

Liquor — Pickled Scorpions

Haiti and the White Negroes

A HISTORICAL-DRAMA LIMITED SERIES
CREATED BY VICTORIA ALLEN
based on true events

SYNOPSIS

Against a tumultuous political landscape and marathon of wars, an unlikely but powerful couple steal joys as a way of survival.

With pride as a consistent adversary, the lovers are forced to spare only one of their most prized possessions: their lives, their ego or love.

...They choose differently.

Liquor-Pickled Heart is a 19th century historical romantic-drama based on true events within the published personal collection of writings, *Chopin's Letters* by the acclaimed composer Frederic Chopin.

Liquor - Pickled Heart

THEMES

THE WOUNDS OF CASTE

THE PENALTIES OF
VULNERABILITY AND
INNOCENCE

THE WILD WEED OF
TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICS

THE PSYCHE &
THE PRETERNATURAL

TONE

THE DUALITY OF FIRE.
MANICURED, TANGIBLE GARDENS LANDSCAPES.
BREATHTAKING AND RISKY TRAVEL.

Liquor - Pickled Heart

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“Could it be magic?”



CONCEPT OVERVIEW

ALL OUR LIVES WILL ANSWER THIS: WHO DIES FIRST, THE BODY OR THE EGO?

Liquor-Pickled Heart transcends the tantalizing turbulence of a coming-of-age story based on real-life fated lovers and explores the enticing void of the Unknown. Death is a true character. Sometimes recognized in the inexplicable, in sickness, in violence. This quiet, innocence of nature against stark grief, the cacophony of war beneath the damp breaths of passion, all color in a rigid world built around our leads. Yet their spirit prevails.

Paralleling the innovations of photography, from flip books to heliography and beyond, our lens on the intersection of skepticism and superstition becomes sharper, allowing us to dissect the souls that lived and died in this past world.

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KEY CHARACTERS

Liquor - Pickled Heart

FRED

His is the heart that gets liquor-pickled. He is traditional but he loves like a wild peacock. As a political refugee, it is not unusual that he betrays himself with his words or silence, especially against the stakes of war. Forlorn, homesick and chronically ill, he clashes with the overly charismatic... Yet, one fated clash alchemizes into something beautiful.





GEORGE

Punished for having the charms and charisma of a boy but born a girl, Aurore ‘George Sand’ Dupin cloaks her identity in menswear and the namesake of a lover. She transmutes her traumas into visceral words. Her wounds often speak for her, often their puppet. She leaves her receipts in her writing. Busy in the daybreak of her own career and critical acclaim, against a backdrop of political unrest, she mildly feuds with another artist, an artist with whom they’ll both dedicate the best ten years of their lives.

DES

The tutor and father figure Aurore desperately needed, Deschartres's multigenerational service to the Dupin Estate gave Aurore the education necessary to believe in her writing abilities and catharsis for her longed for connection to her father.

His eyes and ears have beheld generations of secrets and unsightly trauma. As an unofficial member of the family, he became Aurore's only sane pair of wings of refuge, her only safe space.

A bit of a pushover, a major Enlightenist and deeply pained, Deschartre's misfortune is the last straw, an omen for all: heartbreak.





MADAM DUPIN

Rigid, socially prudent, unspiritual. The logos latent mind of Aurore's grandmother, Marie-Aurore de Saxe, aka Madame Dupin, accentuated a dichotomous home of both emotional coldness and attachment. The delusions of love shown to her granddaughter juxtaposed her daughter-in-law's manic expressions of paranoia, whimsy and cloying self expression.

They are two sides of the same coin.

As a product of mixed classes, Madam Dupin, the granddaughter of the King of Poland but the bastard child of the Marshal of France, is abrasive in her maintenance of status. Her pressures make the perfect environment for Aurore's rebellion.

TYTUS

Devoted, patient, compassionate, Tytus is an unmatched friend. An intercessor in business, breakups and funeral arrangements, Fred's lifelong friend found in him proved to be a lifeline.

