

JUNIOR

A LIMITED SERIES – 10 X 60'

Hockey Coach, Cat MaCath wrestles his demons as he wrangles his unruly junior squad to a hard-won championship and wins back the heart of his estranged daughter.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Hockey is the sport of *Junior*, but it is also a metaphor for any young athlete seeking to play a professional sport. Their commitment to the game and their goal of turning professional is the key building block that creates entertainment for millions of fans and billions of revenue to local, national and international economies.

Hockey is a fast, rough and dangerous game with many different skills on display such as change of direction and change of pace. It is the only game where players travel as fast backward as forward and the only game that requires arcs in movement – all because it is played on sharp ice skates. There is great beauty in the movement, its speed and colours. *Junior* captures all these elements.

There are many challenges faced by these young players as they strive to be among the less than 5% who become professionals, and *Junior* explores all these challenges. It is a coming-of-age story for these young players. They are quickly forced to grow up emotionally to succeed and make sacrifices to follow their dreams.

While focusing on the challenges and behaviours of these young players, the series also describes the role of coaches, management, parents and fans.

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The series has three main story arcs:

- The limited series follows our “home” team's season of play leading to the Memorial Cup and sees the team dealing with injury, addiction, abuse, sexual identity, teamwork, publicity, reputation, the disappointment of losing and the glory of winning.
- An underdog story of a young female prodigy who lives outside the lines of cultural and societal expectations. Her story is intertwined with that of our head coach as a result of his behaviour as a young player so many years ago, reflecting her identity and its impact on her breaking into a world that is typically dominated and defined by men.
- The rivalry and friendship of the team's two coaches – former teammates on the Colts who were never able to win the the Cup but are hoping to do so with these young players. The have had their own challenges and careers that didn't get them to the NHL goal they desired.



**“HOCKEY IS SPECIFIC....
THINGS GET WORKED
OUT DIFFERENT ON THE ICE.”**

AARON “CAT” MACATH

Head Coach

Pensive, Sharp & Hot-headed

As a player for the Colts, Aaron was the consummate leader, a 50-goal scorer, all-star, the list goes on. He did it all as a player except lead his hometown squad to glory. Now as a coach, Cat's seeking redemption for where he fell short as a player.

In his personal life, he's become estranged from his daughter. Reuniting with Lucy, and guiding her to success, will clash with his redemption on the ice. Desperate to make up for his absence when she was a child, Cat will struggle to lead the Colts to victory, and win back the heart of his daughter.

Cat believes his failures as a player will be redeemed by winning the Memorial Cup as a coach. He wants to win. When he lets go of the past and embraces the present, he'll coach for the greater good, and guide his players into manhood. But he earns true redemption when he atones for his failings as a father. Only then will he be able to love himself and feel worthy to call himself Lucy's Dad.

RYAN “SUNNY” SUNDAY

Assistant Coach

Freewheeling, Affable & Charming

Sunny had the quintessential game as a player, but he drank it away, snorted it up his nose, or lost it all chasing women. Sunny and Cat were the famed 1-2 punch for the Colts. He went on to play pro, all over Europe and Asia, and his next stop is a return to Coleman as an assistant coach.

Sunny's playing days are over and he's petrified of living square. He's clinging to his wild ways and it's not cute anymore. Cat needs his wingman on the bench, but managing our man-child will be a handful. Sunny believes that being a hockey player was his only purpose. He wants to be free of responsibility. Sunny lived to play hockey, but now he needs to accept his second chapter as a coach who mentors his players.

LUCY LITTLE

The Top Prospect

The Outsider: Rebellious, Eccentric & Driven

Lucy is a deep thinker split by two worlds: the rink and the universe within her. She's the top female prospect in the country. From the plains of Alberta to Team Canada—that is the path. She'll be offered a full athletic scholarship but only if she can put a lid on her temper.

