

A Veritas Arts International Production

BROOKLYN VANS

A TV Pilot by Daniel Jordano

Please contact Veritas Arts International: veritasartsinc@gmail.com

Not rated, 30 min, Ratio: 16:9, Dolby SRD

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Dan	Daniel Jordano
Blake	Samson Dubé
Olivia	Sammy Smedley
Doris	Jackie Krim
Passerby Girl	Carly Daniels
Mony	Nakiya Peterkin
Sonny	Paul Albe
Charlene	Angela Muto
Otis	Andrew R. Cooksey
Sam	Jack Ramone
Biohazard Man	Dean Kyburz
Missy	Mackenzie Jones
Jordan	Matthew Palumbo
Katie	Caela Bulzing
Big Cop	Robert House
Raging N.E. Fan #1	Yanni Metaxas
Raging N.E. Fan #2	Jonathan Ragins
N.E. Fans	Eddie A. Bryant
	Joseph Chisley
	Dan D'Agnes
	Eren Obiz
	Chris Torem
	Danny Beaton

CREW

Directed by	Daniel Jordano
Written by	Daniel Jordano Christopher Jordan
Executive Producer	Daniel Jordano
Producer	Kat Harley
Casting	Kat Harley Daniel Jordano
	Additional casting provided by Breakdown Services
Editor	Sean Von Lembke
First Assistant Director	Kat Harley
Camera Ops	Rob Dezendorf Adam Wolf Catalina Rodriguez Jason Kim Matt Harvey
Drone Footage	Shawn Raynor
Sound Recordist/Boom Ops	Wesley Grant Phil Kral Olga Miller
Asst. Camera/Gaffers	Andrew Keefe Shawn Raynor Ben Goldberg
Colorist	Eric Alvarado
Sound Design/Mix	Mauricio Zapata
Music Supervisor	Joshua Jordan
Main Title Theme	“Bustin Loose” Creative Commons Music by Jason Shaw at Audionautix.com

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

There is nothing more stressful than moving. Moving in New York City merely amplifies that stress, and where there is stress, there is comedy. Having worked as a part time mover for several years, I was inspired by the many crazy incidents that I or my friends experienced: the female roommates brawling over a security deposit; the bad breakup where the boyfriend hastily throws his ex's suitcases down the stairs before she returns from work; the biohazard moves where conditions were downright nauseating. Finding the humor in these moments wasn't too hard...in hindsight, of course. The characters who actually move people in NYC are also an interesting lot: actors, models and singers looking for part time work; inner city folk trying to make a living; and the occasional nuts. We all are moving somewhere aren't we?

– Writer/Director of BROOKLYN VANS, Daniel Jordano

Log Line

An obnoxious boss, Sonny Levin, and his hilarious crew of van movers juggle moves, relationships and careers, as they move stuff for their wild and colorful NYC clients.

Short Synopsis

Sonny Levin, and his hilarious crew of van movers juggle moves, relationships and careers, as they move stuff for their wild and colorful NYC clients. Sonny struggles with his narcoleptic secretary, his smart-ass booker, and his various crew members in the field that include Dan the aspiring actor, Blake the stoner, Jordan the womanizing model, Otis the furniture destroyer, and Sam the rat-phobic.

Long Synopsis Pilot: “Good Help Is Hard To Find”

Dan gets caught in the middle of a girl fight when a moving client fights with her roommate regarding a security deposit. Dan is freaked because he is put in the middle, while his helper, Blake, is goofing off downstairs and doesn't hear Dan's cries for help. Dan later confronts Blake about working stoned and fires him.

Charlene, Sonny's assistant, has a narcolepsy problem and is constantly falling asleep on the job. Mony is the no-nonsense receptionist who grills clients about moving details.

Sonny sends Otis and Sam to move someone out of a rat infested hovel. Otis fights with Sonny about the job. Otis and Sam do the move, but it's a nightmare, as rodents, roaches, and extreme stench lurk around every corner.

