

# PAULIE

MAGNUS OSKAR GULBRANSEN

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Story takes place at an old elementary school that's been converted into a combination Youth Center/Homeless Shelter in a multi-racial neighborhood in Pacoima, California.

The main plot line, and main character is about a five-year-old male Pit Bull that is adopted by the children AND the adults after finding the near-death pathetic looking dog in a ditch near the playground one day.



Someone came up with the name "Paulie the Pit Bull" after several tries..."Brandon Brian, Brodie, Patrick, Prince, Percy, the Pit Bull. None of them seemed to work. Paulie the Pit Bull did.

We find out later via a flashback in the Vet's office, the how and why Paulie was so torn up, bloody, and near death when he is first discovered, in that ditch at the edge of the school property near the highway.

In a series of flashbacks, Paulie's cruel upbringing, and why his owner he left him to die after losing in an illegal dog fighting match.

The heart-warming interaction, and sometimes difficult topics of various sub-stories (like bullying, discrimination, and various other issues like addiction) keep the audience drawn into the film, with anticipation.

How Paulie fits into the stories and sub-plots is always refreshing for the characters and the audience.

One of the youth center volunteers, Abby Jackson, an 18-year-old girl (perfect role for Paris Jackson), takes a special interest in Paulie, and the two of them become best friends, as she

shows the children and the adults that just because Paulie is a Pit Bull doesn't mean that he's dangerous.

On the contrary, it turns out that Paulie is a very sweet doggie who loves everyone in spite of the abuse he has suffered under his previous owners.

As a young teenaged volunteer at the youth center, Abby has issues of her own from her childhood (as we see in her own flashbacks), that her relationship with Paulie, AND the janitor Mr. Johnson helps her to overcome her life/long issues of abandonment after her father died in Afghanistan.

The storyline and sub-stories show other children and adults as they deal with, and overcome their own difficulties and situations as well.

The storyline will also develop other main characters, and show the positive effect that Paulie has on them as well.



Like the janitor, Mr. Johnson, an old retired Vietnam Veteran who suffers from PTSD and has flashbacks, along with some combat-related physical ailments, and a brain injury related condition, (speech impediment).

The hook, at the end of the first act/episode, is the discovery of the sudden ability for Paulie to actually speak, in both English, and Spanish, due to an electrical shock accident.

After pulling a child away from an electrical outlet, (little boy, Marcus) who was playing around with the socket with a

screwdriver, Paulie received the brunt of the "Shock" as he grabbed on to the child's leg, pulling him away from the socket.

Knocking Paulie out with the electricity surging through his body, and appearing dead, other children screamed as Abby, the janitor Mr. Johnson, and two other adults ran over to Paulie, and Marcus, who was okay except for a slight burn on his right hand.

Mr. Johnson picks Paulie up, and with Abby and an adult playground aide Janice (5th Grade Teacher), running along with him, he placed Paulie in his old Chevy pickup truck and sped off to the animal hospital, which was only three blocks north of the elementary school.

Now at the veterinary clinic, Dr. Herbert has been examining Paulie, and it doesn't look good. He says, "I don't think we can save him this time. He's really in tough shape".



Mr. Johnson says, "Remember how bad off Paulie was last year when he was first found? You saved him then; you can save him now".

Abby tearfully responds to the Doctor, "Please save him".....Mr. Johnson says, "Do what you can Jim, regardless of the cost, I've got this covered".

Paulie has a series of flashbacks while he's on the Vet's examination table.

First piece of the flashback is a scene showing "Paulie" as a six-month-old puppy being abused, showing a close-up shot of

a big black motorcycle type boot, kicking "Paulie" across the garage floor like a soccer ball. Flashback fades out to the scene in the Vet's office, as the humans are talking, and the Doctor is giving Paulie a shot of some drug. Paulie, has been unconscious and Dr. Herbert has been going through the process of examining him, checking his heart rate, his slow breathing and such.

Fade to....The second part of "Paulie's" dreamlike, fuzzy flashback, as the vet is working on the electrical burns on his left foot and lower leg.

Flashback to four-year-old, "Paulie" waiting for his turn to go in to a big ring to fight another dog.



Fast forward the dreamlike sequence to the actual fight, two dogs trying to kill each other and a crowd of people watching, and cheering, waving money as the bet collector is still collecting bets.

Fades back to the scene in the Vet's office the first time Paulie was found and brought in to the Vet's office a year earlier. The third part of Paulie's dreamlike, fuzzy flashback.

