wheelchair Willie's story, Madison orders him fried green tomatoes to-go.

Back at MARS, Madison goes to Wheelchair Willie's door to drop off the tomatoes, where she hears shattering glass and a yelp. She throws open the door to find Wheelchair Willie standing easily over his bubbling stove, a bottle of wine in his hands and a shattered glass at his feet.

EPISODE 111 - THE RENT DAYS OF OUR LIVES

We open on a flashback: 1930s slums of China, where a 4 year old Tilda is learning the cost of crime early as her father is dragged away for treason.

Meanwhile at MARS: Cleo has come to visit Madison regarding the lawsuit. With faux-sympathy, she claims that she simply couldn't watch such an amazing business fall apart because of Madison's lack of motivation and capital. She says Madison is welcome to buy her way into the new business whenever she's ready; Madison tells her she and Lawrence will fight her til the end.

Meanwhile, when present-day Tilda's drug-dealing nephew winds up in jail, she hurriedly sets up sales from her own stash to fund his bail - but when the buyer is an undercover cop and their apartment turns up more than just marijuana, Tilda and her deaf husband Changpu are both arrested. We continue to follow Tilda's drug-ridden childhood in China through flashbacks of many decades in her life.

Meanwhile, Syndi finds the petition to replace her with Madison forgotten under the table where Uncle Georgie hid it the day before. Livid, she confronts Madison, who truthfully claims innocence.

Madison angrily confronts Uncle Georgie regarding the petition, but he defends himself, telling Madison that Syndi deserves it; she disregards all of her duties - most importantly, regular check-ins on the sick and disabled, like Madison's grandmother, Changpu or Wheelchair Willie.

Madison's ears perk up at hearing that Syndi has failed to check on Wheelchair Willie, who has been faking his disability for years. Is she really that indolent, or is she in on it? The police question Syndi regarding her knowledge about the drugs in Tilda and Changpu's home; as Changpu is disabled, she should have been checking on him regularly. Syndi is stuck: does she admit to willful negligence, or be an accessory to the crime?

EPISODE 112 - IVE FALLEN AND I CANT GET IT UP

Still reeling from the arrests, Madison and the gang convene for coffee in the clubhouse to discuss their shock. Gloria wonders aloud about the other dark secrets floating around MARS. We are introduced to her past through flashbacks of her darkest secret - being a call girl in the 1940s.

An employee from MARS corporate arrives to interview all caregivers about Syndi. Madison is terrified - a new manager would mean regular checks on her grandmother. But after everyone states that Syndi never completed her required check-ups, Madison has no choice but to agree.

Uncle Georgie privately approaches the corporate employee with the petition to request a replacement manager: Madison. The employee seems impressed by his persistence and takes the petition with him.

Meanwhile, the residents complain that their annual pool party will have to be cancelled without Syndi around to plan it. Madison tells them she'll step in.

EPISODE 113 - EVERY NOOK AND GRANNY

We open on a swanky party in England in 1944. A glamorous 18-year-old Gretchen is wearing the highest fashions and flirting over martinis. We cut to modern day Gretchen at MARS, her jazzy parked at a table piled with food. Madison's pool party is in full swing, and with the food trucks, DJ and empty Coronas, it more resembles a college kickback than a geriatric one. The entire community, including Mickey and Cosmo, are having a blast. Madison and Mickey pop in and out of her apartment to "check on Marilyn". We enjoy more glamorous and dramatic flashbacks of Gretchen's life, learning she was a code breaker at Bletchley Park during World War II.

During the party, a representative from corporate arrives to interview more residents. While she's there, she asks Madison to interview for the position of manager the following afternoon. Shocked and confused, Madison - tipsy and bikini-clad - says she doesn't think she's manager material. Lawrence overhears and reminds her of her entrepreneurship, and encourages her to take the interview as a distraction and income supplement during their fight against Cleo.

EPISODE 114 – NOT A WRINKLE IN TIME

Madison acs her interview and is hired on the spot. In a whirlwind of activity, she now has the keys to a new, rent-free manager's apartment. Later that evening, she gathers her friends to sadly announce the passing of her grandmother. Gemma complains of heart palpitations upon hearing this news. We learn more about Gemma's life through flashbacks of being one of the few female Harvard students amidst rampant sexism. A relieved Madison hosts a small memorial, featuring photos of her grandmother. Only one of them contains Madison.

Madison's first day on the job consists of decorating her office with the help of Mickey and some beautiful flowers sent by Cosmo. In a filing cabinet, Madison finds files on all the residents containing personal information handwritten by Syndi – when they go to sleep, when they wake up, when they take their walks, who visited them. Creeped out, she opens Marilyn's folder, which contains blurry images of Madison, Mickey and Stacey removing Marilyn's body from the building, along with a written report of Marilyn's death, including a date and time. Horrified, Madison shreds every document in the cabinet – except for the death report, sticking it in her purse.

2-hour SEASON FINALE – CARDIAC ARRESTED

Madison's new calm is shattered when Alex arrives, begging for forgiveness. Alex's parents have rented him a one bedroom in Brooklyn and he still has his job at the law firm. He asks Madison to join him. She agrees to have a drink with him that evening, but nothing more.

Meanwhile, Madison has arranged for a community-wide computer class to make the elderly more self-sufficient in daily tasks. But trying to teach it in the computer lab proves difficult, as someone has given the computers a virus that relentlessly pops up porn. The remainder of the day is so fraught with issues, she welcomes an evening with Alex. After many explanations, apologies and martinis, Alex convinces Madison to come back to his – *their* - new apartment. On the train, Madison's phone rings relentlessly with calls from Cosmo. She finally answers to a distraught Uncle Georgie – Gemma has had a heart attack. In a panic, Madison hurriedly swaps trains and heads back to MARS to find a parking lot full of ambulances, five police cars, and a hysterical Uncle Georgie and Cosmo. Madison is too late.