Jordan “Face” is late for another move. His girlfriend is not understanding. When Jordan gets there, the crazy cultist, Missy, claims she doesn't have enough money for the job, so she offers to “work it out.” Jordan accepts as Missy puts him in a cultish spell.

Sonny reads Otis the riot act when he finds out he's been handing out personal business cards on his jobs, but Otis reminds Sonny that nobody else would have done the “roach” job.

Dan decides to give Blake one more chance. He and Jordan go grab a drink at Shillelagh's, when Missy walks in and threatens to be a real handful when she provokes a bar full of New England fans to wrath.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The Story Comes Together

The process of creating BROOKLYN VANS began in 2017 when writer/director Daniel wrote an outline featuring many of the crazy stories he had experienced as a part time mover.

While some of the experiences were traumatic at the time, as he looked back, he could see the humor in many of them. He engaged his son, Christopher, whose keen sense of hilarity helped plumb the depths of the physical comedy and dialogue he was looking for.

Daniel began to jot down notes from all these crazy moves – from police supervised moves to biohazard moves, to bitter break ups or fighting roommates.

“It really is an ensemble piece; there is not really a main character,” says Daniel. Archie Bunker type, Sonny Levin, only lightly disguises his prejudices. Even so, there is a gentle and generous side to him as well. “I based the characters loosely on people that I knew, but I also took them up a significant notch,” recalls Daniel. “I was also concerned about not making them into caricatures, which is tricky, because of the broad comedy. I was also very interested in physical comedy – my heroes being Peter Sellers, Lucille Ball, Carol Burnett, Laurel and Hardy. I wanted to reintroduce a type of physical comedy that is a lot rarer these days.”

This project is a stand-alone comedy, but it really is a pilot. “I envisaged this as a series and have a whole season's outline planned out. I'm hoping to get the funding based on the quality of this pilot to shoot a whole season's worth of episodes. I'm eager to develop all of the characters in greater depth through the season,” says Daniel.

With the initial script written, Daniel began doing the hard work of casting and crewing the project.

Casting and Preparation

Working with a friend, actress Kat Harley, as co-producer, Jordano was fully engaged in the casting process. Jordano, an actor himself, cast himself in the role of Dan. “Main reason is I felt I had the experience as a mover to bring the authenticity!” joked Jordano.

For the other roles, Jordano knew he needed actors not only with comedic chops, but with the ability to improvise, as well. “Though fully scripted, I was looking for actors that could take a situation and really raise the stakes, and imbue it with new energy and humor,” says Daniel. “Moving can really be hectic and I wanted to capture the energy of

overlapping dialogue.” For this reason, during the audition process, they often did the scene from the script, and then, engaged in improvisations of the scenes to test for this skill.

For the character of Sonny, they were fortunate to cast Paul Albe, a veteran actor who has the quality of world weariness, but also of an undercurrent of kindness and likability, which Daniel felt was key to understanding why his employees stay with him, despite his overt racist comments.

Jordano and Harley then went about casting the important roles of the rest of the movers. The part of Blake was won by Samson Dubé. “Here is this young man with long hair named Samson. We didn't quite know what to expect from that, but Samson has a great charm and an impeccable timing and concentration. I always had to suppress my urge to laugh out loud during our improvs,” chimed Jordano.

Andrew Cooksey, who plays Otis, was an actor they had seen much earlier than the others. Daniel kept going back to his original audition tape. “Andrew was simply excellent. We hoped he was still available and, luckily, he was!” said Harley.

The part of Sam, Otis's sidekick, eventually went to Jack Ramone. “Jack also was terrifically funny in his auditions,” said Kat. He is gifted at improv and spouting off ridiculous one-liners. “We often did multiple takes, just to see what he would come up with next,” said Harley, “and we did not regret it.”

Nakiya Peterkin’s (Mony) was a challenging character. “We wanted someone who could go from highly trained professional to full on ghetto moment at the drop of a hat,” said Kat. “Nakiya killed it from the first read.”

Angela Muto, who plays Sonny's narcoleptic secretary, Charlene, really needed a good sense of physical comedy. “We were looking for someone in the tradition of the Carol Burnett character, Mrs. Wiggins,” said Dan. “You are showing your age,” Kat teases Dan. “Broad physical comedy is making a comeback due to Angela, not that she's a broad,” laughs Jordano.

