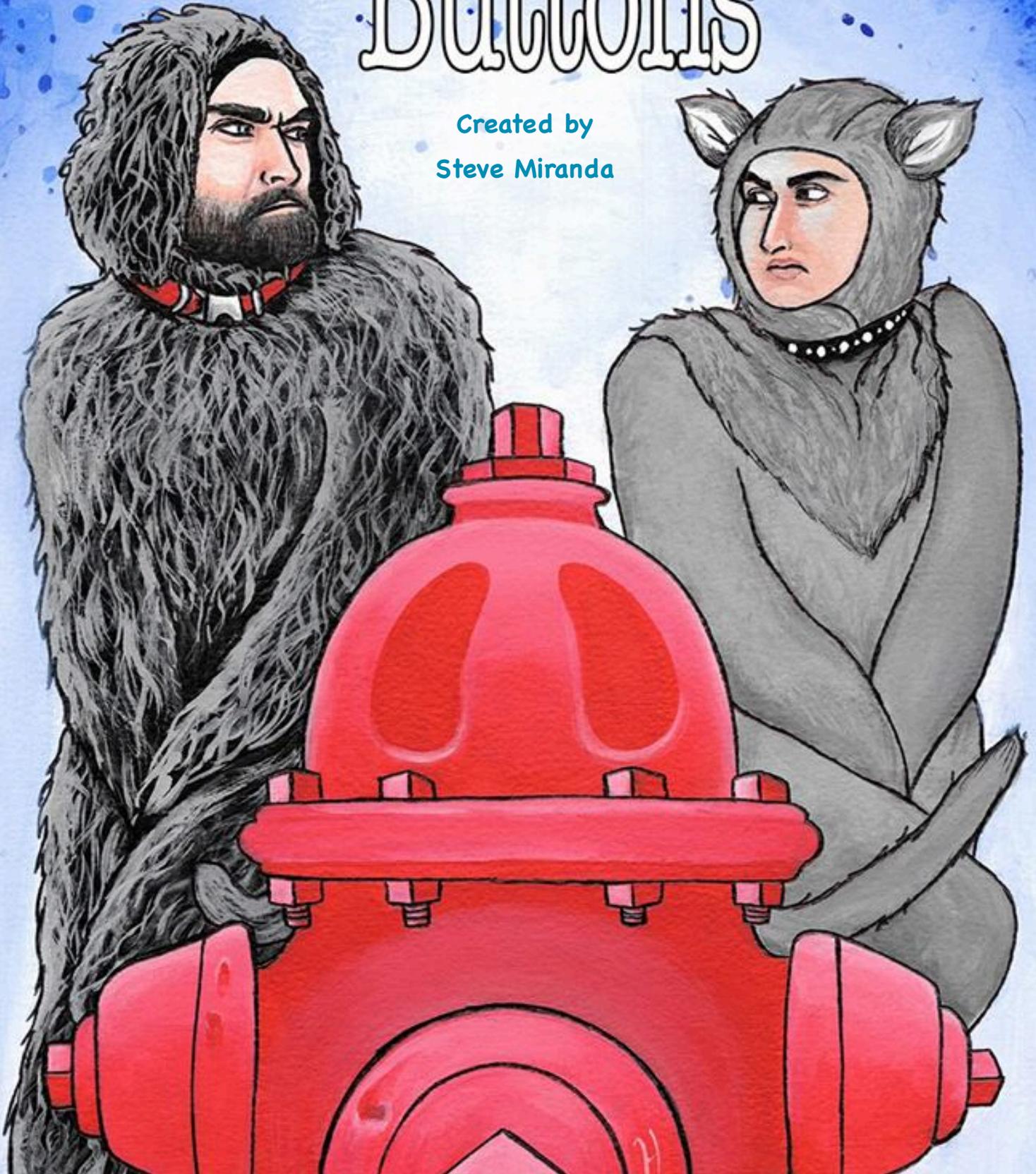


Sprinkles and Buttons

Created by
Steve Miranda





LOG LINE

After losing their owner, Sprinkles and Buttons must roam the unforgiving world on a perilous journey back to their home.

