

Q&A with Leon Acord

from the Web Series

Old Dogs & New Tricks

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**I am talking with** *Leon Acord from the Web Series Old Dogs & New Tricks*

**So, Leon, your background, where are you from and**

**what motivated you to do a Web Series?:**

*I'm a former Hoosier farm boy who attended IU then moved to SF at 21. I acted all the time in SF, but when I moved to LA in 2004 — and my age range moved from 30-40 to 40-50 — the work really slowed down. I wanted to take some control of my career, and explore topics that mean something to me, rather than wait by the phone for a call to play “Bank Teller #2.”*

**And your role with in “Old Dogs & New Tricks” ?**

*I'm the writer/creator and play one of the lead characters, Nathan Adler. I'm also co-executive producer. I joke that Arvin handles the “show,” Matt handles the “business” and I'm in charge of PR and BS. I'm involved primarily in casting, marketing, social media, SAG paperwork, some locations, giving notes on edits and costuming.*

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How would you best describe your Web Series?

Old Dogs & New Tricks is a colorful, comedic look at growing older in a society—and particularly in a town—obsessed with youth and sex. As our four best friends try to remain vibrant and vital in WeHo, they find themselves longing for more meaningful connections as they get older. But we shy away from camp—our characters maintain their dignity even in the most undignified situations.

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**What was the best moment, for you in creating “Old Dogs & New Tricks”?**

*Too many great moments to name just one! But here's two: The first was our final production meeting the night before we started shooting the Pilot. I remember sitting around, looking at our crew: all these mostly hetero twenty-something USC and Chapman grads, so serious and committed. I felt amazed that they were so dedicated to this silly show about four middle-aged*

*gay guys. I wanted to cry. It's still amazing to me that this little idea I had has become this 'thing' and we have this amazing cast and crew!*

*The second has been chatting on line with the show's fans from around the world. After 20+ years as an actor, it's very gratifying to interact with folks who are touched by what you're doing... I'm amazed how invested some of our fans have become after only five less-than-10-minute episodes.*

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And the worst moments?

The worst moments have been when I've had to be a "boss" and say 'no' or risk offending people when my opinions differ. I hate conflict. The first time I had to give edit notes to Arvin, I was a nervous wreck: "Who am I to give notes to someone who studied film at USC?" But Arvin encourages me to speak my mind – and those moments have made me stronger, so even they have turned out okay.

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*Oh, and anything that has to do with fundraising. I'm from Indiana, I hate asking people for money.*

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What are the credits for your Show? Cast, Writers, Creators, Directors, ect....

Cast:

Leon Acord, Curt Bonnem, Jeffrey Patrick Olson, David Pevsner

with Amanda Abel and Ryland Shelton

Season 1 Guest Stars: Patrick Bristow, Thom Bierdz, Bruce L. Hart

Produced by:

Co-Executive Producers Leon Acord & Matthew Ladensack

Executive in Charge of Production Laurence Whiting

Producer (Pilot) Levi Damione

Creators/Directors:

Created/Written by Leon Acord

Developed for the Web/Directed by Arvin Bautista

Cameras:

Jon Salmon (Pilot); Kiko Suura (Season 1)

Sound Recordist/Boom Operator/Original music:

Sound Recordist/Boom: Tai Heard Original Music: Nic tenBroek

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**\*\*\* The Facts First – Where and When is**

*“Old Dogs New Tricks”?*

FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/olddogstheseries](http://www.facebook.com/olddogstheseries)

Web Site: [www.OldDogsNewTricksTheSeries.com](http://www.OldDogsNewTricksTheSeries.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/ODNTTheSeries>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/OldDogsTheSeries>

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If you had one message to get across to the WORLD

with *“Old Dogs & New Tricks”*

– What would that message be?

Fifty can be fun, friends can be family, and a “gay show” *can* find an audience if it’s well done.

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**Everyone that Enters a Festival want to Win an Award,**

**What about your project makes it stand out?**

*There are so many great shows out there I love, but I still think we have the best crew in web TV. An industry veteran asked me how much the Pilot cost. I asked her to guess. Her reply? "\$50,000." Our actual budget was about 1/10<sup>th</sup> that amount. That's how good our crew is!*

*And our cast is the most talented group of actors I've ever been lucky enough to work with.*

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What is next for you?

We're already in pre-production for Season 2, which we hope to have on line beginning this fall. There's just no time to focus on anything else right now.

Thank You, Leon Acord

Lastly: What have I forgotten to Ask you?

Placevine.com recently named me on of their "Top 10 Emerging Web Series Stars of 2012" for my engagement of our fans on social media, but a friend just dismisses me as "high-tech Joan Crawford" (an actress notorious for responding to every single fan letter). The truth is somewhere between the two extremes!