Lucy's beloved grandma died in the summer. Since then, her temper has morphed into frequent fits of rage. Up until recently, Lucy has been courted by the top schools. Princeton is at the top of her mom's list, but Lucy's anger has put her hockey dreams and her mom's Ivy league hopes in jeopardy.

As Lucy and Cat reunite and Lucy warms to her dad's hockey help, an authentic father/daughter bond begins to blossom. But it's blown to smithereens when she learns the truth of what Cat did eighteen years ago—abandoned her and Des before Lucy was born. Along with chasing her dream of being an Olympian, Lucy will need to forgive her father for being the petrified kid he was back then, and the flawed man he is now. Only then can she take her first steps into adulthood.

DES LITTLE

The Rancher

Lucy's Mother: Compassionate, Practical & Loyal

Des is a pillar of the community. She's the head nurse of the local harm-reduction clinic and owner-operator of one of the largest ranches in the area. She epitomizes steadiness in the community, and in her home. But since her mother, Grandma Betty, passed on, she has struggled to parent her wild child, Lucy Little. Des wants her daughter to attend Princeton, but her daughter's rebel ways are putting her Ivy league scholarship opportunities in danger.

HENRI “HANK” SUIVRON

The Captain

Frontrunner: Organized, Bright & Level-headed.

Hank has hockey in his blood; His father, Dale “Dove” Suivron was a Montreal Canadian legend. Hank is no slouch either. He’s a lock for Team Canada and guaranteed to play for the Boston Bruins next year.

Hank believes he needs to follow in his father’s NHL footsteps. He wants to carry on the Suivron name. When he steps out of his father’s shadow, he comes to realize that he needs to walk his own path. Only then will he truly honor his family.

JUDE “BERRY” BARRETT

The Blue Chip

Prodigy: Intuitive, Striking & Soft-spoken.

Since the age of ten, Berry’s been touted as the second coming of Mario Lemieux. Raised by his Mom on welfare in a trailer park, his story has been mythic thus far. His problems reside off the ice: injuries, opiates, self-interested agents, and an incapable mother are putting his NHL career in jeopardy.

Berry believes all his worth is tied to his hockey talent. Berry wants to realize his talent and become the next great one — but what he really needs is to become a leader. When Berry realizes his true power is leadership, he’ll begin his journey to greatness.

PATRICK “LAMP” LAMPIN

The Problem Child

Troublemaker: Dangerous, Astute & Feisty

Lamp is a top-notch talent and a world-class shit-disturber. Lamp's a hockey savant: he racks up points and highlight-reel plays, but it's never good enough for his high-handed Dad.

Lamp believes that his father's love is earned through hockey. He wants individual success or stats. Upon his father's absence, Lamp realizes his reason for playing was not his own. He must reinvent himself. He needs to discover his own love for the game and become a true team player.

ED “BUCKET” BUCKLES

The Glue Guy

Big Brother Veteran: Gentle, Caring & Empathetic

Bucket plays a tough two-way game: he kills penalties, blocks shots, and drops the gloves. It's his last year in the league and consecutive concussions and head traumas are beginning to plague his play and life.

Bucket believes his sole purpose is to protect his teammates. He wants to help. When his concussions redline and he can't protect himself, his purpose is derailed. He needs to shed the armour, ask for help, and realize that vulnerability is his greatest strength.

ROSIE


The Rookie

Sponge: Kind, Malleable & Shy

Rosey will struggle to crack the lineup, fit in, and understand that playing hockey is only half the battle. He's the greenhorn on the bottom rung.

Rosey believes that to crack the Colts' roster, he has to blend in. Rosey wants to be accepted. As he climbs the depth chart and stops trying to fit in, he'll come to realize that he needs self-acceptance, which is earned through acts of bravery where he sets himself apart as a player and as a person.





COLEMAN

Our working-class mountain town is tucked away in the Canadian Rockies. Coleman residents are salt-of-the-earth working class, endeared to the tough nature of hockey. They bleed Colt colors. The middle-class resides in post-war bungalows; the low-class populates the trailer park and the oil money looks over Coleman from a handful of mountain estates.

