

A Musical Dramey

SLEEP OUTSIDE →

Inspired by a true story

Created by:
Vic Ruggiero &
Lisa Isaacson

LOGLINE-

Vic Ruggiero scrapes to fund The Slackers' first album while dodging eviction, his dysfunctional family, and a once-in-a-lifetime invitation to tour with the band Rancid.

Daisy Jones & The Six meets Shameless.

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1742 Sunset Blvd.
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the SLACKERS →



THE WORLD-

New York City in the 90s—remnants of punk's golden age. You might brush elbows with the New York Dolls in some dive bar or spot the Ramones flipping through comics under the buzzing lights of your local comic book store. It was a time of self-realization and empowerment, raw and unfiltered. A time we'll never see again.



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THE SERIES-

Follows the life and music of VICTOR RUGGIERO, solo artist and frontman of the legendary East Coast ska band, The Slackers—dubbed “the sound of New York” in 1996. Season 1, set in mid-90s NYC, follows Vic’s wild ride on the road as he’s courted by Rancid while still laying the foundation for his own band. His darkly humorous lyrics shape each episode, weaving in themes of apocalypse, politics, paranoia, romance, murder, irony, and loneliness—perfect fuel for gripping, binge-worthy TV. The show is raw, loud, punk, and hilarious, and tells Vic’s trajectory to world-renowned artist. In the end, viewers will better understand the events that led this incredibly talented and complicated man to his unique (even for a musician) lifestyle and niche fame, including the untimely deaths of both of his parents in their early 50s in 2001 and 2002.

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VIC-

A talented musician navigating the complexities of familial and romantic discord. He's on a self-taught journey marked by resilience and determination despite the utter chaos of his personal life. His prolific storytelling through song lyrics translates beautifully to the screen.



Actor Comp: Hudson Franzoni

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FRANKIE-

“The one that got away,” Frankie abandons her war journalism career to return home, stirring old feelings in Vic though she’s now married to Kevin. What Vic doesn’t know is Frankie convinced Kevin to finance the band’s record deal. Later, Frankie uses her freelance status to arrange visits with Vic on tour. When her marriage falls apart and Kevin runs off with the money, she’s forced to work through personal growth in the face of intense feelings tied to the past.



Actor Comp: Jenna Ortega

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VICTOR SR. "POP" -

Vic's father, a conservative subway conductor, is indifferent to his wife's infidelity and wrapped up in his own. A constant roller coaster of emotions, from anger and disappointment to concern and love, Pop becomes a primary impetus for Vic's lyrics, until he too, falls ill.



Actor Comp: Kevin Corrigan

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DEBBIE "MA" -

Vic's mother, Debbie, a smart and vibrant former teacher, struggles with an unfulfilling marriage and holding her family together when she is diagnosed with MS. Her secrecy strains relationships but adds emotional depth to Vic's story, capturing the universal moment we realize our parents are just as human as we are.



Actor Comp: Monica Bellucci

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CASSIE-

An intriguing potential love interest who stalks Vic and manipulates others to get to him. Cassie inexplicably tells people she's from New Orleans though she's from a typical middle class Connecticut upbringing. Yet when it seems all hope is lost, Cassie proves herself.



Actor Comp: Sarah Hyland

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THE BAND-

RENO: Saxophone, married, the voice of reason.

HARRY: Trombone, vocals, produce worker- funniest guy ever who can't laugh at himself.

LUIS: Drums, music teacher, always reading.

MIKE: Guitar, works in a bicycle shop & DJs.

BILLY: Bass, closest to Vic, works in a record store he sells weed out of.



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the SLACKERS →

THE REAL BAND-

For 31 years, NYC-based, critically acclaimed The Slackers have toured the world, blending ska, reggae, and soul. Since 1991, they have released 15 albums, over 150 singles, and played thousands of shows. Hailed as “the best ska band in the world” (*Rude International*), “The pick of the US crop” (*Metal Hammer*), “the sound of New York” (*New York Times*), “About as close to perfect as it gets” (*Ink 19*), and “One of the best bands in the United States” (*axs.com*). In April 2022, their album *Don't Let the Sunlight Fool Ya* (Pirates Press) topped the US Billboard charts. When COVID halted live shows in 2020, they pivoted to international livestream concerts. Performing nearly 100 shows annually, they recently released two new singles via Pirate Press Records, with more always in the works.

