



He's off the Cross and in the Bronx With no one to save but Himself

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WWJD?

One-hour comedy/drama created by Samuel Garza Bernstein

On Christmas Eve, a naked, well-muscled, dark-skinned man appears in a Bronx alley. He is unconscious and someone has beaten the shit out of him. Dried blood is everywhere. His name is Yeshua, which is Hebrew for Jesus. An aura of mystery prevails, but the truth is he has arrived straight off the cross, catapulted forward through time.

However unprepared he is for the horrible wonders of the 21st Century, he is preternaturally clever, and by the end of the pilot episode he can speak English, he's an object of affection for both sexes, and he has a false identity: Joshua Cohen from Queens. Or just Josh.

The timing isn't random. Climate and political tensions have prompted global scientists to set the famed Doomsday Clock at 10 seconds to midnight. And the song "All I Want for Christmas is the End of the Fuckin' World" is number one on i-Tunes, from a rave-punk band calling itself Doomsday Clock, in a screw-you response to the crisis.

Josh's mission is revealed in oblique references and unexpected plot twists. A reboot of Christianity is being contemplated. Not a fiery Apocalypse mind you—God doesn't need that kind of drama—rather, a simple do-over. It's up to Josh to decide whether to pull the trigger, so he decides he needs to learn what it is to be human in our time.

His adventures are varied, surprising, dangerous, funny, and sexually charged. He connects with people in deep and unusual ways. And along the way, if there are times when he lies, cheats, steals, and even kills, well, he'll have his reasons...

Plus, there's a huge surprise waiting for him (and for us)—*Josh has a sister*. Luci is the older sib he never knew he had and has never met. She has been waiting for him, ostensibly to help, but she is unpredictable and volatile, if not clinically bipolar. And she may or may not be the Devil.

Josh falls in love with Melosa, a former heroin addict. When he reveals his identity in the middle of the first season, she figures he's either psychotic or a sociopath. In the first season finale, she gets incontrovertible proof. *Shit*. Does she really want to be God's daughter-in-law one day?

Story arcs progress over each season, yet episodes are self-contained, exploring three areas: *Relationships*—Josh and the people he comes to love; *Work*—a job path that he changes up constantly so he can experience new things; and *Spirituality*—His connection to his own faith changes as people change him. Romantic love provides the first season arc, sibling rivalry is the second season arc, and, in the third season, father issues rise to the surface.

The show strives to be audacious and unflinching in the mode of *Transparent*, *Catastrophe*, and *Fleabag*. Yet Josh also unabashedly explores spirituality, giving the project a heartfelt anchor. It's low on snark, has a touch of the supernatural, and looks at divisive issues through new eyes. The Bible makes no mention of how Jesus might respond to a teen chick-with-a-dick sex worker, for instance. Reasonable people may disagree about his level of acceptance.

Josh is surprised by how much he loves this century and its irreverent eccentricities. And when you come right down to it, does the world even WANT to be saved?

Available: pilot script, first season episode outlines, second/third season plans, character descriptions