The pandemic and the dwindling local industry has caused Coleman to fall into a recession. Mom and Pop businesses cannot keep the doors open, “For Lease” signs are a chronic symbol, and crime is on the rise in the Rockies. Beyond the Colts, the town doesn’t have a lot to cheer for these days.

EP. 1: DIRTY BIRD

The Coleman Colts begin their season on the road. Coach Cat and his squad are ranked No. 1, but they have yet to record their first win. The Colts emerge victorious in the game, all at the cost of dressing room dysfunction in game mayhem, and Cat melting down in a public display of toxic rage.

In a separate game, Lucy showcases her prodigious talent between the pipes, but when her temper gets the best of her and she assaults a referee, she is kicked off the team. In the aftermath, the pressure culminates when Cat reunites with Lucy, his estranged daughter.

EP. 2: THE HOME OPENER

Cat's road-trip rampage lands him a suspension, so Assistant Coach Sunny must take over as head coach. Cat and Sunny butt heads over coaching philosophy all while preparing for their numbers to be retired at the home opener. Lucy desperately seeks to find a new team but she struggles to receive her Dad's hockey "help" because it comes with his overbearing ways, his temper and the strained nature of their relationship. For Cat, this is the first real opportunity to help Lucy in a meaningful way. If successful, it could open the door for Cat to have a deeper and stronger bond with his daughter,

Meanwhile, the Colts try to get the hang of Sunny's aloof approach to coaching, with him being far more interested in getting a pro contract as a player. As a consequence of Sunny's indifference to the team, Lamp leads a mini-rebellion. But Sunny and the rowdy roster still manage to pull off a lucky win in the home opener.

EP. 3: THE INDUCTION



As Lucy joins the Colts' daily routine, she and Berry fall head over heels for each other. Cat grapples with Lucy and Berry's budding romance. Prior to the rookie party, Cat and the Colts' management learn of an impending criminal case where players on an opposing team have been accused of sexually assaulting a young woman. Cat and Anna clash and struggle to talk about the scandal to the boys. Lucy and Berry choose their hockey dreams over their young love.

At the rookie party, Rosey survives his rookie hazing and loses his virginity. But the night climaxes when Hank starts a brawl between the Colts and a squad of local boys. Following the debacle, Hank attends his Dad's Hall of Fame induction and a clip of the brawl goes viral, staining his father's momentous weekend.

EP. 4: THE FULL RIDE



Cat and Sunny flail and fail at finding solutions as the Colts' losing streak continues. Lucy tours NCAA campuses where the working-class kid feels out of place with the Ivy Leaguers in Princeton and is racially pigeonholed by the jocks at Minnesota Duluth. Berry hits rock bottom when he's cut from Team Canada and performs a disappearing act from the Colts', which leads him to overdose.

Following Bucket's collapse at practice, a severe concussion puts him on the sidelines. He befriends Noah, a cinephile in a film-studies class, which sparks a budding romance.

Lucy clashes with Des and Cat when it is revealed she has not taken her SATs, a major faux pax when visiting schools, especially Princeton. And with the top dogs, Hank and Lamp, away at World Juniors and Bucket and Berry injured, Rosey earns more ice time, excels and pots his first goal as a Colt. High on success, Rosey finally catches the eye of Lucy, and they sleep together.

EP. 5: THE DEADLINE (PT. 1)

Cat's coaching nightmare comes true when the Colts fall into dead last, a week before the trade deadline; and the Colts plan for a wholesale of the entire roster in an effort to trade for future draft picks. Hank returns from World Juniors with a Gold Medal and with the prospect of being called up to the Boston Bruins, but it would mean saying goodbye to his dream of playing in the Memorial Cup with Berry, his troubled wingman and best friend. Returning from World Juniors without a medal, Lamp wreaks even more havoc in the dressing room as his head goes on the trading block. As Cat navigates the deadline stress, he learns of his former Junior coach's terminal cancer, which causes Cat and Sunny to clash over demons from their Colt 45 days. As a player, the old-school antics and abusive nature of Cat's coach Patrick wounded him. The conflict culminated with Cat and Patrick fighting in practice. Meanwhile, Sunny, who loves Patrick like a father, is rocked by his impending death. Cat and Des square off as she plans to sell Lucy's land inheritance from Pop to afford Lucy's partial scholarship to Princeton.