Madison wonders aloud why there are so many officers present until one approaches her, asking questions regarding her involvement in the death of her grandmother. From across the parking lot, a triumphant Syndi waves.

Season Two Synopsis

The saved death report written by Syndi proves that she was complicit in Marilyn's death, hiding it from authorities and family, and Madison's name is cleared. Madison declines Alex's apologies, refusing to make the same mistake twice. Lawrence and Madison are successful in their case against Cleo and Jeanine, who are forced to pay a hefty sum to Madison and shut down Lazy Lux; to top it off, they are smeared through the press for their dishonest antics. Exhausted and jaded by Lazy Lady and everything it reminds her of, and excited to have the freedom for a new venture, Madison sells the company to a major furniture retailer for a comfortable six-figures.

Cosmo moves in to care for a grieving Uncle Georgie, and his relationship with Madison blossoms. Madison makes a new friend in Gretchen's boisterous and colorful great-granddaughter, Elle. When Mickey asks Madison why she doesn't take her newfound wealth and move elsewhere, she can't come up with an answer.

Madison navigates the farcical waters of MARS as she loses and gains tenants, plans proms and wakes, and handles an unexpected MARS baby. She has to unravel tangled emotions when she develops feelings for a flirty Lawrence.

A season-long story subject will be Madison's internal struggle with her desire to start a new venture and be an important businesswoman, and her adoration for the seniors at MARS. She will come to the conclusion at the end of the season that she can do both by starting a foundation to implement upgraded, modern equipment into retirement communities, bring in programs that spark their interest and joy, and lobby politicians to pass a bill making these standards mandatory for retirement communities nationwide. Thus begins Madison's philanthropic business venture, which will be the forefront of Season 3.

Format

Pretirement is the epitome of a dramedy: a side-busting image of two Jazzy-ridden old ladies having a fist fight followed by the gut-wrenching reality of a timely death. Our overarching story of Madison's survival in the retirement center is colored with stories of the week concerning her neighbors - sometimes hilarious (Viagra vending machine, anyone?), sometimes harrowing (literal, and cardiac, arrests). The series is uniquely seasoned with flashbacks of each main character's past, scattered all throughout different decades and tackling real-time issues such as homophobia, racism, sexism and wartime throughout the 20th century. Our all-ages audience can relive or discover American history, politics, fashion and music from the 1930s to the 1990s through the eyes of their favorite characters.

Our season one recurring main cast includes Madison, Mickey, Uncle Georgie, Gemma, Gretchen and Gloria. Recurring supporting cast includes Alex, Cleo, Debbie, Tilda, Willie, Syndi and Cosmo. Season one ends on a tenuous note of Gemma's death and Madison's questionable fate at MARS. We begin season two one month later, with Madison in the clear and MARS still grieving. The series is intended for the bold and brave production garnered from a cable network like HBO or FX or a distributor/network like Netflix or Amazon.

Dialogue Samples

MADISON

At next week's Bingo Night, we're going to begin our Healthy Eating Initiative. Please, no sodas or foods with preservatives-

GRETCHEN

What?! I'm 100 years old! I need all the preservatives I can get!

At Gemma's funeral:

GLORIA
(flirting with undertaker)
So...how many of these do you do per week?

GRETCHEN
Why? You in the market for one?

UNDERTAKER
(to Gloria)
It's hard to say, but we average about 3 per day.

GRETCHEN
Hardly worth going home, is it?

MADISON
Hi guys! How was the aerobics class?

GLORIA
It was great! I twisted, jumped, shook my hips, and sweat my
socks off for an hour!

GRETCHEN
Yeah, and by the time she got her leotard on, the class was over.

Why Pretirement?

My mother, Cinderella (yes, really), lives in a retirement home. She's 52, bleach blonde, and wears tight leopard-print dresses. Her boyfriend is 39 and they have a 10-year-old son. She doesn't live there because she's old; she lives there because she owns it. I have spent more time in that retirement home than I care to admit. No one can blame me - they have a really nice pool. When times got rough, I even took over my grandma's lease on a rent-controlled apartment there. Would you believe I wrote this pilot before any of that happened? I swear. Scouts honor. Maybe I should have written a pilot about winning the lottery instead. But it wasn't until I lived there that I gave a real damn about this story.

I made friends with many of my elderly neighbors: Patty, the world traveler with short-term memory loss whose stories, while repetitive, inspired my trek around Europe; Carlos, the Venezuelan man perpetually in the hot tub, just looking for someone to whom he could give his heavily-accented advice; Linda, younger than the others, who was the babe of Bingo night, but whose dog Max kept her company more than any human; and Gretchen, who really did ride around in a Jazzy hitting people, just like in the script. What I saw in these people were not old people, but whole people. They had lived lives - whether as touring musicians or housewives, it didn't matter. They all had a story to tell, and no one to tell it to.

Too many people - of all ages, creeds, intentions and statuses - ignore their elderly. They have no time for anyone who can't text or drive over 30 mph. They're going too fast to slow down and love the people who gave them the lives they're so busy leading.

I am enthralled by the idea of giving a second wind to the dreams of elderly actors who gave up long ago. This series gives real, gritty, leading roles to so many who thought their dreams would die with them.

Yes, I want this show to sweep awards season and I want the stars on Ellen. But I also want to make grandmas fashionable. Grandpas cool. Screw unicorn Frappuccinos - let's Instagram our grandparents.