

CARSON

Imagination For Hire Presents

asoline  
STATION

— Anthology Series —

REST  
STOP



EL PASO

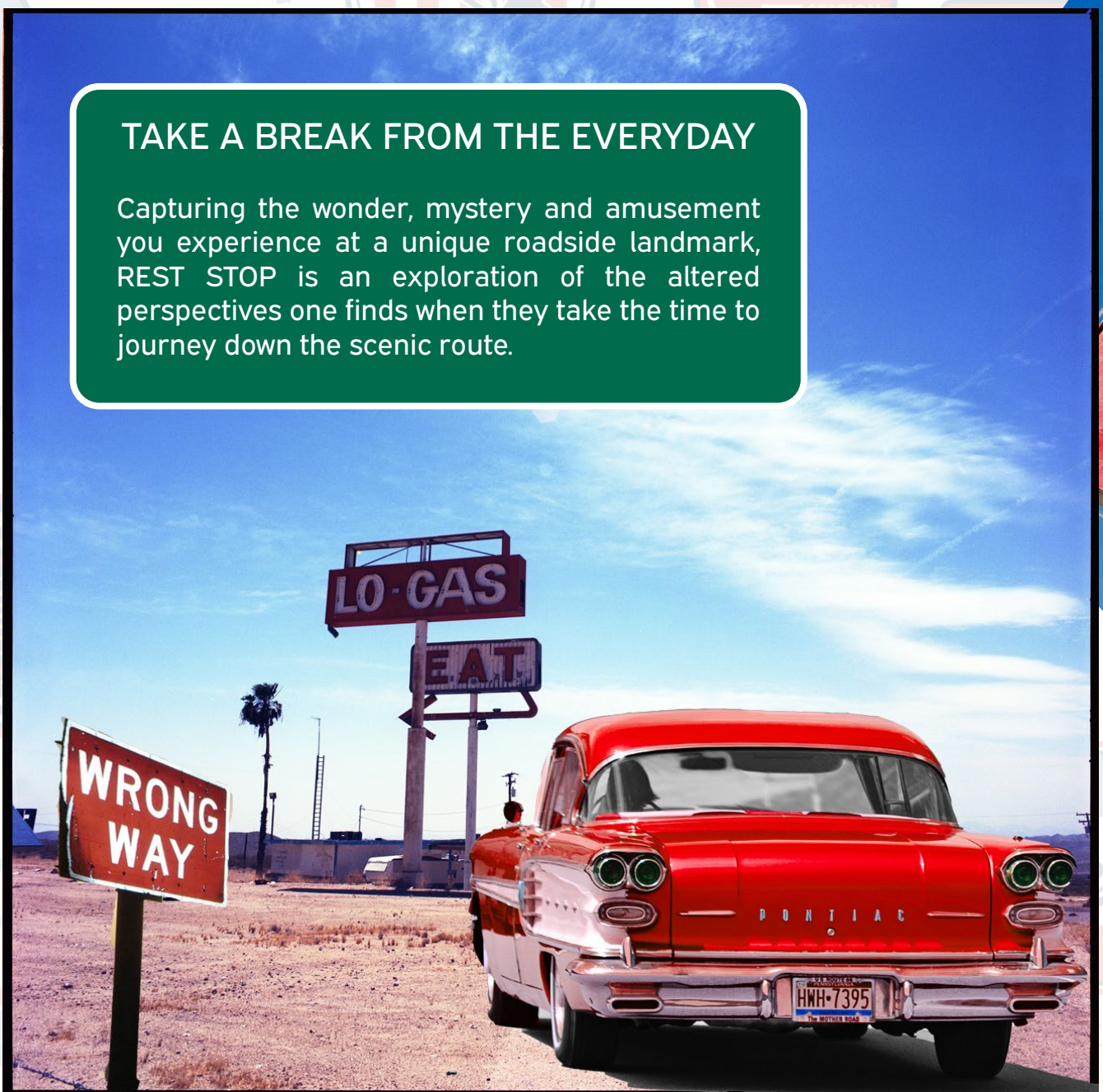
NEXT 8.3mi

SUPER

EASTERN

## TAKE A BREAK FROM THE EVERYDAY

Capturing the wonder, mystery and amusement you experience at a unique roadside landmark, REST STOP is an exploration of the altered perspectives one finds when they take the time to journey down the scenic route.





