

BLACK HIPSTERS



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If life imitates art, whoever drew this life might need to go back to school.

LOGLINE

Caught between the world of hip-hop and hipster, two African American millennials try to find love and legitimacy in Atlanta's bustling art scene.

CONCEPT

Black Hipsters is a ½ hour comedy that revolves around Phillip and Dante who were known growing up in the hood as “the other” black guys (imagine if Mel Brooks and Spike Lee had kids). With a worldview born from Facebook, Manga, and two semesters of Art School, Phillip and Dante are woefully unprepared for the realities of, well... reality. Assuming that life will eventually work out for them, the two take failure in blissful stride – practically turning it into an art form: job fails, dating fails, black culture fails, art project fails. Longing for a life free of selling fast food chicken, these two will do just about anything to become successful artists... or at least the non-starving variety - including selling inappropriate art at a kid's playground, shooting ghetto art house rap videos, and trying to eBay “designer worn shoes” (i.e.: their old shoes).

TONE

While the comedy will be played real and relatable, the execution will be as eclectic as its main characters, featuring a mixed-media style inspired by pop culture, black culture, and art-house films. Set in Atlanta's Old 4th Ward, an historic neighborhood squeezed between skyscrapers and railroad tracks, the world of “Black Hipsters” will be seen through the surreal filter of our two heroes - from inner guides animated in the style of Basquiat and Andy Warhol, to personified metaphors like the 300-pound neighborhood bully “Life,” whose sole mission is to deliver a daily ass whoopin' to Philip and Dante.

MAIN CHARACTERS



PHILIP WASHINGTON (Zae Jordan)

Philip is a street artist who aspires to live on a nicer street. Currently, Philip works with his best friend Dante at a drive-thru fried chicken shack, and wonders every day if he's being racist for working there. Philip is not your ordinary black guy (his words).

As a kid, Philip would rather paint a basketball than play with one, so his inner city school years were spent mostly alone in his room, drawing. Things haven't changed much, as most of his neighbors still don't know his name, and often refer to him as "That Donald Glover Looking Dude", "Headband Weirdo", or "Hippie Urkel".

Other than his precious headband, the best thing in Philip's life is his friendship with fellow dreamer and misfit, Dante. Philip feels empowered when Dante is around, mostly because Dante goes along with whatever Philip wants to do - oftentimes to a fault.

While Philip is an extreme over-thinker, meticulously laying out details for simple plans (with storyboards, 3D models, inspiration palettes...), Dante tends to dive in headfirst without thinking at all. If Philip is the fuse, Dante is most certainly the overeager spark, making life blow up all over them on a daily basis. Despite this, Philip generally tries to maintain a confident exterior, and if that fails, hiding under a car usually works too.



MAIN CHARACTERS



DANTE WASHINGTON (Javier Williams)

While Philip (occasionally) attends art school, Dante hones his skills by watching Spike Lee films (the old ones) and YouTube tutorials on how to make viral videos. Dante is a freelance videographer with dreams of becoming the next great black director, or at least Mario Van Peebles, and views the world around him as if he's in a ghetto art-house film with French subtitles. Dante worships his best friend Philip, as he is the only person on this planet that has ever believed in him. Because of this, he'd follow Philip into oncoming traffic, or worse yet, a college improv show. Dante does occasionally pick up work shooting discount wedding videos, but usually leaves the client scratching their heads when the final product looks more like a film noir rap video.

Dante is full of sunshine, but when a female is around, he becomes a giant gibbering puppet - sometimes literally. But what he lacks in social skills, he makes up for with his child-like smile, and often survives the most precarious situations simply by remaining adorably unaware of reality. For Dante, ignorance truly is bliss.



