




NOT THE END of the WORLD

A half-hour adventure/comedy series

PREMISE

Six contestants are sent through time to Earth's post-apocalyptic future, where they must survive for 12 weeks while being recorded for a reality TV show.



NOT
THE END
of the
WORLD

SURVIVE THE APOCALYPSE

Stay alive in the crumbling ruins of Los Angeles for 12 weeks!

UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY

Answer the great riddle: what wiped out the human race?

At stake: \$100,000,000

(Bonus: save humanity from extinction!)

BACKSTORY

Researchers at a tech company accidentally open a portal to our future, where, as it turns out, the human race has gone extinct. The first brave explorers search the ruins for the cause of our downfall, but find nothing conclusive. As images of our impending doom saturate the media, the apocalypse becomes a cultural phenomenon. Market forces prevail: this is, after all, the granddaddy of all train wrecks, and people will pay good money to stare at it. Soon enough, the first reality show set in the future debuts.

COMPS

MTV's THE REAL WORLD

NBC's SURVIVOR

Discovery Channel's NAKED AND AFRAID
(meets)

MAD MAX, DAWN OF THE DEAD



TONE

The dark themes of NOT THE END OF THE WORLD will be handled with a light touch. Think of smart but unpretentious films like Edgar Wright's SHAUN OF THE DEAD that deftly blend scares and gore with comedy, and can dish out the death of a major character and a fart joke in the same scene.



“So where do you get a coffee around here?”

Cast into the future

In 12 weeks, the cast will boomerang back to the present day. They can't go home early, and they can't stay longer. They are truly stranded in this future.

The half-hour episodes are (ostensibly) shot by the cast members themselves, and packaged in a brisk reality-show style. The six team members have been hand-picked by the show's producers to maximize telegenic appeal, conflict, and sexual tension.

They butt heads over everything. What's the plan? How do we find shelter, water, and food? Who's hooking up? Who ate all the granola bars? Even as squabbles and shifting alliances play out, the basic imperative to survive and the ongoing mystery investigation both keep the cast on the move. The resulting sightseer's tour of post-doomsday LA makes for some striking visuals and moments both creepy and absurd, all the while keeping the question of “what happened here?” central.

The background is a grayscale, textured image of a city skyline. The image has a grainy, paper-like appearance with visible cracks and creases. In the center, there is a bright orange rectangular box with a slightly irregular, hand-drawn edge. Inside this box, the word "CHARACTERS" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The city skyline in the background features several tall buildings, some of which are partially obscured by the orange box. The overall tone is somber and industrial.

CHARACTERS



PAUL ANDINO

Leader. Good teeth. Relentlessly enthusiastic. We're blessed to be in his presence. Think Charlie Sheen on a good day (or Tom Cruise, every day). Aging stuntman worried about his second act.

casting suggestions



Chris Hemsworth
Avengers: Endgame,
Thor: Ragnarok



Zac Efron
High School Musical,
Baywatch



Josh Lucas
Ford v Ferrari, Sweet
Home Alabama



MARTA ST. HILL

Celebrity chef raised in London. Chain smoker, drinker, good dancer, works harder than anyone you know. Zero patience for fools. Seriously, do not fuck with her.

casting suggestions



Jameela Jamil
The Good Place



Michaela Coel
I Will Destroy You



Kirby Howell-Baptiste
Killing Eve



EMILY COLLINS

A true sweetheart, recently rattled by both the impending apocalypse and a bad breakup. Doubting for the first time whether the glass really is half-full. Instant best-pals with Luis.

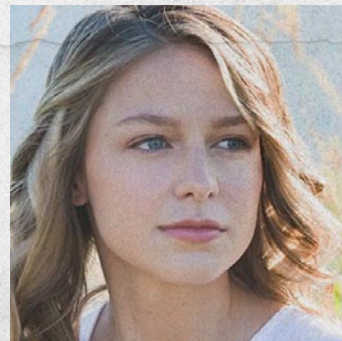
casting suggestions



Cristin Meloti
How I Met Your Mother,
Palm Springs



Awkwafina
Crazy Rich Asians,
The Farewell



Melissa Benoist
Supergirl



LUIS SANTOS

Despite (because of) some hard knocks, Lu brims with joy and creative enthusiasm. Spews encouragement and love-rays. Spectacular mustache. Bisexual. ("I can be the love interest *and* the gay best friend!")