Four-year-old Paulie physically ravaged by another Pit Bull in his last fight, and mentally scarred by the abuse at the hands of his owner/handler, is pushed out of a van, and left for dead in a ditch along the road. The van drives away.

As Dr. Herbert is sticking a temperature probe up Paulie's butt, Paulie suddenly awakens.

Opening his eyes, he looked up at the Vet, and said in perfect English, "Do you really have to stick that thing up my ass?".

SHOCK AND AMAZEMENT for everyone, including Paulie. Abby gasps. Mr. Johnson almost faints. "OMG!!""WTF.....I can speak human!!" By the way Doc, leave my cojones alone!"....

As it turns out, Paulie is okay, except for some slight burns around his mouth, and on the pads of his feet.

All of them in the little examination room are amazed and perplexed, of course also happy that Paulie is going to be okay. Everyone is AMAZED, in shock really, that Paulie is actually speaking like a human being, and sounding a lot like Joe Pesci.

The doctor asks Paulie, "Comprende inglés?" "Well of course I do, I'm pretty sure that I'm an American-Born dude", Paulie says with perfect English.

Paulie is somewhat confused, as he stands up (on all fours), shakes his body a little, reaches back with his nose and sniffs his butt.

Looking up at Doctor Herbert, Paulie says in Spanish, "Me alegro de que no me hayas traído aquí para cortarme las pelotas". Doc Herbert laughs and says, "Sorry, no comprende espanol".

Paulie repeats the sentence in English, saying, "I'm glad you didn't bring me here to cut off my balls". Everyone laughed.

Paulie, asks for a mirror, although still a Pit Bull (a dog), because of almost being electrocuted, Paulie THINKS he is human of course, as he is looking at his reflection says, "Dog-Gone-It! And here I thought I was Joe Pesci, until I started licking my balls". Everyone laughs again.

Abby, still amazed, but concerned, raises the question, "What are we going to do about this?"



After some discussion, everyone in the room agrees that for now, THEY, including Paulie, will keep his miraculous ability a secret. A secret from everyone else back at the school. No media press junkets, no guest hosting on SNL, or visits to the Oprah Winfrey Show. "You want me to bark like a dog?" (Paulie barks like Joe Pesci would bark).

"We need some tutoring I reckon" someone says. Everyone laughs again, nervously.

As they are leaving the animal hospital, Paulie says, "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse, can we go through the drive-thru at the "In-and-Out" on the way home?"

Paulie is back at the youth center, sleeping on a sofa. Abby is playing ping-pong with one of the children. Also in the large game room, are kids watching a Starwars movie on a big screen television, a couple of kids playing pool, others talking, some on their smartphones.



Paulie has a conversation with a bully. Learning what fear, love & friendship is all about, from a dog's perspective"

Jimmy is a 14-year-old white kid, currently living with his mother in the homeless shelter attached to the youth center. He attends a local middle school, as a 7th grader.

He should be in 9th grade, but due to the fact that he and his mother have been moving around from place to place over the past few years, he hasn't been IN school long enough at any given time to move up the grade levels along with his peers.

Jimmy is a bully, at school, and at the youth center. His character somewhat believes that he is the "King" of the playground, but he really is nothing but a bully, seemingly

without any mercy or understanding of what it means to just be a "normal" teenager.

The youth center staff has a difficult time dealing with him and his antics to the point of finally telling his mother, AND him, that he was no longer welcome at the youth center, or allowed to participate in the outside playground area activities run by the youth center.



The only outside activity for Jimmy was hanging outside the youth center/homeless shelter's sort of park-like "green" area in the back.

This area was mostly used by adults from the "Shelter" area as there was a slew of "picnic" tables where people gathered during the day, playing chess, reading the paper, one dude was always out there every day at some time or another, playing the blues on an old guitar. It also was the "Official Smoking Area".

Even though Jimmy was banned from the Youth Center, there still were times when he drifted over to the playground and picked on/bullied the younger kids.

There were only a few kids his age that sometimes played outside, and he picked on them as well.

Paulie has witnessed several occasions when Jimmy has picked on, bullied kids on the playground.

After watching a particular nasty bullying event one afternoon, Paulie has finally had it with this creep Jimmy who sometimes threw empty pop bottles or rocks at him.



As Jimmy was walking behind the buildings, headed back to the backside of the homeless shelter, Paulie decides to follow him, from about fifty feet behind him, but slowly getting closer.

Just as Jimmy stops to light a cigarette, about twenty feet from the back entrance, he turns around and sees Paulie standing there five feet away, smiling at him.

