

LOCAL WEB SERIES could win \$500,000 and half hour pilot with CBC

By Dakota Barber



What you don't see on popular hospital television shows (*Greys Anatomy*, *Scrubs*, *Nip/Tuck*) is just what Angela Palmer bases her web series *Dookie Squad* on. *Dookie*, meaning exactly what you think. A web series named after poop and the people who clean it up.

The project has been screened at Nextfest in Edmonton, Baja Webfest in Tijuana, the International Film Festival in Fort McMurray and LA Webfest in Los Angeles; where it won two awards.

"I wrote this project out of a five-year frustration dealing with the hospital hierarchy, office politics, disgusting clean-ups, and negative perceptions of hospital janitors," explains Angela.

After deciding to pursue her passion for acting, the determined Edmontontian attended classes, auditions and spent a lot of time waiting by the phone for a call. When she couldn't seem to land a dream job, her tenacious personality lead her to do the unimaginable: create one! *Dookie Squad* is a series inspired by the events of her life prior to acting when she worked as a hospital janitor. Rather than dwelling on her daily frustrations, she turned them in to form of art that she could laugh at.

"It was kind of boring just being a zom-

bie at work, I wanted to act so bad," recalls Angela. "A lot of people were posting episodes from their own web series and I got this crazy idea to do my own!"

Pursuing a career in the arts takes guts on its own, but to solely fund, write, cast, produce and star in a series all the while trying to get it off the ground? Even more impressive, and is likely what lead to Angela's nomination for 'Media Personality of the Year' at the 2014 Obsidian Awards in Calgary.

"My audience is really important to me. It's my way of connecting with people, it's really special," she smiles.

Angela and her team are currently in the running to win \$500,000 to produce their own half hour pilot with CBC's ComedyCoup competition. Winning the grand prize would be an incredible opportunity for *Dookie Squad*, but Angela is committed to making her dreams come true regardless of the outcome and challenges others to do the same.

"You just have to do it. There is no easy way about it. You just have to attack it with all you have, and not give up. You'll figure it out along the way."

www.dookiesquadseries.tv



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The 26BG1234 Family Fund was set up at Edmonton Community Foundation in memory of my parents. 26BG1234 was a secret code my parents used to mean "I Love You" in cards and letters to each other for almost 50 years. Involving my children made this legacy something old and something new. *The Fund supports charities my parents cared about and that my children feel are important.*

Kerri DeLuca



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