



Developed by David A. Bindley
Based on "Quantum Leap", created by Donald P. Bellisario

THEN

Theorising that one could time travel within his own lifetime, Dr. Sam Beckett stepped into the Quantum Leap accelerator... and vanished. He woke to find himself trapped in the past, facing mirror images that were not his own, and driven by an unknown force to change history for the better. His only guide on the journey was Al, an observer from his own time, who appeared in the form of a hologram that only Sam could see and hear. And so Dr. Beckett found himself leaping from life to life, striving to put right what once went wrong, and hoping each time that his next leap would be the leap home.

NOW

Sam Beckett's last known leap was in 1999, and Project Quantum Leap, then without any proof of its success, was shut down soon afterwards. Sixteen years later, FBI agent Jason Williams found the archived reports leading to the project's closure clipped to those from the separate case he was working on. Smuggling the reports home, and falling asleep while working, his quantum physicist boyfriend Daniel Lecudennec read over them before deciding to try and revive the project in his (newly-independent) home country of Quebec. Just over two years later, Jason's wanted for treason and hiding in Montreal to avoid being extradited when Daniel offers him a job working for the top-secret project... as the leaper. With some major details left out of the original reports, and new technology allowing them to capitalize on these omissions, Cameron also finds himself doomed to leap from person to person, striving to find the way home, but with the entirety of the last century at his fingers. Or does he?

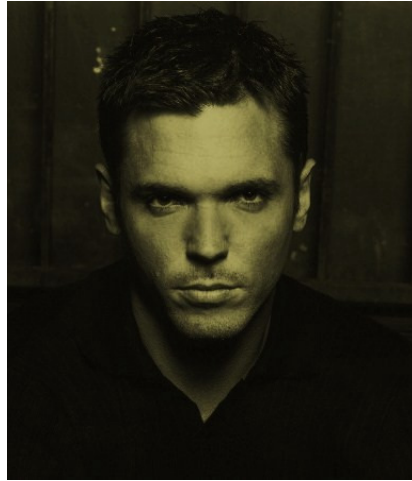
THE CHARACTERS



Jason Williams (James Van Der Beek): A former high-school jock from Minneapolis, Jason Williams matured just enough over the years to become a rising star at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was transferred to DC to assist in an ongoing investigation into the Quantum Nougat chocolate company. It was during this case that he encountered the report leading to the closure of Project Quantum Leap, and during a case eighteen months later that he accepted a thirty-million-dollar bribe to cover up his knowledge of plans to assassinate the President. After taking the bribe, he fled to Quebec, and watched with remorse as she was shot dead in Chicago. Once very self-conscious and shy, Cameron's relationship with Daniel has allowed him to come out of his shell and make friends fairly easy, which will serve him well in his new role as Leaper. Though Jason may act unethically at times, he always justifies this to himself as necessary for the greater good.



Daniel Lecudennec (Alexandre Despatie): Cameron's boyfriend, boss, and Observer. With good looks like these, it's not hard to see why Jason fell in love with him, but then Daniel speaks, and we're back to wondering. Frankly, he's an ass. Convinced that the government letting him relaunch the Quantum Leap experiment is a mandate to be a snarky bitch to everybody around him, regardless of the situation or the appropriateness of his behaviour, Daniel's twisted view of the world and perpetual horniness has basically ruined any chance he's had of any long-lasting friendships outside of the people he works with. But what else has happened in Daniel's past has led to him treating everything as a joke?



Drew La Motta (Nicholas Lea): The project's main psychologist, Drew's job is basically to interview the people Jason leaps into as they in turn leap into his body in Montreal. Drew takes pride in his Italian-American heritage, and part of this is his large family, including the two teenagers he's been raising on his own since their mother died in the collapse of the Leaning Tower of Pisa on their second honeymoon a few years back. Tired of being the metaphorical and physical 'straight man' to Daniel's never-ending antics, Drew's beginning to wonder what he can do to get out of the situation, and beneath his genial family man persona, something else is stirring. What is it, and what implications will it have for he and the others at the project?



Naomi Burton (Noni Hazlehurst): The wife of Australian Ambassador to Quebec Craig Burton, Naomi took a job as the project's official government liaison as an attempt to step out from his shadow, and as an attempt by the Prime Minister of Quebec to avoid having to deal with Daniel any more than strictly necessary. The attempt is mostly futile due to the project's top-secret nature, of course, meaning she must fit in her work at the project while still keeping up appearances with her public engagements. Luckily, she has also just recently finished a stint in rehab, making it possible for Craig to explain away her absence while she tries to find the middle ground. How long will it take, how successful will she be, and how will she handle secretly working with a criminal wanted by one of her nation's allies?

