

**TITLE** Stomach

**GENRE** Family Adventure / Physical Food Comedy

**TAGLINE** *“Think about it,...* **YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR OTHER STOMACH.”**

**LOGLINE** A nuclear family finds a common cause that changes the underlying balance of power in the established matronymic hierarchy. After the youngest of the brood faces a sudden onset of life threatening illness, they must install a new family dynamic where each subunit member is supported to achieve their own equilibrium.

**SYNOPSIS** The Nucleamoses, an emerging Hollywood family, must regroup after their son has a near death experience that forces them to reevaluate their lifestyles, and *his* future. Due to critical food allergies, and the launch of a new user-generated cooking show, they must pull together to help Sean aka “Nuke,” an anaphylaxis survivor, compete against culinary artists in a game show environment, using nothing but his allergies and a basic understanding of fast foods and ready-to-eat.

But despite the rally of extended family, and a competitive personal cuisine brand (developed on his youtube channel), it is not until creativity algorithms are introduced (during a family game show simulation) that Atom discovers a strategy to invent new foods. When Sean Nucleamos learns to depend on his imagination (the unique way humans use images, words and stories to solve problems), he becomes the missing link in the human diet, solving dietary challenges that could make him the first Culinary Snackster to change the landscape of American cuisine.

## **FAMILY MODEL**

### **THE NUCLEAMOS “ATOMIC” FAMILY ENSEMBLE**

Sean aka NUKE and Adam aka ATOM are feuding brothers whose relationship is not only divided by order of birth but by nature they are opposites in type, a classic introvert and a prankster clown. Nikki, the middle sister, is an STEM girl by upbringing with a DIY fashion flair. Their mom, Eva, is part workbot, part glamtini hipster. Pedro, the dad, is a walking Wiktionary of home automation projects, translation gaffs, and recycled television impersonations. Cassi, Eva’s mom (whose house everyone lives in), late to motherhood herself, is a young granny and three time mom, who still works the checkout lane at the Green Apple. Pedro, once an upper classman to Eva, followed Eva home after school and then kept following her around, until she got pregnant. Finally, Finnus Tork, Adam’s cartoon psyche, a for-hire presence in a sideways universe, is an innerspace security guard (aka space guard) who comes to life when Adam needs him most. Together, the Nucleamoses are breaking the dysfunctional family mold and repositioning its hierarchical properties from the old nuclear model into a freeform atomic dynamic. By shifting focus from a single axial core around which all members of the family must revolve, the group learns to have multiple centers and alternating roles, establishing a post-nuclear family structure, with key processes for achieving both individual and group goals.

## **PRINCIPLE CHARACTERS**

### **ADAM aka “ATOM”**

Adam, 19, has been in and out of college, but due to food-related illness, has been unable to complete his study. He never declared a major, and is just shy of an AA degree. Currently he is working two jobs, one at an upscale grocery store as a stock boy, and alternately at a neighborhood restaurant, as a waiter. He lives with his family in Burbank, CA, and has been a student at the local Woodbury campus, while deciding his life vocation and learning to eat again after being diagnosed with Celiac disease, along with severe dietary allergies that includes eggs, dairy, tree nuts, soy, gluten, shellfish, and slew of random agro-industrial chemicals. Each of these can trigger a lethal inflammatory autoimmune response, putting Sean under the biological stress of respiratory failure. When we meet him Atom, he is just one candy bar from a one way ticket to the next dimension.

### **SEAN aka “NUKE”**

Sean, 26, who never made it past his first semester in college, also works at the same grocery store, and has a second job as a studio tour guide. He is a bit of a bully towards his brother and normally manages to make Sean the butt of his next prank or joke. The one thing Sean does take seriously, however, is an obsession with girls. At 7PM on the start of his shift, a swarm of girls come in after their pilates class next door. His repeated but failed attempts to use grocery-style innuendoes to get an actual date make it evident that Adam is a hapless, but creative thinking, soul, a lesser man to his

brother Adam whose life in comparison seems more meaningful, if not equally stunted, by the lack of parental direction. Sean's strange sense of humor make him just charming enough to be forgivable, usually.

### **BRENDA NIKKI aka "BLENDER"**

Nikki, 20, is the middle sister. She is a computer engineer by education, but youtube vlogger by trade, with a stealth coder's mission to reprogram fashion and beauty, that has earned her a digital paycheck. Nikki also has had a life long progression of food and environmental allergies, but has managed to create a strict regime for herself that makes her a food outlier, rather than a food outcast. She is more the rugged outdoorsy type, than antithetical glam, a look that betrays her healthy body type and beauty channel, but not her geeky genes and logical disposition. In a weird way she's a double reverse (upside down twin) to her younger brother Sean's personality, but in a female package. Nikki, a recovering introvert, hasn't fully sprouted her personality despite her hyperactive tendencies, but all of that is about to change when she is asked to embrace the family's self-imposed perma-staycation reality.

### **CASSIOPEIA aka CASSI, "mom"**

CASSI, 42, is a reluctant mother. Just 16 years older than her oldest son, you can imagine how bizarre the perspective might be to nearly in the same generation as your own progeny. First of all she got held back, being a mom, and only started working on her own development when she was 30. Graduating with her B.S. and MA in five years, she went from the journalism school, to the local morning news desk, in

the same town she was raised, with her husband's help. Two years later, she decided delivering the news is significantly less interesting than expected, and so she's shopping around for a new mode of fulfillment. The phase shift of her life has short-changed her two boys, who suffer from a lack of direction. And her relationship to her husband appears to be an arms length transaction, at times, but there is an honest lifelong connection, and the two have worked things out so that each has had time to focus on their individual careers, allowing grandma to raise the family. Cassi has been with her two-years junior husband since high school, but was married a few years after their second child was born, upon the urgency of her mother, the family matriarch.

