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# Just Passing Through is ribald, rude, and hilarious



**PETER SIMPSON - THE BIG BEAT**

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Published on: January 3, 2014 | Last Updated: May 18, 2014 1:38 PM EST



Terry (Dennis Trainor) and Parnell (Robbie Moses) Gallant, the n'er-do-well Prince Edward Islanders who star in *Just Passing Through*. (handout photo)

“No. No. No. Yes. No.”

That could be the motto of Terry and Parnell Gallant, the under-achieving Prince Edward Islanders on the new show *Just Passing Through*. The lads know that “no, no, no, yes, no” are the right answers to the five questions on the biweekly report card that Canadians must file to get an employment insurance — or “pogey” — cheque.

Here are those five questions with, one hopes, more fulsome answers.

## **Question 1a — Did you work during the period of this report?**

No. Terry (Dennis Trainor) and Parnell (Robbie Moses) are averse to the notion of a formal job, which leaves plenty of time to drink Alpine and create mischief. Pogey is the lifeblood of *Just Passing Through*.

## **Question 2 — Did you start a full time job during the period of this report?**

No, though, ostensibly, Terry and Parnell wanted to. They were driving from P.E.I. to Fort McMurray to work when their car died in Toronto and they arrived on the doorstep of their “cousint,” Owen (Tyler Seguin). Owen is an uptight Toronto type — as they’d say in P.E.I., “he’s some tight-arsed” — and much clash-of-cultures tension ensues.

*Just Passing Through* is a cross between the great Maritime film *Going Down the Road* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0065788/>) and the great Maritime TV show *Trailer Park Boys* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trailer\\_Park\\_Boys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trailer_Park_Boys)). It captures the unpretentious, if sometimes parochial, reality of life on P.E.I., and wraps it up in humour that is unabashedly profane and obscene, but always good-natured.

**Question 3 — Did you attend a school or training course during the period of this report?**

No. Though I learned a lot about pogeys by watching *Pogey Beach*, which is Terry's and Parnell's favourite TV program. They sprawl on Owen's sofa watching the show-within-a-show, in which the characters party all summer while avoiding "pogey narcs."

Terry and Parnell are also quick learners. They see Toronto's ethnic neighbourhoods — Little Italy, Chinatown — and create "Charlottetown Town" in a city park, with help from new friend Alex (played by Bridget Tobin, whose comedically expressive face is a consistent highlight of the show). They set up tables and sell island moonshine, and DVDs of a made-in-P.E.I. porn film called, ahem, *Goin' Down the Red Dirt Road*.

**Question 4 — Were you ready, willing and capable of working each day?**

Yes. Though *Just Passing Through* is distracting a lot of people from work. The first of seven episodes already has more than 75,000 views. It's so popular in P.E.I. that you'll see people wearing "Pogey Narc" T-shirts.

**Question 5 — Did you or will you receive money other than that already reported in C, D and E on Side 2?**

No, though the producers/writers — brothers Jeremy and Jason Larter, and Geoff Read — are hoping to. They started with support from the national Independent Production Fund and Innovation P.E.I., and are working on a leap to TV.

"We have a couple of broadcasters currently interested in talking about the series," says Jeremy Larter, who also plays a small role in the show as the absurdly pretentious head of Hot Doga, a "hot yoga" gym for dogs.

I ask Larter, is TV essential in the web age? "We're still in a no man's land in terms of figuring out new business models with lower-budget, straight-to-web content," he says. "My guess is that partnerships with broadcasters will be an important piece of the puzzle no matter which platform you distribute your series on."

That's why each episode lasts a TV-friendly 22 minutes. Or, approximately, 21 minutes and 55 seconds longer than it takes Terry and Parnell to fill out a pogey report card. No! No! No! Yes! No!

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Watch at [justpassingthrough.ca](http://justpassingthrough.ca). (<http://justpassingthrough.ca/>)

Click on the video below to watch episode 1 of Just Passing Through.





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