



# *RUBY'S HOUSE*

A limited series based on a true story

*WEST VIRGINIA 1900 - 1956*

A COAL MINER'S FAMILY SUFFERS FROM  
DISCRIMINATION AND VOWS TO PULL THEMSELVES  
OUT OF POVERTY.

THE KKK STANDS IN THE WAY.

# SYNOPSIS



William and Veda's daughter, Mary Shoda, 96, narrates the memories of her and her family's tumultuous life as they came to the United States in 1906 from Zagreb, Yugoslavia, speaking very little English.

William, aka, Papa, had a dream for his family to live free and succeed as they struggled to settle in Sagamore Hollow, West Virginia, where they lived in a ramshackle, coal-town company house.

Along the way, the family battled cultural prejudices, mistreatment of immigrant coal miners, the attempts from Mary's ex-mother-in-law to take her children away from her, and the KKK threatening family members.

With the death of their daughter, Ruby, the Shoda's vow to provide a safe, thriving, home for their other children in Ruby's honor and dedicate the house to her.

Ruby's house stands today.



# CAST

All lead characters will be  
aged spanning the decades  
of this story.



# LEAD CHARACTERS PLAYED BY SOMEONE LIKE...

## MARY SHODA

Mary was known for three things: her ability to see the best in everything and everyone, her love of board games (and cheating at them), and she had no filter.

Mary was loved by all until her husband left her with two young children. Mary's newfound anger became all-consuming and severely tainted her parenting, perspective on life and trust in men.

Being a consummate salesperson, Mary skillfully covered her pain and cleverly succeeded at charming people to get what she wanted...and that was a new husband.

Unfortunately for Mary, he was physically abusive and raped her daughter.

Always putting her children first, Mary divorced her second husband and afraid to be alone, she re-married her first husband until he passed. Mary is the quintessential example of going from thriving to surviving.

## JULIA GARNER



## WILLIAM SHODA, MARY'S FATHER

HENRY CAVILL



William is a resilient and resourceful immigrant from Yugoslavia in the 1900s.

He embodies the indomitable spirit of those seeking a better life.

Weathering the challenges of a new land, he exhibits unwavering determination, drawing strength from his roots and his deep desire to provide for his wife and children. He adapts to his new life in West Virginia with perseverance and vigor, determined to leave the mines.

Becoming a pillar of resilience in the face of adversity, his story echoes the tenacity of immigrants, navigating the complexities of a foreign culture while preserving the richness of his heritage. A symbol of hope, his journey epitomizes the pursuit of the American Dream during a transformative period in history.

Don't mistake his kindness for weakness or his bad temper may surface.

## *VEDA SHODA, MARY'S MOTHER*

*EMILY OSMENT*

William's wife, also a first-generation immigrant from Split, Yugoslavia.

Veda presents as friendly, brave, loving, and humble. She leads by her actions. Despite being strong-willed and fierce, she is secretly afraid of William's temper.

She spends her days organizing William's endeavors and caring for her family.

She accepts her life but secretly wants more.



## JOHN CHESTERFIELD

JAVIER BARDEM

Always in a tailored suit, John Chesterfield is the most admired and feared man in town.



He controls the county, most of the mines, the sheriff's department, the law, and is the head of the Mercer County Chapter of the KKK.

Chesterfield has had it out for the Shoda family since William arrived at the mines. William's rise from being a low-life Hunk and miner, along with his association with African-Americans at Club 52, among other personal issues, has intensified his hatred for the Shodas.



# *SUPPORTING CAST*



*SHODA CHILDREN*

**RUBY, JOHN-DAVID, ROBERT, JOSEPH, MARY, GEORGE**

## THE SLAVIC BOARDERS



**BORIS** 30's. The oldest of the group yet the most immature and the biggest drinker.

**ANTON** 20's. The first to be there to help William and the most outspoken about poor conditions in the mines.

**VASILY** 20's. An introvert whose sole purpose is to send money back to his family in Yugoslavia.

**ALEX** 18. Although the youngest, Alex is the most jaded and always sees the glass half empty.

# SEASON 1

William works in the mines, where the miners are mistreated and tensions simmer to the breaking point.

Life is hard for the Shodas, especially in the beginning as children are born and not all survive. Mary, the only girl, is responsible for helping with her brothers.

By saving every penny they earned, Veda is able to buy land with a little house in Bluewell where the family builds Ruby's house and Club 52, a dinner club where stars are born and long-standing grievances play out.

Along the way, the family battles cultural prejudices, the KKK, mistreatment of immigrant coal miners, and the growing danger from Mary's ex-mother-in-law, Martha.

Their endurance and spirit are tested against overwhelming difficulties of the times.



# SEASON 2

William passes and Veda continues as the inspirational head of the family.

Mary and Georgie run Club 52 despite the constant threats from the KKK, one of the Boarders being murdered, and Chesterfield's repeated attempts at trying to bring down their successful nightclub.

Mary juggles managing Club 52, holding close to her children and looking after family. She finds true love with Vinnie, but the constant struggle against their enemies takes a terrible toll in the hills and hollows of West Virginia.

# SEASON 3

It is 1956 and Club 52 is known as the place to go in Mercer County for entertainment and fun. After a hugely successful talent show highlights Eleanor as well as other well-known locals, opposing forces of the Shodas and Chesterfield get ready to have it out later that night. When the battle in the hills is over, both sides count their losses and look for revenge.

Mary is arrested for attempted murder and goes on the run, but eventually returns to fight for her children. She finds an unexpected ally in her ex, CL, who will no longer do Martha's bidding. The stakes are high as the final battle plays out.



*COMPARABLES*



## *BOARDWALK EMPIRE*

57 EMMY NOMINATIONS  
GOLDEN GLOBE BEST SERIES WIN

Wikipedia

5 SEASONS, 56 EPISODES



## *DOWNTON ABBEY*

AVERAGED 13.3 MILLION  
VIEWERS

Forbes

6 SEASONS, 52 EPISODES



## *PEAKY BLINDERS*

AVERAGED 55.6 MILLION  
VIEWERS

Radio Times

6 SEASONS, 36 EPISODES



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