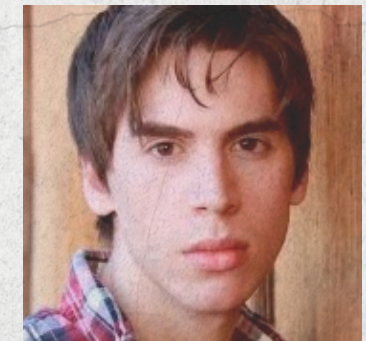
casting suggestions



Manny Jacinto
The Good Place, Bad
Times at the El Royale



Anthony Ramos
Hamilton, She's Gotta
Have It (series), A Star
is Born



Jordan Gavaris
Orphan Black



BILL PURDY

Brainy TV meteorologist. Kind-hearted, folksy deep-thinker. Dropper of knowledge bombs and philosophical insights. Rarely speaks until everyone else is done with their nonsense. The only cast member who seems uninterested in the prize money.

casting suggestions



Craig Robinson
The Office, Hot Tub Time Machine



Dennis Haysbert
Far From Heaven, 24



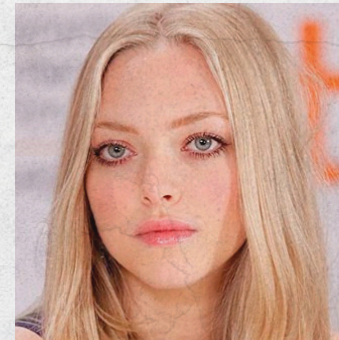
Omar Epps
House M.D., Love and Basketball



DONNA SEA

Ambitious, scheming; not too bright. Thinks the apocalypse might have been the Rapture. Preening entitled mean girl ready to level up to murder. Bill is unfailingly nice to her, which confounds her no end.

casting suggestions



Amanda Seyfried
Mean Girls, Mamma Mia, Mank



Megan Fox
Transformers, New Girl, This Is 40



Dove Cameron
The Descendants (series), Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.



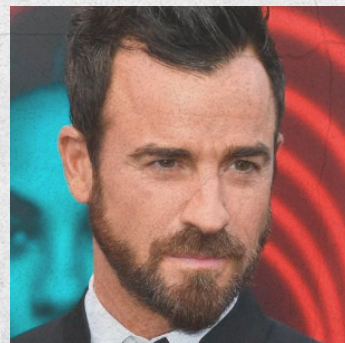
PIM VANDERMOOT

Smart, rich, Dutch. Pim literally runs the show—and owns it, too. Producer and host of **Not the End of the World**. Manic celebrity tech-bro stoner possessed with an almost unshakeable faith in his own genius. Almost. Giggler. Easily distracted.

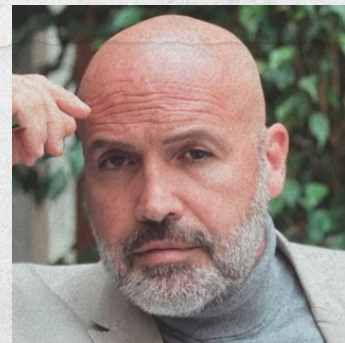
casting suggestions



Jeff Goldblum
Thor: Ragnarok



Justin Theroux
Wanderlust, The Leftovers



Billy Zane
Titanic, The Phantom

ANTAGONISTS

real and otherwise



MUTANTS

These zombie-like creatures menace the cast, but seem never to cause serious injury. The *Mutants* are in fact actors in makeup, sent by the showrunners to keep things lively. This reveal adds some new characters to our mix, while deepening divisions between existing cast members. Some feel betrayed and manipulated. Others still seem willing to put up with or do almost anything to further their careers.



SURVIVORS

At first the cast think they are phonies, too, but no: these guys are real, and so are their guns. Offspring of doomsday-preppers who somehow made it through the disaster, the *Survivors* are our opportunity to play with apocalypse movie tropes. Think MAD MAX villains, only way dumber, and not nearly as well art-directed.



"I don't think you people are taking any of this seriously enough"

Debris and duckfaces

Data from the cast members' phones is sent back to the present day every 24 hours. All six characters can each have actual, real-world social media accounts for fans to follow.

Short clips and still-photo sight gags can be released via platforms like Tik-Tok and Instagram to enrich our world-building and characters, and tease upcoming episodes.

Each account will reflect that character's personality. Donna's will be mostly selfies; Paul's, lots of pics of Donna. Marta's feed will present a buffet of improvised post-apocalypse cuisine. Bill will post less frequently, mostly landscapes.

A terrific opportunity exists to do product placement, both in the show itself and in the social media feeds. It only accentuates the comic absurdity if we are completely blatant and obnoxious about it.



