

The Burbank Players

Original series idea by Joel Castle

Overview: The creation of the fast-talking, self-proclaimed "comedic mastermind" Martin, *The Burbank Players* is the 20 year-old's take on the normal sketch show (think *Saturday Night Live*), which he is sure will propel him into the sightlines of dozens of Hollywood executives. Feeling older and facing the probability of being stuck in a small town with a dead-end job, Martin is certain that *The Burbank Players* is his last shot at a better life, despite the fact that he practically has to beg the local public access channel to give him a paltry budget to deliver the show. However, what Martin doesn't know is that, in order to make the show fill up more airtime, the Channel 6 executives decided to film "documentary" footage of what goes on in-between the outrageous (well, outrageous for public access, anyway) skits. What they have caught is the hilarious interactions of the dysfunctional teenage cast, complete with the competing egos, self-imposed drama, and neurotic habits that one would expect from a cast of characters that are going to be seen by more than seven people. Half sketch comedy, half mockumentary, *The Burbank Players* promises to be the biggest thing to hit the Internet since pornography!

Cast of Characters:

Martin*: The creator of *The BPs*, Martin is also the oldest cast member at the elderly age of twenty. Still, this makes him feel just over-the-hill enough to be even more worried about the success of his show, not wanting to face having to live like the normal, uncreative types below him. Although Martin means well and hopes for the best for everyone in the cast, his worries and ego often make him come across as self-important and willing to do anything to get ahead.

Arthur*: Martin's best friend for several years, Martin was the first to be cast on the show despite not having any acting experience. Besides, he was already running the cameras at the public access station for community service. A nice guy who basically wants to get out of the suburbs and into a good college, Arthur is the "everyman" of the show and the one that the audience is supposed to relate to. However, his self-deprecating sense of humor and lack of confidence make him a slightly maladjusted hero.

Russell*: Everybody clear the way, because here comes a *serious* actor! After taking part in many school plays and low-budget productions, Russell considers himself one of the finest actors in the Valley and a true theatre connoisseur. Insisting on using "the Method" even when a skit only requires him to be sitting on a bench reading a paper, Russell is practically the dictionary definition of "pretentious."

Thatcher: Like Arthur, Thatcher is on *The BP* partly to do community service.

Unlike Arthur, he's doing it because the cops are forcing him to. Looking to Sid Vicious for both fashion and behavioral advice, Thatcher is overly confrontational and emotionally cut off. But under that leather jacket, there has to be the tender heart of a wounded little boy, right? Right?

Simon: Perhaps the only person in the cast to ever get complimented for their fashion sense, Simon is the indie hipster you would expect to find working in a vinyl record store, not a public access comedy show. However, under that confident stare, cooler-than-thou haircut, and slightly stoner-ish drawl, there's a fun loving geek who makes a perfect companion for someone like Arthur. Just don't forget that he has all of the original Pavement singles, and that will always make him better than you.

Jackie: Martin's girlfriend of a glorious two months, Jackie is really only doing the show because he got down on his knees and begged her to. Hardly thrilled with the idea of doing silly skits, she considers herself an intellectual of sorts, but actually has the grades and literature collection to back it up. Often fed up with Martin's schemes for fame and fortune, Jackie (like pretty much everyone in the cast, in some respect) can't help but imagine what life is like outside of her small town existence. **(WARNING: RECEIVING THIS PART MAY REQUIRE KISSING JON SOLOMON.)** **Iris:** The only member of the cast to live on the hillside as opposed to the lowlands of the valley (meaning: she's comparatively richer), Isis decided to audition for the show as a way of protest against her father, who refused to let her act as a child. She may sort of have misconceptions about how far you can get in public access entertainment, but she's determined to do anything to get to the top, including flirting with her undeniably geeky male counterparts.

Tessa: Full of enthusiasm and goodwill, Tessa is one of the few cast members excited about working on such a program and meeting new people. However, for every positive aspect of Tessa's personality, there are ten neurotic quirks right beneath the surface. Slightly obsessive, germ phobic, and often losing her nerve, Tessa's bad tendencies tend to clash with her sweet character, making her about as likeable and repellent as someone can be at the same time.

Blake Goldstein: Recently fired from a major network due to a pending sexual harassment suit, Goldstein is now the cocky executive behind Burbank's public access programming and the only one willing to take a chance on *The BPs*. He's still adjusting from his life in the big leagues, and due to his chauvinistic nature and haughtiness, he often has to learn how to act in the real world right along with the young set of actors.