EP. 6: THE DEADLINE (PT. 2)

As Cat prepares to throw in the towel for the season, Des's plan to sell Pop's land results in Lucy learning that Cat knowingly abandoned her. As Lucy processes the brutal truth about her father, she struggles on the ice. When Lucy officially ghosts, Rosey and Lamp's incessant bullying climaxes and Rosey beats Lamp to a pulp. Hank attempts to rally the Colts, to no success; Bucket ends his romance with Noah as he fends off panic attacks; and Lamp's Dad disrupts a Colts practice and humiliates his son in front of the team. Sunny quits his part-time job in a fit of rage and brings on booze and old flames.

Lucy's knowledge of Cat's betrayal, the present roster chaos, and Cat and Sunny's dispute over Coach Patrick lead to the coaches trading blows on the day of the trade deadline. Berry finally returns and reunites with Hank, but only for Hank to be traded to the Vancouver Giants. Hank was the only player traded, no other teams were interested in any of our Colts.

EP. 7: THE SWING (BOTTLE EP.)

As the Colts hit the road, Cat must raise morale and rally the troops as they embark on the “East Swing”, a gruelling six-game road trip spanning Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. Cat emotionally connects with each of the boys, empowering them, and becomes the mentor he's born to be, all while processing Lucy's knowledge of his abandonment. Now sober, Berry begins his comeback without his wingman Hank, and arises as the Colts' true leader. He places demands on Cat. Rosey showcases his talent and climbs the Colts' depth chart but receives life-changing news when his night with Lucy comes back to haunt him – she's pregnant. No longer under the thumb of his tyrannical Dad, Lamp seeks to discover his own love for playing. Bucket anxiously makes his return to full contact and struggles to allow his teammates to be his protectors. The Colts come together on the road and go on a winning streak.

EP. 8: THE CLINCH



The comeback Colts face-off in a must win matchup against Hank and the Vancouver Giants – a victory that would clinch a playoff birth. Lucy and Rosey opt to have an abortion on the day of the big game. Rosey fights to perform despite the off-ice stress, while Lucy must contend with her decision as she recovers from her procedure. When Des' horse Beauty falls ill with colic, she calls Cat in a panic looking for Lucy. But Cat and Lucy have not spoken since the trade deadline and he has no clue where she is or how she is. When Cat and Des were young and in love, Cat bought Beauty as a present for Des. In a series of flashbacks, Beauty's illness causes Cat to reflect on the spring he fell in love with Des and the summer that led him to abandon her and Lucy, all while he wrangles his Colts to a playoff birth.

When Cat suspects Sunny is hungover on the big game day, tempers flare and Sunny reveals it's not a hangover, it's withdrawal. In an effort to be a better role model to the boys, Sunny attempts to stay sober for a prospective playoff run. When Bucket and Noah's secret relationship is revealed, Bucket's anxiety skyrockets, which leads to another on-ice injury, this time a near lethal skate to the throat. But the Colts prevail in a home win which secures their spot in the playoffs. Following the game, Cat stays up all night, unable to sleep due to Bucket's accident and his guilty conscience. In the morning, he receives a call from Lucy who can't sleep either due to Bucket's accident and her guilty conscience. It's their first contact in three months. Cat invites Lucy over for breakfast, but she has to go home to Des and Beauty, who has miraculously recovered overnight.

