

Room & Bored

a comedy for your television
created by Nick Nelson and David Guthrie



Room&Bored

EPISODES:
FORMAT:

10 x 22 minutes
Situational comedy, scripted, single camera.

Log Line

When an uptight intellectual moves in with an unemployed actor, personalities clash as they grapple with girls, bosses, and first world existentialism.

Synopsis

Clarke and Ryan are two best friends and roommates with opposite views on the world. Clarke, a high strung intellectual, is frustrated at work teaching remedial chemistry at the university to a group of dim-wits. He pines for his sexy colleague, Vienna, a nerdy asian teacher –but Clarke just doesn't have the social skills to pull it off. Ryan, on the other hand, is a go with the flow kind of guy, but unfortunately his flow keeps going nowhere. He is an unemployed actor, and things aren't looking all that promising.

This unlikely pair explore the void of post-graduate life and concern themselves with finding the answers to the big, real-world questions, like: "Why are we here?", "Can you eat cereal out of a milk creamer?", and "Why is the wifi password so complicated?", all while competing with each other for the girl, or the job, or for no reason at all. When life throws them challenges, they realize that united as a team, they don't have to fail alone—they can fail together.

Each episode features two major story arcs that interweave and culminate in surprising ways, all the while being driven by witty and wry banter springing from random talk and first world considerations. Clarke and Ryan love to plot, scheme, and debate any issue, from the trivial to the insignificant. In the pilot, Ryan and Clarke are not afraid to take on a beefy bouncer at the nightclub



they are attempting to break into—yet, they still find time to discuss the economic benefits to Ryan's picking up a single penny on the way there.

Setting

Ryan and Clarke live together in a modest, two-bedroom apartment in the big city. They frequent bars, cafes, grocery stores, university classrooms, bookstores, audition rooms and all kinds of cool hipster hang-outs. The city plays like a character in the show and Ryan and Clarke's penchant for using craigslist to solve problems provides a wide array of characters and scenarios to draw from. All emerging from the colossal tapestry of weirdos that dwell in the big city.



Pilot Episode Summary

Clarke (Nick Nelson), a university instructor, endures the humiliation of a horribly botched pickup attempt and tries to break into an exclusive nightclub. At a crucial audition, unemployed actor Ryan (David Guthrie), tells a lie and learns he has just three days to learn a sophisticated judo move: the dreaded "uki goshi."

For a detailed episode summary, see the breakdown at the end of this document.

Season One Springboards



E02 - THE SWITCH

Clarke and Ryan are forced to switch lives when Ryan's farmer family, unaware that he's intending to be an actor, visit unexpectedly. Dodging the advances of Ryan's extremely forward sister, Clarke meets a pickup artist who takes him under his wing.

E03 - NEW ROOMMATE

When Clarke and Ryan repeatedly neglect tenant duties, their unstable landlord rents their kitchen out to an attractive Australian girl. Clarke finally goes out on a date with Vienna, his workplace crush, unfortunately she doesn't realise it's a date.



E04 - SCENT OF A MAN

Ryan recruits Clarke to help him break up the relationship of Sarah, an attractive yoga instructor whose beauty is "wasted" on her blind boyfriend. Clarke discovers the gold mine of meeting girls when he accidentally picks up at a gay bar.



E05 - RED CARPET

Ryan and Clarke get tickets to an exclusive VIP event at a film festival. Ryan tries to corner a hot new producer for a job while Clarke gets more than he bargained for when he goes home with one of the other VIP guests.

E06 - UNDERCOVER

When Clarke thinks he offends his students, he convinces Ryan to go undercover into the classroom to investigate. Things get complicated when Ryan becomes a double-agent, compromising Clarke's important presentation and his chances with Vienna.

E07 - COTTAGE WATCH

Ryan and Clarke leave the city and go away on a disastrous cottage weekend with Clarke's family.

E08 - WEDDING CRASH

Clarke is invited to a colleague's wedding and takes an online date as his "girlfriend," unbeknownst to her, making for an awkward exchange with Vienna. After landing a new role by a hot new playwright, Ryan discovers he can sell candy to schoolchildren for big profits but ends up addicted.

E09 - REHEARSAL

After Ryan has a flare-up at rehearsals with Ethan, the play's eccentric director accompanies them out and directs them forcing them to "act like friends" in the real world. Clarke goes on a work retreat and makes a ploy to create a romantic possibility with him and Vienna.

