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**Hilarious New Web Series Exploring the World
of Seedy NYC Real Estate, Brokers Premieres Today**

“BROKERS”

NEW YORK CITY - (September 25, 2017) – The absurd world of shady NYC real estate brokers is at the center of the new web series, “Brokers.” Launching the first of six episodes today on YouTube, “Brokers” is about a Southern girl - pursuing a career as a children’s book author - who follows her dreams to New York City. She gets launched head-first into the absurd world of NYC real estate and shady apartment brokers in an attempt to stay afloat.

“Brokers” is the hilarious result of actress and writer **Aaron Ballard**’s collaboration with award-winning writer **Dano Madden**. The stories are based on Ballard’s real-life experience working as a New York City broker while she made her way as an actress. “The chaos of apartment-searching and dealing with brokers affects almost everyone I know living in NYC. After working in real estate, I realized how ridiculous and absurd it could get. I have a sketch writing background so I pitched my idea to Dano - a wonderful playwright - because I wanted help building the world and arc of the story.”

The series centers on Ellen (**Aaron Ballard**), a Southern Belle with big dreams, who escapes a suffocating destiny in her small hometown in South Carolina and moves to NYC. There, she joins up with a crew of misfit brokers at Awesome Apartments and gets sucked into the insane world of closet-sized apartments, bathroom-less walk-ups, windowless studios and some of the most quirky characters the big city has to offer. While Ellen learns the ropes, she is aided by Blake (**Zenzele Cooper**) a savvy and quirky mentor who always lands on her feet, over-eager brown-nosing Andrew Gurgle (**Kyle Schaefer**), jaded Russian broker Olga (**Lauren Singerman**), agoraphobic shut-in Adoril (**Paul Fears**), terrifying and - possibly homicidal - Kang (**Adam Clayton Powell V**), and her useless boss Giuseppe (**Lee Sellars**), who would rather watch Korean Soaps, quote Vince Lombardi and eat Gushers than actually work. “Brokers” is a comical exploration of the NYC housing market and Ellen’s attempts at staying afloat in a land far from home.

Rounding out the producing team, **Ballard** and **Madden** enlisted award-winning director **Talya Klein**, Austin-based filmmaker **Elizabeth V. Newman**, and actor **Lauren Singerman**, (who was behind last year’s hit series “Precious Cargo.”) From there the team took a grassroots approach; they raised funds through crowdfunding campaigns and shot the entire series on location in and around the city, in parks and friends’ apartments and offices. Singerman explains, “Having just come off of ‘Precious Cargo,’ a low-budget project for which we prioritized having a strong and talented team behind us, I knew the value of building a creative team that was excited about the work and passionate about helping us realize Aaron and Dano’s vision.”

With that in mind, the creative team behind “Brokers” includes **Nadine Martinez** (“Full Frontal With Samantha Bee”) as Director of Photography, Editor **Ben Ruffman-Cohen** whose own web series, “Other People’s Kids,” received Honorable Mention for the Emerging Voices Award at the 2016 Brooklyn Web Fest, and theater, film, and television composer **Adam Lindquist**. In addition, the cast includes the talents of **Lee Sellars** (“House of Cards”, “Luke Cage”, *The Savages*, *Groundhog Day*), **Kathryn Kates** (“Orange is the New Black,” “Seinfeld,” “Shades of Blue”), **Antu Jacob** (“Law & Order: SVU” and “Gypsy”) and **Liz Simons** (“Broad City”).

The first season of “Brokers” will be released over the next six weeks and available to stream on www.brokerswebshow.com. Viewers can catch new episodes each Monday leading up to the season finale on October 30th, 2017.



About the Team

Aaron Ballard (Ellen/Writer/Executive Producer): Aaron is a New York based actor and writer with South Carolina roots. She holds an MFA in Acting from Rutgers University. Most recently, she appeared off Broadway as the female lead in the New York premiere of *Men and Women Talking Love and Sex*. Before that, she starred opposite Boyd Gaines in George Street Playhouse’s production of *Our Town*. When she’s not acting, she enjoys writing sketch comedy. Her comedy short, “Now, That’s Cute” was an official selection of The Chicago Comedy Film Festival, as well as The Over the Fence Comedy Festival in Australia, where it toured across the country. Her favorite food is snacks. She never met a chip she didn’t like. www.aaronballardactor.org

Dano Madden (Writer/Executive Producer): Dano Madden is an award-winning writer and director. He is a 2015 MacDowell Fellow. His plays have been produced and/or received development by Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Source Festival, The Artful Conspirators, World At Large Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The National New Play Network, Mile Square Theatre, Burnt Studio Productions, Northwest Playwrights Alliance, Idaho Theatre for Youth, Kitchen Theatre Company, The University of Tulsa, Bloomsburg University, The Lark, Elephant Room Productions and Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, among others. Dano’s plays have been published by Samuel French, Playscripts Inc., Best American Short Plays and Indie Theater Now. He received his BA from Boise State University and his MFA from Rutgers University. He is currently a speech and drama teacher at the Marymount School of New York.