EP. 9: THE DANCE (PT. 1)

The Colts face-off in the league final, winning the Ed Chynoweth Trophy and earning entrance to the National Championship tournament of the Memorial Cup. Lucy heals at a heart-centered community event as she prepares for her SATs and trains for Team Canada tryouts. She grapples with coming to terms with her abortion, her strained relationship with Cat, and how she will soon be leaving her hometown behind. As for Cat, besides the phone call at the end of "The Clutch", she hasn't spoken to or seen Cat throughout the Colts' playoff run. But she receives relief when she reunites with her best friend at the community event held by her mom.

Following the event, Lucy is needed in a local tournament, where female players compete for cold, hard cash. The goalie on her team has been injured. She saves the day, records a shutout, and her team wins in the final. As a show of support, the organizers of the tournament gift all the tournament winnings to Lucy to help her on her way to Team Canada and college.

EP. 9: (CONT'D)

The winnings won't cover the whole cost, but it's the act of generosity and support that Lucy needed as she prepares to leave home. Sunny struggles to find flow and meaning in his newfound sober life, so he takes an old flame on a "date" which ends with him falling off the wagon.

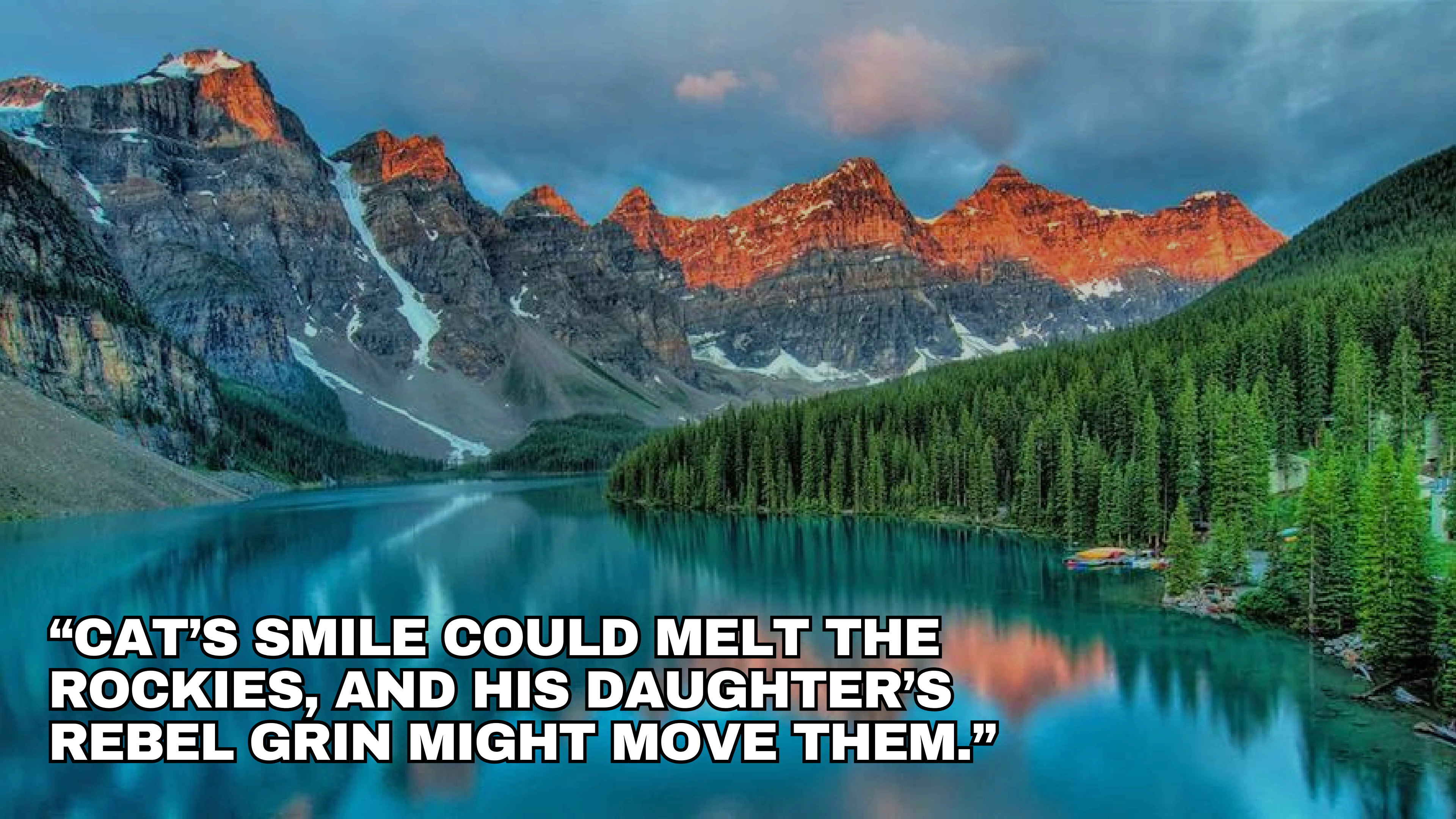
Cat cannot sit back and enjoy the league championship win, so he tirelessly prepares for the Memorial Cup. But burnout sets in and his radio silence with Lucy halts his productivity. When Des comes to pick up Lucy's gear at the Colts' arena, she forgets to pack one of Lucy's skates. So Cat delivers the skate and Des invites him to stay and watch Lucy play. Old sparks fly between Des and Cat, even though it's impossible for them to rekindle the love they once had. But the time together allows Cat the courage to make amends with Des. Cat and Lucy reunite for the first time in four months. Cat's unable to make amends and Lucy is not open to it, but the contact is something they both needed, as Cat prepares for the battle in the Memorial Cup and Lucy gears up for Team Canada tryouts.

