

## Work in Progress Bundle Experimental Studio

**Title:** Office-ally Crazy\*

*\*Subject to change*

**Thesis/Rationale:** Our TV show episode strives to convey an absurd overexaggeration of the dysfunction most workplace institutions have embedded in them. Particularly, this episode subverts conformity by showing the characters shamelessly expressing their personal lives, feelings, and problems in the workplace. As a societal and office norm continues to be the suppressing of the true self to make way for people-pleasing, unwavering acceptance, and desire for conformity, the mental toll of “masking” is something that is largely unspoken of, and relatively taboo in the workplace. Thus, our piece comedically questions what a reality without shame of the “self” would look like, reversing self-expression as a norm, for better or for worse. The episode strives to represent a type of “anarchy” that is not seen in real life workplace institutions due to societal norms, but which we all have felt internally/mentally desired at some point in our lives.

**Artistic Direction / Aesthetic Sensibilities:** The artistic direction of our TV show will display very muted mundane backgrounds (such as standard office spaces), with costuming/individual props that are eccentric to each individual character. This show reflects both a mockumentary sitcom style aesthetic and a surreal comedy, favouring semi-disjointed sketches that transition into each other. Overall, the TV episode is highly cinematographic in both its editing and shots, giving the relative impression that this is a serious piece of media, thereby heightening the comedy. Visual inspiration can be seen below.

## Aesthetic Inspiration:

Alex Da Corte



Lido TV



The Office



Smiling Friends



Wes Anderson films (especially *Rushmore* in terms of cinematographic-serious-humour combo):



Planet Sledd (In relation to “campy” style production)



## **Rough Draft Clips\***

*\*Subject to change*

### **Scene 1: Cubicle Baby is Born (Duration: ~5 min)**

- Cubicle Baby is seen crawling out of The CEO's legs, seemingly covered in some sort of slime (Vaseline) in full business formal attire + props in hand.
- Cubicle Baby is seemingly out of breath crawling towards a laptop, desperate to get to work
- The CEO stops Cubicle Baby, reprimanding them for wanting to work so soon as they have not watched the orientation video because "those who dont sit through the video dont make it through life"
- Cubicle Baby reluctantly sits in front of the TV with the rest of the employees to watch the orientation video

### **Scene 2: Harold's Orientation Video (Duration: approx. 3 min)**

- Orientation video is on topic "proper office etiquette"
- Covers basic information, then gets deeper into each of the individual characters' flaws
- View goes in and out of full screen video: some shots focus on the individual character being focused on
- The video is playful but down-to-earth. Basic animations accompany what is being said, and the whole is almost comedic.

### **Scene 3\*: Cubicle Baby Runs Out of Zyns (Duration: ~2-3 min)**

- Cubicle Baby is now able to get to work on their tasks at hand, putting a Zyn in to focus
- Cubicle Baby notices that they have no more Zyns left and begins to call The Secretary on the Fisher Price phone, arguing back and forth with them as they will not buy Cubicle Baby more Zyns due to their social anxiety

### **Scene 4: CEO and Cubicle Baby Catch The Secretary Slacking off (Duration: ~2-3min)**

- Cubicle Baby asks CEO for spreadsheets for work related purposes, the CEO lifts her head up from the desk (she was napping or passed out who could say) and says The Secretary has them she throws a can at the door to open it and it works
- Both Cubicle Baby and the CEO walk to The Secretary's desk to find them on an iPad watching a video
- The secretary seems frazzled trying to hide their device, unable to speak due to anxiety

### **Scene 4.5 Cutaway Jazzercise Video (Duration ~2min)**

- Secretary is watching YouTube instead of working and they are watching an 80s type workout jazzercise video lead by CEO and masked backup dancers, the camera pans closer to the YouTube video until the screen fills the entire view. The backup dancers one by one take each other out (kill) and the instructor does not care and continues teaching until they are all dead. The instructor shoots the final backup dancer in the head and does a cute sign off to the audience as a masked janitorial figure pushes the bodies to the side with a large broom.

- (Scene should end with a transition into Scene 5, Anna should map this out)

#### **Scene 5: Secretary needs to speak to visitor**

- (Anna planning this out)

#### **Scene 6: Cubicle Baby Writes Resignation Letter (~2mins)**

- Cubicle Baby is sick of the dysfunction in the workplace and decides they want to quit
- Cubicle Baby scrawls out “i quit” in crayon on a piece of paper and hands it to The CEO
- The ceo eats the paper super quickly and says with no paper work the baby cant quit and will stay until they die!!!
- Lights go off screaming happens, lights go back and balloons for going away party appear
- Ceo laughs and says just kidding bitch its okay ill just push this current baby out and get a new employee BUT NEVER FORGET WHERE U CAME FROM

#### **Scene 7: Office party & Cubicle Baby’s going away (~5min)**

- Team has party for Cubicle Baby, who is going away
- Everyone is present, even Harold, who gets peer pressured into partying (he is told it is new office procedure and ends up doing a beer funnel)
- CEO is in questionable attire basically lingerie or a super short party dress
- Team continues to party, do not notice as cubicle baby walks out of door
- Credits kick in

#### **Credits\*:**

- Simple
- Lists off who acted as what character
- Music?

