

ONI

PROPOSAL FOR A HALF-HOUR SINGLE CAMERA COMEDY

By

David Santo

All Rights Reserved C 2021

WGA-W Reg. No. 2043049

Proposal Contents:

Index...1

Series pitch...2

Executive summary...3

Characters...4

Pilot episode plot...5

Pilot outline...6

Show arcs...7

Series bible...8-9

Awards and contact...10

SERIES PITCH

TITLE: ONI

GENRE: Half-hour comedy

SERIES LOGLINE: A spunky Indian teenager builds a peace sanctuary between two feuding families, her own Indian family and her boyfriend's Pakistani family next door to encourage cooperation between them, but her dreams for peace get foiled by the boyfriend's surly father.

SYNOPSIS: Oni Nirmaan is a high school student in Canton, MI. Her Indian family is feuding with her boyfriend's Pakistani family next door and it's ruining their relationship. So, she builds a peace sanctuary between the two houses to encourage cooperation and ethnic understanding.

Oni's vision for this sanctuary is a safe place where people meet to create an open dialogue about their religious, social, and political views.

But this approach further escalates tensions with her over-protective parents, insecure boyfriend and the comically crazy antics of her boyfriend's father.

Each episode explores how Oni navigates this widening divide of cultures as her character arc transforms into a peace prize recipient, a motivational speaker for a major auto company and launching her own clothing brand.

Oni's quest to display her inner reflection of high hopes and dreams for her family, and the loving support of her boyfriend, are the driving forces for this show.

And, at the end of the first season, the reward for the viewer will be more than just laughs. It will reveal the current state of family in America.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE FORMAT

“Oni” is a highly comedic and sharp teleplay that will appeal to the entire family. And, it tackles what it means to be an American in a new and refreshing way. This is what stands out as unique in this character-driven comedy involving first generation immigrants. The overall story is smart, entertaining, and the humor sets a perfect tone for comedic satire.

THE PHILOSOPHY

The premise of the pilot episode presents us with two families feuding over their cultural differences. However, the introduction of a Parvez as Oni’s love interest really spices things up. But the real staying power for the series will be the jostling, joking, and loving within Oni’s family – all while redefining their identities. This universal theme of “family” makes this show a true four-quadrant comedy.

THE ON-GOING SETS

There is one primary location in the pilot: Oni’s house. And two minor locales: an empty plot of land next door, and Parvez’s house on the other side of that.

CRAFT

This screenplay is fast, visual, and compelling to the tee. The dialogue is sharp and relevant. The descriptions are to the point while providing an accurate picture of both the setting and characters.

MARKETABILITY

The script is highly marketable simply due to the hilarious characters, the unique family dynamics, and the hot-button social issues regarding immigration. These are three elements that frequently garner mainstream media attention.

CHARACTERS

ONI PULKA NIRMAAN, sixteen, is a trendy Indian female fashionista who is sweet, but tries hard not to be. She is a very strong protagonist. Oni deals with her issues with wit and insanely sharp dialogue. Yet, we can still see how vulnerable she is. The relationship that she develops with Parvez is touching and sweet. Oni's strong personality doesn't hide her vulnerabilities and as an audience we truly feel for her.

RANVEER PULKA NIRMAAN, forties, is Oni's father. He is a commanding presence in a blood red Badgley Mischka designer suit.

QUEEN ARJUN PULKA NIRMAAN, forties, is Oni's mother. She is equally commanding in an elegant turquoise Salwar Kameez suit and a gold scarf that matches her opulent jewelry.

PARVEZ VASUDEV, sixteen, sports black jeans and a T-shirt emblazoned with "Romeo." He has a magnetic appearance in that "lead singer" kind of way. Parvez is charming and his relationship with Oni is sweet.

BOB VASUDEV, forties, is Parvez's dad. He wears plain boxers and a coffee-stained wife beater. He habitually shaves the top of his head. And he likes to watch the neighborhood like he's a security guard.

PILOT EPISODE PLOT

A PLOT:

Oni needs to buy the land next door to build a peace sanctuary on it.

B PLOT:

Oni struggles to hide her forbidden love with Parvez from her parents.

C PLOT:

Oni helps her father reconcile with Parvez's dad.

D PLOT:

Oni helps her mom become famous on the internet.

ONI

COLD OPEN

The entire episode is set up on the very first page when Oni says...

“Welcome back to Family Feud.” Then, we quickly proceed through a whirlwind tour of the funny characters that make up Oni’s world. It all culminates when the plot of land between their houses goes up for sale - and Oni and Parvez are trapped in the kitchen about to be discovered by their parents.