Jimmy has never been this close to Paulie before. His bottle and rock throwing was always from a distance, never actually hitting him, the assaults were always ignored.

"What the fuck do you want?", Jimmy says with his meanest "bully" voice as he flicks his cigarette at smiling Paulie. They are all alone for a moment just staring, Paulie still smiling.

"Don't get scared and run, but we need to talk", Paulie calmly says in his Joe Pesci accent.

Jimmy is frozen in place. "What the fuck.....you can talk!"....Please don't hurt me"....

"I've heard that fearful DON'T HURT ME from some of my friends as you were picking on them...don't worry, we're just going to have a little chat",

"Let's go down by the trees so we can have a little privacy", Paulie says.

"Shit, a talking dog" Jimmy utters with a weak voice, as he reluctantly walks a few steps behind, over to some trees lining the back of the property.

Paulie starts off their little chat saying, "Yes I can talk, I speak Spanish as well if you prefer", "No, English is fine", Jimmy says.

Paulie says, "Rule number one, tell ANYONE about our little talk, and the fact that I DO speak like a human, and I Will.....Rip off your face, your dick, your nuts, your hands and your feet and watch you bleed to death. No matter how far away you go, I will find you, and kill you, slowly, is that understood?"

Jimmy already peeing his pants, says, "Yes sir".

"Rule number two, listen to me and follow my instructions and advice to you. If you don't, the "Rip off your face shit applies". Jimmy sheepishly asks, "Can I light up a joint?" Paulie nods, and Jimmy lights up a blunt.

Paulie, noticing Jimmy's urine-soaked pants, "Sorry I scared you, Jimmy. It was necessary to get your completely undivided attention".

I told you I'm not going to hurt you, I promise. I am really a very easy-going guy, kind, polite, patient, and a really loving Dude".

"But you're a dog, not a human, Jimmy says. "I know, I know.....I LOOK like a dog, but I think I'm really a nice dude trapped in a dog's body".....

There is some silence, as Jimmy looks at Paulie as he smiles back at Jimmy. "So, what do you want from me?", Jimmy asks. "It's a long list, but not complicated, let me begin.....

"1st thing, stop bullying the other kids, they are friends of mine....They can be YOUR friends as well".

"2nd thing, try being kind and helpful with the staff as long as you are here.....In return, you will discover that life is easier if you take that chip off your shoulder".

"3rd thing, I want you to volunteer to help Mr. Johnson clean up the homeless shelter, on a daily basis....at least two hours a day.....AFTER, you do your homework. There are many lessons to learn from Mr. Johnson that you will appreciate as you grow up to be a real man".

"4th thing, do things to help your mother, obey her at all times, and show her respect and love.....She has had a hard time, and I know you love her".

"5th thing is go back and review the first four things I've told you. These five simple things will help you become a responsible young man, and you WILL grow into a respectable human being, I guarantee it".

"Do all this. You have my backing as a friend, and I will have your back. I will always be your friend".

Paulie meets Police Officer "George" as Abby takes Paulie for a walk, and they are stopped by Officer George for polite chit-chat.

After a few minutes of "How's it going Abby"...."I'm doing great, how about you Officer George?" Paulie, who is standing a few feet away from Officer George, takes a few steps and starts humping George's leg for just a second or so.

Officer George reacts in surprise by reaching down and scratching Paulie on the neck. Paulie gets off Officer George's leg, looks up at him with a big grin.

Then, as they are walking away, Abby says to Paulie, "Was it good for you?". Paulie responds, "I've never fucked a pig before"...Officer George says, "What was that you said?",

Abby responds, "Sorry officer, just practicing my ventriloquism. Audience laughs.

Eventually Officer George finds out that Paulie DOES speak and becomes one of his best friends and protectors.

## Paulie, the Doberman, and the Cowboy

The other day, Abby was walking Paulie on the playground near the Youth Center when she came upon a cowboy looking dude and his Doberman.

When the Doberman finished taking a huge dump, the dude started walking away with his dog, so Abby said to him, “Hey! Dude! You gonna pick up your dog’s crap?” The dude responded, “No. I left it for YOU sweetheart”.

Paulie responded in perfect Joe Pesci English, “Dude, pick up your dog’s shit, or you might find it difficult to swallow mine when I rip off your face and crap in your mouth”.



This stopped the cowboy in his tracks. He turned around and yelled a command at his Doberman, “KILL”.

Well guess what? You’ve never seen a dog run so fast. In the opposite direction! The cowboy yelled, “Dudley! Come back here!”

