

LOCKED DOWN FILMS
presents



ORIENTE

WRITTEN BY LASZLO PAPAS

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The left side shows a sandy area with numerous palm trees, lounge chairs, and a thatched umbrella. The right side shows the turquoise ocean with white waves. A large, stylized red blood splatter graphic is overlaid on the beach, with a thin red horizontal line extending across the entire width of the image through its center. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

***CUBA, TODAY. AN UNFAIRLY DEMOTED EX-POLICE
SUPERINTENDENT TRIES TO CATCH THE FIRST
SERIAL KILLER IN THE HISTORY OF THE ISLAND.***

CRIME THRILLER. 10 X 50' LIMITED SERIES

SYNOPSIS

Marcial Del Potro, the son of a Hero of The Revolution who gave his life fighting alongside Che, is the respected 30-year veteran Chief of Police in the city of Holguín, Cuba. He is a respected member of his community and loved by his team of investigators. Together they run a pretty tight ship, but crime in Holguín is low and life quiet and parochial.

Del Potro has a gambling problem that threatens his official position and often strains his relationship with his younger brother Benjamin, an ambitious avocado farmer and wheeler-dealer, who nevertheless admires him and always comes to his aid with a loan to cover his losses.

Del Potro lives with his elderly mother, Esperanza, a feisty, foul-mouthed guajira and Yoruba practitioner, and his 25-year-old daughter, Isabel, an air-traffic controller, and serious ballet dancer, who has performed in New York.

He also has a gay son, Mario, the fruit of a brief en-

counter with a black woman who died giving birth to their son, thirty years ago. Mario lives in the family's quaint colonial home and gets along with everyone – except with Del Potro for whom his son's homosexuality is an uncomfortable and unsettled issue he has never been able to resolve.

Holguín is a quiet city, in a quiet province of Eastern Cuba, and Del Potro is already looking forward to retiring and perhaps moving in with his long-time companion, Roberta, a former Tropicana dancer during her hay-years in Havana, who now teaches the craft to young, aspiring variety dancers.

Police work in Holguín is laidback and predictable. But when a young woman is found gruesomely murdered and mutilated in the middle of a field, Del Potro knows his life is about to change. The unusual case becomes extraordinary when a second, identical killing opens the probability of Cuba's first-ever serial killer in her midst.

The murderer, Martin Keller, is a British photographer, in Holguín attending an exhibition of his work and to photograph the natural beauty of the Oriental province. We are privy to his identity and compulsion from the very first ritualistic killing, but his uncanny skills

at deception make detection something for which the local police are unprepared and ill equipped.

News of the murders are unwittingly leaked by a member of Del Potro's team and social media does the rest. Soon the news of a serial killer in Oriente spread like wildfire, and Havana is not happy.

General Rufo Vargas, head of the Police at the National level is Del Potro's nemesis. He was Del Potro's subordinate seven years earlier, and the man responsible for concealing evidence that would have cleared Del Potro's name when a notorious armored truck heist succeeded on his watch.

Vargas's silence sealed General Del Potro's fate and paved the way for his demotion to Colonel, and his repatriation to his native Holguín. Now Vargas occupies the seat of police power, but risks paying a high price if, on his watch, the serial killer case is not quickly resolved.

Vargas briefs Captain Belén Chevrolet, a Paris-trained profiler and expert evidence researcher, and sends her to Holguín, with orders to discredit and take over Del Potro investigation.

When Belén meets Del Potro, she realizes Vargas' depiction of the man is heavily colored by jealousy and their

past history and takes Del Potro's side. Belén is a sharp, charismatic beauty in her forties, who grows to admire Del Potro in more than a professional way.

Meanwhile, three more murders pile up and eventually Vargas himself shows up in Holguín – also his own family roots – bent on taking the credit for resolving the cases. He uses Del Potro's gambling – a very serious professional fault in Cuba – to get him discharged from the force, once and for all.

The rift between Belén and Vargas widens until finally she decides to provide confidential information to help the parallel investigation Del Potro has continued to conduct from his garage.

Vargas takes over the official investigation, tossing aside all the progress made by Del Potro, Belén and the rest of the team, which had been pointing to a foreign culprit. This theory does not suit Vargas and he ridicules Belén's "fancy French methods," insisting on focusing on a local suspect we know to be innocent of the crimes.

Del Potro's son, Mario, utilizing his expertise with computer modeling, points Del Potro to the general location where he believes the next murder might take place. By a fluke he is right, and even after he tells

Del Potro that he exaggerated his abilities, Del Potro invites him to help with their home-grown investigation. Working with his father helps them bond and begin to repair a relationship strained by Mario's sexuality and Del Potro's old-school views.

Keller, meanwhile, has developed a relationship with a troubled but brilliant young painter named Lola he met during his exhibition. The odd couple appear to have a mutually beneficial effect on one another, including a soothing effect on Keller's murderous compulsion. He supports her artistic ambitions, and they plan to leave for Europe together, where he will help her have her talent recognized.

But, when Lola discovers Keller is the man sought after for the series of killings that have been taking place in the area, instead of running for her life, she expresses a dark desire to "experience" the thrill of what he does and persuades Keller to let her participate.

When Del Potro discovers the killer most likely arrived from the UK, he contacts the Midlands Police Department, in Birmingham. Thomas Harding, an idiosyncratic Detective Inspector with a serious case of fear of flying, reveals to Del Potro a string of remarkably

similar cold cases in his Midlands. Bonding with Isabel on the phone, he agrees to come to Cuba, to help. A series of circumstantial facts pinpoint Keller's name, and he is brought in for questioning. Belén's proven interrogation skills however fail to trump Keller's slippery, brilliant mind and, having no concrete evidence against him, they are forced to release him. Keller knows his time is up, non the less, and makes plans to slip out of the country with Lola.

Tommy arrives in Cuba and immediately bonds with Del Potro. When he and Isabel meet it's obvious that they have been waiting all their lives for one another. While attending a Yoruba ceremony for one of Del Potro's investigators, with Isabel and Esperanza, Tommy becomes aware of Keller's end game. He calls Del Potro and together they go after him. The final act is action filled and reaches a most unexpected –and open– denouement.

A person wearing a white shirt is seen from behind, working in a dense forest. The scene is filled with tall, thin trees and lush green foliage, creating a natural and somewhat somber atmosphere. The lighting is soft, filtering through the canopy.

***TONE &
PRODUCTION PLAN***

This preliminary production plan has been based on information provided by an Havana-based line producer engaged to develop the below-the-line budget. It must be noted that production costs in Cuba are substantially lower than those in the US or European locations.