ACT ONE

Oni’s mom hides Parvez from her angry father. During this time --

Oni steals her mom’s credit card and uses it to put a down payment on the land. As the adults argue over parenting, and work-related issues, a real estate agent shows up and puts a “Sold” sign on the land. Oni’s mom wants answers right now on how she accomplished this.

ACT TWO

Oni explains her land purchase, and her hidden relationship with Parvez. Her parents banish her from the house for lying and committing credit card fraud. The only place for her to live is in a tent on the empty land she just bought. Now, tension is building as the countdown to completing the land sale grows near. Finally, Oni has lost everything she values because of her stealing.

ACT THREE

Oni apologizes to her parents in a heartwarming coming-of-age climax. She gets a job to help pay for land. Oni has learned a valuable life-lesson about lying and stealing. Her life is reinvented as a hard-working young adult on a peace-loving mission to create a sanctuary.

TAG

Oni embarks on her first day as the “new and improved” Oni with a mission to be of benefit to all people.

END OF PILOT

SHOW ARCS

ARC WITHIN THE PILOT:

Oni goes from being a self-centered liar willing to steal for what she wants to a more mature young lady knowing she must do honest work to make her dreams come true.

ARC WITHIN THE FIRST SEASON:

Oni will have all her beliefs and all her love for Parvez tested when she discovers he is secretly sabotaging her dream.

ARC WITHIN THE WHOLE SERIES:

After many years of struggling, Oni finally brings both families together. Then, they create one bigger family when Oni and Parvez get married.

CAN THIS SHOW GENERATE A HUNDRED EPISODES?

There are at least 100 different ways Oni can struggle to build (and operate) a sanctuary on her exciting journey to adulthood. This means there are at least 100 different episodes to write to discover her path to success with heartwarming humor, fascinating contrast and conflict, and fearless optimism.

SERIES BIBLE

PILOT EPISODE: Oni buys a plot of land between two feuding families - her own Indian family and a Pakistani one next door - to build a "peace sanctuary" on it. But she uses her mother's stolen credit card to make the down payment. This fraud pushes her dream further away.

EPISODE 2: Oni hits a series of snags leading up to constructing the peace sanctuary. The land is zoned residential. So, Oni organizes a charity car wash to raise money for the legal fees to have the land re-zoned.

EPISODE 3: Oni's fame is increasing because of her humanitarian efforts. But the land cannot be re-zoned. So, she creates the peace sanctuary as a "gazebo" to meet city ordinances.

EPISODE 4: Oni organizes construction of the sanctuary with donated goods. But her work and school life are suffering because of her dedication to the sanctuary.

EPISODE 5: Oni lunches a successful marketing campaign for "Queen Arjun Clothing" on behalf of her mother to fund the project. But this added responsibility adds tension to her already difficult life - her work and school life are failing.

EPISODE 6: Oni's sanctuary is starting to thrive, but her personal life is a wreck. She gets fired from work, expelled from school, and Parvez breaks up with her.

EPISODE 7: Oni gets approached by a corporation to lead a motivational speaking group for them regarding peace. This is her first major step in reinventing her life for the good of all. But, it turns out, the company that has no real interest in her mission. They just want to exploit her image (and concept) for advertising purposes.

EPISODE 8: Oni spearheads the efforts to expand the "Queen Arjun Clothing" brand. She leads a retreat for a burned-out executive who gets totally transformed for the better by learning that his impatience is hurting his company.

EPISODE 9: Oni is invited to appear on a major talk show. Oni puts her mom in charge of running her clothing business. Oni has a new boyfriend.

EPISODE 10: Oni has an awakening and creates a company to further realize her peaceful mission. She treats all the skeptics with kindness, and things work out great with everyone except her new boyfriend.

EPISODE 11: Oni's new boyfriend steals her secret plans to advance his own career. Everybody wants Oni to stand up for herself and attack this guy on social media. But, Oni decides to test karma. Oni holds her ground (and silence) because she believes it will become obvious that this other guy stole her idea when he can't do the work himself.

EPISODE 12: Oni can bypass an entire year of high school and go directly to college because of her humanitarian efforts. But she wants to stay in high school to learn what they have to teach. But she's really staying because she misses Parvez.

EPISODE 13: FINALE – Oni is at the apex of her fame when she holds a press conference and shocks the world when she announces that she's going to marry Parvez.

1st PLACE AWARDS



Druk International Film Festival



Cult Critic Movie Awards



Beyond Earth Film Festival



Tagore International Film Festival



David Santo

www.ScreenwriterDave.com