

THE OTHER SIDE OF YONGE STREET

STREAMING SERIES

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A STREAMING SERIES WITH CHARACTERS AND LOCATIONS FROM YONGE STREET, TORONTO THROUGH IT'S HISTORICAL CHANGES IN CULTURE FROM THE MID 40'S THROUGH TO THE EARLY 70'S.

1940

1950

1960

1970

Premise

In the late 1940s Toronto, an Eastern European immigrant family contends with discrimination and corruption as they work to establish one of the first bars on Yonge Street, The Bermuda Tavern and Nightclub.

Tagline



SYNOPSIS

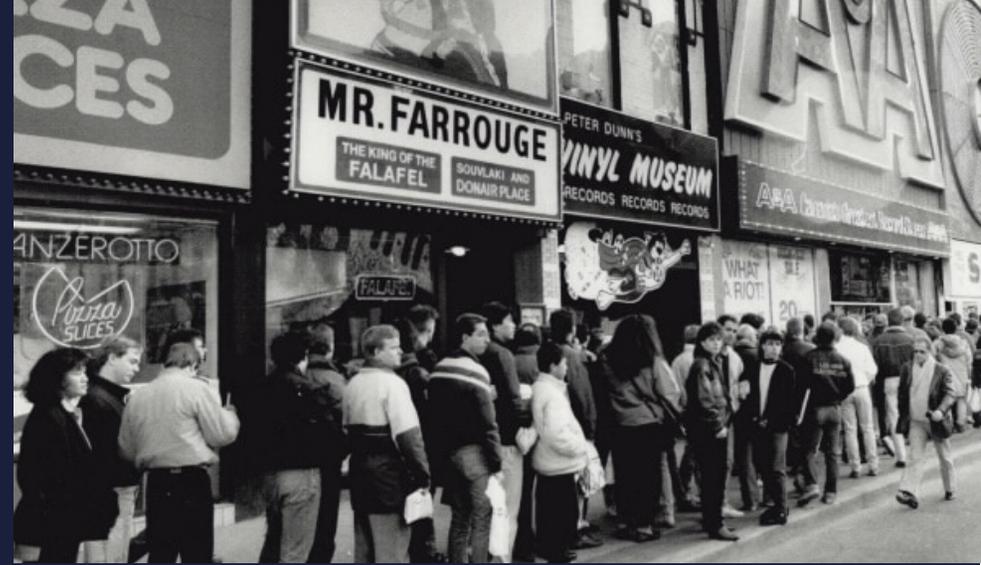
Spanning from the 1940s to the gritty, neon-soaked 1970s, *The Other Side of Yonge Street* follows the Saunders family – Eastern European immigrants (MACEDONIAN) fighting to build a legacy in the heart of Toronto. Led by Spero Saunders, a proud, hard-edged patriarch with a construction worker's hands and a survivor's instincts, the family establishes The Bermuda Tavern and Nightclub, a beacon of life and rebellion on a street that doesn't welcome outsiders.

Spero's daughter Sally, ambitious and sharp as glass, is the brains behind the business, balancing the books and navigating the politics of a male-dominated world. She walks a fine line between duty to her family and her own desires – including a simmering, unresolved tension with Johnny Anderson, a shy but perceptive detective with secrets of his own.

Jimmy, the elder son, is charismatic and calculated, with street smarts and a knack for seeing angles. Chris, the younger, is the golden boy – handsome, loyal, but uncertain of his role in a world that keeps shifting around him. Together, they navigate love, ambition, betrayal, and the pressure of carrying their father's name.

Over three turbulent decades, the Saunders family faces racism, corruption, mob ties, and a city changing faster than they can keep up. But within the walls of The Bermuda, music never stops, drinks never run dry, and family always comes first – even when it tears them apart.

We highlight the thriving few blocks between King and Bloor; epicentre of the famous row of bars and night spots that gave Toronto its infamous reputation as one of the world's premiere nightlife hotspots.