#### **Production Schedule Outline:**

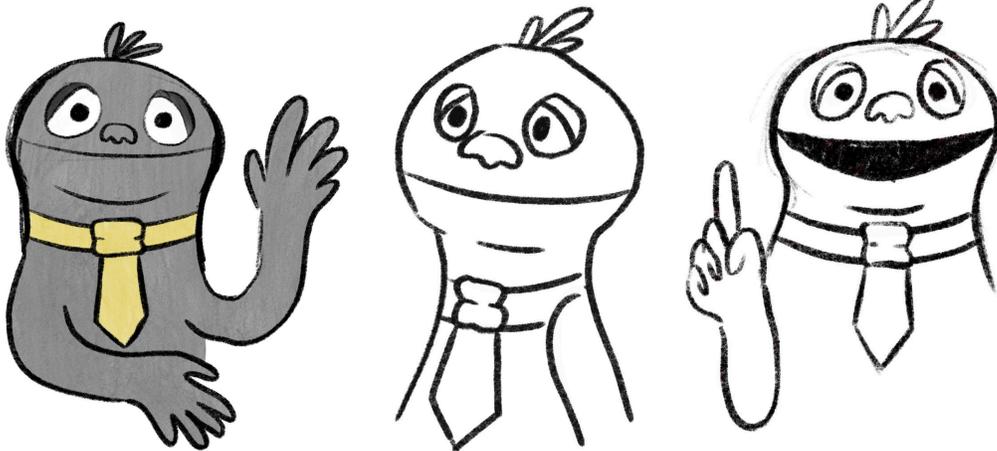
We plan to complete the filming of all scenes in 2-3 sessions, starting off with the easier clips at the outset to check off as many as possible, and ending with more complex, time-consuming videography. Filming sessions will likely occur on Fridays or weekends, in accordance to all group members’ schedules. General timetable below, subject to change.

Session & Scheduled Date	Group Members Attending	Scene(s) Being Filmed
Session one - February 6	Maximilienne, Jay, Norah	- Scene 2 - Scene 3 - Scene 4.5
Session two - February 8	Jay, Norah, Anna (Maximilienne available via Facetime if need be)	- Scene 6 - Scene 5 - Scene 4
Session three - TBD	Maximilienne, Jay, Norah, Anna	- Scene 1 - Scene 7

**Filming Locations & Set Structure:**

Filming is currently planned to be done in a few different areas. It will be mainly completed in the Experimental Studio lab, sometimes employing a green screen and some of the furniture there (including table, chairs, etc.). Amenities like doors might require filming as well to add to the plot structure. Other options are to schedule a room in the library and to complete filming there. Additionally, if all else fails, we can use Norah's house!

**Sketches**



**Superficial**

**Personality**

**Name:** Harold  
**Age:** N/A  
**Occupation:** Host / mascot of company training videos  
**Clothing:** A tie  
**Eye colour:** Black  
**Hair colour:** N/A  
**Other notes:** Harold is a puppet; during filming, his hands and mouth will be fully manipulatable by crew.  
**Played by:** Maximilienne

**Admirable personality trait:** Follows rules... no matter what  
**Negative personality trait:** Succumbs to excessive peer pressure, especially when convinced that it's a "new office rule"  
**Bad habit:** Adheres too strongly to office expectations, and can come off as a killjoy  
**Motivations:** Creating a workplace that aligns with company values  
**Goals:** Making sure everyone follows proper office procedures, no matter the price

**Why are they important to include? What is their role in the episode?**

Harold's role within the TV episode is to act as a grounding with "normality;" his strive to make his colleagues adhere to office rules and regulations is reflective of the current reality in any workspace, as workers are asked to let go of their true internal selves to make way for unwavering conformity. In such, Harold's presence is central for two key reasons: the first, he balances the atmosphere of the episode, as his "killjoy" nature counteracts with the often ridiculous behaviour of his colleagues, ensuring our overall video product does not give an impression of being overly chaotic; and secondly, he helps to convey how extremely strict and self-violent workplace expectations can be, often demanding workers to literally depart themselves from what makes them unique in order to conform to a uniformized, bland, and identity-lacking environment where everyone is just a number.