Inspired by recent anthology series like Black Mirror and Inside No. 9, each episode of REST STOP is connected by its visit to an odd location one would only encounter on a road trip. Rest stops, landmarks and roadside stopovers of all kinds, serve a transient mix of people from all walks of life. Somewhere between the comfort of home and the excitement of a new destination, these spots feel like worlds unto themselves.

Combining the familiar experience of a road trip with a touch of magical reality, REST STOP makes these odd and often underappreciated settings into stages for adventure. Our characters approach these unique spots carrying a sense of reality conceived by the world from which they came, but will leave with their realities forever altered.





## EPISODES →

### 10 MINUTES TO PIE

Two young women, on their way to an annual weekend of outdoor debauchery with friends, discover the long abandoned Portico Diner, but when they return days later, the once dilapidated diner is new and full of life. Once inside, they will discover that things aren't always what they appear to be at the Portico Diner.



### HEAR NO EVIL

While on the solo road trip of his dreams, Sherman removes his hearing aid in order to enjoy a peaceful picnic by a blaring highway, rendering him totally deaf and completely unaware of the chaotic events about to unfold right behind him. An homage to the comedic greats of the silent movie era, 90% of this episode takes place in total silence.



### BIG THINGS

A newly formed family unit uses their move from the Gold Coast to Sydney as a bonding opportunity, road tripping to every famous "Big Thing" they can visit along the way, but a trip to the big " ? " that has just appeared on their map, might turn out to be the best bonding opportunity of them all.



**FINALIST**  
ScreenCraft  
Shorts Competition



### FROM OUTER SPACE

A group of tourists, trapped in a national park by the crash of U.F.O, get wrapped up in a whodunit as the Ranger tries to figure out which one of them created the mysterious footprints leading away from the crash site. This tale of prejudiced perception is a re-imagining of Rod Serling's teleplay "Will The Real Martian Please Stand Up" with a modern twist.



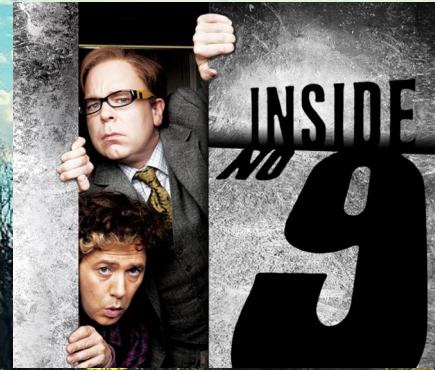
### HAUNTING THE HIPSTERS

The small cast and crew of a reality ghost-hunting show explore the most haunted highway in the world, but by going out of her way to assure they capture something film-worthy, their Director just might have scared up a few real spooks.



### CHERRY PIE

Back at the Portico Diner, the Waitress and Fry Cook, former low-level crims serving out a stint in purgatory, spend a confusing night trying to meet the needs of their only customers; two small children. As suspicion of the children's real reason for being at the Portico Diner mounts, so do tensions between the Waitress and the Fry Cook.



## COMPARISONS →

The  
TWILIGHT  
ZONE



In addition to telling an array of different stories, REST STOP also features a huge range of characters who are being tested by circumstances that sit outside of their comfort zones. Each of these stories, though distinct, remain connected by the overarching concept that ties the series together. Audiences will be treated to everything from comedy to thrills, through scenarios that range from everyday to extraordinary, and often result in an even more unexpected twist.



## INSPIRATION

I love storytelling that makes us believe in magical possibility. Just as Twilight Zone encouraged me to believe that something as simple as a book, a stopwatch or a coin toss, can gift you with powers you never thought possible, I wanted to create something which suspends our often cynical disbelief and encourages us to see the magic in our everyday experiences. My childhood was rife with road trips, where time was demarcated by the roadside oddities we passed. These places inspired wild imaginings about what kind of stories they had seen unfold over the years, and what kind of life lay just over the horizon. We passed by so quickly, I could never know the answer. All I was left with, was the sense of wonder. That feeling is what I aim to capture with REST STOP.

