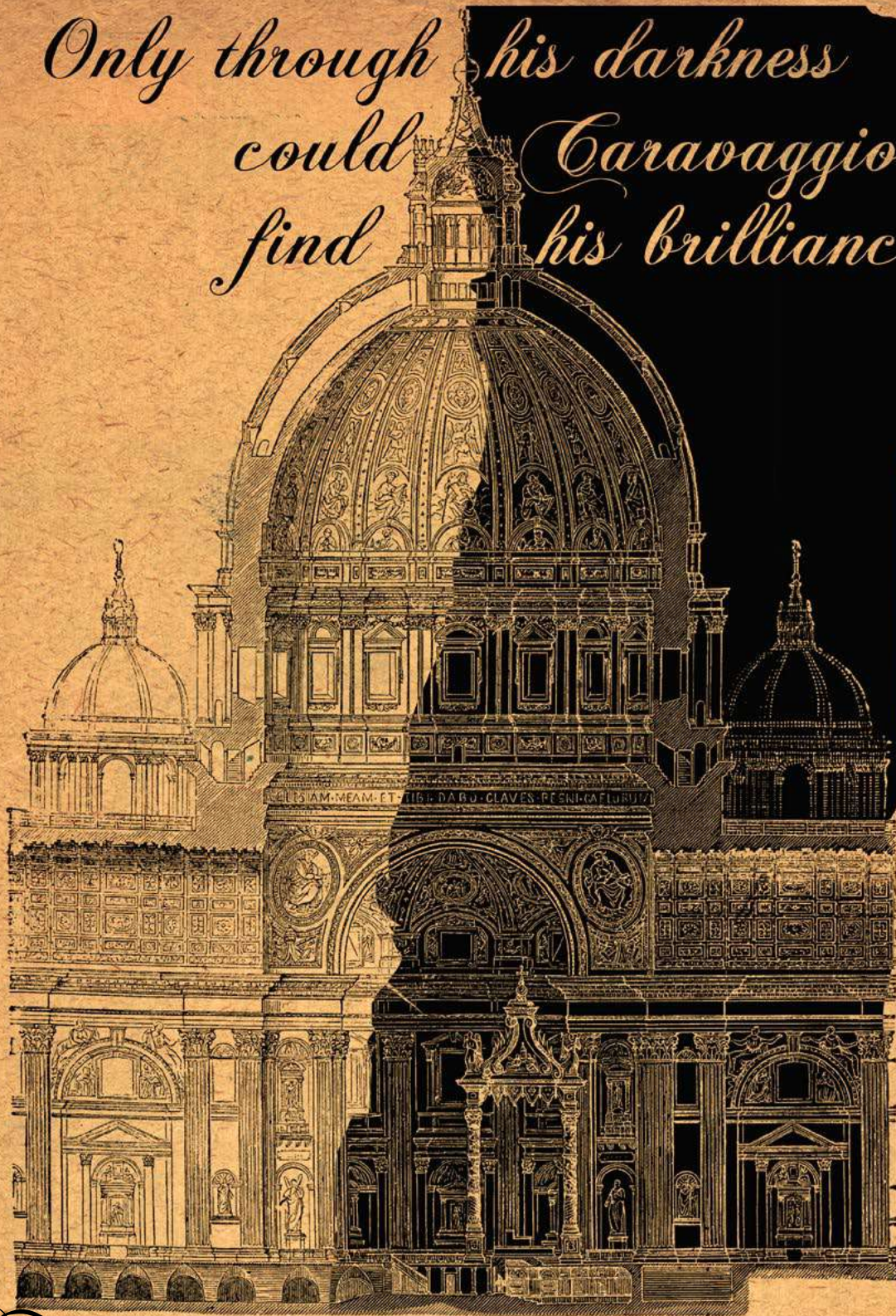




*Caravaggio's
Last Day*

*an international
scripted miniseries*

*Only through his darkness
could Caravaggio
find his brilliance*



Theme: art, sensuality and immortality

Genre: Period Dramedy

Audience: TV-MA

Logline

The scandalous young Caravaggio, catapults to fame by depicting beauty in his rough and tumble life, but to save his reputation, after a life-shattering moment when he murders a pimp, turns away from his true love, a choice that ultimately kills him.