### **PEDRO, "dad"**

Pedro, 40, is a former prop-master, part-time actor, substitute school teacher, stand-up comic, and street-wise dad -- the unlikely other half of his super hot wife, who he sees as having it all together, though it took her three decades. He's the glue to her glitter, and has served to raised the kids to make her dreams come true. Though it wasn't always that way, and it took a while to make an honest man out of a neighborhood street punk, back in the days before the high life in Burbank. Pedro is as eccentric as he is honest. And because of Cassi's coaching and coaxing Pedro is now a family man and an emerging stand-up comic on the local comedy circuit. But all illusion of success is undermined by a family about to collapse, due to their son landing in ICU.

### **EVA, “grandma” and “galactic space mom”**

Eva, 78, is both elbow grease, and the vice grip of life. She has laid out the code of ethics that Cassi and Pedro have learned to live by. Eva held down the “teen mother” fort until Pedro had a chance to grow up and face the music. She is the reason Cassi and Pedro are still together, and have some degree of a working family unit. It’s not perfect, she knows, and she doesn’t have as much influence as she used to, but when push comes to shove it is clear who emerges as the true matriarch of the family, and who comes through with flying colors when the delicate balance of life is threatened for one of her grandsons. Eva has redefined extended family, bridged cross-generation influence, and built the family that surrounds her. She herself knows the boundaries of motherhood, being a three-time mom with three girls ten years apart. Her triple-duple role spans sister-mother (to Cassi), mother/mother-in-law (to Pedro), and grandma-mommy (to everyone else), across three generations and six key figures -- until she insists the entire extended family move in under one roof.

### **TUBO, the Clown and his dog Speck (named after the “HIGGS” god particle)**

Tube is from another dimension. He is part synchronicity, and part clockwork orange, a chronic mascot for the intangible side of the more visible universe. A mirror image and force of creation, who claims that he was born from a Higgs Boson particle and that his twin is a dog named Speck, a dog as old as the universe. Tube, a real life clown, has the appeal of a hippy, ninja, rocker, dream catcher, guru scientist whose dog travels through a sandwich in time that relinquishes the now showing present into a future leaning probability (VR version only), with special powers to escalate any known past

into a future perfect. Tubo mimes mostly, but thinks and sometime speaks: *“What’s happened now is happening again, before it can be suspended. The future as it was, is only an apprehension, which you may or may not be able to change. Have you ever seen the bottom of a tree? The top of the sky? Or the inside of a place where everything comes from.”* Tubo lives life like a free verse poem on a 100CC unibike, with one radial tire off the ground at all times. His scientific perspective borders on mysticism. Believing that reality is a rigorous construction of perception (and later that Sean may be the reincarnation of the Buddha), Tubo maintains the distinction of being the most outrageous friend of the mostly experimental Nucleamos family, who have grown up, despite their behavioral guidance, in the absence of cosmic harmony, resulting in a deficit of the masculine principle, and Sean’s tragedy. Compared to grandma Eva, Tubo is a perpetual motion gear tuning the Nucleamos family engine for a new destiny, offering an abstraction of everyday life, a yin to Eva’s yang. It is his hope that the younger Nucleamoses will realize that they are metaphysical beings who can transform their physical reality by apprehending the right idea: *“Think about it, ...if your brain is your other stomach, and ideas are the food of reality,... then thought is the fuel of existence.”*

### **TORK, “Interdimensional Space Guard” at the destination channel “TORKUS”**

*Can you say cartoon universe?* Tork is a cartoon character that has his own unique storyworld, for which he mostly makes a cameo in the Stomach movie. In his world, he is a multi-show operator, at a hotel, inside a television resort, at a famous broadcast channel. Because of his broadcast authority he happens to be able to jump realities

under exceptional circumstances, and meets Atom twice in one day: once at the studio, and later at the grocery store, when he about to die. Knowing the events that are about to happen, he can only intervene under interdimensional law by causing havoc using “substantial media.” Things like soup cans, packaged foods, flickering lights, and other non-personal interventions, qualify as fair game. But of course, WTF can a falling soup can tell anyone about a lethal candy bar? (*If only Sean could read semantic pictures?*) The initial encounter they have is at the studio, when Sean happens onto a sound stage where a game show set is being built. Tork, trying to maintain proximity to his client, arrives through the refrigerator aqueduct system, and is standing under the ice dispenser when he overhears two executives having a conversation about game show mechanics and the design of the kitchen environment. Sean, not sure what he is hearing, finds himself tracing a strange puddle of liquid that leads him to a magical LED kitchen, with multiple jumbotron displays, central game podiums, and a small grocery store under construction. Worried about what will happen to Sean later in the day, Tork flips on the jumbotron food grid, hoping Sean will notice more than the giant game show logo, and that instead a lethal ingredient will stick in his head. With Sean’s metabolism essentially mutating, almost by the hour, by his evening stock shift he will be susceptible to a new set of allergens, without forewarning. Because of this, Sean’s chance of survival is tenuous at best, and the slightest interference could make the difference of contaminant blood levels.

**ENSEMBLE CHARACTERS:** CORDELIA SANCHEZ, Veteran Local News Anchor; *HIGGSBO THE CLOWN*, an itinerant performer; DENNIS “VOLT” VOLTRON, a Floridian, and dual grocery clerk / night security guard, “*Sometimes I have to choke the snack right out of their bellies*”; FILO AND GADGET, a Japanese-Chinese, techno chef duo, whose mystery cuisine and presentation art mirror a Las Vegas-style crowd pleaser and syndicated web sideshow, F’ZORK; THE KARMAGEDDONS, a reality TV family who live in the same local neighborhood, but also in a parallel TV universe.