



MICHAEL BUSZA

It is unusual for a 21-year-old college student to be nominated for an Emmy award, but Michael Busza is not your usual college student. Earlier this year senior communications major found out that episode three of his hit web series, *One Of The Guys*, was being nominated for a 2013 mid-Atlantic Emmy award in the category of college/university long-form fiction.

“It was before my 22nd birthday and Jaime Sweet, my co-producer, called me and she was like ‘Mike, we’re 21-years old and we are Emmy nominees. I was like I don’t want to think about it,’” Busza said, recalling the moment he got the news.

It started a year ago when Busza took the upper level class, Producing and Directing. It was once a week and most of the students who were taking it had dropped from the class because of the amount of work. Within the first week, Busza and his classmates had to come up with the concept of a pilot episode of a TV Show, have the pilot script completed, a plot synopsis, an overview of the show and possible advertisers.

The class picked three concepts to produce and OOTG was one of them. The class only required producing the pilot but with his past experience of creating TUTV’s first hour-long “dramedy” called *Quarter Life Crisis*, Busza decided to make OOTG a six episode mini series.

“I plotted it out and we had planed from the get-go to produce all six,” Busza says.

Busza introduced a new concept and vision of gay and straight portrayal for the show, in that it featured four unique roommates. He made sure to make all his characters very different from one another, showing a different “spectrum” of gay men.

“Even though the media doesn’t usually portray it, gay guys and straight guys can, and do get along in the real world,” said co-producer Jaime

NOT JUST ONE OF THE GUYS

Sweet. “The guys may all be different from one another, but at the end of the day they are just typical roommates.”

Busza got his inspiration from his freshman year, as he had three straight roommates and was “the gay guy.” So, he wondered how funny it would be if he had three gay guys living with a straight guy.

Busza wanted people to realize that being gay is not something so strange. His show is about acceptance through comedy.

“I was trying to eliminate sexuality as a primary characteristic,” said Busza. “This guys are primarily just guys and they also happen to be gay. They are just one of the guys.”

Temple students received the show really well, with more than 10,000 views as of fall 2013. “They thought it was going to be a weekly thing, not realizing how many hours and hours and hours we spent [working on the show],” said Busza.

For now, Busza is focused on his career, keeping his options open for post-graduation. Traveling abroad for his masters or heading to California are some of Busza’s possible plans. He is currently working with Hollywood producer Doug Spearman, as an assistant producer for Spearman’s next film *Welcome, Sinners*.

ALISON VAYNE