Caravaggio's Last Day is a limited series set in late 16th Century Rome about the renowned pansexual painter's catapult to fame and fall from grace.



Characters

Caravaggio



The pansexual artist torn between the joyous inspiration of his genius and the dark desperation of his tormented mind.

Cardinal Borghese



The overindulgent patron and protector.

Becco



Caravaggio's devoted assistant and muse.

Fellide



The cunning passionate whore.

Ranuccio



The vicious pimp.

Montoya



*The trans singer that Caravaggio
idolized, castrated as a boy.*

Lena



*The young prostitute, that Caravaggio
tried to protect, but couldn't.*

Preziosa



*The thoughtful landlady
whose rent he never paid.*

Tone and Style

The visual style will be cinematic and luxurious.

The framing will be bold and intimate, epic wide shots of the Italian landscape mixed with Caravaggio's emotional escapades close-up. The cinematography will be chiaroscuro and the pace will be fast, alert to the danger he was in. Since Caravaggio is set in 1600, the show will evoke Period movies for young audiences like Belle, but with the boldness of No Country for Old Men. The soundtrack will be contemporary with music like Chloe George-Ghostown, Electric Light Orchestra-Tightrope, Aurora-Runaway, Gang of Youths - Achilles Come Down, songs about escape and passion, that help audiences relate to a larger-than-life artist from history. His artwork will start every episode, like chapters in the book of his life's anguish and ecstasy.