As émigrés surviving the unsuccessful November Uprising of 1830 in Paris, Tytus helps Fred integrate into émigré society and continue to be his shoulder through hard times.





SOPHIE- VICTOIRE

Wistfully unpredictable, Sophie-V is a wonderful, confusing yet generous muse for her daughter, Aurore.

But often at damaging costs

In her youth and naivety, Sophie-Victoire impassions herself in the political climate to escape the shadows of orphanhood and abuse only to suffer the consequences in incarceration and slander as an “army runner.

Even by her mother-in-law.

Her controversial marriage into an otherwise unattainable class, provided her a third child (but first legitimately conceived) and the stains of more gossip.

It is her inability to balance her grief, role as a mom and pressure as an unwanted daughter-in-law ultimately defeats her in a custody battle.

STORY BREAKDOWN

Liquor - Pickled Heart



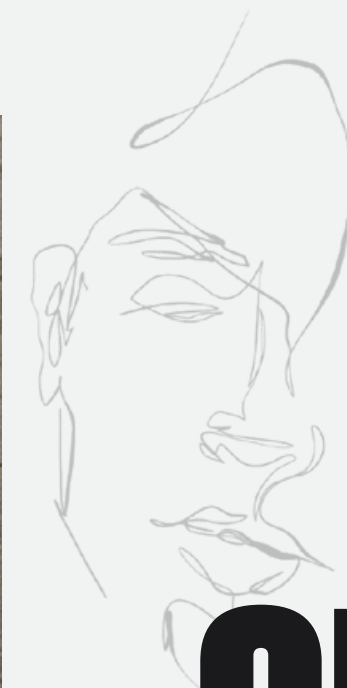
SETTING

The busy streets of 19th century Paris and London and the verdant oasis of Nohant-Vic and occupied Poland give *Liquor-Pickled Heart* the scenic movement of a wild adventure. These romantic landscapes juxtapose the leaden sadness and adversity our leads always pack for the journey.

OVERTURE

The potent sheen of a successful revolution makes its way across the seas with the death of Toussaint. Prodigies in their own right, Aurore “George” and Fred become conduits for larger than life success but at great costs. The light of love, fame and fortune become a mirage to these strangers who seem to have had them. If escaping the shadows of abuse, homelessness and illness is possible, it cannot be done alone.





CRESCENDO



After winding up separate from those they'd hoped to spend the rest of their lives with, Fred and George have an alarming first encounter. Opposed to the other, their vexatious banter and discrepancies finally morph into a satisfying friction...infamously remembered in Majorca.

APEX

Life has only compounded with its changes, its consequences of poor health and its damage of broken relationships. Career challenges, money and travel exhaust the couple even further. Fred and Aurore, aka George, widen the fissure that separates them, leaving precious remnants of each other on their side of the split. Aurore had been there every time Fred needed her most. But will her pain prohibit her from her last chance?





CODA

War ravages 19th century Europe. Aurore's acute pain is only mildly managed by someone new. The heart of her truest love has been stolen and only time will tell if it really heals all...

Liquor-Pickled Heart is a shrine for the coming of age stories of a boy and girl. From location to lenses, *LPH* captures the way the light and shadows of love and loss decorated their lives.

This romance and heartbreak; prejudice and privilege provide dynamic contrasts which impress upon these historical humans but are also recognizable in our modernity, in our humanity.

This story is as borderless as the shore, it's relatable across eras and peoples. To emphasize our species' special connection with this dichotomy, seven episodes explore the good and the bad of growing up in war-ravaged Romantic Era Europe.

VICES & VIRTUES

7-PART SERIES

LPH

PART
I

UNDERNEATH THE PEAR TREE

PART
II

KISSING THE GRAVE

PART
III

THE HEART IS A GLACIER

PART
IV

LAVA MEETS ICE

PART
V

“WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT”

PART
VI

A BATTLE CRY; A WAR’S PRELUDE

PART
VII

GENE2I2 8:11

7-PART SERIES

LPH

PILOT

1

Named her after The Dawn, because she will battle much darkness.
A baby girl is the sole legitimate heir to The Dupin Estate after the family suffer great losses.
The Chopins realize they're raising a prodigy.