Themes

Unity
Family
Togetherness
Perseverance

In the late 1940s Toronto, an Eastern European immigrant family contends with discrimination and corruption as they work to establish one of the first bars on Yonge Street, The Bermuda Tavern and Nightclub.

Key Characters

The Owners Family :

Spero
Jimmy
Chris
Sally

& their families

Bar and Nightclub
staff and clientele
on Yonge Street.

Tone

A combination of comedy and drama with a documentary-esque neo-realist style (Italian neorealist films like

Bicycle Thieves
Nights of Vittorio
De Sica

with elements of crime dramas like *The Godfather*.



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MOODS & TONE

Gritty Realism - The show lives in the cracks of 1960s Toronto — smoke-stained ceilings, alley fights, kitchen-table arguments, and lives built on risk. There's no glamorization here — just the truth of working-class struggle and streetwise resilience.

Bittersweet Nostalgia - Viewers are invited to feel the ache of a past that had music, life, and unspoken codes — but also heartbreak, poverty, and lost chances. The Bermuda nightclub isn't just a setting, it's a memory: part sanctuary, part trap.

Tense Stillness - Many scenes simmer. Characters speak in loaded phrases; the unspoken says more than the spoken. You can feel a fight coming two scenes before it lands. This tension builds character, not just plot.

Romantic Shadows - Relationships are never simple. Whether it's Spero's history, Johnny's quiet yearning for Sally, or Jimmy's restless charm, love in this world is messy, worn-in, and shadowed by past regrets and future uncertainty.

Fierce Loyalty - Betrayal is unthinkable. Whether family by blood or bond, loyalty is the currency. When tested, it creates some of the most emotional and high-stakes moments in the show.

Smoky Seduction - There's an allure to this world — the music, the suits, the rhythm of the street. It pulls you in slowly, with velvet gloves hiding brass knuckles. The nightclub is not just a venue; it's a character in its own right.

MUSICAL THEME FOR OPENING/CLOSING CREDITS



Writer / Producer: Paul Saunders
www.pauljamessaunders.ca

416.737.0782

Secondary Writer / Co-Producer: Daryl Marks
www.darylmarks.com

905.903.2968



MOODS & TONE

The Stylistic Voice of the Series

Authentic & Ethnic

The show proudly reflects its immigrant roots — Greek, Italian, Irish, and others — through language, food, music, and worldview. This isn't token multiculturalism; it's lived experience. You can feel the generations humming underneath.

Cool and Controlled

The tone is deliberate, not flashy. It trusts the audience to sit in a moment. Long pauses, quiet looks, slow walks — this is a world where action builds from silence, not noise.

Dialogue-Driven

Sharp, witty, emotionally layered dialogue defines the series. Characters spar with words before fists. The conversations are poetic at times, brutal at others — always grounded in who these people are.

Masculine but Emotional

The series doesn't shy away from traditional masculinity — but it also isn't afraid to crack it open. Spero's hard-love, Johnny's quiet decency, Jimmy's charm with a conscience — all show depth behind the bravado.

Underworld Elegance

Crime touches the edges of the story but doesn't define it. This isn't about gangsters — it's about the people who run businesses where danger shows up, uninvited. The tension lies in implication, not excess.

Timelessly Urban

Though steeped in 1960s Toronto, the show's themes — family, power, belonging, love, and respect — are eternal. The setting is specific, but the emotional truth is global and present-tense. It plays fair.



NEW THEMES

Family & Loyalty

At its core, *The Other Side of Yonge Street* is a story about family – blood ties, chosen bonds, and everything in between. The Saunders family must navigate generational differences, cultural expectations, and the complexities of loyalty in a world that's always shifting around them.

Cultural Identity & Belonging

The series reflects the immigrant experience in Toronto during a time of change. From Spero's deep Macedonian roots to the younger generation's more modern outlook, the tension between holding on and letting go becomes a quiet but constant presence.

Community & Territory

The nightclub isn't just a business – it's a hub, a place where people from all walks of life cross paths. The show explores what it means to protect your space, build your community, and stand your ground without always resorting to force.