The main shooting location for this production is anticipated to be Holguin, in Eastern Cuba, plus one week in Havana.

While the Creator is committed to directing a number of ORIENTE'S episodes, he intends to involve additional Spanish-speaking Director/s from an international pool being considered.

Key department heads, such as Director of Photography, Production Designer, Editor, Sound, Costume Designer and Makeup would also be sourced abroad and brought to Cuba for the duration. The rest of the technical crew would be sought locally.

Preproduction will take place in Buenos Aires and Havana and is expected to last 16 weeks. Casting of supporting actors and day players will take place in Havana, Cuba and possibly the Dominican Republic. Postproduction will likely take place in Argentina.



A dark, moody photograph of a woman with long, wavy hair covering her mouth with both hands, appearing shocked or fearful. To her right, a man in a plaid shirt is partially visible, looking towards her. The background is dark and out of focus.

CHARACTERS

MARCIAL DEL POTRO

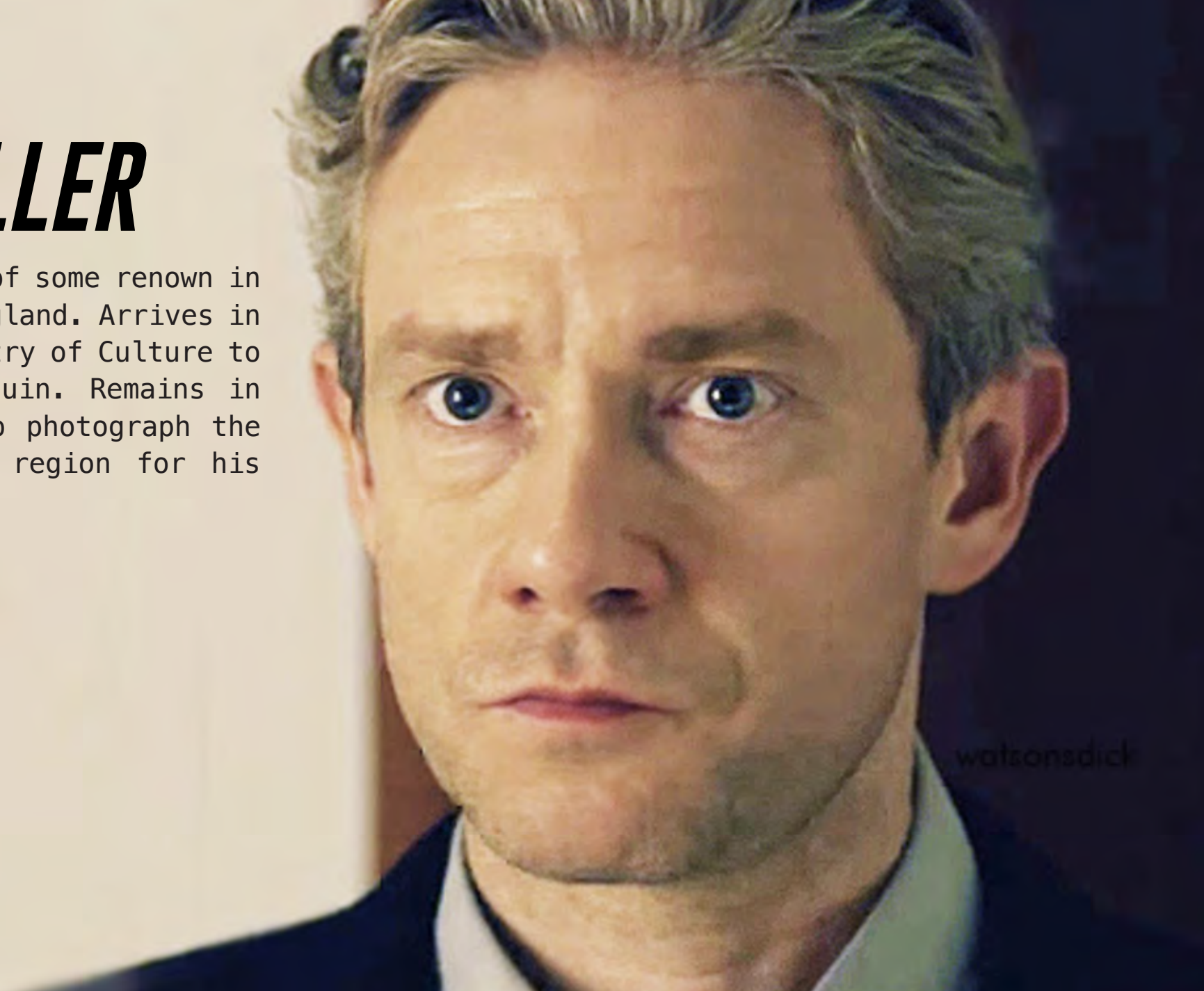
Former General, commander of the National Police Force, in Havana. Unjustly demoted and sent to his native city of Holguin, in the Orient of Cuba, to live out his career as head of the local DTI precinct. Resigned, he gives in to gambling, an infraction that threatens to once and for all end his career.



MARTIN KELLER

The killer. Photographer of some renown in his native Birmingham, England. Arrives in Cuba invited by the Ministry of Culture to exhibit his work in Holguin. Remains in the island, ostensibly to photograph the natural beauties of the region for his next book.

