

Title: TWO WAY STREET (A COMEDY WEB SERIES)

Premise: A washed-up, arrogant network news anchorman, faced with low ratings, learns that he's getting a new co-anchor: his ex-wife.

Major Dramatic Question: Can an egotistical anchorman, paired with his ex-wife on the lowest rated newscast on TV, put aside his pride to lead it to #1, while trying to rebuild his family life, and possibly, his love life?

Synopsis: Mike Murphy is a recently divorced, well-traveled news anchorman, now anchor of "The World Tonight", TV's lowest-rated network newscast. Approaching 55, he's been well known throughout the industry to be an arrogant, often self-assured personality, who has alienated everyone he's ever worked with. His executive producer, Jack Sherman, desperate to save the show, and with the support of network management, informs Mike that he's going to get a new co-anchor: his ex-wife of two years, Jane Richards, a former co-anchor of the morning news in Boston, now the network's morning news anchor, and now married to Phil Richards, executive producer of the network's equally unsuccessful morning news show.

Jane, 49, left Mike precisely because of his arrogance, and also because of his absence as a father to their son, David. When they were married, and while she was the station's morning news anchor, she met Phil, 39, himself formerly a TV news reporter, who later became Jane's executive producer, and who now fills the same role on the network's morning news, just as she now anchors the network morning news. Phil, like many of the news staff, has increasingly grown tired of Mike's behavior, especially off-set, going back to their days in Boston, when Mike lured away the station's popular morning weatherman to his evening newscast as a ratings ploy, when a competing station's longtime weatherman retired. It was a ploy which briefly eroded the audience for Phil's morning show, and boosted Mike's newscast, but backfired when Phil hired Mike's brother, Marty, himself a weatherman, as a replacement on the morning news. Marty proved more popular than Mike, and Mike's ratings (and popularity) slipped.

Adding to the mix is Mike and Jane's son, David, 20, who, like Mike, attended college at Yale, and is also pursuing a career in journalism, but unlike his father, is determined not to make the mistakes that Mike made, both in relationships and in his

career. Mike and David have had a strained relationship, due to the fact that Mike was hardly ever around when his son was growing up, going back all the way to the night that he was born, while Mike was covering Bill Clinton's nomination as the Democratic candidate for President at their 1992 convention. At the same time, Mike, who has never re-married, nor has he been in any new relationships since the divorce, still has feelings for his wife, albeit privately. All of these people are determined to teach Mike an important lesson: like communication, respect, and especially love, is truly a two-way street.

#### MAJOR CHARACTERS:

Mike Murphy - 54, a former TV news reporter/anchor, born in Boston, graduated from Yale, majoring in journalism, having once edited the Yale Daily News, and then going on to work in radio, and then television, in various markets, including Burlington, Vermont, Buffalo, N.Y., Miami, Florida, San Antonio, Texas, Little Rock, Arkansas (where Mike covered Bill Clinton's rise to U.S. President) and Binghamton, Mass. before finally returning to Boston, to anchor the evening news. Divorced from his wife, Jane, he has not re-married, nor has he been in any serious romantic relationship since the divorce. He has a tendency to be the center of attention, often to the point of being melodramatic on the news. In Boston, he re-named the evening newscast "The Mike Murphy Report" and used it as his own personal showcase for his reports, especially if it involved tearjerker stories or investigative reports, much to the chagrin of his co-workers.

However, it wasn't enough to stop network executives at UTN to hire him to front their network newscast, "The World Tonight", but despite his presence, the newscast has been consistently ranked in last place. Privately, even though Jane is now re-married, he still has feelings for her, and he also struggles to rebuild his relationship with his son, David (from his marriage to Jane), who, like Mike, is also pursuing a journalism career and is studying at Yale, a relationship strained by his constant absence from home due to his TV career, going back to the night when David was born, a night that Mike was in New York covering Bill Clinton's nomination as the Democratic candidate for President in that year's election.

Jane Richards (formerly Murphy) - 49, also a former TV news reporter, born in Buffalo, N.Y., where she met and married Mike,

while both worked at competing stations. They moved to Boston when Mike was hired to anchor the evening news, otherwise known as "The Mike Murphy Report", while she worked on the station's morning news. Five years into their marriage, their son David was born, which led Jane to leave the news business in order for her to raise David. The demands of Mike's job, which often saw him away from home, thus resulting in his absence from their son's life, coupled with his increasing arrogance and star power, led her to divorce him. She began to date Phil, a producer on the morning news show she used to anchor, two months after her divorce from Mike, and they got married the following year, much to Mike's chagrin. Now, she anchors the network's morning newscast, produced by Phil. Kind, caring, especially for her co-workers, for Phil, and especially David, she resents having to work with Mike at first, but knows that she has to put aside hard feelings in order for their partnership, and their newscast, to stay on top.

Phil Richards - 39, a former TV news reporter, born in San Diego, Ca., who worked in various markets including San Diego, Detroit, and Seattle before settling in Boston, and turning his attention to behind-the-scenes work as a producer of the station's morning news, where Jane was a co-anchor, where they became friends, and after Jane's divorce from Mike, they married. Now, he's executive producer of the network's low-rated "The World This Morning". While loving and affectionate towards Jane, and generally treating the staff with respect, he has a lot of contempt towards Mike, going back to his days in Boston, when he persuaded station management to transfer the station's popular morning weatherman (and Phil's best friend) to his evening newscast, in an attempt to boost ratings, which not only set back the morning show's ratings, but also didn't make much of a difference for Mike's newscast.

David Murphy - 20, son of Jane and Mike, born in 1992 on the night that Bill Clinton accepted the Democratic nomination for President at their convention in New York, a convention that Mike covered, thus making him unable to attend his birth. The early years of his life were difficult, because Mike rarely was around to see him, as a result of the long hours that he worked in TV news. In fact, the only time he ever saw Mike was whenever he was on TV. He struggled in school, and had difficulty maintaining friendships, all because his family was uprooted whenever Mike was hired in different markets. He grew up to study journalism, becoming editor of the high school newspaper, and now attends Yale, where he is the editor of the Yale Daily

News. He is single, but has made it his personal mission to try to do better than his father, both professionally and romantically. Shy, intelligent, and caring for his mother, Jane, he feels a sense of detachment towards Mike because of his absence.

#### MINOR CHARACTERS:

Jack Sherman - 45, executive producer of "The World Tonight", worked with Mike in Boston, and followed him to New York to oversee the network news program. Hard-working, and loyal to Mike, yet also wary of his arrogance and showmanship, Jack is aware of his responsibility to the entire program's staff, including the reporters and producers of the news program, to whom he also is loyal.

Howard Hackett, 67, a veteran of the network news wars, formerly worked at CBS and NBC as a reporter, later moving up to bureau chief at CNN during the 1980's, and later a network vice president, before becoming president of the news division, a man who is wise, kind, caring for his employees, and many times, the voice of reason in the chaotic newsroom, especially when Jack, Mike and Jane get into disputes over the newscast.