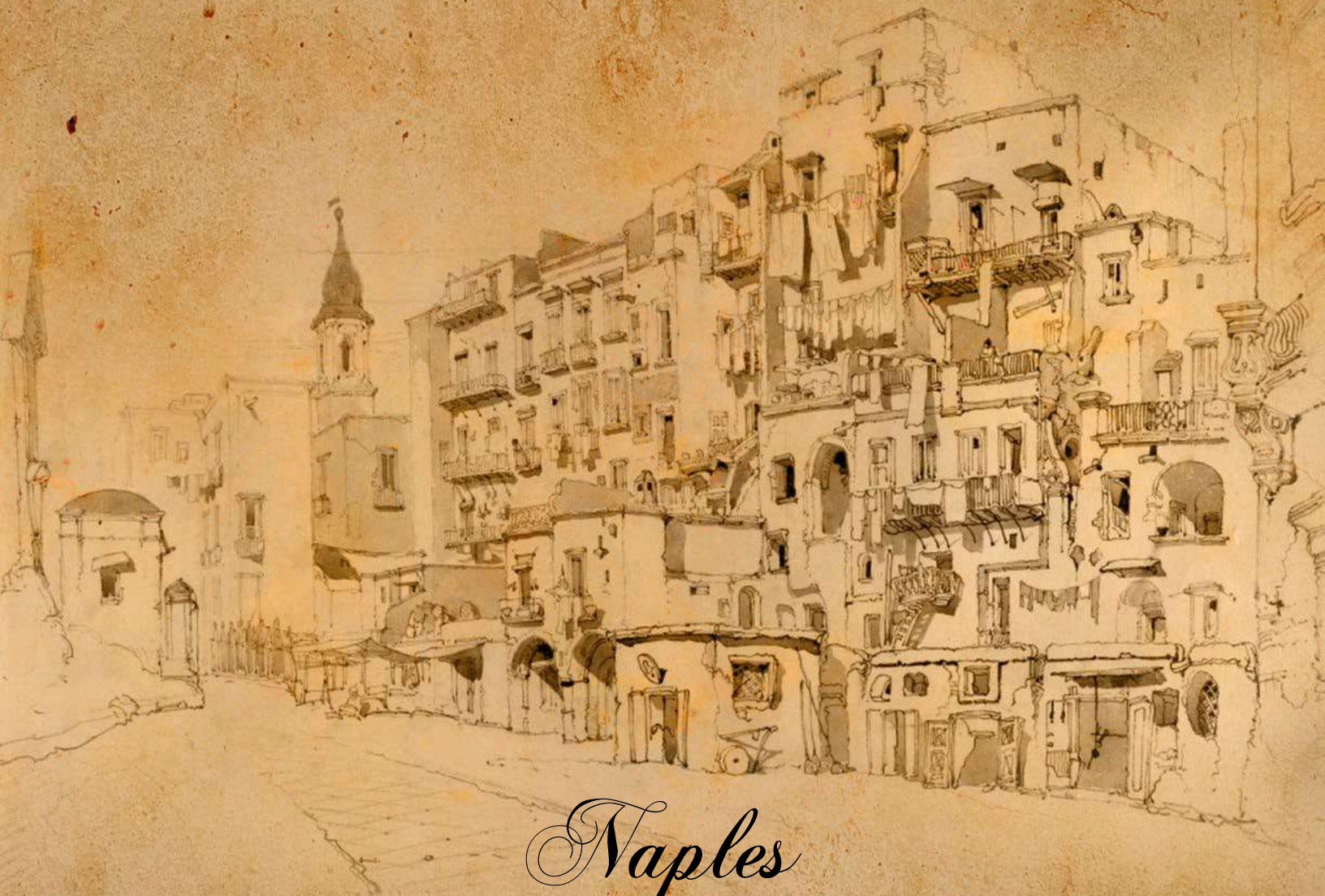


*“Rome is a city of thieves,
sodomites and whores”
Pope Clement VIII*





*Where Jesuit monks ripped the limbs off
astronomers and homosexuals
- lining them up on stakes
along the Michaelangelo bridge.*



Naples

*The city where Caravaggio
finds sanctuary.*

Tuscany

*La Feniglia Beach
- where his frantic race
ended in vain.*



Story

A burgeoning young artist arrives in Rome to discover himself, and be discovered. Even though he's a ribald hooligan, his eyes could transmit breathtaking images that inspired awe. But the breathtaking art that made him famous, would arouse jealousy and contempt.

Depraved and traumatized, seeing his family die from the Bubonic Plague as a young child, Caravaggio gets high on his own paint.

Then, in a life-shattering moment, Caravaggio murders a pimp, in a power struggle over the prostitute he painted. Fleeing Rome, he finds a sanctuary in exile with his devoted assistant Cecco. However, Caravaggio misses his former glory and accepts a deal to return, in an exchange of his paintings for a Papal Pardon.

Tragically, on the journey back to Rome, he is thrown off the boat while his masterpieces sail away. In the treacherous heat he runs up the coast 72 miles, only to die on a deserted beach.