The part of Jordan was also a bit tricky. They were looking for a very attractive model type who is somewhat of a cad. Many of those they saw had both of these qualities, but had something missing. “When we read Matthew Palumbo, we knew what the missing ingredient was – pure charm and likability,” says Dan. “And teeth for miles,” joked Kat. “Jordan really impressed us with his commitment and lightness with every scene,” said Dan.

Missy, played by Mackenzie Jones, was a tough part to fill. “The character was an amalgam of some of the New Agey types I've moved over the years that would talk to me about manifesting and chanting on the moving trips,” laughs Dan. “Of course, we ratcheted this up a bit. So, Missy needed to be beguiling and hypnotic and hilarious.” Mackenzie was all three.

“We were thrilled to find the caliber of actors that we did. Even for the parts that were not envisioned to be regulars in the series,” said Kat.

The Production

Brooklyn Vans was shot in two weekends and a day – five days total. Since this was truly a no budget production, they tried to accommodate workweek schedules. Even so, due to “paid work” scheduling conflicts, they had a larger crew than anticipated. “It seemed like we had a new camera crew every day,” jokes Dan. “Fortunately, everyone was great to work with.”

They were fortunate enough to get some of Jordano's real-life moving clients to donate their apartments as locations. For some, this meant some real “in kind” donations of future moves. “Whatever works,” says Jordano with a smile. “Hopefully, they don't think we trashed their place,” smiled Kat, “I think we were very respectful.” The bar in the final scene was The Shillelagh Tavern, a nice Irish pub in Astoria, which let them shoot on a Saturday morning before opening. “They were a real blessing,” said Kat, “and we had our wrap party there to show our appreciation.”

“I was particularly committed to having a two-camera shooting style in order to maximize the freedom of the actors,” says Jordano. So, this often meant new people working together. “I wanted the actors to be able to improvise and overlap without fear or hesitation,” added Jordano.

Jordano funded the work from his own pocket. “Hey, some people buy fancy cars; I make film projects.” There are actually many benefits to working on a shoestring: Nobody is there for the money, so people really care about what they are doing. “I love fellow artists because we know the hardship involved, and the humility and bravery it takes to lay it all out there for the sake of the art itself,” says Jordano. “I always put my trust in the story to motivate the participants,” Jordano recalls. “It is never easy to ask people to work for no budget, so you have to prove that it will be worth it. I hope they all feel it was.”

The first day was shot in Brooklyn, which is only fitting for something called *Brooklyn Vans*. The only real van in the story is Daniel's white minivan, which was also in his feature, *Frog Dreams*, a drama about – what else? – a mover. “Hey, they say write what you know!” laughs Daniel.

Jordano pulled together a crackerjack crew. “I like to think my script had a little to do with people coming together enthusiastically.”

The Cast:

Daniel Jordano (Dan)

As an actor and native New Yorker, Jordano has starred in such films as *Playing for Keeps* from Miramax Films, and the minor cult classic, *Alphabet City*, with Vincent Spano. He has had numerous appearances off Broadway and understudied in the national tour of *Torch Song Trilogy*. Daniel has studied with Wynn Handman and Herbert Berghof.

Sammy Smedley (Olivia)

Sammy has a BA in Theater from The Catholic University of America. A New York actor of 6 years, she has studied at The Barrow Group, Stella Adler Studio, The People's Improv Theater and at, what she considers to be her second home, T. Schreiber Studio under the direction of Peter Miner. You can find her in various TV shows for TLC and Investigation Discovery, web series, indie films, music videos and commercial work. In 2018 she began to produce indie content with MBP productions (formerly Janes Girls Media). A comedian at heart, who learned early on that in New York City you have to learn to laugh at it or leave it, she is thrilled to be a part of "Brooklyn Vans".

