

BOAT DWELLERS

A Multi-platform Reality Series
by Limehouse Entertainment

International Maritime law grants boats up to 72 hours of safe harbor in the event that anchoring is, “*rendered necessary by force majeure or distress or for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.*” (UNCLOS, Articles 17 and 18) But a thousand feet off Toes Beach in Playa Del Rey, CA, a cloister of crafty “boat dwellers” exploit this law in order to live free on the open water—mortgage-free, utility-free, care-free. And they’ve been here for more than a decade.

Boat Dwellers is an unscripted series that dives into the unbelievable and wholly unique lives of the “Playa Del Rey Yacht Club”, a motley crew of “liveaboards” who have made a choice to live aboard cheap, aging yachts up and down the California coastline. Who are they? How do they live out there? Most importantly: why?

Each episode takes us inside this peculiar, combustible community of salty sailors, onetime vagrants, stoned baby boomers, and even an ‘80s TV starlet who each make their home on the open sea. Whether through pick-up work or “other means,” these free-living castaways somehow have cellphones and enough cash to cover their biggest expense: ice to prevent perishables from spoiling in the cooler—and cocktails from getting warm in the afternoon sun.

While they don’t always see eye to eye when it comes sailing etiquette, community politics, or even facts, they share the same “live free or die” ethic. Either unwilling or unable to pay slip fees, they thumb their noses at the area marinas, which a decade ago began making room for the thousand-foot yachts of the rich and famous by shoving out the smaller vessels. Now these crafty sea devils exploit international maritime law: as long as they remain anchored a thousand feet off shore, they can’t be run off for 72 hours—much to the Coast Guard’s chagrin.

With no place to go and nowhere to be, each day is like dancing on a hairline fracture between adventure, chaos, and banality: paddling a kayak up the Ballona Creek to the neighborhood Ralph’s for groceries; calling out the dreaded Shore Patrol to break up a drunken cross-vessel fight over a noisy generator; “MacGuyver-ing” a patch to keep the 1963 cabin cruiser afloat another day.

But when November brings ocean swells rising ten to fifteen feet, you’ll spot a handful of these thirty-foot yachts braving—perhaps defying—whatever tidal punishment Mother Nature dishes out. This is their home, and they refuse to leave without fight. Occasionally, a vessel comes loose from its mooring, washes ashore, and the unfortunate owner doesn’t have the cash to get it back on the water. That’s when this crew shows its true stripes. Anchored out on the sea together for years, they are a de

facto community, whether they like to admit it or not. They even have a self-imposed “mayor” to settle disputes according to the unwritten bylaws of the bay.

Each boat has its own unique story, each skipper her and his own personal reason for calling this cloister home. **Boat Dwellers** is a testament to American ingenuity, survival, and simply livin’ the dream.

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