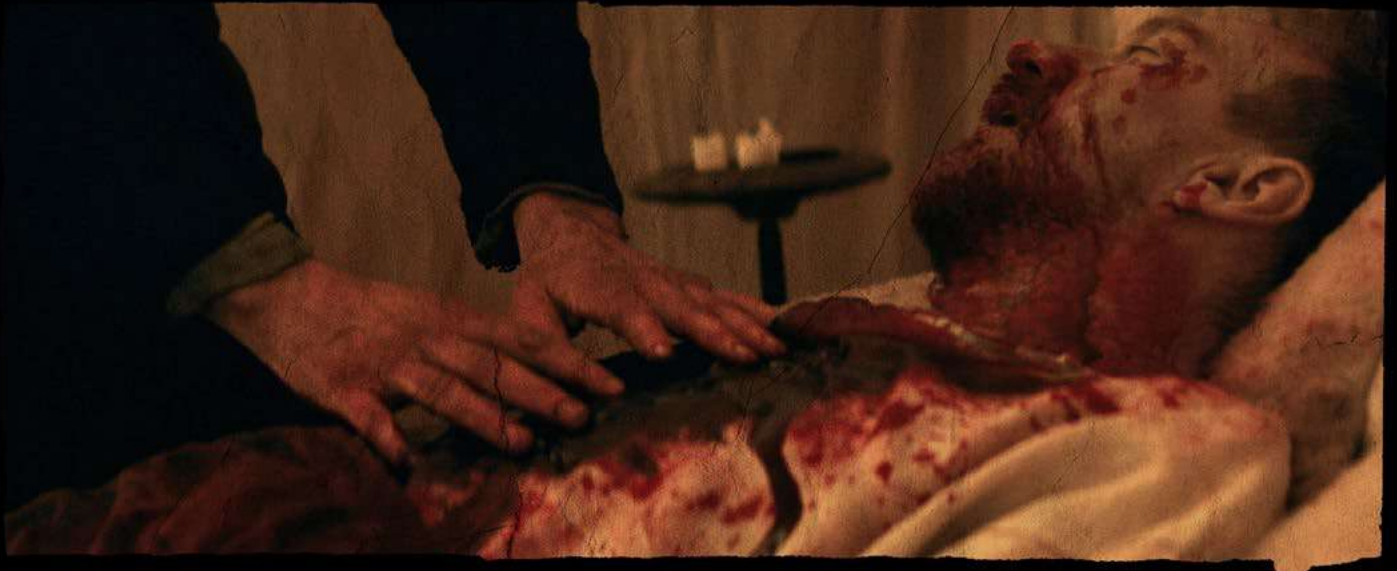
































More Artwork











Showcross



Franchise Opportunities



Because Caravaggio's entire body of work and the reproductions of his images are in the Public Domain, there are franchise opportunities in fashion, jewelry and merchandise.

Caravaggio's Last Day

*Only through his darkness could Caravaggio
find his brilliance*

Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of late 16 Century Rome, renowned pansexual painter Caravaggio is catapulted to fame and passionately finds himself, creating fiercely realistic works that inspire both jealousy and awe, only to unravel in the life-shattering moment when he kills a pimp over a prostitute. Now in exile, with his beautiful gay muse, Caravaggio abandons his true love in an act of desperation to clear his name and return to Rome, a choice that turns into a nightmare when he dies tragically on the journey.

Summary

Caravaggio's Last Day is an LGBTQ+ passionate drama, animated comedy and historical fiction all in one, set in late 16 Century Rome. A world of prostitutes, thieves, a lavish aristocracy and a hypocritical church, it is the story of a queer person killed before his time. Caravaggio lives in the whirlwind of passion, lust, murder, escape, anguish, perseverance, unravelling and inspiration. He goes from this unabashed prodigy to a self-hating murderer and then a humble partner to his gorgeous, devoted assistant while in exile; only to realize that love is more important than his reputation in the series' tragic ending where he must let go of his life's work and his love. A tragic end to a painter that introduced the world to unimaginable beauty.

Pilot

Caravaggio, the magnificent pansexual late 16th Century painter, commits murder in Rome on May 28, 1606, flees in exile with his true love and then abandons him for a plea bargain to return to Rome, a choice that ultimately costs Caravaggio his life. This is the true story of Caravaggio. So in the pilot, we open with the murder Caravaggio committed and then return to the beginning, seventeen years earlier: a strappingly handsome burgeoning artist arrives in Rome in pursuit of fame. He meets a successful and seductive painter Giuseppe Cesari who hires the young artist to work as an assistant, painting decorative fruit, in the Cesari brothers' workshop. Although Caravaggio hates his job, he finds his thrilling first love in Cesari, in a tryst in the Colosseum in moonlight. However Giuseppe Cesari has a Salieri / Mozart complex, he's both in awe and envious of the prodigy.

Infatuated Caravaggio, blinded by carnality and tenderness, does not recognize Giuseppe's jealousy. Instead his newfound affection brings back the traumatic memory a five year old Caravaggio as he holds his father dying gruesomely from the Bubonic plague in 1578. This whole time, Giuseppe Cesari's brother, Bernardino, a homophobic bully, resents their closeness. But when an art collector, Cardinal Borghese, goes to the workshop and wants to buy only Caravaggio's work, which unexpectedly found its way into the stacks, Bernardino is livid and refuses to allow Caravaggio's work to be sold. At specific issue is a picture Caravaggio has painted of a half-naked Giuseppe holding a basket of fruit. The famous painting "Boy With Basket Of Fruit" is a huge F.U. to the brother.