“So sorry about the zombies, we really had no idea”

Episode Structure



Each episode kicks off with a cold-open update from present-day Earth. The **Mission Control** set is the domain of host Pim Vandermoort, billionaire tech magnate and patent-holder on the Time Boomerang



technology. Relishing his role, Pim dishes out charts and maps profiling the cast’s whereabouts, goals for the week, and progress (or not) on accomplishing them. Cheesy infographics update us on each cast member’s health, including weigh-ins. (*Week 1, everyone sheds pounds except, curiously, Paul. CUT TO: Marta, dumping out Paul’s backpack to reveal a dozen cans of Spam*).

COMMUNICATION

There is no real-time communication between present and future. Each night, the video cards recorded by the cast vanish, bouncing back through time into the hands of the editors. The cast’s phone data hitchhikes a ride on these cards as well. New, blank cards then materialize. Pim routinely includes messages on them, informing the cast of new tasks and destinations... and, as it turns out, regularly apologizing for the unforeseen problems they run into.



VISUAL STYLE

The Mission Control segments frame the official “mission” narrative, very self-serious and often in comic contrast with the footage from the future, which blends rough-and-tumble bodycam with more polished footage from Luis’ camera. Interspersed talking-head “confessionals” reveal what cast members are really thinking.

NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY
It has reclaimed the suburbs of A
ts are filled with trees and over
eyes the row of crumbling McMans
PAUL
We'd better set up camp, it'll
dark soon.
EMILY
Okay but let's find a house wit
too many skeletons in it.
BILL
How many is too many skeletons?
HOUSE - A MOMENT LATER
CREAKS as the cast enter.

"This blister is super gross, fortunately Luis is here to get a close-up"

Pilot

Our cast materializes atop Mount Wilson. In the distance, clearly visible through the smogless air, lie the silent towers of downtown Los Angeles.

A day's hike leads them to fresh water, at Eaton Canyon Falls in Altadena. Paul takes off his shirt, and Donna gets screen time in her bikini. Luis covers the action with his camera, bonding with Emily over their mutual, shameful lust for Paul's abs.

That night's camp is a crumbling McMansion. Paul builds a fire, but accidentally sets the house ablaze, and their provisions are incinerated. With food and water now a dire emergency, the showrunners create a team challenge: they hide a crate of fresh food somewhere in the city, and send the team treasure-hunting. They add a ticking clock: the supplies will boomerang back to the present in just 12 hours.

Hungry and exhausted, the group feuds bitterly over the clues they've been given. It escalates into a mutiny against Paul's leadership. Just as it appears certain the group will split, they spot the crate, being destroyed by a family of bears. Screaming, Paul charges the bears, saving the day and reuniting the group. The six feast on the supplies. Their picnic turns celebratory, with singing and a dance-off.

But later, in the dead of night, everyone comes stumbling out of their tents, dehydrated and ravenous. The 12 hours are up, and every atom of the food and drink they've consumed has boomeranged out of their bodies. Pim transmits an apology: if the cast is to survive, they'll have to find food on their own. ■

12 Weeks

Some ideas for episodes, including special guest stars

1 Down From The Mountain

The cast quickly learn that they all hate camping. Paul sets Altadena on fire and fights some bears. (See previous page for more details.)



2 The Simple Life

To help them better explore Los Angeles, Marta and Bill find a nice Cadillac on Jay Leno's property and get it running. The team establishes base camp in Beverly Hills (Donna: "We can finally afford to live here!") in what was once Katy Perry's mansion. While the others reinforce doors and windows to keep out wildlife, Marta whips up a venison stew. Donna uses her time to model clothes and promote a sponsor's lip balm.

3 A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood

Donna leaks a video of her and Paul having sex. The resulting row between them is so awful everyone else moves next door, while Donna moves to a third house across the street. Paul puts the moves on Emily. Luis pretends he's not jealous. Donna insults Luis by trying to hire him do her gardening.

4 Revenge

Show ratings skyrocket in the wake of the sex tape. Donna sabotages Emily, and reconciles with Paul, and everyone moves back into Katy Perry's house. Emily scurries off to explore Pasadena with Luis. Paul's betrayal echoes the workplace romance that left Emily heartbroken and unemployed. Luis locates the building where Emily's office was—and still is—and encourages her to go inside and trash the place. Emily and Luis kiss for the first time.

5 A Concerned Citizen

Matt Damon shows up, playing himself as a time-travelling tourist. He inserts himself into the team uninvited and lectures everyone about the environment. Paul "accidentally" strands Damon in a parking lot in Burbank, where he's eaten by wolves.

