

OFF THE MENU

(Fuera de Menú)

Limited Series — 4 Episodes — Dark Comedy

Written by Fernando Gracia Ortuño

LOGLINE

A hospital cook crushed by twelve years of institutional silence finally finds his voice — the same day it could cost him everything.

SERIES SYNOPSIS

Fran has spent twelve years cooking in the windowless basement kitchen of a major Barcelona hospital — a machine of steam, boilers, and hierarchy that swallows everyone who enters it. When an unfair disciplinary charge over a plate of dried-out macaroni becomes the last straw, Fran's body does what his voice never could: it breaks, live, in the middle of a shift.

What follows, across the season, is a descent into the hospital's own psychiatric ward, populated by delusions as sharp as they are darkly funny — hallucinations of monstrous rats, arrogant coworkers reimagined as wild boars, and letters to an imaginary confidante that blur the line between coping mechanism and genuine breakdown. Around him, a whole ecosystem of coworkers turns out to be trapped in the same machine: a supervisor squeezed by her own superiors, a bully hiding a lonely apartment and a mother he's terrified to disappoint, a friend facing layoff at fifty-two with a mortgage and a kid in college.

When Fran is finally called before the hospital's disciplinary committee, in the season finale, he arrives with nothing written down — just twelve years of swallowed humiliation and, for the first time, the decision not to swallow anymore. What he says will cost him his job. It will also be the first completely honest thing he's said in over a decade.

Off the Menu is a satirical dark comedy about institutional cruelty, precarity, and the strange dignity of finally speaking up — even when speaking changes nothing about the system, and everything for the one who dared.