Talya Klein (Director/Executive Producer): Talya Klein is an award-winning director, writer & producer. She holds an MFA in directing from Brown University/Trinity Rep and is the Producing Artistic Director of The Here & Now, a company which produces one-off site-specific events. She is also an accomplished photographer and illustrator. A third-generation New Yorker, Talya recently relocated to Durham, North Carolina, where she directs and teaches acting at Duke University & UNC Chapel Hill. While Talya has

directed and produced over 40 theater productions all over the country and abroad, she is proud to announce that *Brokers* marks her on-screen directing debut.

Lauren Singerman (Olga/Executive Producer): Lauren is an actor, a speech & dialect coach, and an awesome tutor. As an actor, Lauren has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Two River Theater Company, Epic Theatre Ensemble, Cider Mill Playhouse, The Artful Conspirators, Kitchen Theatre Company, The Here & Now, Lark Play Development Center, id Theater, and Project Y, among others. She played super nerd Tori Atherton on "All My Children." Lauren co-created and executive produced hit web series "Precious Cargo," which was named one of Paste Magazine's 10 Best Web Series of 2016. As a speech coach, Lauren recently coached Salma Hayek on the finer points of pronouncing phrases like "camel toe" for the feature film *Drunk Parents*. BA: Wesleyan University. MFA: Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. Find her online at laurensingerman.com.

Elizabeth V. Newman (1st AD/Executive Producer): a native New Yorker, has directed and produced critically-acclaimed film and theatre in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto and her new home of Austin, TX. She serves as the Artistic Director & co-Managing Director of The Filigree Theatre <http://www.filigreetheatre.com/> of Austin, TX and is the principal of EVN Productions, an independent film production company <http://www.evnproductionsatx.com/>. Her stage directing credits include *Any Night* (Austin Premiere and upcoming Los Angeles Premiere (<http://www.anynightaustin.com/>); *Mocha* (World Premiere); *The Sniper's Nest* (Austin Premiere); *Goodnight Children Everywhere* (London, ON Premiere). Her stage producing credits include *Orange Lemon Egg Canary* (Los Angeles Premiere); *Clocks & Whistles* (America Premiere/New York Premiere). She graduated from Yale University with honors in Theatre and History of Art and earned her MFA in Film Production at Boston University. She serves on the B. Iden Payne Awards Council of Austin as well as the board of Yale in Hollywood. For more info please visit: <http://www.elizabethvnewman.com>

Mary Ruth Baggott (Addie/Producer): Mary Ruth is an actor, producer and master dabbler in fundraising, writing, directing, and music in NYC. Originally from South Carolina, she spends much of her time working with artists developing new works for theater and film, suppressing her southern accent, trying not to forget how to be kind to strangers, and making fried green tomatoes. She has been helping build new works from the ground up at the Workshop Theater Company for 7 years as an actor, producer and fundraiser. Some favorite acting credits include *The Rubber Room* without a net (Artistic New Directions), *Eat Dessert First*; *Sugar Plum*; *Lightning from Heaven* (Workshop Theater Company), *Psyche* (Tongue in Cheek Theater), *Boy's Life* (The Seeing Place), *Parish Dunked*, staged reading (The Actors Studio), and *Reflections of a Heart* (The Clurman/Theater Row). She spent time studying improv at the Upright Citizens Brigade, and is a graduate of College of Charleston and Circle in the Square.

Adam Lindquist (Composer): Adam Lindquist is a multi-instrumentalist musician and composer now residing in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from North Carolina, Adam grew up playing folk and rock while also learning traditional composition techniques. He studied music composition in college at UNCW and completed some post-college studies with Berklee School of Music, after which he began writing for TV/ film, theater and dance. Adam enjoys melding electronic and acoustic sounds to create sounds suited toward a variety of tones and mediums.

For more information, hi-res images, clips, interviews, please contact:

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