6 A Real Horror Show

Luis makes everyone play ghosts in his short horror film, but production is interrupted when the Mutants show up. The episode turns into a fun, creepy

DAWN OF THE DEAD homage, with everyone running around the ruins of the Sherman Oaks Galleria with walkie talkies. It ends abruptly when Emily brains one mutant with a golf club, and it is revealed that the Mutants are just actors in makeup. ▶





7 Mutatis Mutandis

The actors playing the Mutants reside in amenity-filled trailers. (Emily: "Sushi, that's nice. You know what I ate today? A squirrel.") Emily and Luis go on strike. The producers offer concessions and the team accepts a new assignment: retrieving a "media time capsule" Pim has installed at the top of an LA skyscraper. Dusty but still operational after 50+ years, it contains recordings of the 24-hour news channels the last day they were on the air. The playback ends on an eerie note: an anchorman smiling into the camera without speaking for a full two minutes. A second mystery greets the cast on returning to Beverly Hills: the Mutants' trailers are riddled with bullet holes, and the actors are gone.

8 The Battle of Coldwater Canyon

While out on a re-supply mission Bill and Marta are confronted by the dim-witted but well-armed Survivors. After a car chase through the streets of LA, Bill and Marta elude capture. But the Survivors track them back to Beverly Hills and lay siege to the house. Guest stars Katy Perry and her real-life husband Orlando Bloom join the cast, and the fight to defend their mansion.

9 The Beverly Hellbillies

At the Hollywood Bowl, the cast are forced into gladiatorial combat against the actors who play the Mutants. (Bill: "Even if we win we're gonna end up as stew meat or sex slaves, and I'm not sex slave material.") Learning the leader of the Survivors is a big fan, Emily negotiates everyone's freedom in trade for Katy Perry. This seems like a bad deal to the other Survivors, and a violent dispute ensues. The cast escapes while the leader is busy murdering the rest of his gang. Katy sings, as promised.

10 Pilgrimage

Following up on Survivor tales about a "wise man," the cast trek up to the Getty Museum for an audience with the oldest person alive. He's 70, and remembers the apocalypse first-hand. Larry David guest-stars.



11 The End

Based on new details learned about the apocalypse, the cast focus their investigation on Santa Monica. With just two weeks left, the team members split up to cover more ground. When Bill goes missing, circling vultures lead the others to the campus of Mootech, Pim's technology company... where they find Bill's body.

12 Totally Painless

The cast discover the cause of the apocalypse. (See next page for details.)



“Will we even be there when we get back?”

Finale

12 weeks in the future end with a murder, a twist, and a poignant goodbye.

Bill articulates the mind-bending paradox baked into *NOT THE END*: if the apocalypse is averted, the show will never happen. The cast won't be assembled. Paul and Donna won't be TV stars, and Emily and Luis will never meet and fall in love. Nevertheless, Emily insists, they are obligated to keep looking for answers. Time is running out.

Clues lead the gang to the ruins of Mootek, Pim's company. But some hours later, Bill is found dead, his body camera smashed. Inside a nearby R&D lab, the team find a huge antenna-like device... with Pim's skeleton at the controls. “Could this be what we're looking for?” Paul asks. At that moment, Pim himself shows up. Suspecting his own actions might have something to do with the apocalypse, he's been using the cast and the show all along... to investigate himself. Shrugging off any notions of danger, Pim throws the switch on the device.

Hours later, everyone emerges from a deep, blissful trance: stiff, thirsty... and damp, because they've peed their pants. Pim invented the device to quell humanity's violent streak. But his happiness ray worked so well everyone on Earth perished from dehydration, in a joyous, painless death.

The answer has been found. All Pim has to do now is NOT build the machine. But that's when Donna pulls a gun. She killed Bill to keep this secret. “If none of us tell, the show can go on. Pim, no one has to know what you did. You have final cut!” Everyone looks directly into Luis's camera. And Emily whacks Donna on the head.

As the sun rises, everyone goes out for a last look at wasteland Earth. Luis and Emily join hands. Our cast vanishes. In their place are the sights and sounds of civilization: cars, music, and people going about their lives. ■



AUTHOR STATEMENT

Most of our characters are terrible choices for a challenge like this. That's part of the fun, of course: seeing who steps up. It's a classic formula, put into service recently and to great success in NBC's *THE GOOD PLACE*. Meanwhile, our concept allows us to play with big ideas around environment, ethics, and even time and notions of fate. All this, while sending up reality TV *and* post-apocalypse fiction!

Some of our characters will treat the future like a playground, basically looting the grave of civilization in order to live like kings. The central question becomes one of personal responsibility. Who'll take the challenge seriously? Chose sacrifice over selfishness? As we see in the conclusion, most of them will—which serves the secret agenda of my comedy show, to make everyone cry.

— John Harden, screenwriter