EPISODE

2

Aurore only dodges an imminent loss while battling her impulses for a self-realized tragedy.
A convent cell becomes a new home.
Fred astonishes all crowds with his Midas music touch.

EPISODE

3

With a childhood of tough-love situations, Aurore finds the circumstance of marriage and love tough.
The Chopins suffer a great loss.
The convent becomes Aurore's sanctuary again.

EPISODE

4

War and revolution bubble along with Fred's busy music tour and Aurore's "sexcape" away from her husband.
Fine painters make portraits of Aurore's progression into her pen name 'George Sand' and the journey toward her historic divorce.

EPISODE

5

Fred proposes to the wrong woman.
Adam Mickiewicz and Fred make a historical collaboration.
Fred and George make their infamous trip to Mallorca.

EPISODE

6

The traumas of Nohant reemerge to haunt a new group.
Fred's illness worsens. The best bonds begin to disintegrate.
With love suffering a decline, war and revolution are on the rise.

FINALE

7

Some things are fated for fire. France frees their slaves (again).
Fred plays for Queen Victoria in the last of his performances.
Death grows greedy with George's most beloved.

SERIES – S PRD

PRODUCTION PLAN

Liquor – Pickled Heart



MOOD: WILTING ROSES



EARWORM: TACTILITY

PAPER RUSTLING

WISPS OF WINDS

THE DAMP THUD OF LEATHER BOOTS

THE HUMAN SPECTRUM OF MOANS

Our special language that transcends time.



The Concept



TARGET AUDIENCE

Liquor-Pickled Heart is for period-piece fanatics, crowds who enjoy both interpersonal drama and life and death stakes.

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graph LR; A(( )) --- B(( )); B --- C(( )); C --- D(( ))
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HISTORY BUFFS AND THOSE
WHO INDULGE IN PERIOD-
PIECES OF CHARACTER-
DRIVEN ENSEMBLES WILL BE
HOOKED

ADULTS ONLY (WITH A FOCUS
ON 30-50+ YEARS OLD)

GUT-WRENCHING PLOT
TWISTS AND THE HIGH
STAKES OF SICKNESS AND
WAR WILL ENTHRALL VIEWERS
OF ALL BACKGROUNDS

THE MESMERIZING
ARCHITECTURE AND
LANDSCAPE ARE AN
INTOXICATING CANVAS FOR
FROTHY SUSPENSE

SERIES – S PRD

MARKETING & COMPETITIVE EDGE

Liquor – Pickled Heart

COMPETITIVE EDGE

On the surface, *Liquor-Pickled Heart* is an addictive, timeless tale of the dynamism when opposites attract. The mystical mixed with the historical is always an enticing recipe for niche and mainstream audiences alike. However, the mission of this story does not end in entertainment or hopes for accolades but strives to honor the underserved communities recognized within the series. Charity is an integral part of *LPH* and giving back to refugees and resources for free mental health services are nonnegotiable in the making of this series.

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THE PLAN



Pilot Picnic

Traveling pop-up pilot readings featuring local musicians, interactive games on the era and characters, BTS, merch, catered with Polish and French staples and beverages will engage audiences on an intimate level, generate true viewership and embolden the growing *LPH* community.



Teaser Trailer

Film an industry-standard teaser of the pilot and finale. As the story is based on real events, this gives potential investors and audiences a peek on the nuanced tone of *LPH*.



Press Kit

Shop the project with producers and studios now with a fully developed EPK, teaser trailer, data from social media engagement and the momentum of the picnic popups.



Internet Canvassing

Release the pre-production merch phase filled with limited edition buys, more bts and calls to action that generate relationships of longevity, trust and loyal support.



STRATEGY

This unlikely story has even more unique beginnings with its premier pilot reading hosted at the renowned Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago, a town where in-person art and live performances are paramount.