## Character Inspiration



Superficial	Personality
<p><b>Name:</b> Cubicle Baby</p> <p><b>Eye color:</b> Grey (Cubicle baby came out soulless, no colour in their eyes)</p> <p><b>Hair color and style:</b> Beanie (Recreation of the hospital hat babies get)</p> <p><b>Clothing:</b> Business formal attire</p> <p><b>Character Props:</b> A bib, Fisher Price Telephone, Pacifier, Nicotine pouches, baby bottle with coffee</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Employee at the unnamed office</p> <p><b>Played by:</b> Jay</p>	<p><b>Admirable personality traits:</b> Has a drive to get things done, does everything by the book, not easily influenced by peers, will call people out on their shortcomings</p> <p><b>Negative personality traits:</b> Workaholic, curt/rude personality, actively flips between acting like a baby and acting like an adult to get their way</p> <p><b>Bad habits or vices:</b> Abuses substances such as nicotine and caffeine for work related reasons</p> <p><b>Character's goals:</b> To leave the Unnamed Office and begin to forge their own path</p> <p><b>Motivations:</b> Set the Unnamed Office up for success so they can function without Cubicle Baby</p>

### Why are they important to include? What is their role in the episode?

Cubicle Baby's role in the episode is to display the workaholic that most workplace institutions have. Cubicle Baby strives to be a hard worker for their own gain with aspirations of finding a better institution to work in. Cubicle Baby as a character aims to display how individuals in institutional workplaces feel like they have to push through their job for self gain rather than embrace their hard work and enjoy working in a team setting. Additionally the dichotomy of this character being a baby yet the most hardworking attempts to display the innocence and inner child most adults wish to revert to in moments of stress.

## Character Inspiration



### Superficial

**CEO/Head Bitch in Charge**

**Eye color:** green, the colour of money and greed

**Hair color and style:** ponytails to showcase her immaturity and young age. Hair rollers, messy hair ect.

**Clothing:** short skirts or tight pants and business casual tops, lace. Think slutty office wear. Low cut tops, sparkles, and patterns are also favoured, with many outfit changes to be seen!!

**Character Props:** pregnancy belly (made out of a bean bag, hair bonnet, tank top, and marble for the outie belly button), alcoholic drinks (wine, beer, vodka), and a cigarette or vape in hand at all times. Gum, trash, empty cans,

**Occupation:** ceo of the unnamed office

**Played by:** Norah

### Personality

**Admirable personality traits:** the ceo is very strong-willed and cultivates her team by giving birth to her entire workforce. Super nice to the local cashier at the lobo.

**Negative personality traits:** the ceo is a pregnant teenager who runs the whole company in complete chaos. The ceo is short-tempered, arrogant, immature, brash, rude, bossy, and does not care for her children/horrible mother. Does not run her company ethically, legally, or morally.

**Bad habits or vices:** alcoholic and nicotine addict, also takes massive amounts of random pills

**Character's goals:** managing the most successful company in the world while doing basically nothing

**Motivations:** money, power, the opportunity to abuse employees

### Why are they important to include? What is their role in the episode?

The CEO is important for moving the plot forward as she gives the employees meaningless directions and tasks throughout the episode. The bosses' unlikable characteristics and lack of reasoning cause her to be a type of antagonist or antihero. The CEO embodies characteristics socially seen as unladylike or improper for women/girls to do, such as being promiscuous, rude, brash, and messy. Breaking the mold of a white old man with a stick up his ass being in charge, the CEO is an impulsive, unstable, pregnant 19-year-old with a serious drinking problem. The role of the CEO is to make sure her employees/children keep earning her money, birth the employees, and plan the Christmas party. The CEO is a controversial girl boss, but she keeps the (morally corrupt) office running.

### Sketches / Inspiration



#### Superficial

**Name:** Mildred “Millie” Quibble  
**Age:** vaguely middle-aged  
**Occupation:** Receptionist  
**Clothing:** Plaid Pants, glasses, business casual dress, collared shirt?  
**Eye colour:** Green  
**Hair colour:** Blond  
**Character props:** lots of folders full of emergency plans for normal situations, phone, greeting candy bowl, clip board, stickynotes, glasses, (furniture? Maybe a lamp or at least a lamp shade), plant, little desk trinkets.  
**Played by:** Anna

#### Personality

**Admirable personality trait:** Very efficient when alone and has spectacular organization skills when it comes to scheduling for everyone and keeping the chaos on track. Cares for her plants and desk trinkets.  
**Negative personality trait:** terrified of the sound of phones ringing, and very scared of strangers, both of which are central to her job and significantly impede her ability to be a welcoming face to people who come into the office.  
**Bad habit:** Hiding under her desk, talking to her plants, overplanning for normal interactions, getting strangers and guests to answer the scary phone for her, pretending to be furniture when panicked.  
**Motivation/Goal:** most of her actions are motivated by her crippling need to be prepared and have control over any unpredictable events no matter their scale.

#### Why are they important to include? What is their role in the episode?

Millie the receptionist is important to include because we have a cast that is full of outgoing, outspoken characters that act and speak very openly on their opinions and feelings, and this character can act as a balance to a very confident/loud/in your face, set of characters. She plays a couple different roles depending on the characters she is interacting with, in some parts she is the oblivious straight man and in others she brings a sense of urgency to the group. Based on the actions of the characters around her and how chaotic they are, her reactions may sometimes even seem justified, but when put in a situation with the average person, her reactions would be seen as neurotic or paranoid delusions. Her attire and appearance, unlike the other characters who are all visually jarring, is generally unassuming, while her actions are what are absurd about her. She shows another side of stepping out of conventions, by embodying her fears, like all the characters are embodiments of the types of habits, vices, behaviours and opinions that are intentionally kept separate from the common workplace environment.