Cardinal Borghese is profoundly insulted that Bernardino won't sell the work and goes so far as to denounce the brother for carrying a weapon, which in Counter-Reformation Rome, meant a sentence that amounted to torture: hanging from your arms, hands tied behind your back for half an hour. So when Bernardino is released, Caravaggio gets sacked. Caravaggio, feeling rejected and lost, gets blind drunk in the street in the pouring rain.

He stumbles onto the Michelangelo bridge only to be hit by a carriage, which lands him in the Santo Spirito hospital, where he paints his famous painting Green Sickly Bacchus, a self-portrait filled with shame and heartache. Borghese, the collector, visits him, and attempts to comfort him, announcing he will purchase and have a showing of the painting.

Caravaggio, newly released from the hospital and hopeful that he will make up with Giuseppe, he returns to the workshop to find his possessions on the street. Giuseppe dumps him. Caravaggio arrives to the party in Palazzo Farnese a shattered young man. Still, the upper crust guests, the Pope among them, are dazzled by Caravaggio's art. Yet when Caravaggio obsequiously kisses the Pope's hand, Caravaggio gets violently triggered and makes a scene, a dramatic, performance art, grand gesture! "Art cuts deeper than any knife", Caravaggio announces dramatically, as he jumps on the desk under his painting. But a candle tumbles over near the priceless painting, the desk bursts into flames, and in a moment of 'Fellini-esque' absurdity, the Pope rushes forward and saves the art that in an instant could have been destroyed.

EPISODE 2: “Montoya The Castrato”

Caravaggio, homeless, joins a gambling ring and paints a painting about it that he sells to Cardinal Del Monte, who is very taken by him and moves him into Palazzo Madama where he meets Montoya, the famous Trans Castrato who sings in the Vatican choir. Caravaggio is infatuated with Montoya's music. Montoya sings the first Operas ever made, by Monteverdi, and Caravaggio is transfixed by what he hears and paints “The Musicians” and “The Lute Player”, a portrait of Montoya. But Montoya won't return Caravaggio's attention. The famous and beautiful Castrato is too pure. Caravaggio climbs to the top floor of the palace, an alchemical lab, and discovers how to get high.

Del Monte finds Caravaggio painting the prostitute Lena, posing as Mary Magdalene, in his lobby. So he kicks him out. Caravaggio falls in love with Lena and protects both Lena and her mother. Lena soon meets Arturo, a lawyer, who wants to 'save' her from the street and marry her.

Lena says no, she won't settle just because he is rich. Later that night Lena is raped by Arturo, who says that now she is ruined and has no choice. Caravaggio, wearing all black, exacts punishment on Arturo with the head of an ax, at Piazza Navona, then runs away. Arturo doesn't die and witnesses cover for Caravaggio.

EPISODE 3: “Chiaroscuro”

Caravaggio is living in an attic with a hole in the ceiling in Preziosa's home, where he keeps skimping out on rent. The landlady goes to court to sue him for not paying rent. Caravaggio curses her out on the street and is arrested for disorderly conduct. He spends a week in the Castel Sant'Angelo prison. When he gets out, Caravaggio takes money from an art collector to paint, but has the painter's version of 'writer's block'. He uses the art collector's money to pay the landlady and she drops the suit. And he keeps taking money. All he manages to paint, however, is an extremely scandalous painting of the sixteen year old with his private parts very visible. It is Cecco, his future soul mate. Caravaggio hires him as an assistant.

Caravaggio also finds a new prostitute, seventeen year old Fellide, and her friend Anna, who just arrived from Pisa. But the next time he sees her, she has a pimp, Ranuccio, who tells him to stay away. Caravaggio decides to hire her anyway. He paints “Judith and Holifernus” as a shocking depiction of Fellide cutting off the head of Ranuccio. Del Monte, his former patron, buys it. Del Monte misses him so he secures him a huge commission, The San Luigi Dei Francesi Church next to the palace, and he convinces him to move back in. Caravaggio returns and finds Montoya with a beautiful woman in bed. He's crushed.

