

ORIGINAL FEATURE SCREENPLAY

CRITTER CAMP

Family adventure comedy-drama · Talking-animal buddy film · Contemporary · A summer camp in the woods

LENGTH	FORM	LEAD	RATING	TONE
110 pages	Hybrid or full animation	Boy, 11	PG	Broad, then serious

Weeks after burying his soldier father, an eleven-year-old sent away to summer camp is befriended by an enormous, spectacularly cowardly bear who lost his own father to a hunter — and their staged bear attack goes catastrophically wrong when the real bear shows up.

STORY

Brody Bekas, 11, comes home from Arlington to a smaller apartment, a new school, and three boys who crush his glasses and grind his lunch into the floor. He refuses the camp permission slip. His mother signs it anyway.

Camp Wannarunaway has a pompous ranger and a menagerie that dreads children the way office workers dread Monday. Chief among them is Grimsby: a bear the size of a delivery van who cannot catch a salmon and lost his father to a poacher as a cub.

Two fatherless sons find each other, and Grimsby has a plan: paint himself as Slasher, the alpha bear of the valley, charge the bullies, and let Brody drive him off. The paint runs, Grimsby knocks himself cold, and the bear that walks out is not in costume.

WHY IT WORKS

- Two sons, two fathers, one rifle. The rhyme is seeded in the first minute and paid off in the last five.
- Every act of courage in the first two acts is a costume. The real one has no paint, no plan, and no audience.
- A specific, chronically underserved audience: military and Gold Star families, and parents hunting genuinely funny anti-bullying material for seven-to-eleven-year-olds.

THE ROLES

GRIMSBY

The marquee voice role — biggest laughs, biggest turn. Jack Black, Goodman or Cranston.

BRODY BEKAS · 11

A real dramatic lead for a young actor: funny, guarded, quietly furious.

ORSON

Gentle, slow, endlessly loyal, and the film's source of wisdom. Offerman or Romano type.

SUMAC · GLADYS

A beloved ranger with a beautiful last scene, and ten pages that end in one great reveal.

COMPARABLES

Paddington 2 (2017)

\$227.3M worldwide — the tonal bar for a talking animal with real weight.

Peter Rabbit (2018)

\$351.3M worldwide, live-action/CG hybrid.

A Dog's Purpose (2017)

\$205M worldwide on a \$22M budget.

Production note: a single-species VFX pipeline brings this into the \$25–35M conversation.

Completed original spec · 110 pages · 12-point Courier. Filed as "Critter Camp Competition"; the title travels better without it. Key art and character designs available. Available for read on request.

Box-office figures: Box Office Mojo (boxofficemojo.com). Comparable-title data as of September 2026.

DAVID R. WILCOX · BIG FAT CAT PRODUCTIONS, LLC · VIRGINIA BEACH, VA · 757-816-6557 · MYBIGFATCATPRODUCTIONS@GMAIL.COM