EP. 10: THE DANCE (PT. 2)

As Cat and the Colts compete for the Memorial Cup, Lucy begins her quest for the Olympic Games but is derailed when her lucky goalie mask breaks into pieces. The mask was a gift from her Grandmother: her most treasured possession and safety blanket. Lucy tailspins, abandons the Team Canada camp and flips her truck in an accident. She's knocked into a coma. Prior to game one of the Memorial Cup, Bucket demands to return to the lineup despite his season-ending injury and his concussion symptoms. He's named first star. Before game two, Lamp's father shows up, claiming he's a changed man. (He isn't.) Lamp finally stands up to his father and takes a big step into manhood as he leaves his abusive dad behind in service of his team. In Game Three, we follow Berry as he fights to stay sober. Ultimately, he reaches out for help on and off the ice. Ironically, it's Sunny who helps him stay on track; and on the ice, he takes the team off his back and lets his teammates carry some of the load.

EP. 10: (CONT'D)

Prior to the semi-final game, Lucy's truck accident takes place, so Cat must leave the team to be by her side. Sunny must be there for his wingman. He rallies the Colts and wins the game in honour of Lucy and Cat. Sunny steps into his second act as a mentor to these young men when they need it most. When Lucy comes out of her coma, Cat arrives and atones for his failings as a father. When Lucy grants Cat her forgiveness, she demands he return to the bench for the final. The Colts need him. Cat returns for the final, where the Colts battle for three periods. Throughout the tournament, Rosey has been in a slump, but it's our rookie who scores the winner! Cat and the Comeback Colts prevail as Memorial Cup Champions.



**“CAT’S SMILE COULD MELT THE
ROCKIES, AND HIS DAUGHTER’S
REBEL GRIN MIGHT MOVE THEM.”**

OUR TEAM

WRITER

SEAN C. AFFLECK

Creator &
Executive Producer

WRITING ROOM

**KIM SENKLIP HARVEY,
ALEX LEVINE,
LYNN COADY**

Consulting Producers

DIRECTOR

JAY BARUCHEL

Director &
Executive Producer

PRODUCERS

**GARY HOWSAM,
ROBERT STRAIGHT**

Executive Producers

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The game of hockey is made up of juxtapositions—for example the colourful, operatic grandeur of oversized demigods moving at superhuman velocity cut by the distilled minutiae of nuance and gentleness required to get the puck where you want it—almost bordering on contradiction (the fluid nexus of beauty and violence), and as such this presents a very powerful jumping off point both narratively and visually.