EPISODE 4: “Fame Is Short Lived”

Caravaggio unveils his Francesi paintings and people are stunned! Caravaggio gets a new commission at the Piazza Del Popolo church. But one of the two paintings is rejected. In the meantime, Caracci is given the main altar; Caravaggio flips out, makes a new version with a horse's ass pointing directly at the altar. Caracci is insulted and insinuates to Caravaggio that Caracci is sleeping with the young Cecco. Then Caravaggio finds out about a third commission but loses it to another hack guy (Baglione). So he bad mouths him and gets sued for libel. On the stand, he badmouths all other artists, except Giorgione and Leonardo. Cardinal Borghese shows up and pays off the judge. And consoles him by asking him if he's ever dreamed of painting in Saint Peter's for The Vatican.

Caravaggio goes to the river Tiber to pray for the opportunity but sees a dead body floating in the river. He looks closer and it is Lena's body. Arturo, the perpetrator, killed her. Caravaggio goes to his studio and paints the “Death of The Virgin” as a bloated dead Lena.

EPISODE 5: “The Murder of Ranuccio”

Caravaggio is so heartbroken about Lena he goes to Fellide, to paint her as “Saint Catherine”. Ranuccio, the pimp, says, not again, leave my women alone but ignores him and paints Anna, Fellide's friend, in another one, a commission for the Vatican! The Vatican Saint Peter's Cathedral commission is unveiled. Fellide is so jealous she cuts Anna's face.

The painting shows Anna, a very sexy woman, with a naked toddler, Jesus, stepping on a snake. The church is aghast, it hangs for only two days...Then it is taken down. Then, Caravaggio's “Death Of The Virgin” the one of dead Lena, is taken down by the Order of the Virgin Mary, for depicting a ‘pregnant’ looking Virgin Mary. In one week his life has hit bottom.

Caravaggio gets high and goes to a tavern and sketches Saint Peter. Ranuccio, the pimp, is there with his wife, Lavinia. Ranuccio confronts Caravaggio and challenges him to a duel. Ranuccio thinks Caravaggio is painting his wife for a new commission. They pretend it's a tennis match. It's a huge holiday with fireworks. Ranuccio injures Caravaggio's friend and when Caravaggio's friend almost gets killed, Caravaggio defends the friend and tries to castrate the pimp but instead hits an artery in Ranuccio's leg and Ranuccio dies.

Caravaggio, clearly guilty, flees Rome in the night in a carriage, with his assistant, Cecco. He is charged and sentenced with capital punishment and now is a wanted man.

EPISODE 6: “Cecco”

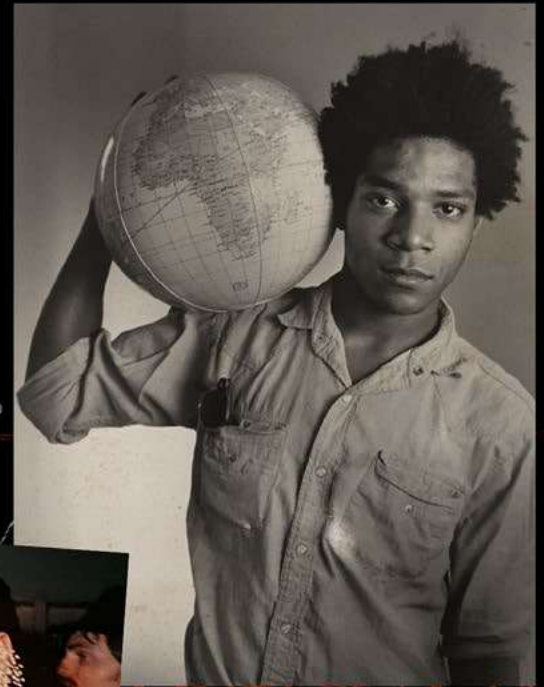
Cecco and Caravaggio are hiding out, Caravaggio tries to contact Borghese by painting Cecco as David with a decapitated head of Goliath, a self portrait sending it to the collector as a plea for help. Basically saying, I know I messed up, I'm with Cecco, please do something. They flee to Naples and find sanctuary and true love blossoms! Caravaggio paints the “Seven Acts Of Mercy.” But Caravaggio is restless, he leaves Cecco, who loves Caravaggio deeply, in Naples, and goes to Malta where he befriends the King, who commissions him to paint a portrait. Caravaggio misses Cecco and yet includes the King's pageboy in the portrait, all the while eyeing him provocatively. The King is so happy he gives Caravaggio two slaves and Knights him, not suspecting the flirtation. Caravaggio realizes the slaves are lovers and is deeply moved. Caravaggio also has a sexual encounter with the king's page. That evening, the king finds out. He sends guards to imprison Caravaggio. Caravaggio races back to the quarters the King has given him to occupy and frees the slaves by arranging a boat to Nigeria and then Caravaggio takes a boat himself to return to Cecco in Naples.