watsonsdick



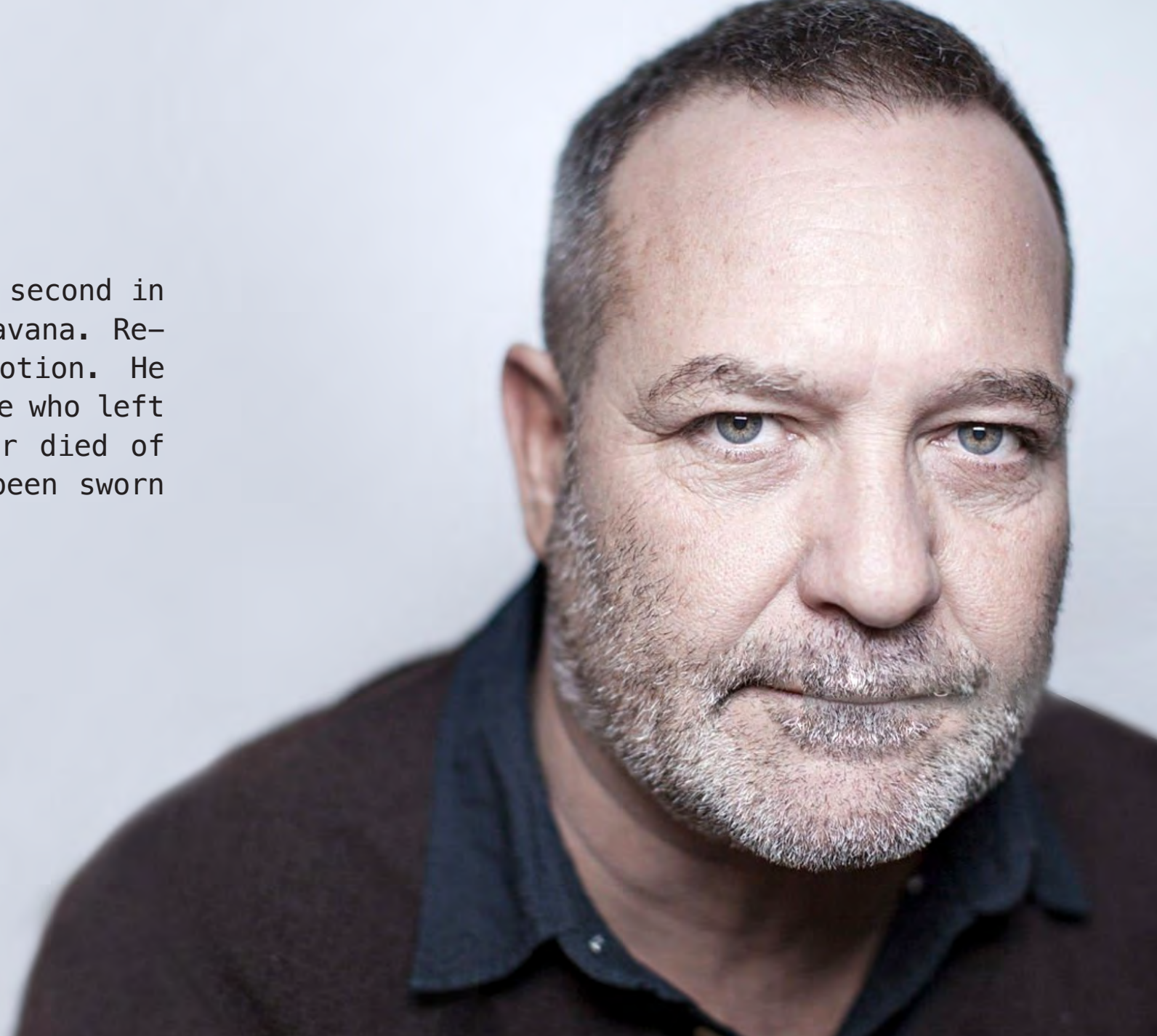
BELÉN CHEVROLET

A sexy, attractive Police Captain in her late forties, sent by Havana (Vargas) after the fourth murder makes the social networks, to help solve the case. Bossy, brilliant and a talented profiler – a little known discipline in Cuba she trained for in France. Initially clashes with Del Potro's more parochial, laidback approach to crime solving. But soon they learn to complement each other's methods and form a powerful alliance.



RUFO VARGAS

Del Potro's nemesis. His former second in command in the police HQ, in Havana. Responsible for Del Potro's demotion. He usurped his job, seduced his wife who left Del Potro and a few years later died of cancer. Since then, they have been sworn enemies.





THOMAS HARDING

(Tommy) 30's, attractive, a bit rough around the edges but loyal and noble. Well liked detective in his native Birmingham police force. Sent to Cuba to collaborate with Del Potro in the investigation when they discover the murders in Holguin closely match a string of unsolved local cases in the Midland region. He falls head over heels in love with Isabel.

ISABEL DEL POTRO

Del Potro's devoted daughter. Mid-late 20's. Beautiful, sexy and a talented ballet dancer. Perfectly bilingual, which serves her well in her day job as air traffic controller at the Holguin airport.





LOLA

Beautiful and talented artist in her late twenties. If Richter were Cuban, his output would be very similar. Deeply intuitive, possessed by exuberant sexuality, she seduces Keller and penetrates his darkest secrets.

BENJAMÍN ROCA

Del Potro's half-brother. His father, Esperanza's second husband abandoned them years before when he left for the US, and never contacted his son again. When Del Potro discovers he is dying of cancer, he agrees to help him earn a hefty kickback for helping two Calabrian mafiosi bribe a Minister, to obtain a building permit for a multimillion-dollar resort in the prime coastal real-estate of Guardalavaca.



MARIO DEL POTRO

Marcial's son, from a brief liaison with a black woman. Has a very tense relationship with his father due to Del Potro's difficulty accepting his homosexuality. Studies startling murmurations, a waste of a good mind in his father's eyes.

ROBERTA

Del Potro's longtime lover. Beautiful mulatto, former Tropicana dancer. Loves and admires Del Potro and tolerates Esperanza's open racism.

ESPERANZA

Mother of Marcial and Benjamin. Strong character, dirt mouth, stubborn. Practitioner of the Yoruba religion, she maintains a shrine to her first husband, Marcial, hero of the Revolution, killed during the take of Santa Clara, fighting next to Che.

DANIEL "CHUZO" ORTEGA

Del Potro's trusted Lieutenant. Impatient and irascible, but dedicated and loyal. Admires his chief and aspires to one day possess his high degree of professionalism. Sharp dresser, lover of flashy ties and an inveterate seducer.

GRACIELA BEZOS

Assistant Coroner. An attractive pathologist in her 30's, in an unhappy marriage with Mayor Bezos, an ambitious politician. She is having an affair with Molina, her boss at the Center for Legal Medicine.

RENNY MOLINA

Head coroner. A bright, eccentric, and irreverent pathologist. His affair with Graciela Bezos leads Vargas to accuse him of being guilty of her death.

MAGALÍ RÍOS

Del Potro's loyal secretary. A sergeant. Has been with him since he took over the 4th Precinct, seven years ago. Devoted mother of two teenage daughters.

GIANNI PIROMALLI

Flashy Calabrian made man in the ruthless 'Ndrangheta. Head of the money laundering operation for the Calabrian mafia. In Cuba to attempt to corrupt the Minister of Commerce, who can pave the way to obtaining a building permit for a world-class resort in Guardalavaca Beach, Holguín's tourist attraction.

FABIO GUETTA

Piromalli's partner (and lover), also from Calabria. They arrived in a 30-meter Italian luxury RIVA yacht registered in The Bahamas and don't conceal their physical affection for one another. A regular Siegfried & Roy number with a taste for young boys



EPISODE 1
STORMY WEATHER

A Young woman is brutally murdered and mutilated. Colonel Marcial Del Potro, Chief of the 4th Police Precinct, in Holguin, Cuba, investigates the crime scene and discovers an odd pointy shoe-track.