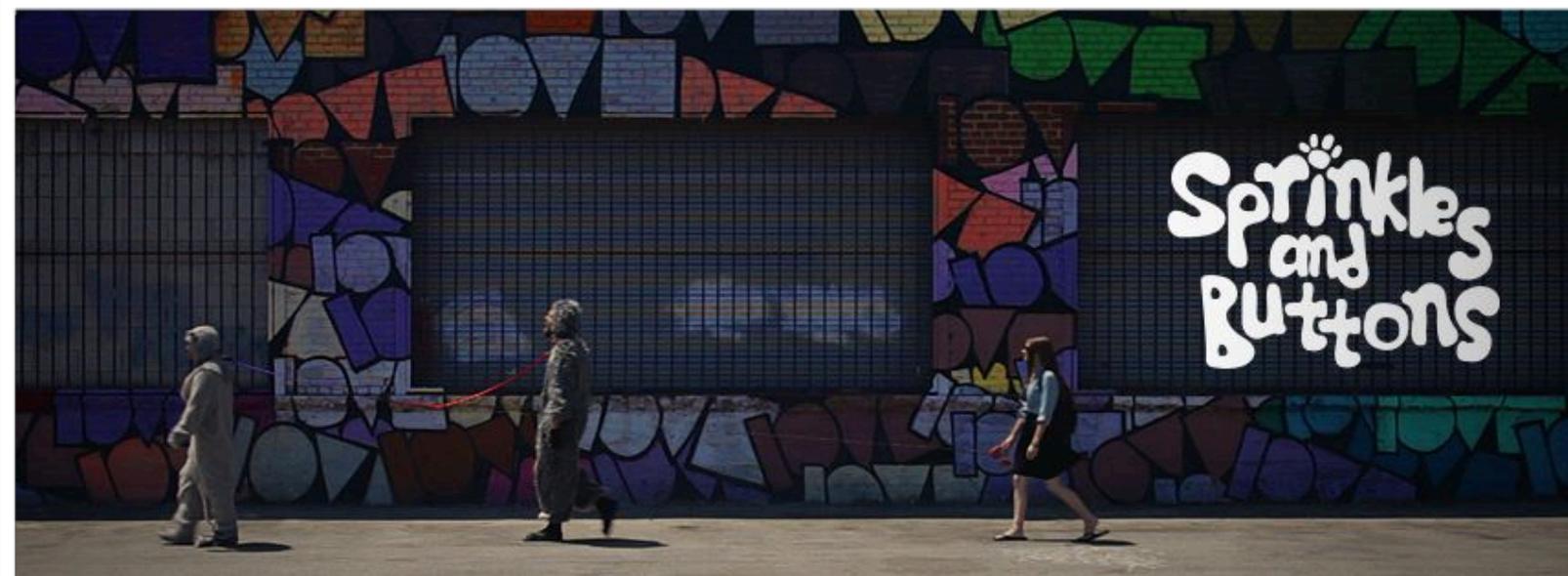
THE SHOW

If “*Homeward Bound*” was created by the stars of “*It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*” you would get “*Sprinkles and Buttons*”. Often abandoned and starving, the two dogs exhibit a sanity seesaw showcasing how their conflicting personalities mutually benefit each other. The show conveys themes of friendship, loss, loneliness, and how a pet can act as a psychological bandage for a dysfunctional family.

Slot: Primetime Cable **Episodes per Season:** 10 **Length:** Half Hour

Demographic: 18-40 pet owners **Genre:** Single Cam Comedy

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THE STRUCTURE

The pilot would begin in *media-res* with the **A)** story taking place in the present and the **B)** story taking place in the past. The perspective would mostly be from the dogs' world while, on occasion, shifting to the owner's perspective to highlight the dramatic conflict.

The **A)** story focuses on Sprinkles' and Buttons' current homeless status as they roam the countryside and the city in search of a new home. The many conflicts they endure involve starvation, rabid dogs, hungry coyotes, animal control, kill shelters, and escaping from negligent dog owners.