Junior is all about these almost contradictory juxtapositions. We can live super close on our characters faces, absorbing every detail of their emotional spectrum, which can be a compelling counterpoint to the epic, larger-than-life nature of the game of hockey. Our characters populate the disenfranchised world of Coleman B.C., a former mining town on life support where people are trying their best to eke out a hand-to-mouth existence.

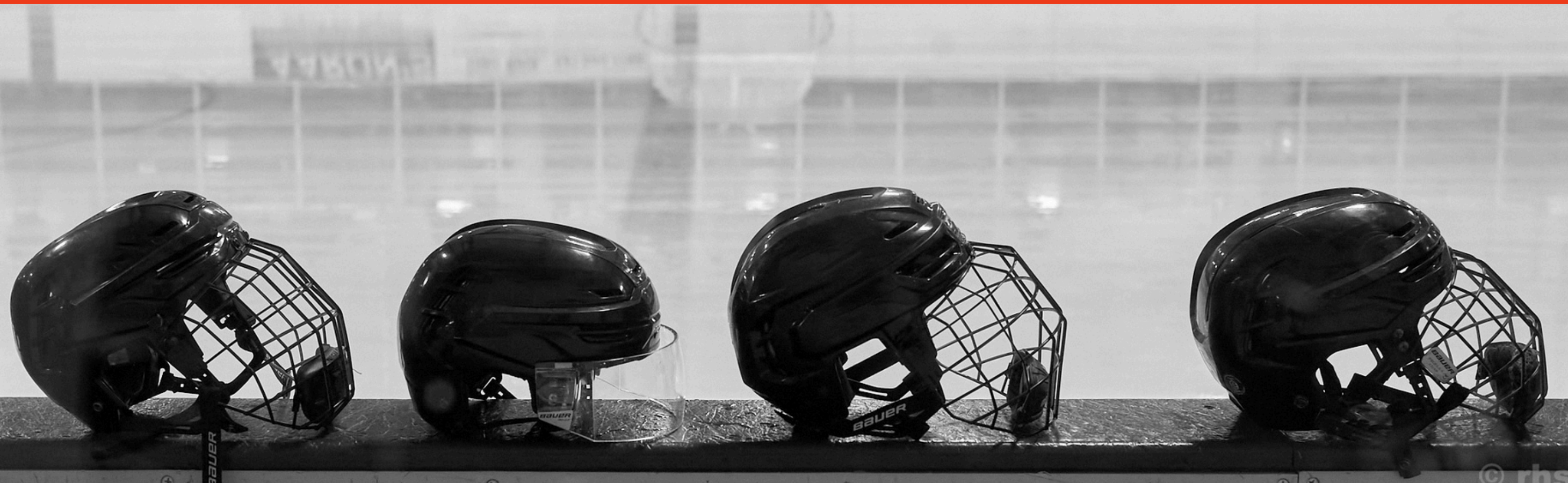
They are on the margins and on the dole but they are doing so against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. They are down and out in God's country. Again this presents a compelling aesthetic as the hard-scrabble internal lives of our characters are set against epic widescreen vistas of paradisiacal cowboy cinema past.

So close we can see the pores of skin and then so wide that we see the kaleidoscopic full tilt Ragnarok that is Junior hockey. So close that we see the the pockmarks and tell-tale scars of masochism and betrayed flesh and then so wide that we see the fullness of God's creation. Juxtaposition. Contradiction. Conflict.

–Jay Baruchel


CONCLUSION

Junior brings to the screen the beloved game of hockey with our broader national heart and the story we are telling together of love, acceptance, belonging, beauty, and big dreams from big hearts united by the cathartic dance of young men and women working out their differences and commonalities, on and off the ice. This story lives within the pulse of who we are and who we are becoming, and The Colts are here to skate us home.



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