The murderer, we learn, is Martin Keller, a somewhat known British social photographer with a tortuous and disturbed childhood, invited by the Cuban Ministry of Culture to exhibit his work in Holguin.

Colonel Marcial Del Potro, Chief of Police in Holguin, meets in the bar of the luxurious Hotel Paradiso with his half-brother, Benjamin. He needs to ask him for a loan, to cover one of his frequent debts of gambling, to which he is an addict. Benjamin takes the opportunity to introduce him to two outlandish, very rich, gay Calabrians, who arrived in Cuba on a luxury RIVA yacht anchored off the hotel beach. They are seeking to buy influence that will help them obtain a building permit for a multimillion-dollar resort, in the prime shore real estate of Guardalavaca. They are willing to pay a very hefty commission and Benjamin does not wish to let this opportunity of becoming financially independent go by. Del Potro warns him that these obvious members of the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta will end him in jail and unsurprisingly refuses to get involved. Making love to his partner, Roberta, Del Potro loses his concentration when he remembers having seen a pair

of very odd, pointy green shoes at the airport in Havana, days earlier when he picked up his daughter, Isabel, returning from New York, where she danced successfully with the Holguin Ballet Company.

Meeting at the morgue with Dr. Molina, an eccentric pathologist having an affair with his assistant, Graciela, the former explains that the victim died from strangulation and suffered brutal post-mortem blows, and her genitals were removed surgically – an operation done by someone with serious surgical skills.

And now we see the crime – committed with premeditation, facilitated by an offer of cash, to persuade the simple, rural girl of posing for “artistic” pictures in his 4-wheel black Jimny, at the end of a dark, dirt rural road.

[> Click to read episode 1 script](#)

A young boy with dark hair is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark-colored shirt with a light-colored, repeating geometric pattern. Behind him is a large, striped pillow with horizontal bands of light and dark colors. The lighting is dim, creating a moody atmosphere.

***EPISODE 2
PREDATORS***

Del Potro lives with his mother, Esperanza, his son, Mario, and his daughter Isabel. He has difficulty dealing with his son's homosexuality and their relationship is tense. Mario has an innate ability with computers, is frustrated with life in Cuba and dreams of exile. Isabel surprises him with a present – a much sought after graphic card for his research in starling murmuration – she brought him from New York. His cheer redoubles when he receives a call from a friend he promises to join soon.

At the Paraiso Hotel, Keller meets the Calabrians and sees their spectacular yacht on which they sailed to Cuba. This triggers a turbulent memory in Keller's mind – a day during his childhood, in a humble Birmingham apartment, when young Keller passes time perusing books on African predators hunting in the wild, while trying to ignore the salacious sounds of his mother entertaining "clients" in her bedroom.

Primed, Keller visits Melones, a small nearby town where he hopes to find his next victim. The chosen one is a teen-age young woman with a small dog. But the sudden appearance of one of her friends frustrates the effort and Keller angrily speeds out of town.

At the morgue, Graciela and Molina find skin under the first victim's nails. Del Potro picks up Isabel at the Holguin airport, where she works as a traffic control-

ler when he receives the phone call with the news. He confronts the boyfriend of the victim and finds he bears a scratch on his back. The young man is arrested and formally charged.

Mario attempts to leave the island on a raft with a group of "balseros" but they are quickly picked up by Cuban coastguards and arrested. Next day, Del Potro receives a surprising call from his nemesis, Vargas, offering to release his son to him if he personally comes to Havana to claim him. Far from giving his archenemy the pleasure, Del Potro asks his brother, Benjamin, to go in his place.

During the art show where Keller's pictured are exhibited, he meets Lola, a charismatic and talented abstract painter and they leave the show together. She will most likely become his next victim, but Lola promises to be much more interesting alive than dead and he drops her home, in a seedy street. On his way back he happens on the Melones girl on the highway and offers to give her and her mooch a ride and disappears with her on a dark dirt track. Sometime later, he gently deposits her small dog on the main highway and speeds off toward the city lights.

[> Click to read Episode 2 script](#)

***EPISODE 3:
PARADISE LOST***



The day when Isabel returned to Cuba. That same day arrives the photographer with the green shoes and is greeted by British Embassy officials and the Cuban Ministry of Culture officials. He leaves with the black 4-wheel Jimny provided by the Cubans and drives off toward Holguin, nine hours away.

On the way, he drives past Del Potro's government-issued LADA, gassing up at an Oro Negro station. We stay with him and his daughter also on their way back to Holguin. They have a good, loving relationship and Del Potro discusses the possibility of moving in with his long-time companion, Roberta. Far from being upset, Isabel celebrates the news.

The body of the girl from Melones is found at a tobacco plantation. When the news reaches Del Potro, he frees the first victim's boyfriend being grilled by Ortega, Del Potro's trusted lieutenant.

Benjamin arrives at Police HQ, in Havana, to pick up Mario. Vargas is furious Del Potro is not the one begging personally for his son's release but delivers him to Benjamin just the same.

Isabel rehearses with the ballet company while secretly Keller takes photographs. Meanwhile, at the morgue, Graciela Bezos discovers a bruise on the second victim's neck that appears to have been made by a camera belt. She also finds a substance characteristic of

latex gloves no longer sold in Cuba and tells Del Potro the killer could be a foreigner.

Keller returns to the address where he dropped off Lola and finds her weeping, depressed trying to paint in a seedy garage. She takes her out of there and forces her to rent a beach cottage where she will be provided with everything she needs and paint to her delight. Lola cannot understand his disinterested generosity.

Keller dines with the Italians, and they invite him to leave the island with them when their business is concluded. Later that night, Keller picks up his third victim at an Oro Negro gas station.

That same night, by chance, Lola discovers in Keller's camera photos and videos revealing he is the author of the murders everyone is horrified by. When she turns around, she finds Keller looking down on her.

[> Click to read Episode 3 script](#)

***EPISODE 4:
ORO NEGRO***



The body of the Oro Negro girl is found by a Farmer in a sugarcane field. Del Potro and Lieutenant "Chuzo" Ortega investigate the crime scene but all it reveals is the same MO of previous killings.

At the beach cottage, far from being horrified after finding out Keller is the wanted murderer, Lola paints without respite, happy and energized by Keller's admiration. But he refuses to have sex with her, so Lola assumes it is her failing. But we know that in Keller's mind, his mother's voice is the permanent reminder of his inadequacy as a man.

Running an errand at the Lenin Hospital, Ortega happens on Benjamin receiving quimo in the cancer unit.

At the precinct, while Del Potro waits for Ortega with the team, he realizes today is Che's birthday and decides to call Moncho, his bookie, and bets on 14. An infraction that could cost him his career.