E10 - THE PREMIERE

Ryan's got the lead role in the play, and sneakily he uses the key monologue to charm Sarah who decides to show up on opening night. Clarke finally gets Vienna to go out on a date: to Ryan's show.

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Main Characters



Clarke — Nick Nelson

Clarke is a complicated man. Highly insecure, fuelled by a low self image and constantly searching for a girl he can call “the one”. He is a graduate instructor of chemistry at the university, but his class isn’t quite the budding geniuses he would have hoped for. He is more than happy to pass on any of his immense knowledge, but he just doesn’t know where to begin when Demitre raises a hand in class and asks in a thick Russian accent “What is chemicals?” Clarke doesn’t have much better luck with the ladies. He’s got the courage to approach a random girl at a bus stop, but he lacks the foresight to see that asking her for a lighter might become a problem, especially since he doesn’t smoke. Basically, his biggest problem is he over thinks everything, which gets him into trouble, forcing him to manipulate Ryan into helping solve his problems.

Ryan — David Guthrie

Ryan’s got the perfect attitude: a can-do approach to life –the only problem is he can’t actually do anything. He’s a performer at heart, but unemployed on paper. Undeterred, he loves life and jumps at any chance to help Clarke and always says ‘yes’ to the moment, even if the moment is lying at an audition forcing him learn judo in three days. Or if it’s saying yes to going undercover into Clarke’s classroom to spy on his students. He always assumes everything will be okay. Basically, his biggest problem is he under thinks everything, which gets him into trouble, forcing him to manipulate Clarke into helping solve his problems.

Recurring Characters



ETHAN

Ryan's acting nemesis: a tall, dark, and handsome prick. His biggest claim to fame is playing the bartender in the remake of RoboCop but you wouldn't know it in his cocky swagger. The jury is out on his acting prowess, but he does have the amazing talent of always being present whenever Ryan is at his lowest.

TOMMY CHU

Tommy is the ultra cool hipster DJ friend of Ryan and Clarke. Everything Tommy does is a runaway success, much to Clarke's vexation. Tommy Chu doesn't speak, but Tommy Chu doesn't have to.

VIENNA

Intelligent and nerdy work colleague of Clarke. Clarke loves her.

SARAH

Sexy, smart, Indian yoga instructor and bartender that is the subject of Ryan's affection. One small problem: she has a blind boyfriend.

TONY THE LANDLORD

Tony is a full blown Italian landlord. He 'speaks-a-no-english', and is usually drunk from his homemade wine. He often uses his 10 year old grandkids –fluent in english and italian– to collect the rent.

RYAN'S AGENT

Ryan's agent is his biggest –if only– fan. She is extremely sexual, flirty and prone to sudden large emotional swings.

THE DIRECTOR

The director is moody, arrogant and eccentric. Basically a normal director.

DALE DEAN

Dale Dean is the dean of the university where Clarke works. He is sophisticated, intelligent and very wary of Clarke.



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Pilot Episode — The Catalyst

As Clarke (Nick Nelson) sits in a coffee shop and sips his tea, he notices a couple, whose canoodling makes him feel lonely and bitter. Waiting for the bus home after teaching his class of remedial science students, he sees his bus-stop crush, and decides to act. Flustered, he asks her for a lighter: Not having the foresight to remember he doesn't smoke! Once he is busted trying to roll a fake cigarette out of a receipt from his pocket, he knows he's failed... miserably.

Meanwhile, Ryan (David Guthrie) is doing all he can to cry—at his audition. The director is not impressed:

“Are you attempting to cry?”

Miraculously, the casting director sees something in Ryan, who tells him he brings a great energy. The role is all but his...when the production manager asks him how experienced he is with judo.

“Judo?!”

Ryan grabs his own resume to confirm that, yes, it does list judo as one of his skills: just under Judgment of Court Cases and just below Javelin. Stammering, he says that he would have no problem performing an advanced and deadly judo move known as the *uki goshi*.

Ryan leaves the audition, turns the corner and runs right into Ethan, his rival actor, and arch nemesis.

“Hey Ryan. So *uki goshi*?

“So?”

“So!?? The most deadly throw in all of judo. When done correctly will break an opponent's leg, arms, and spine simultaneously.”

Ryan's getting nervous that he might be in over his head but he remains confident. Enraged, Ethan grabs Ryan in a way that invites an *uki goshi* throw and baits Ryan to prove that he's not a fraud,

“Do it! Perform the *uki goshi*!”