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

LIZ: Afro-Latina, Female, Early 20s

An aspiring fine-art photographer and an expert in self-generating buzz. Her Instagram portfolio consists of a “shove it down your throat” vibe, but she mostly gets likes because BOOBS. Unlike Philip, Liz has already graduated from Atlanta College of Arts, which she reminds him of incessantly. Philip suffers it in order to get access to Liz’s celebrity friends, while Dante dreams of asking her out. Liz is amused by Dante’s awkward-charm, but whenever things get remotely romantic, Liz gets a text. From her cat. And then she splits. Sigh.

WES: White, Male, Mid 20s

Philip and Dante’s only rich redneck friend and a relentless party monster. He’s a big Jewish guy with a thick country accent and a strong affection for his two black friends. He sells every drug you can imagine. His top seller is lavender bath salts. Wes gives his best advice when he’s wasted, which leads Philip and Dante to try getting him loaded in order to get last minute help.

BLACK ART: African-American/Nigerian, Male, Early 30s

A wealthy artist that is obsessed with himself and everything he does with his work -which consists exclusively of ghetto pop art (he’s best known for a screen print of a pack of grape-flavored Swisher Sweet cigarillos on a white canvas). To Black Art, Phillip and Dante are invisible. Literally. For some reason he can even walk through them, like ghosts.

GRANDMA: African-American, Female, Early 70s

Philip and Dante’s sweet, soft spoken, and religious grandmother who they live with. She means well, but is not afraid to show tough love with her powerful bitch slaps. When she thinks Philip and Dante are up to no good, she casually calls Jesus to help straighten them out (she has Our Savior on speed dial).

LIFE : African-American, Any Gender/Age

One of Philip and Dante’s biggest threats. Life is super tough, like a shape-shifting Terminator T-1000 from Judgement Day. This character is Reality, anthropomorphized - a walking metaphor of the constant ass whoopin’ a black person needs in order to stay woke and achieve life goals. And Life ain’t no bitch.



SAMPLE EPISODES

“Black Art” - Philip and Dante attend an uninspired art exhibit hosted by an in-demand Nigerian artist named “Black Art”. When the guys accidentally set fire to a portrait of a Waffle House entitled “Heaven”, a bidding war ensues over the smoldering scraps.

“12 Days a Slave” - Philip and Dante document a day in the life of a popular internet rapper that keeps them hostage for 12 days.

“Do It For The Gram” - For Instagram exposure, Philip has a wild romantic night with a compulsive social media model while Dante seeks internet infamy with the help of the most reckless Twitter troll ever.

“My Little Pink Scooter” - While scouting a location to shoot their short film, Philip and Dante find an abandoned pink scooter to use as an essential prop... a scooter that belongs to a missing little Caucasian girl.

“Glue Guns Matter” - Philip ‘borrows’ equipment from his former art school one night. But when the glue gun gets stuck to his hand, the suspicious looking tool triggers a campus wide lockdown. While Philip hides from the authorities, Dante attempts to cash in on the racial tension by selling social justice themed headbands...

“Cross Dicks” - Philip and Dante are told to attend bible study at their Grandmother’s super uptight church. While at church, Philip recognizes a ‘cross’ that is the signature of an unknown artist who has been mysteriously tagging his ‘street art’ (abstract paintings of dicks) and decides to get revenge by tagging back.



THE WRITERS



Black Hipsters is largely based on the true life exploits of Atlanta-based cousins Zae Jordan and Javier Williams. In 2015, Zae dropped out of Savannah College of Art & Design in the middle of his senior year to pursue an even less lucrative vocation - acting and comedy. Around that time, Javier began creating alternative trap music on Soundcloud under the moniker Javisenpai aka Pink Turner. They joined forces to form WILDSOUL Films. The duo's first project together was a documentary parody called Being Glen: A Puppeteer's Story, which was awarded Atlanta's Best Comedy Short Film in 2016. Their second short film, Art Sale, won 'Best Short Film' and 'Best Ensemble Cast' at the Houston Comedy Festival. Their style of comedy is best described as weird, ratchet, art house satire...or something like that.