In the investigators' office all evidence until now collected is being pinned on a wall board. When Ortega returns from the hospital, he expresses his sorrow to Del Potro about his brother's condition. By his reaction, we realize Del Potro was not aware of his illness. Del Potro comes to the hospital and confirms the sad news. Driving back, he stops a Dutch tourist driving a Jimny identical to the one they seek and realizes the brand-like bruise on the first victim's neck came from a camera belt like the one on the tourist's Nikon. That

night, Del Potro listens to the lottery drawing from Miami and hits his number.

Next morning, Ortega visits the Oro Negro station where the last victim worked and demands their surveillance tapes. Del Potro swings by Moncho's to collect his winnings and meets Benjamin for lunch to pay him for his last loan. He also surprises him telling him he is ready to participate in the Italians' operation to bribe the Minister of Commerce and get the permit to build their resort. Benjamin is surprised but does not argue. In the yearly Son Festival, where Del Potro escorts Roberta and Isabel, he speaks to Manejes, the corrupt minister and convinces him to accept the hefty bribe the Calabrians propose, and they agree to split it three ways with his brother, Benjamín. Del Potro runs here into his old friend, Hector, and asks him for help in resolving the cases that have his force trumped. Hector speaks to him about Belen Chevrolet, a talented profiler trained in France, and promises to convince Havana to send her to assist in his investigation. Keller is also attending the festival and overhears Graciela tell a colleague she performed the autopsies on the victims the monster on the loose has left behind. Keller listens exacerbated.

[> Click to read Episode 4 script](#)



***EPISODE 5:
LOLA***

Del Potro and his team review the cases at the station; witnesses, clues left by the assassin, the origin of a possible clue pointing to a foreign suspect.

Belén Chevrolet, the attractive, charismatic profiler trained in Paris arrives in the precinct. Her apparent authoritarian demeanor at first clashes with Del Potro. But he soon realizes that her perceived arrogance issues from an extremely shrewd, perfectionist and well-informed mind.

From her side, Belen expected the vane, haughty man Vargas described, but the man before her soon reveals to be a gentleman with his own share of charisma to which she is not indifferent.

Meanwhile, at the morgue, Graciela and her new assistant, Ava, autopsy the Oro Negro victim. During the internal exploration, she discovers a puzzling piece of undigested red licorice, a candy rare in Cuba.

Dining at Roberta's, the former Tropicana star, Del Potro informs her he discussed with Isabel their idea of him moving in with her and found no opposition, on the contrary. Roberta is happy with the news and makes love to him.

At the beach, Lola calls on the neighbors at the next cottage to borrow lemons. She meets Negra, the sculptural black beauty we've already seen Keller ogle at the Paraiso Hotel. Her friend, Gaspard, a Frenchman

Del Potro owes his gambling debt to unabashedly checks out Lola's curves and we learn he and Negra share girls.

When Del Potro arrives at the precinct in the morning, Belen is already there and reorganized the investigators' office. Everything has been moved around and disposed in a more efficient fashion. Also, she has redesigned the evidence board into a truly American style crazy wall. This very much amuses Ortega, a fan of American TV series.

During the first powwow, the team agrees the victims are chosen by chance, from the rural scene, and murdered in remote locations. Belen opines the most flagrant and important omission to identify the killer has been that amongst all the suspects questioned so far, not one of them has finished high school. In her opinion, the killer is somebody highly sophisticated, with some surgery training. She widens the search, persuaded the killer has his own mobility. This is corroborated by Ortega who has been lifting tire tracks at the crime scenes.

In their cottage, Lola and Keller live and idyllic existence. Lola reveals to Keller her desire to participate in his next crime. Keller rejects this idea, but in the middle of the discussion providence knocks: the owner of the cabana threatens to kick them out for it

is forbidden for foreigners to sleep in his unlicensed rental and he risks losing the property. Keller and Lola invite him in to discuss a different financial arrangement.

Having made a deal with the corrupt minister, Del Potro goes with Benjamin and Manejes to the Italians' yacht to conclude the deal and receive the first instalment of the commission they will split, and that will give Benjamin and his family the financial independence he seeks.

Later that night, Del Potro joins a poker game with Gaspard and some foreign airline pilots. Police raid the place and all Cubans are arrested. The Colonel in charge offers Del Potro to slip out undetected but Del Potro tells him to do his duty.

Next afternoon, Keller and Lola whom Graciela met at the son festival, wait for her to leave work at the morgue and offer her a ride home. On the drive there, Graciela realizes Keller is the wanted killer but too late to escape the bloody end of her life.

> [Click to read Episode 5 script](#)

A crime scene investigation board. At the top, a black board is covered with numerous yellow and pink sticky notes. Below it, a large map of Minnesota and Wisconsin is pinned to a corkboard. The map has several green sticky notes and white lines drawn on it. To the left of the map is a photo of a woman with long dark hair, with a red sticky note with the number '1' in front of it. To the right is another photo of a woman with blonde hair. Various other photos of buildings and outdoor scenes are scattered around the board. In the foreground, the backs of two men's heads are visible as they look at the board. One man is wearing a dark suit, and the other is wearing a grey suit. The text 'EPISODE 6: THE THEORY OF CHAOS' is overlaid in large, white, italicized font across the center of the image.

***EPISODE 6:
THE THEORY OF CHAOS***

Rufo Vargas arrives in Holguin to get rid of Del Potro. He meets with Belen and accuses her of weakness dealing with Del Potro and lets her know that Del Potro is leaving his last moments as a policeman. Besides, he accuses her of having become his lover and orders her to tell him to come see him at his family farm.

Meanwhile, Keller and Lola are welcomed on board the Italians' yacht. Keller offers them one of Lola's beautiful paintings and they agree to leave with them when all conclude their business on the island.

Graciela Bezos has not returned home and her husband, Intendente Bezos, comes to the Center of Legal Medicine to inquire after her. All he finds out is that Molina is in Santa Clara, and he suspects her of cheating.

Del Potro arrives in Vargas' farm, where offensive words from Vargas regarding Del Potro's long deceased wife whom he seduced and forced to leave Del Potro seven years earlier lead to blows and one of the most spectacular fistfights ever recorded on film.

When Del Potro returns to Roberta's, she hardly recognizes him under the wounds. She mends him while Del Potro laments being no longer a part of the police. That night, feverish, in bed next to Roberta, Del Potro remembers between dreams, the incident seven years earlier when five members of an armored truck crew got away with several million dollars they were transporting and

killed two people on the process. This cost Del Potro his job, then General in charge of all the National Police force in Havana.