Masculinity & Pride

What does it mean to be strong? To lead? *The Other Side of Yonge Street* examines masculinity through different lenses – from Spero's old-school toughness to his sons' emerging views on manhood, pride, and purpose.

Connection & Restraint

Romance and desire simmer beneath the surface, whether it's Johnny's quiet affection for Sally or the history between Spero and Gloria. But love here is often complicated – colored by duty, timing, and the unsaid.

Morality in the Grey

The show doesn't divide the world into good and bad. Instead, it explores choices made under pressure, the cost of survival, and how people live by their own moral compass when institutions can't be relied on.

NEW CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

Spero Saunders (60s) - Nightclub Owner | Macedonian-Greek Patriarch

A tough, proud, and principled man who built his nightclub from nothing after years as a construction worker. Spero carries the scars and wisdom of an immigrant who survived hardship and fought for respect. He rules the Bermuda with an iron will and a protective heart, especially over his children. Traditional in values, sharp in mind, and always aware of his surroundings, Spero believes in order, loyalty, and never showing weakness. He's not a criminal – but he's no stranger to the people who are.

Sally Saunders (30s) - Business Manager | Spero's Daughter

Smart, elegant, and emotionally guarded, Sally is the backbone of the club's day-to-day operations. She has inherited her father's sharp instincts and sense of discipline, though she wears hers with charm and poise. She doesn't need to fight for respect – she commands it with subtle authority. Though there's tension between the life she leads and what she might want for herself, she's fiercely loyal to her family. There's something unspoken between her and Johnny Anderson, but she keeps that card close.

Jimmy Saunders (Late 20s) - Spero's Older Son | Street Smart and Smooth

The more charismatic of Spero's sons, Jimmy is charming, clever, and confident – but always a little unpredictable. He can navigate any room, flirt with danger, and talk his way out of most messes. Spero keeps a wary eye on Jimmy, knowing he has the brains to lead but sometimes leans into trouble for the thrill of it. There's a warmth to Jimmy, but he's still figuring out where he stands between legacy and independence.

Chris Saunders (Mid 20s) - Spero's Younger Son | Handsome and Loyal

Chris is the heart over head type: sincere, hard-working, and fiercely loyal to his family. He's good-looking and well-liked, but too humble to take advantage of it. While he lacks Jimmy's street smarts, he has a solid moral core and a temper that can flare when provoked. Chris is trying to earn his father's approval in quiet ways, sticking close to the club and its routines.

Johnny Anderson (38) - Detective | Soft-Spoken and Sharp

A police detective with a quiet confidence, Johnny is an outsider to the Saunders family but knows how to walk their world. He's observant, respectful, and plays the long game. He's got a genuine affection for Sally that he masks with formality, and an understanding of Spero that keeps their interactions taut but civil. Johnny knows how to move through grey areas – he's no pushover, and he keeps his badge close and his suspicions closer.

The Volpe Brothers (30s) - Mob-Adjacent Allies | Spero's "Adopted" Sons

Raised by a single mother after their father was killed by the New York mob, the Volpe brothers were taken in by Spero and grew up hanging around the Bermuda. Now grown, they've got muscle, loyalty, and a taste for action – but they're deeper in the underworld than Spero realizes. Spero treats them like extended family, but their loyalty isn't always clean. One is more hot-headed, the other more calculating, but both are a force when it's time to settle a score.

Hymie Bernstein (40s-50s) - Hustler, Connector, Club Regular

A sharp-tongued, streetwise Jewish hustler who always has a scheme brewing. Hymie floats between the worlds of business, nightlife, and the underworld, never fully belonging to one side but connected to all. He's known for his humour, his ability to cut a deal, and his knack for finding opportunities others overlook. While not family, Hymie is a fixture at the Bermuda – sometimes an ally, sometimes a nuisance, but always part of the fabric of Yonge Street. His presence adds grit, wit, and a sense of the neighbourhood's wider hustle.

