

## Section 1: Television Series Information

### Group Members:



### Title:

- *Guest Appearances*
- The title of the created series reflects the main character and his main struggle through the jargon of his profession. Tony, a rising late night show host, is a man who hides his multi-personality disorder from the rest of the world. Four different identities fight for the spotlight and make sudden appearances, thusly a guest appearance. The plurality of the title also alludes to multiple different appearances of his various personalities, as it is a reoccurring struggle for him to keep under control.

### Genre:

- Drama and Thriller
- This series is supposed to pent up and entrap the audience within the world depicted before them. Scenes flow through hectic and worrisome stages that are meant to be adopted by the viewers and arise suspense with every turn in the plot.

### Synopsis:

- The setting is New York City in the year of 1997. Tony is a 34 year old man with three alternate personalities besides his main inside of him., a condition known as multiple personality disorder. One of his other personalities is a tough skinned, rude figure full of confidence and bravado. Another personality of his is a very anxious figure that has a tendency to overthink situations. The last personality that he displays is childish creation full of innocence and positivity. These three alternate personalities are respectively named Clint, Stephen, and Peter. The basic purpose of the show is to depict the life of this man and how he not only deals with external issues such as poverty or discrimination, but also and internal power struggle. In an attempt to hide his condition, he keeps many of his other emotions at bay, however they recurrently pop up as guest appearances in his life. Things are initially starting to look up for Tony, but his streak of luck ceased to continue for as long as he would have hoped.

## Section 2: Character Biography

### Character Name:

- Tony Wright

### Physical:

- Tony is a single, Caucasian man in his mid-thirties with an average northern American accent but presents Italian mannerisms when he speaks. He is slightly overweight, just shy of 5'11" and has distinct crow's feet and laugh lines when he smiles. He holds himself to very high standards, desperately trying to look as professional as possible with a matte blue suite and shiny brown shoes. From this mindset, he is always clean shaven and his dark brown hair is always well trimmed/slicked back. His well put together image is to combatant his struggle with multiple personality disorder.

### Personality:

- Tony was abandoned as a child and was never given any form of proper attention. Ostracized from the other children and unwanted by any family, he developed social awkwardness within crowded areas and a deep sense of unimportance. To help cope with this struggle, he creates other personalities so that he is not completely alone: one to always be happy, one to deal with constant bullying, and another to help him consider consequences of his actions. As an adult, these personalities stick with him in his matured, well-spoken state. He often has a dark mindset buried down beneath a hollow smile. He is viewed by others as confident, put together, and strong although he would disagree.

### Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** As a young boy, Tony was abandoned as a young boy by his parents and had to fight through a difficult foster experience. He was constantly bullied by the other foster kids both verbally and physically. Living in this environment until he was kicked out at eighteen, Tony developed into an introvert and began to resent crowds and social interaction in fear of the potential harm it could cause.
- **Event 2:** Another important experience in Tony's life was that he was sent to live on the streets of Washington Heights, New York after leaving the foster home. With very little to lose, he started earning meals by pulling tricks on pedestrians and stealing their memorabilia. Through this, he learned how to hide his emotions and how to entertain/distract a crowd although he still felt uncomfortable being involved with them. Soon he didn't even need to rob anything from anyone in order to score his next meal, he became so extravagant of an entertainer that his general captivation acquired enough revenue to last him through the majority of the week.
- **Event 3:** A more recent event that has scarred Tony was his harsh breakup with his girlfriend of two and a half years, Maya. Issues with their relationship surfaced from an initial lack of trust but the relationship inevitably ended due to his lack of drive and capability as a person. Feeling trapped within a life where she was affiliated with a man who could not fulfill her familial needs or support her, the only person who he had ever effectively formed a bond with had fled from his life.

**Current Situation:**

- At the beginning of the series, Tony is a semi-established man who is trying desperately to make it big with his first hosting job on a new late night show. He is currently sleeping in a crummy studio and is barely making by on his rent payments. Although he is able to keep his other personalities under control when in public, in the meantime, he struggles with who has control over normal private discussions or internal conflict. There is a rise in current power struggles due to a harsh breakup between him and his girlfriend due to his lack of work ethic and his determination, another drive for him to succeed at his new position.