Next morning, Del Potro swings by his home to drop off his uniform, explains to Isabel he is no longer a cop and goes back to the precinct to pick up his personal belongings. Belen and the rest of the team watch in silence as Del Potro gathers his affairs and Belen apologizes for sending him to the farm to see Vargas. Del Potro explains this confrontation was long coming and both knew one day it would take place. He bids the team farewell, proud and moved.

When Vargas arrives in the precinct, all see the General is in even worse shape than Del Potro and exchange satisfied looks. Vargas takes over the investigations and rules a waste of time all Del Potro had started and gives a series of directives Belen and Ortega find senseless but that they must execute.

Isabel rehearses with the ballet company and Keller is there to photograph her in secret. When she arrives home, she finds Belen knocking on the front door and invites her in. Belen is there to see Del Potro, and Isabel indicates the garage.

Belen enters the impromptu office and finds Del Potro at work on his own crazy wall. She confesses having brought some confidential documents taken from the

unit, to help his parallel investigation make some headway. The growing sexual tension between them is evident but both distract themselves. After Del Potro photographs the documents, Belen heads back to the office before someone notices them missing.

Meanwhile, in their beach cottage, Lola finally seduces Keller who perhaps for the first time in his life experiences an orgasm during which he loses control. Later that evening, Del Potro surprises Mario in the garage studying the jumble of color tacks and strings crisscrossing the map of Holguin. Mario guesses they signal the places where the crimes took place and from the chaos deduces where the next victim will be found. Del Potro makes fun of him, but when Mario leaves, approaches the map and studies the indicated zone with attention.

At the precinct, under Vargas, another type of chaos is taking place. The investigation has become a massive interrogation exercise of all those who knew the victims, a great number of people and an obvious waste of time and resources, in Belen's opinion.

Next morning, in precisely the area indicated by Mario, Del Potro finds the body of Graciela in the well where Keller and Lola dumped her.

[> Click to read Episode 6 script](#)



***EPISODE 7:
TOMMY***

Thomas Harding shares offices with several other detectives at the Midland Police, Birmingham, England, when the call comes in from Cuba. Tommy is a young detective much appreciated by the rest, but not taken too seriously. He suffers from serious fear of flying and has never been outside the UK. When the call comes, his colleagues forward it to him as a joke, but the first conversation he has with Isabel, who speaks fluent English, conjures up images of the great love he has never known.

When he finally speaks to Del Potro, the description he hears of the murders taking place in Holguin remind Tommy strongly of very similar open cases in the Birmingham area from a few years back.

When Vargas arrives at the farm, Belen is already supervising the recovery of Graciela's body from the well. Vargas is shocked and disconcerted when a second body is discovered under Graciela's – that of the owner of the beach cottage.

The find puzzles also Del Potro, watching the proceedings from a nearby hill.

Back home, Esperanza tells Del Potro that his half-brother came by looking for him. Del Potro apologizes to Mario for having doubted his prediction. Mario confesses his guess was sheer luck, but Del Potro informs him there was not one body there, but two! Mario

is moved when Del Potro invites him to join the parallel garage investigation.

Del Potro arrives at the family avocado farm to see Benjamin. He finds him lying in bed and delirious, but lucid enough to hand him the bag with the Italians' bribe money he has been keeping. He asks him to get these funds to his wife's family in Barcelona, Spain, when she will be heading with their sons when the time comes. Del Potro gives him his word that it will be so. At the morgue, under Belen's watchful eye, Graciela is autopsied by Molina and the assistant, Ava. Ava discovers Graciela was with child and, to Belen's surprise and suspicion, Molina becomes upset and leaves the room.

Belen reports this to Vargas and, excited, he orders Molina's arrest, satisfied the killer being a local culprit confirms his view from the start.

Belen visits Del Potro at the garage to bring more documents about the possible foreign arrivals during the dates under investigation. Del Potro warns her she is risking her career helping, him, but their mild confrontation ends in a passionate carnal encounter.

Next day, Del Potro visits the bookie, Moncho, and forces him to agree to have Benjamin's funds delivered in Spain through his Miami contacts.

Keller intercepts Isabel on her way to her rehearsal

with the ballet company, claiming he is also going there to do a photo shoot of her director. Only the arrival of her dance partner frustrates Keller's plan to kidnap her. When Del Potro learns she found herself face-to-face with the killer he is truly frightened. He contacts Tommy again and passes the details of the suspect in Havana, Tommy confirms similar cases have gone unresolved in the Birmingham area and decides to come to Cuba.

That night, Negra accepts a ride to the beach cottages from Keller and then meets her death.

[> Click to read Episode 7 script](#)

***EPISODE 8:
A BABALAWO NEVER LIES***



Ortega and Jimenez, a stocky, much loved and trusted corporal go to the Center for Legal Medicine and execute Vargas' order to arrest Molina. Belen reports this to Del Potro who insists the killer is a foreigner he has already identified as being Keller.

Keller, meanwhile, promises Lola to help her launch her career as an artist in Europe and together plan their departure from the island in the Italians' yacht.

Vargas comes to the precinct hoping to enjoy Molina's interrogation, sure Belen's reputed talent for questioning will break him down easily. However, Belen is unable to get Molina to admit murdering his lover, a crime we know he did not commit.

At that moment, news of Negra's murder – with the same MO – reach the office and all hope Vargas may have for a quick resolution of the case vanishes. After Vargas leaves blinded by frustration, Belén and Ortega go to Del Potro's garage where the real investigation of the crimes is taking place. The subject of the second cadaver at the bottom of the well comes up and Ortega is dispatched to the dead man's beach cottage he owned in Guardalavaca, to investigate.

When Ortega arrives in the cabana, he is surprised to find Lola living there, someone hardly with the resources to pay herself such accommodation. Lola defends herself explaining she has a Maecenas who buys her art. The whole time, Keller has been following the grilling

from their bedroom. He is relieved when she finally manages to rid herself of the dogged investigator. But Keller knows their days in Cuba are counted and the final act approaches.

Del Potro meets Tommy at the Holguin airport. Having overcome his fear of flying, Tommy cannot stop expressing his joy and marvel at the spectacle Cuba is for a city guy like himself. He looks and acts more like a tourist than a detective on a mission, and when he meets Isabel, it is obvious they will have a love story. Something that does not escape Del Potro.

In the garage, Del Potro introduces the detective to Mario, who bends over-backwards to make an impression his father would approve.

After a dinner Esperanza has carefully prepared in honor of the visitor, Isabel walks Tommy to an apartment she has found for him nearby.