EPISODE 7 (Season Finale): “True Love Doesn't Win”

Caravaggio returns to Cecco. Meanwhile, Borghese has convinced the Pope to grant Caravaggio a Papal Pardon. If Caravaggio delivers three paintings, he can return to Rome a free man. Caravaggio accepts what is essentially a plea bargain, and again abandons Cecco, this time to literally save his own skin. He secures passage on a ship going North up the coast but the captain takes a bribe from the brother of dead Ranuccio, agreeing to kill Caravaggio and steal his paintings. Caravaggio is instead thrown off when the boat stops in Palo Laziale, and then imprisoned. Caravaggio bribes the prison guards to release him, but his stolen masterpieces are sailing still toward the next stop. So on foot, Caravaggio runs 72 miles to Porto Ercole since he has no money to rent a horse. While Caravaggio runs in the July heat, he realizes that his vanity drove him to want to reclaim his fame, and that had he stayed in Naples with his true love, his life wouldn't be unravelling. Caravaggio has a vision of Cecco while he is delirious with exhaustion and heat stroke, and apologizes to Cecco. Caravaggio makes it to Porto Ercole hoping to re-board the ship but the ship has left, with his art still on board. Caravaggio loses consciousness on the beach, and encounters the Angel Gabriel who comforts him that his dramatic life was all part of a masterplan and that his art will survive. Caravaggio is dragged up to the hospital and dies July 18, 1610 and his body is thrown into a pauper's grave.

Paolina Weber is an emerging American and Italian director, writer and performer completing her MFA at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, in Brooklyn, with a grant from Warner Media and The Joel and Candace Zwick Foundation in Directing. Her short film *BB Gun*, about a boy with learning differences grappling with his father's onset blindness, just had its international premiere at Berlin Shorts and is in consideration for several American festivals. Her screenplay *Iron Chef*, about a crack addict who loses his young son, was a semifinalist in the United States Script Competition.

A graduate of The University Of Chicago, in 2016, Paolina founded X-OUT, LLC to tell stories of non-conformists, and her first micro budget film *Suck It Up Princess*, premiered locally at the Big Apple Film Festival. A former prestigious Independent Study Fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art, she ties in art in her current limited series about the larger than life convicted murderer and the Renaissance pansexual artist, Caravaggio, who died tragically. As a child, she grew up at the apex of the Art World, immersed in the meteoric rise of artists' careers. Her immigrant mother was a pioneer art dealer, whose unique eye discovered some of the most important artists of our time, so she is drawing on her visual sensibility and her life experience.



Caravaggio's Last Day

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Caravaggio - Actor *Valerio Da Silva*

PHOTO CREDITS

www.Shotdeck.com
Silence - 2016
My Own Private Idaho - 1991
No Country for Old Men - 2007
MacBeth - 2015
Essential Killing - 2010
Barry Lyndon - 1975
Avengers - 2015
Belle - 2013
Caravaggio - 1986
Burke & Hare - 2010
Caravaggio's Last Day - 2023

Jean-Michel Basquiat - 1984, Photo: *Christopher Makos*

www.flickr.com / www.wikiart.org - Caravaggio, Francisco Goya, Diego Velasquez

www.artsandculture.google.com - John Ruskin

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