Ryan refuses and leaves, vowing to learn the throw at any cost.

Back at the apartment, while Ryan pages through a judo textbook, Clarke laments the horror of his attempt to get the girl. Ryan tells him to post an missed connection online: something Clarke has never heard of. Clarke decides then and there to become a master of the Missed Connection. Ryan dashes off to his judo lesson: his only shot to learn the move that could land him his breakout role.

Just making it to the park in time, Ryan walks tentatively toward a rigid and very serious judo instructor, sitting in *seiza*—the *position of extreme discomfort*. As he approaches, he asks if he's in the right place.

“There are no shoes *within* the sacred dojo.”

Ryan has trouble identifying where exactly the sacred dojo ends and the public park begins. As Ryan is subjected to a humiliating series of bows and squats, he realizes that the only thing he may learn to throw is his entire future.

Determined to be more noticeable, Clarke decides to wear an obnoxious yellow headband in order to attract attention to himself; but after a day on the town, he fails to generate a single missed connection.

Meeting with Ryan that evening, Clarke spots his bus-stop crush going into an exclusive club. A confused Ryan says he can't pay the \$25 cover charge: and comes up with a plan to break into the club. The break-in attempt fails, and in the process Clarke tears a massive hole in his pants. When the duo return to the front of the club to pay their way in, Clarke is denied entry by a massive bouncer:

“No ripped jeans.”

Having already paid, Ryan comes out to find out why Clarke isn't making his way in. The bouncer tells him:

“Clear the doorway!”

Tensions rise, and the bouncer grabs Ryan. In a moment of delusional pride, Ryan attempts an *uki goshi* on the bouncer, who doesn't budge an inch... until he winds up, and punches Ryan into darkness.

By the time Ryan regains consciousness, Clarke has a plan:

“Give me your pants.”

Ryan eventually submits to the humiliation of having his pants forcefully removed on the street, and Clarke enters the club to meet the girl.

Clarke gathers his courage and approaches the girl. After some awkward small talk, she asks him if he's there to see *Saschadionne*—the musical act of the night. After a series of deepening lies, Clarke thinks he's managed to make a good impression! The girl asks him to watch her drink while she goes outside to smoke. He proudly accepts his role of Protector of the Drink.

Outside, Ryan finds the yellow headband in Clarke's pants. Examining his face, he puts the headband on to hide his bruises. When he does, a woman approaches him:

“Nice headband.”

They get along well, and it turns out that her father is a judo instructor. Ryan turns on the charm, having no idea that this is Clarke's bus-stop girl!

After waiting inside for hours, Clarke gets drunk with an old Scottish man, and things start getting sad:

“And I just kept tickling him, and he wouldn't respond, and I was like... do you hate me Elmo? Did you die? Do you hate me so much you died?”

Clarke has a bad night and wakes up with an idea: he can post a real missed connection!

Running downstairs, he jumps on his laptop in the kitchen. Hearing who he assumes to be Ryan in the bathroom, he starts talking boldly and crassly about the girl from the club as he writes:

“We had an undeniable electricity—do you think electricity is too much? I don't know what her level of education is.”

The unnamed girl from the bus-stop exits the bathroom, listening half offended and half curious. She circles around the table, appearing to Clarke:

“I don't care what crap music she's into, she can listen to anything while she...”

Clarke looks up and realizes to his horror that he's speaking to the very person he's writing a missed connection to.

“While she.. what?”

Clarke shrinks in humiliation.

“...has sex with me.”

Ryan bounds in with the energy of someone who just had a great night and morning. He asks Clarke about his night:

“She didn't find out you were stalking her did she?”

Humiliated past the point of no return, Clarke grabs Ryan aggressively and demands to know if he had sex with the girl. Ryan, not knowing what the fuss is about, says that yes, of course he did.

The tensions rise as the two grapple around the kitchen, with Clarke slowly spelling it out for Ryan that he had just had sex with his girl. All the while, the girl watches, unimpressed, from the sidelines.

At the moment Ryan realizes what has happened, Clarke suddenly lunges in and throws Ryan to the ground, in a perfectly executed judo throw. Ryan loses his breath, and the girl loses her patience:

“I'm leaving.”
“No no no!”

Ryan cries out from the ground. The girl turns before disappearing down the stairs:

“Nice uki goshi.”

Contact Info

Contact us for more information, or to watch the full 22 minute pilot episode.

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