Meanwhile, at the restaurant of a luxurious hotel, Keller and Lola dine and plan how to leave de island. Keller downloads from the business center computers the instructions to sail the Italians' Riva yacht on autopilot. He assures Lola he will help her become a star in Europe, where her talent will take the art world by storm.

[> Click to read Episode 8 script](#)

***EPISODE 9:
GUARDALAVACA***



In the garage, Del Potro's team debates where Keller. Isabel brings sandwiches and seeing Keller's photo on the board casually reveals having met the man in the picture some days ago. Panic around the room. She calmly explains Keller tried to give her a ride but vanished mysteriously when her dance partner showed up. Now she recalls having also seen him at the son festival, accompanied by a girl she seems to recall being a painter. Her details appear in the exhibit's program. Tommy and Del Potro set out to go to the address published for Lola. Before leaving, Isabel and Tommy make plans to dine together. In the old house where Lola lived, Fifi, her landlady, shows them to the room she rented where they find a few of her paintings but no trace of the artist. Del Potro leaves the landlady his card and asks that she call him should Lola return. At the bar of the Hotel Paraiso, the Italians watch the TV news in a somber mood – several of their family members have been arrested during a wide police raid in Europe. Minister Manejes comes to explain there have been delays regarding their permit. But the Italians are ruining out of patience. They give the minister a week to come through or he can forget the deal. Tommy attends Isabel's rehearsal at the theatre and is stunned when he sees her dance. He confesses his shame at never having seen the magic ballet can be. Far from

being crossed, Isabel finds his confession sweet and charming. When Tommy asks what she wishes to dine, she pulls him from a hand and they appear in his bed, where she makes passionate love to him.

One of the investigators at the precinct hands Vargas an envelope in which she had saved a piece of pink cloth from Lola's shirt. Vargas fails to grasp its meaning, but Ortega is sure he has seen the shirt this torn piece came from at the Lola's cottage. He also recalls seeing a camera case at the place. Vargas berates him for not having put two and two together and they take off in a hurry. But when they arrive at the cottage, it is empty. In the neighbor's, Gaspard's cabana, they find photos that confirm Keller's identity, although the implicating shirt is missing and without it, it will prove difficult to accuse them. Finding a photograph of Negra in the same house causes even more confusion and Vargas is at a complete loss.

Meanwhile, in a new cottage, in a different beach, Keller and Lola enjoy time together. When Lola realizes her shirt is missing a piece, Keller tosses it in the ambers they are cooking with and resolve to leave Cuba as soon as they can organize it.

At the 4-star Hotel Ordoño, Del Potro, Roberta, Isabel and Tommy dine by moonlight. Roberta reminds Isabel of the show she is preparing with her dance pupils, that

will take place in this same spot, next Saturday. She teases her that his friend Tommy will thoroughly enjoy the erotic show. Vargas calls Del Potro to ask about Gaspard, who suspiciously was the dead man's neighbor. Del Potro does not think his French friend has anything to do with that or any death.

Next day, Keller and Lola sunbathe on the Paraiso beach and fake surprise when the Calabrians arrive in jet ski from their yacht. They invite them to lunch, but Keller lies saying he and Lola are expected at her parents, but casually inquires as to whether their invitation to leave the island with them still stands. It does indeed, and it will happen this coming Saturday afternoon.

Vargas shows up at Del Potro's home and offers to reinstate him to the force (now under his command) if he will help him catch the killer, he now agrees is the foreigner, Keller. But under his command. Del Potro accepts.

Meanwhile, Lola returns with Keller to her old rental, to pick up the art she left behind. Fifi, the landlady, tries to delay their departure while she calls Del Potro just as he instructed if she ever showed up.

Del Potro and Vargas take off in a hurry in the General's Mercedes, on their way to Fifi's. Informed, Tommy and Ortega pick up Belen and converge towards the same address.

In Fifi's home, she tries to delay Lola's departure. Keller suspects something's amiss and orders Lola to get in the truck, but before they can take off the Jimmy is boxed in by Ortega's patrol car and Vargas' Mercedes. Lola and Keller are arrested.

[> Click to read Episode 9 script](#)

A large flock of starlings is captured in flight against a sunset sky. The birds are arranged in a V-formation, with the lead bird at the top right and the flock trailing off towards the bottom left. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a vibrant orange and red near the horizon. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of trees and hills.

EPISODE 10
DANCE OF THE STARLINGS

Fay Dowling, the British Ambassador's secretary, arrives in Holguin to witness Keller's interrogation. In the Jimmy were found some of Lola's artwork and nothing that would implicate the Brit or Lola in the murders. After hours of questioning, Vargas, furious, must admit they have nothing to retain them any further, and Keller and Lola are released.

Leaving the precinct, Keller infuriates Belen when he whispers in passing that soon he will have his turn with her. No one else has heard Keller's threat so Belen's violent reaction makes her appear unstable. Keller and Lola drive off in the Jimmy and congratulate themselves for trumping police. Keller notices a vehicle following them, drives into a shopping center to buy new clothes, to support their lie that all their belongings were stolen. When they exit, the vehicle continues tailing them. Sometime later they stop at a handsome colonial house licensed to rent rooms and take one. The investigator tailing them reports back to the unit and is told to sit on them. Frustrated in the precinct, reviewing evidence, Belen comes across Ava's report on her finding human hairs in Graciela's cadaver grip, but, oddly, the evidence is not on file.

Past midnight, in the rented room, Keller watches the car that surveilles them, wakes up Lola and instructs her to get dressed.

Meanwhile, at the morgue, Belen finds the strand of hairs misplaced during the autopsy. She wakes up Del Potro, in bed with Roberta and reports on her find. It could be the final proof of Keller's involvement in the crime, and they agree she should drive the evidence to the DNA lab at once.

Keller and Lola leave the rented room through the back of the building and manage to slip out unseen and drive away in the Jimmy through a back alley.

Next morning, Del Potro, wearing his Colonel's uniform, drives Mario to an event at a center for gay rights in Santa Clara. Mario could not be prouder and Del Potro apologizes for not having been able to understand and accept his son sooner.

Belen receives confirmation the hairs belong to Keller, shares the news with Del Potro and immediately dispatches patrol cars to the colonial house. But Keller and Lola are already in the outskirts of Holguin, lodged in an unlicensed house to avoid being reported to tourism authorities.

Del Potro and Vargas give the general alert and divide territories between themselves. For once they agree on something: Cuba is an island with no way to escape. They will sweep the entire Orient, if necessary, until they find them. Del Potro will be in charge of the oriental section that includes Guardalavaca.