## Section 3: Character Inspiration

### Character Inspiration 1

- Laura: *The Dick Van Dyke Show*
- I selected Laura as an inspiration for my character because she is an intelligent character but is also a subordinate character. Tony often finds himself with the butt end of the stick and has his other personalities barge in to take control over his better judgement. Because of this, many issues arise and problems escalate until he learns to face them head on and not try to run from each issue. Laura is another character who we saw go against her better judgement. Although she was inevitably right in her concern for leaving the kids alone, she listened to her husband and left them with a babysitter, where problems arose. Both of their initial concerns are pushed to the side by a more controlling figure or role. This relationship can also be seen between Tony's alternate personalities. For example, Clint tends to bully the other personalities. Within the trailer, we see a harsh response out of him towards both Peter and Steven in order to get his way.

### Character Inspiration 2

- Don Draper: *Mad Men*
- Don Draper was selected as an inspiration for Tony Wright because he is a showman on the outside but has internal struggles with his own identity. Much like Don, Tony's job is to captivate a crowd; while his career does not depend on selling marketing campaigns, Tony is selling entertainment in the same way. The greatest inspiration from Don Draper however is the relation to what he runs away from. Don constantly finds himself running from issues, whether it be towards another woman, to alcohol, or to a new life entirely. His escapism from self directly relates to how Tony tried to escape the pain of the real world in the form of various personalities. He also relates to the struggle that Don faces when his brother finds him and he struggles with his true identity and the new identity that he had stolen and continued to build for himself. It is his charm and his hidden struggle that make him such an inspiration to my character.

### Character Inspiration 3

- Shannon: *Hoarders*
- Shannon was an inspiration for my character because of the condition that she found herself and her family in, and more importantly how she coped with it. Although Shannon and her children appeared normal, their mental state was tainted by the house and spiritual guests that allegedly lived there. While I do not intend any form of this belief to be related to Tony, the conditions in which her children are placed within did have an influence on my character's early life. Tony's story was written so that he did not grow up with parents and that was part of his struggle, but the struggle for Shannon's children, especially their daughter who was focused on in episode 5, were placed in a position in which no parent should have them. This condition should have definitely lead to serious trauma and paranoia, very similar to the experiences that young Tony faced. Shannon herself also displays a coping mechanism that I was inspired off of for my character; her relationship with friend. Friend is a desperate attempt to make some form of connection in a time of extreme hardness or fear, something to talk to and something that would be there as a symbol of support. It is this exact coping mechanism that I intended Tony's story to be based off of; from his childhood trauma and neglect, friends and caretakers take nonphysical forms that are within him in the form of various personalities.

## **Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation**

### **Technique 1: Deliberate Choice of Music – 0-37seconds**

- When introducing Tony and his multiple personalities, I wanted to highlight the chaos and hectic setting that was taking place in his mind. Music does an amazing job of setting the tone for a scene, whether it is ominous or joyful, as well as serve as an indication to the personality of the character/relationship it is being paired with. The use of “In the Hall of the Mountain King” by Edvard Gynt helped to emphasize the frantic nature of the conversation taking place within Tony’s mind, projected into physical forms for the viewer to understand. This piece is specifically classical, holding strong to the formal image bestowed upon him but is also a very well-known piece that can be related to many other scenes or moments in which it was used, usually being utilized for the purpose of portraying a similar tone. The music also begins to increase in volume and in speed as the scenes become more hectic and choppy, showing just how much overwhelming Tony’s mental situation can be for him.

### **Technique 2: Quick Succession Cuts– 25-35 seconds**

- In an another attempt to show how frantic and confusing the internal conversation that Tony experiences is, the normal panning between each character was replaced with a rapid cut. These quick successions connote a sense of incompleteness, no individual piece of dialog feels completed, they all feel interrupted or thrown in over each other. As the discussion begins to develop into an argument, each personality becomes overbearing, interjecting phrases over one another in an effort to be spotlighted. Without a second to take a break from dialoged, the scene is suffocating for Tony, who is becomes speechless for the remainder of trailer other than a long breath of relief at the end.

### **Technique 3: Extreme Close Up – 37 seconds**

- I chose an extreme close up to aid in closing out the trailer because it brings everything back inside Tony. His multiple personalities who were at war were brought back into his mind and put under control in the silence that had come. Serving a window to the mind, the eyes close, sealing the anxiety and stress produced from the argument that was directly prior. As his eyes open when jolted by a noise from a knock and warning, a fearful expression can be read from the man who has been pulled back into reality. This extreme close up also serves as a point of internalization of Tony’s scenario.

## References

FacundoJG (2008, January 7). *Edvard Grieg, In the Hall of the Mountain King from "Peer Gynt"* [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrIYT-MrVaI>