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Pirate Press Records
1140 Sunset Blvd
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Tel: (213) 413-7853
Fax: (213) 413-9078

THE PILOT-

It's 1994 and 23-year-old VIC RUGGIERO performs solo in NYC. After the show, Vic takes CASSIE back to his run-down East Village loft. When he's evicted the next day, Vic stores his stuff in his parents' garage in the Bronx and crashes in his band's basement rehearsal space under a record store—both owned by their friend OTIS. The band discusses a dire need for financing their first album.

Vic hears rumors his mother is dating his former high school gym teacher, Jerry "THE QUACK" Quackenbush, but won't believe it. Cassie posts a note to Vic on the public bulletin board at Scrap Bar, and when he doesn't call, she has a bartender, LEON, attack him. After accidentally toppling some Hells Angels' motorcycles during their scuffle, an Angel knocks both unconscious. Vic wakes later at the precinct where he learns he's been arrested.

Vic's father, "POP" hates Vic's lifestyle but gets him off the hook through connected friends, then tries desperately to get Vic to quit music and get a respectable job. Meanwhile, Vic's mother, DEBBIE, is in the ER with vertigo and weakness. Otis is arrested for selling drugs out of the record store, so Vic needs a new place to sleep, and the band must rent equipment for an upcoming gig.

Vic spots his ex-girlfriend FRANKIE in the audience with her husband KEVIN, whose father - unbeknownst to Vic - runs Goon Records, the shady, though only, record company that can make their deal. Backstage, the band celebrates the finalized record contract, wondering why Goon agreed to fund it. A tour promoter arrives and invites Vic and two others in the band to join Rancid on their upcoming tour, dividing the band with their record deal looming.

Vic's worlds collide as his disapproving father, mother now diagnosed with MS, and lingering feelings for his ex immerse with his passion for music - and the band works to stay together despite opportunities threatening to tear them apart.

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Goon Records
1700 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Tel: (213) 474-7353
Fax: (213) 415-9078

THE SERIES-

Episode 1 "THE PILOT": Vic struggles to finance the Slackers first album. The band Rancid courts Vic and Harry.

Episode 2 "BOSTON": The Slackers go on tour as they wait to record the album. The band fights with "Massholes."

Episode 3 "ARE YOU AN ALCOHOLIC?": Frankie visits Vic on the road and he comes to terms with her marriage. She moves in with Vic's mom after fighting with Kevin.

Episode 4 "FLORIDA": Billy is lost at a bus stop, and the band faces right-wing extremists down south.

Episode 5 "YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN": Debbie's illness progresses. Vic moves in with Frankie's mother. Kevin runs off with the record money.

Episode 6 "CASSIE FROM CONNECTICUT": Cassie's background is revealed. The Slackers are in turmoil over a member change. Vic sleeps outside Frankie's mom's.

Episode 7 "SHARD OF GLASS": Debbie asks Vic to move in and care for her. Frankie faces a life changing decision.

Episode 8 "KISSING BOOTH": Cassie saves the day. Vic and Harry leave for tour with Rancid.

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THE PILOT SOUNDTRACK-CLICK THE LINK
"Sleep Outside"

"Original James Bond Theme"

"Cooking for Tommy"

"Don't Give me Your Love"

"Keep Him Away"

"Work Song"

"Rude & Reckless"



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THE CREATORS-

VIC RUGGIERO may be the most New York human on the planet. His solo sets unfold like New York blues history, showcasing his storytelling, guitar skills, and authenticity. A self-taught pianist since elementary school, he later picked up guitar and learned hardcore punk to impress a girl. Alongside his work with The Slackers and others, he has released four solo albums and continues to tour and record worldwide. A master of piano, bass, banjo, cigar box guitar, harmonica, accordion, and percussion, he is also a prolific songwriter.

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