That afternoon, the much-loved corporal "The Bear" Jimenez is "becoming a saint" and all attend his Yoruba consecration. Isabel takes Tommy along for whom this sort of ceremony is a rare opportunity to know a different face of Cuba. But Jimenez sees Keller drive past in his Jimny and takes off after him in his scooter painted white like his costume for the ceremony.

Keller and Lola arrive in their lodging, load their affairs on the Jimny, pay what rent they owe and falsely declare to the landlady they are leaving for Santiago. Jimenez watching them from across the road, call the precinct but no one replies. He can only leave a voice message. Seeing that Keller and Lola are getting ready to leave in the Jimny, he decides to intervene. Keller surprises him and attacks him with his scalpel.

At the station, Magali finally picks up Jimenez's message and informs Ortega who lets Del Potro know and skids off in a patrol car. Del Potro at that hour of the afternoon is attending Roberta's presentation, where her dancers are reaping enthusiastic applause, including from Tommy, fascinated by their spectacular bodies to Isabel's amusement. Under orders from Roberta, Del Potro has his phone turned off, but he turns it on when he decides to call Belen who promised to be there and has not arrived. Belen picks up and tells him that she is almost there, crossing the street. Keller

sees her from the approaching Jimny and cuts her off. Grabs her and drags her off toward the back of the Jimny where Lola awaits with a chloroform bottle. Del Potro hears the struggle over the open phone and he and Tommy dash down the stairs to assist her. Belen manages to fend off the attack but suffers a deep scalpel cut to her underarm. When Keller sees Del Potro and Tommy approaching, he gets on the Jimny and Del Potro asks Isabel running after them toward the scene to take care of Belen and with Tommy sprint to the LADA and drive off after Keller's truck. Keller and Lola take the coastal highway and imagine their lives together in Europe. Del Potro and Tommy chase them on the LADA but the Jimny's more powerful engine widens the breach between them. Distracted, Keller takes a curve too fast and crashes a bridge over the Baraiy River. They fall into the stream and Lola dies instantly. Keller abandons her body in the vehicle, grabs his camera case and swims to the surface. The current drags Lola's body to the surface and down river, together with a dozen of her artwork. When the LADA reaches the bridge, Tommy dives into the stream only to find the vehicle empty. Del Potro sees Lola floating downstream and dives after her. When he recovers her, he realizes she is dead. He leaves the body in Tommy's care and speeds after Keller in the LADA. Keller climbs the riverbank unseen and

cuts through jungle toward the Guardalavaca Marina, arriving just as the Calabrians yacht is finishing gassing up and readies to sail. The Italians wonder about Lola, but Keller humorously alludes to couple's trouble and boards the yacht as it leaves the dock. Minutes later, Del Potro arrives in the marina but sees no trace of Keller, and the yacht is already out of sight. Frustrated, he drives back to the bridge where the coroner's van is already loading Lola's body. He orders an exhaustive search for Keller in all possible spots till the eastern end of the island.

Back in Holguin, with no desire for field trips, Del Potro nevertheless fulfills his promise to accompany Mario to a spot outside town, where he wants to show his father something unique. Perplex, Del Potro waits. He is about to lose his patience when a cloud of hundreds of thousands of starlings obscures the skies. The ballet they display bring tears to Del Potro's eyes. In the yacht, Keller relaxes with the Calabrian mafiosi. When one of them goes below to prepare mojitos, Keller produces his scalpel and slices the other one's neck from ear to ear. When his companion returns with the drinks, he is horrified to see the blood streaming out of his friend's throat. Disoriented, he turns to find the killer and suffers the identical fate. Keller, soaked in blood and oddly excited, climbs to the bridge

of the Riva and sets a new course with the autopilot. Days later, sharply clad in the Calabrian captain's designer clothes, he glides into Nassau with the spotless clean yacht. He leaves the vessel docked in the marina and calmly walks away pulling his camera case along and carrying Lola's painting and a duffle bag filled with the Italians' cash. Moments later he has melted away with the marina crowd.

[> Click to read Episode 10 script](#)

THE END.

CREATOR'S NOTES

Although Argentinian by birth, I consider myself somewhat of an international citizen, having lived for years in Los Angeles, London and Paris and having traveled extensively many other places. I have long been fascinated by Cuba, having made twenty-odd visits to the island since 2005, spending considerable time in Havana, of course, but also traveling extensively throughout the entire island. I believe I have a fair grasp on how Cubans think and feel.

Outside of Havana, Cuba becomes parochial, its people gentle mannered and solidary, and despite the lack of creature comforts they endure, and we take for granted, Cubans are often joyful and optimistic.

Despite all the bad press and fifty-year-old socialist regime, Cuba is a safe place. Statistically one of the safest in the world, in fact. Even since the demise of the Castro regime, Cuba still rates high above many more developed countries for its low murder and violent crime rates.

It is a fact that Cuba never had a serial killer. This was perhaps the tidbit that gave birth to *ORIENTE*.

It begged the question: in a country where attractive young women are often seen walking lonely roads, innocently trying to hitch a ride, how would the authorities handle a string of terrible, senseless killings, such as often fascinate or horrify us in so-called First World societies?

I thus began to develop a concept for a television series and its central characters, and soon I could not resist the temptation to write all ten episodes of the first year of the series.

A WORD ON STYLE

ORIENTE'S narrative and cinematic style will be agile, cutting-edge contemporary, fluid, with unsettling camerawork, and forceful editing – in intentional contrast with the somewhat laconic rhythms of Cuba in general and the far-removed Holguin province especially. ORIENTE should fascinate and surprise; think SE7EN in the Caribbean... Dissonant and yet orchestral; dark and yet lush, logical but unpredictable.

Humor and snappy comebacks are strong suits of Cubans' character; this too will feed the contrasting realities of a series of sordid, gruesome crimes taking place in a paradise suspended in time. ORIENTE'S music will make ample use of Cuba's rich musical heritage, but the main score must underline the pathos of this thriller, something I have already spoken about with LA-based Argentinian Oscar-winning composer, Gustavo Santaolalla.

For political reasons, Cuba has almost never been used as location for English-speaking, international productions. Havana is a city of outstanding architectural beauty, in a state of heart-breaking dilapidation. In a perverse way, perhaps, I find this highly cinematic. Amongst these contradictions live a generous, hopeful people with a remarkable zest for life. This vital human energy will color the story in most unexpected ways.



CONTACT
LOCKED DOWN FILMS LLC
LASZLO PAPAS
LASZLOPAPAS@GMAIL.COM

USA (LA):
PO BOX 691640 / LA, CA 90069
PHONE: 310-6598888

ARGENTINA (BA):
URUGUAY 888, 5J (1015) CABA
PHONE: +54 9 11 38806573