Then Paulie began slowly walking toward the dude, growling, and the cowboy ended up picking up his dog’s crap, and walked away. He was never seen again at the playground.

## **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

ABBY JACKSON (possibly played by Paris Jackson):

Abby comes from a single-parent home living with her mother Beatrice “Betty” a few blocks away from the Alice Jefferson Elementary School turned homeless shelter and youth center.

Abby’s father was killed in Afghanistan when she was nine, and she’s always had issues with that. Her mother had done a great job in raising Abby alone, working two jobs, barely making ends meet.

The Alice Jefferson Elementary School was the school that Abby attended from 1st to 6th grade. The youth center/homeless shelter was not established until she was a junior in high school.

Present day, she is in her first year of Junior College, studying the basics, volunteering at the youth center, and wanting to be a teacher and social worker, (and someday, maybe an astronaut).



Mr. Bernard "Benny" Johnson, Custodial Engineer, (possibly played by Morgan Freeman):

Mr. Johnson, is a 68-year-old retired Vietnam Veteran who suffers from PTSD, flashbacks, and some combat-related physical ailments and a brain injury related condition (speech

impediment and never stops smiling), with a noticeable dent in his forehead (steel plate).

Mr. Johnson has been a janitor ever since he came back from the war. First as a "Custodial Officer" for five years at a local Veterans Hospital in North Hills, and then forty years or so for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mr. Johnson was one of the janitors at the school for fifteen years before it closed.

After retirement, he continues to supplement his social security retirement benefits by working part-time at the now combined homeless shelter and youth center

Police Officer George:

TBD

### ***PAULIE'S VOICE:***

First thought was a voice similar to Humphrey Bogart (saying, "Play it again, Sam").... or John Wayne (using same expressions, like, "Well hello pilgrim"). I finally came up with the perfect voice, Joe Pesci.

### ***MUSIC:***

"Sweet Home Alabama"

As they are in the vehicle headed back from the Animal Hospital to the Youth Center, the song starts playing on the radio..."Sweet home..." , "Paulie" injects the words, "Culver City"....everyone laughs, and for the rest of the song, they all sing, "Culver City" at the appropriate time, (even the movie audience does).

In cities all over the world, audiences are "injecting" their own cities into the song, i.e., "Sweet Home, San Diego", etcetera's.



### **MERCHANDISING:**

Pretty simple, a plush toy, i.e., stuffed dog that "speaks" in English and Spanish, when a touch-sensitive internal sensor is touched, i.e., like squeezing the stuffed dog in a certain spot.



The great thing about this idea is that children and adults will purchase this plush toy before and after they see the movie.

Great advertising gimmick to promote the movie itself.

Possibly a simple change of a "Chip" for language change? Like a "Japanese" version?.....a "Chinese" version?"

The various "Chips" could be an accessory for separate purchase? (Comes in English or Spanish language, other languages available as an option?)

Possibly could be two versions of the "talking" part of the toy, a "G-Rated" version for children, and an adult version for adults and teenagers (13 and older?).

Or how about a version that you can record anything you want? Simple technology similar to the recording apparatus in your cell phone.

Although my original dream was of an abused Pit Bull, named "PAULIE", the type of dog could change, and his name could change.

Some of the "sayings"...."Hi, my name is Paulie"...."Don't touch my Cojones!"....."Please scratch my belly". "I love you too!"....."I'm starving, can we stop at In-And-

Out?"....."Okay.....You want me to bark like a dog? Scratch my balls....Woof woof woof, how's that?"

Another thought, a toy design that mimics the "smiling" of the movie "PAULIE", i.e., the toy is manufactured with a permanent smile on it's face.

### ***SELLING OF A PLUSH TOY:***

I think we could cut a deal, as an advertising gimmick, with at least three nationwide theatre chains.

Each "Paulie" plush toy doggie would be packaged with a "Free Admission" theatre ticket for one (1) child under 18, for the movie "PAULIE".

This would be great advertising, and a promotional boost for the theatre, the toy, and the movie itself.

The child holding the free promotional movie pass/ticket can only use the ticket if he/she brings their "Paulie" plush toy with them to the theatre when they attend the movie.

What this will do (promoted with TV advertising) will greatly enhance the marketing and sales of the plush toy, and the movie.

Possibly an endcap setup in major drug stores and grocery stores, and anywhere else that see the flow of children through their stores. Or an exclusive deal with Walmart?

More coming soon. If you are interested in participating in this project in ANY capacity, please get in contact with us.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I will be updating this as I continue to work on the story.

Thank you for your interest and patronage.