Samson Dubé (Blake)

Born in Ottawa, Canada, Samson attended a French immersion school up until moving to New Jersey after 7th grade. With aspirations of playing football at an Ivy League school, Samson attended Phillips Exeter Academy for one year after public high school. He received multiple Division 1 scholarship offers, but turned them down to attend Wesleyan University (CT), where he could play football while studying his new love for acting. After one semester, Samson made the decision to leave Wesleyan to pursue acting full time. Signed with CESD and Central Artists Agency.

Paul Albe (Sonny)

Paul works in theater, film, and television, including on *The Sopranos*, *Sex and the City*, *David Letterman*, *Law & Order*, and *The Daily Show*.

Nakiya Peterkin (Mony)

Nakiya is thrilled to have been a part of *Brooklyn Vans*. Her credits include *The Color Purple*, *Avenue Q*, and *Rent*. She's currently touring with *Chicago The Musical*, but hopes to do more TV work in the future.

Angela Muto (Charlene)

Comedian and actress, Angela Muto has been nominated for two MAC Awards for Outstanding Female Comedian as Shecky Beagleman. She wrote for and was a regular cast member on USA Network's *Up All Night with Gilbert Gottfried and Rhonda Shear*, as well as co-created and appeared in the award-winning feature comedy, *Hacks*. Angela

has had numerous appearances on *The Howard Stern Show* as Ronnie, the Limo Driver's Mom.

Andrew R. Cooksey Jr. (Otis)

Mr. Cooksey is a veteran actor, who has performed on stage, and in film and television. He was recently awarded Best Actor in the Players Theatre's New York Short Play Festival. His credits include: Broadway: *The Ritz*, and off Broadway: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He is excited to make his film debut with the role of Otis in *Brooklyn Vans*.

Jack Ramone (Sam)

Matthew Palumbo (Jordan)

In addition to *Brooklyn Vans*, Matthew also starred this year in a feature film, *Joaquin*. He was recently seen on Investigation Discovery's *Hometown Homicide*. His recent theater appearances in leading roles include: *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Winter Wonderland*, and *And Then There Were None*. Matthew can also be seen in national commercials and advertisements for the NFL (Superbowl), Peloton, Hess Truck, Stella Artois, Resorts World Casino, ShopRite, and many more. He continues to study with Karl Bury, Larry Moss, and Eric Reis, and wishes to express his gratitude to his late teacher, the great Bill Esper.

Mackenzie Jones (Missy)

Mackenzie is thrilled to be a part of the kooky *Brooklyn Vans* family. Her recent credits include: *The Dream: Midsummer '19*, and *Head Over Heels*. You also may have caught her as the new face of *Squatty Potty* or that bitchy girl in the web series, *Characteristically*. She is a lover of immersive and environmental theatre, especially when incorporated with the use of movement and music.

Jackie Krim (Doris)

Jackie Krim is a NYC-based actress, who has performed on stage in musicals and screwball comedies, regionally and nationally, since the age of 16. She attended Wagner College and the University of Maryland (UMCP) for Theater and Psychology, and is Sanford Meisner-trained, having studied acting in NYC with Vivian Matalon and Caymichael Patten. Watch for her as the emotionally disconnected "Mother" in Tae Hwan Son's 2-person short: film, "Love is Free"

The Filmmakers

Daniel Jordano Executive Producer/Writer/Director

Born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, attended high school in the Bronx, Mr. Jordano is the quintessential New Yorker. *Brooklyn Vans* is his first pilot, after directing a feature drama, *Frog Dreams*. As an actor, Daniel has starred in such films as *Playing for Keeps*

and *Alphabet City*. He attended the School of Visual Arts in New York. He is currently working on his next feature script, which he hopes to shoot this summer!

Kat Harley Producer/First Asst. Director/Casting

If you look up the definition of “Jane of all trades,” you might find Ms. Harley’s name and picture! Born and raised in Poland, where she pursued acting and ballroom dancing, while studying economics and playing the school’s radio DJ, Kat spent a large part of her life in the US in the investment business. For the past 10 years, however, she’s done what she loves the most – everything! From freelance translations to acting, producing, casting, assistant directing, stunt driving, props, set dressing, costumes....