The **B)** story focuses on Sprinkles' and Buttons' past when they were first introduced to each other as pets in a typical, family environment. The conflicts are subtle by comparison and focus on the emotional complexity of a quietly unhappy family. Furthermore, the **B)** story explores how these complexities are viewed and interpreted by the pet.

The audience would see how the different environments change the dynamic of the characters. In the **A)** story, Sprinkles is the 'fish out of water' trying to survive in the streets, whereas In the **B)** story, Buttons tries to adapt to domesticated life. The shift in time creates intrigue with scenes from the **A)** referencing times from the **B)** and moments in the **B)** foreshadowing the **A)**.

THE TONE

The stark visual of seeing adults in cute costumes creates a surreal, yet inviting, environment. On top of that, the language barrier between humans and animals creates several opportunities for comedic misinterpretation. Owning a pet can be a fulfilling, heartwarming experience. But in a moment, all that can change into a grim contrast of gut-wrenching despair. The show will match the experience of owning a pet by having moments of raunchy absurdist levity, awkward black comedy, and heart-warming drama.

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THE CHARACTERS

Sprinkles: A Silver Labrador Retriever who is a shameless, lazy, fearful, narcissist. He is also a charming, excellent manipulator showcased whenever he interacts with humans. His deep insecurities spurn from the fact that he was born in a puppy mill and that he was just another puppy to his mother that she pushed out. Because of this, he has made it his lifelong mission to get everyone he comes across to love him. He is antagonistic towards Buttons at first, but later comes to realize the harsh experiences Buttons has faced gives him the courage to carry on.

Buttons: An endangered Grey Wolf who is an arrogant, stoic, survivalist, elitist. He is also highly empathic, but tries to hide this behind his guard. His high guard came about when, as a puppy, he witnessed his mother get shot by a hunter in Wyoming (where it is legal to hunt wolves). After being abandoned by his father, he led a harsh, unforgiving life that forced him to be cold and paranoid. He is put off by Sprinkles' spoiled attitude and first world problems, but eventually drops his guard around him and realizes that he finally has a friend.

Holly: An 18 year old human girl who adopts Buttons to cope with her toxic, child-like mother and disengaged father. She grew up having to accept the fact that her mother never wanted her and that her father's silent treatment made her numb as a child. She finds herself saving animals, as they are her only way of connecting her emotions outwardly. She has a special affinity towards Buttons, as she feels a kindred spirit in him. She can keep him under the condition of him being trained as her service dog. She appreciates Sprinkles due to the fact he is her mother's dog and it's the only way they can connect as mother and daughter. It is revealed in the season finale that she is still searching for her pets.

The Coyote: An elite coyote who hates the elitist nature of wolves. He was a puppyhood friend of Buttons until Buttons' father killed his parents. Buttons begged his father to spare his friend, which spurred the coyote's hatred for him ever since. He leads a pack of coyotes for the sole purpose of killing Buttons. He makes appearances throughout the series but isn't on his trail until the last episode.

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SIDE CHARACTERS

Millie: A Yorkshire Terrier who is a controlling, attention seeking, ribbon winning diva. She has a crush on Buttons strictly due to the fact that he is the only dog in the neighborhood not interested in her. She undergoes a drastic change in her life after her owner dies from old age and is forced to be in a kennel with untrained dogs. In Season 2 she is revealed to be dying from Addison's disease.

Holly's Mother: A woman who's heart was broken indefinitely by what she claims was her true love. She later rebuilt herself by marrying someone she could never fall in love with and had a child to save the marriage.

Holly's Father: A man who sacrificed his finances in order to be with someone he thought he could get to fall in love with him. Upon realizing his wife doesn't love him, he becomes numb and shuts down, but is too afraid to start over.

Little Bubba: An English Bull Dog who is flamboyant, reactionary, and racist. His racist tendencies come from his owner who inadvertently taught him to lash out against all those of African descent. (the actor would be an African American in a dog costume hating African Americans)

Whisky Thunder: A suicidal Chow Chow who is trapped in his backyard and is never allowed to interact with other dogs. His only form of communication is barking over the wall. The other dogs in the neighborhood are always barking over the wall convincing him to not drown himself in his backyard pool.