The addition of the national and European touring of the LPH Picnics create a niche attraction and matchless experience for event participants.

This is the Romantic Era we're honoring, so creating intimacy is everything.

What *LPH* is most proud of is our connection to community on a local level as well as our contributions to global causes. Our LPH Picnics feature local artists from music schools, recording studios and charity efforts to better connect one another with the talent and services around them. In this way, the net is broad yet specific and innately memorable. Music, merch and food experienced and promoted through the LPH Picnics will only intensify the satisfaction once witnessed through the screen.

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MARKETING

Liquor-Pickled Heart has a strong word-of-mouth influence. And while that sounds rightly antiquated considering modern ways, it's still an excellent source for generating viewership. Word-of-mouth recommendations are still the best press and with AI becoming an increasingly divisive issue, quality attractions are in the rise, and many people want to explore something real.

With our LPH Picnics, we provide an immersive experience of the Romantic Era through live performances, food and beverage, games, exhibits and original merchandise. Whether it's to support a local music school or have a fun night out, our competitively priced picnics will be our industry signature, just like our charity. Our target audience remembers the interactive era of dressing up in costume for movie premiers, leaving work early to catch the Friday showings, the Movie Phone Guy, waiting a whole week for another episode. For them, these picnics will be as nostalgic as they are mesmerizing. Additionally, time traveling our 19th century odd couple to modern times helps to contextualize their story for those unfamiliar with the era and their impact. Furthermore, with these picnics, our virtual marketing will have a layered effect on the popularity and excitement from these events' sales.

Through the use of traditional canvassing, historic theatres and quaint lounges we will easily generate *genuine* curiosity. Our merch line and crowdfunding will also align with these events so that there is an ever-growing online community.

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BUDGET

FOLLOWING THE MODEL OF GREAT SHOWS LIKE DOWNTON ABBEY AND BRIDGERTON, A WIDE ESTIMATE IS \$11M-\$45M; €9.5M-€39M FOR THE SERIES.

U.S. INDUSTRY STANDARDS CAN EASILY DRIVE EPISODES PAST \$5M.

FOR ITS TIME, DOWNTON ABBEY CRUSHED THEIR EPISODES WITH MORE MANAGEABLE BUDGETS. CONSIDERING THE CURRENT MARKET, HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTION, CHARITY AND ROI, \$3M; €2.6M PER EPISODE (\$21M; €18.2M) IS THE GOAL FOR A FIRST TIME SHOWRUNNER OF A 7-EPISODE LIMITED SERIES.

INVESTMENT

THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL STORY AND WILL TAKE A GLOBAL EFFORT TO FINANCE.

GRANTS, POPUP REVENUE, TAX INCENTIVES, ALONG WITH GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT FROM CHOPIN AND SAND ORGANIZATIONS, SPONSORSHIP FROM POLISH COMPANIES, FRENCH MUSEUMS AND CORPORATIONS WILL BE UTILIZED. EVEN WITH THE PROVISION OF STUDIO SUPPORT, THIS DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENT STRATEGY WILL GUARANTEE THE GENUINE CRAFTSMANSHIP NECESSARY TO TELL THIS STORY, AS WELL AS BE A GENEROUS EXAMPLE OF HUMANITARIANISM WITHIN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

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Thank You.

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CREATOR

Inspired by the parallels of advancing technology in modern times and the improvements of photography in the 19th century, Allen chose to emphasize the spiritual lives of the *Liquor-Pickled Heart* world.

Contributing as a writer to four of the series's seven episodes, Allen's lifelong musical influence and informational intimacy with the famous composer and author, coalesce for an intoxicating journey.

With the pilot reading premiering at the centennial anniversary of her alma mater and love and wellness at the forefront of every effort dedicated to realizing this series, *Liquor-Pickled Heart* is undoubtedly a beautifully mind-bending and soulfully visceral experience for all.

Victoria Ariel Allen