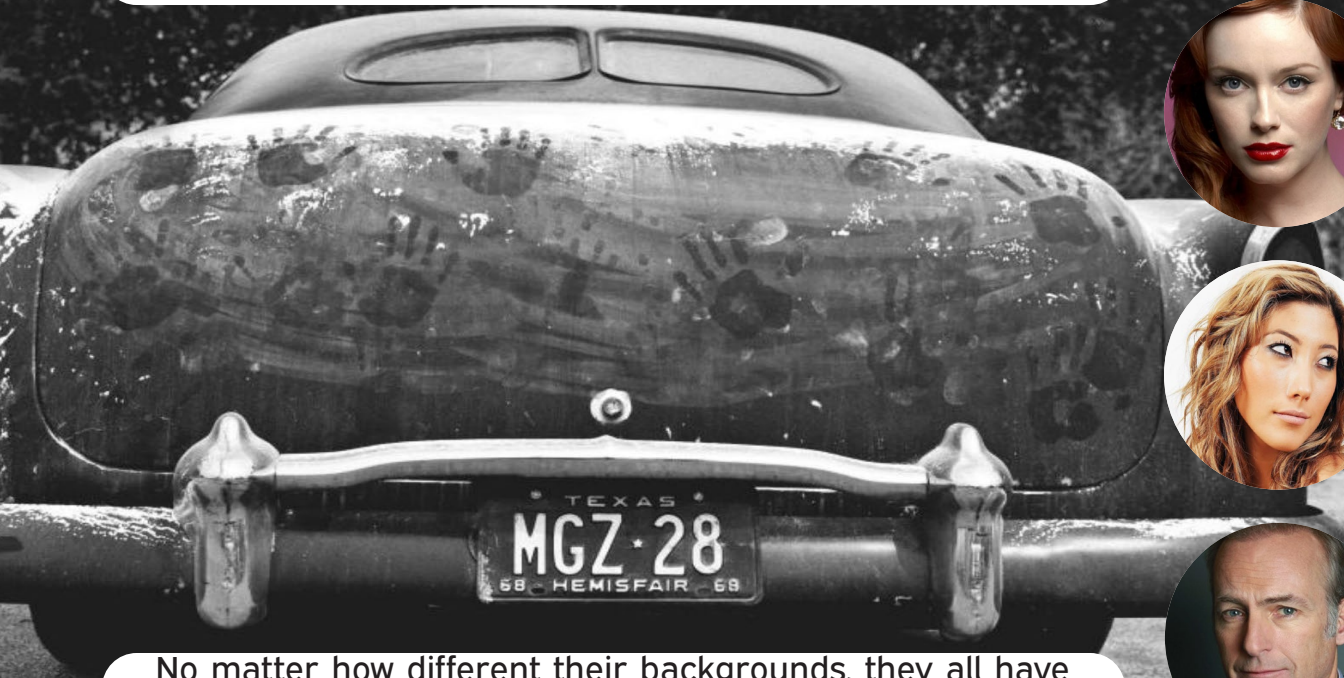


# CHARACTERS AND THEME →





Young girlfriends embroiled in an age old conflict, a deaf man celebrating the new freedom granted by his hearing aid, a well-meaning step-dad trying to win over his new family, a low level civil servant throwing his authority around, jaded hipsters attempting to keep their well crafted cool, and a pair of criminals making their final attempt to play it straight, are just a few of the characters featured in REST STOP.



No matter how different their backgrounds, they all have one thing in common, they think life is only what they already know, only what they've already experienced, and the future is only what is right in front of them. By embracing the unlikely circumstances they suddenly find themselves in and entering a world full of new possibility, our characters soon discover the power they have to affect change in their own lives. Each of these REST STOP's are instrumental in altering the once staunch perspectives of our many relatable heroes.



**WRITER DIRECTOR**  
Margaret M. MacDonald



Having lived and worked in Los Angeles, New York and Sydney, my twenty years of experience spans several roles in filmmaking and the arts. A background in production design has helped me to hone a uniquely visual voice, which conveys a tangible sense of place, inviting readers into the story world.

My body of written work includes twelve features, three series and a novel trilogy currently in the pipeline for publication. I have written on spec, on assignment, and adapted my own material for production. I have also directed four short films and am working toward directing my first feature.

I've been lucky enough to earn a few laurels along the way, and hope to earn more in the future.

I love telling stories that are character driven, and enjoy the challenge of infusing them with a mix of genres and a twist of the fantastic. I am passionate about creating films which transport people into other worlds, and help to make this one a little more extraordinary. Reach out to me if you would like to see where REST STOP will transport you.

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**THANK  
YOU FOR  
VISITING**