Chubby Chestnut: Danny Trejo in a dog costume. (That's it)



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EPISODE OVERVIEW

EPISODE 1: Buttons is trying to teach Sprinkles how to kill in order to survive, but finds his hunting instincts have been dulled from being domesticated. Meanwhile, in the past, Sprinkles is trying to show Buttons how to manipulate humans in order to sabotage him into getting kicked out.

EPISODE 2: In the past, a neighbor notices Sprinkles and wants her dog, MILLIE, to breed with him, but she is attracted to Buttons, who finds the situation confusing having been isolated most of his life. In the present, they come across a large, stray, male dog in heat who wants to mate with Buttons as well, which makes Sprinkles jealous. (Sprinkles: *“Why do you all go to HIM?”*)

EPISODE 3: After running for their lives (a la Saving Private Ryan) from a fireworks heavy neighborhood on the fourth of July, S and B find an abandoned house full of other stray dogs who lick wet paint to get high and escape from reality. In the past, Buttons is having trouble relating to the domesticated dogs at the dog park and thinks they find him terrifying. (Stray high off paint: *“I’m just saying I think we should get 7 birthdays a year.”*)

EPISODE 4: In the present, the gang finds a delicious glazed ham in a landfill, but have to brave past steroid-injected junkyard dogs to get it. In the past, Holly graduates from high school and her mother drunkenly gives away Buttons to a stranger. (She later confesses that she feels Holly’s ownership of Buttons is straining her toxic marriage)

EPISODE 5: In the past, Holly prepares for her first Community College class, but her father forbids Buttons from staying in his

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garage while it rains. She takes S and B to school and shelters them in her car while it rains. As she attends class, a good samaritan frees them and they are set loose on campus.

EPISODE 6: In the present, S and B find out their recent homeless owner has died. Unfortunately they are chained to him and drag his corpse around the city in hopes of finding some way to separate from him. (S: *“We can chew him off? He MIGHT taste ok?”*)

EPISODE 7: In the past, after reading some love notes by sniffing pee stains on a fire hydrant (Dogs can learn information about an animal's age, sex, and breed from sniffing urine. In this universe, peeing on the ground is similar to leaving a post on Facebook), Buttons comes across another female wolf and tries to run away with her, but they both get captured by animal control. She tells him what will happen to them if they aren't adopted.

EPISODE 8: In the present, Sprinkles claims that it is hard to get picked up by a new owner with Buttons, so he decides to go solo and promises Buttons he'll smooth things over with the new owner. After Sprinkles betrays his wolf friend, he immediately regrets his decision when the owner is overly affectionate and needy (even for Sprinkles).

EPISODE 9: In the past, S and B bark over the wall to convince Whisky Thunder to not drown himself in his pool. Holly thinks this means they want to play with him and arranges a play date for them, but the last thing the gang wants is to be trapped around Whisky Thunder's depressing nature.

EPISODE 10: In the present, Buttons thinks he sees Holly and they race after her, but are then captured by a dog catcher and put into a

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kill shelter. There they are reunited with other dogs from their neighborhoods, including a more despondent **Millie**. The kill shelter is run by Christian fundamentalists who execute dogs that don't believe in the bible. (They hold a plate of bacon and the bible. If they pick the bacon, then they don't believe in God)

Cliffhangers:

- A)** S and B break the other dogs out, and set on a journey to a legendary farm that takes care of stray dogs.
- B)** Holly comes in the shelter after seeing S and B on their shelter website for lost dogs.
- C)** The Coyote is finally on Buttons' trail.

POTENTIAL FOR SEASON 2

- Sprinkles and Buttons help the other dogs find homes.
- Their pack of lost dogs sets up backstories for other types of animal abuse.
- Millie eventually succumbs to her Addison's disease, but not before helping Buttons let go of the guilt over his mother's death.
- Sprinkles comes across a puppy mill and helps a dog, that reminds him of his mother, escape.
- Sprinkles finally learns how to fight.
- Coyote and Buttons have their emotional face off.