THE EPISODES



Minneapolis, USA, 1991. Leaping into his old high school as a female exchange student from Austria, Jason Williams must try and save a teacher from dying in a car accident in order to return home.



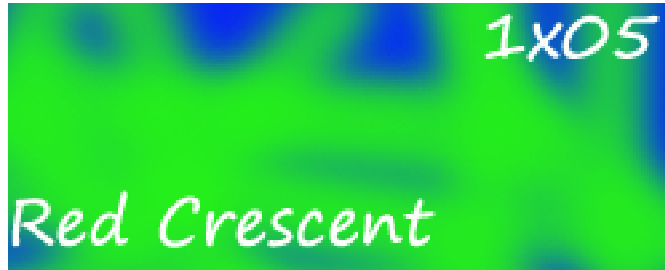
Canberra, Australia, 1975. If you could make short-term history better for everyone around you at the expense of events in the long-term, would you? This is the question facing Jason as he leaps into the thick of the Australian constitutional crisis.



Los Angeles, United States, 2004. While Jason is a reality TV host being constantly harangued by both a stalker and intrusive paparazzi, the host himself enjoys the complete obscurity of 2017. But will he want to go back?



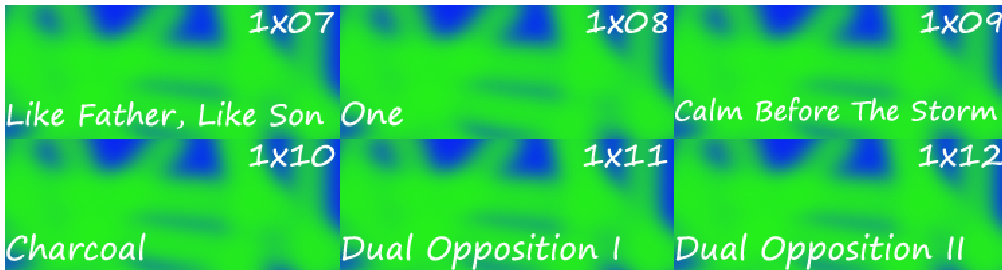
Moscow, Russia, 1980. Leaping into Moscow amidst the hoopla of the Olympic Games, Jason arrives at a murder scene with blood on his hands... and a knife in his fingertips. Can he manage to clear his name before it's too late?



New York City, United States, 2001. Jason leaps into Central Park, as a woman trying to reunite a lost child with her mother. But there's just one problem he hasn't accounted for. It's a week after the Twin Towers were felled, and he's in the body (and burqa) of an Afghani Muslim...



Perth, Australia, 1998. Making a return visit to Australia, Jason is this time thrust into the body of a competitive diver at the world championships, seemingly to stop him from repeating Greg Louganis's "Dive of Death" mishap. But when he doesn't leap afterwards, it appears there's something else at play...



Full Descriptions Under Wraps

THE SERIES: ADDENDUM

It's a one-hour show, like its predecessor, but with a larger focus on the four core characters and their interactions than there was with the supporting characters at PQL in the original series. Although the focus of the show will still be the leaps themselves, we will observe the inner workings of the project in more detail, and discover how Jason's leaps (and the leapees themselves) affect the main crew, both personally and professionally. Part of this is due to my own dislike of the original series' frequent glossing over the impact some leaps have on Sam and (particularly) Al, and part of this was a conscious decision to stop the show from becoming too much of an anthology series.

As adult as the original series was, there were some things you couldn't (or wouldn't) deal with on television back then. And right now, in the VS medium, we can tackle those things head-on. The liberties I took with the original Quantum Leap idea affords us an increased range of stories to tell, but also increases their resonance with an audience of mostly non-Americans. If it's made, this show will be very edgy, and will sometimes reference issues considered taboo by the mainstream media, just as the original series occasionally did. I'm not going to have any Bizarro-World "Jason stops the Iraq War" episodes, but I won't necessarily object to using it or another situation as a backdrop, provided it's done relatively tastefully. I mean, as you can see above, I'm planning a "September 11 aftermath" episode, and that's not even the most potentially-controversial idea for the season. I'd be choking on the hypocrisy of my own statement if I refused.

There's no set limit as to how far back in time Jason can leap with the "one's own lifetime" limitation removed, but it will remain an unwritten rule that the absolute earliest should be at approximately the turn of the 20th century, because otherwise it runs the risk of becoming *Doctor Who* without the aliens. Likewise, to keep it relatable, we're not likely to see him livin' it up on the backstreets of, like, Burkina Faso or anywhere like that any time soon.

The show will definitely tie into existing Quantum Leap mythos (a story later in the season will involve the "Evil Leapers", and there are plans to reveal in future what actually happened to Sam Beckett after the original series finale), but won't be completely dominated by it, and will also extend in its own ways with some original ideas.