



Historic Royal Palaces, in association with Rusty Quill, presents

Outliers

Stories from the edge of history

Season 2

Summary

- ❖ Season 2 of Outliers will launch on 5 November 2019
- ❖ Outliers is an anthology of stories about the people hiding in the shadows of real events that took place at some of the greatest palaces ever built.
- ❖ 13 episodes explore ideas of change, otherness, gender and the meaning of power, all through the eyes of characters who have not traditionally held the historic limelight.
- ❖ Episodes are from award winning writers from Podcast shows such as *Wooden Overcoats*, *The Magnus Archives*, *Wolf 359*, *The Bright Sessions*, *ars Paradoxica*, *the Far Meridien*, *Our Fair City*, and *We Fix Space Junk*.
- ❖ The season will also include interviews from all our writers.

Outliers is an historic fiction podcast that tells stories from the edge of history. The series explores how big historic events filter down and are viewed and shaped by the people in the shadows. Moments of larger change in smaller people's lives. In this way, themes of otherness, change, gender and the meaning of power are explored through the eyes of characters who have not traditionally held the historic limelight. Some stories are warm and comedic, whilst others are dark, poignant and reflective, with powerful messages.

Each episode is between 20 - 30 minutes long and tells a different story from a different character's perspective. Each of the stories are narrated by a single voice, and are from differing periods of time, from the medieval era through to the Victorians. The series is an anthology, so each story is standalone but linked by common themes, as well as the palaces where these histories played out. Though based on documented history, the stories are works of historic fiction where reasonable creative licence has been taken to bring the stories to life.

Episodes

Episodes are released every Tuesday from launch on the 5 November. The corresponding interview with our story writers will be released every Thursday from launch.

E1. A Crack of Thunder by Gabriel Urbina -5 Nov

Leech is a man who knows about fire: how it burns, how it feels. But when Whitehall Palace, the largest palace in Europe, becomes the greatest kindling pile for a seemingly unquenchable blaze, even he is left dazzled. Everything burns, even the home of kings.

E2. Secrets of the Bedchamber by SEVAN -12 Nov

Catalina served Catherine of Aragon for years, proudly, passionately, and loyally following her from Spain all the way to the side of King Henry VIII. But Henry's interest has turned. He is intent on divorce, and his henchmen are digging up the secrets of Catherine's first marriage to Arthur Tudor. They think Catalina is the weakest link and their method is intimidation. But have they underestimated Catalina's strength and loyalty?

E3. Fortune's Wheel by Lauren Johnson -19 Nov

Eleanor Cobham has always got what she wanted; a new dress, a place at court, somebody else's husband. But not now. In her desperation to conceive an heir, she turns to witchcraft and is soon embroiled in its throes. As she comes face to face with the dangerous side of power, will she learn if she can control the turn of fortune's wheel?

E4. Mehmet and the Wild Boy by David K. Barnes -26 Nov

It's late spring in 1726 at Kensington Palace, and the lavish court of King George I is in residence. Meanwhile, Mehmet, the Turkish valet to the King, is having some problems with Peter the Wild Boy, who is kept like a pet for the King's amusement. A comical cat-and-mouse chase ensues, but perhaps it is the Wild Boy who has some unexpected lessons to teach Mehmet.

E5. Faithfully Yours by Lettie Precious -3 Dec

Victoria and Louise are the closest of companions. They share their lives, loves and laughter, just like any best friends - apart from the fact that Victoria is the future Queen. Hidden away at Kensington Palace, power and predators lurk in every corner, including the dangerous Sir John Conroy. As Victoria's future as queen looms large, will Louise be able to protect her friend from those who seek her power for their own gains?

E6. Always Professional by Alex Lynch -10 Dec

The Tower of London's head executioner only has one job, yet it can go horribly wrong for all involved. Right now he's furious: there's been a botched execution on his watch, and the reign of Henry VIII is making him see red. Outside the Tower, nationwide rebellion reflects his views. But what does he know? He's only an executioner.

E7. Pinpricks of Light by Eli Barraza -17 Dec

Caroline Herschel stares at the stars. Recognition as an astronomer and scientist seems further away than even the most distant constellations. But her discovery of comets and her love for her work is contagious. It's not long before Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, takes notice...

E8. Empty Barrels by Abir Mukherjee -24 Dec

Robert, Royal Clerk to King Henry VIII, is diligent, dedicated, and totally indifferent to the religious changes sweeping the country around him. But when treasures confiscated from a dissolved monastery fall into his hands, he faces a very personal choice. Will he do his duty, or risk it all to preserve the past?

E9. Scullion Daydreams by Steven Camden (Polarbear) -31 Dec

Robert is a bright young boy, working in the fiery kitchens of Hampton Court Palace. Mary Tudor is on the throne and the country is Catholic once more. Despite his lowly position, Robert is moved by the tumultuous changes that surround him. How will he manage to navigate this new world whilst keeping his head down, as he was taught?

E10. The Letters of 1867 by Maeve O'Lynn -7 Jan

As her wedding day at Hillsborough Castle approaches, Lady Alice Hill knows she should be happy. But her change of status from spinster to spouse and the imminent move away from her beloved home is playing on her mind. What role can a woman play besides that of a wife, sister or daughter?

E11. Seal of Fate by Jon Cooper -14 Jan

Thomas Phelippes is a spy and code breaker in the court of Elizabeth I. He plots the downfall of Mary Queen of Scots. As Phelippes struggles to decipher a code that could result in her death, the prospect of succeeding leaves him feeling cold and empty, but very powerful. The life of a queen rests in his hands.

E12. Fresh Sweat and Cloves by Beth Crane -21 Jan

As lady-in-waiting to an ageing queen and wife to a failed adventurer, Bess Raleigh has learnt to fight her corner against all adversity. Her life is spent in the shadow of the Tower of London with her husband Sir Walter Raleigh. But will she manage to keep her head whilst others around her lose theirs?

E13. For King and Country by Jonathan Sims -28 Jan

Three soldiers of the Black Watch are put to death at the Tower of London. Their sentence: mutiny. Their silence, historic. Why did they choose not to defend themselves? Is the truth wound up with the mysterious stranger who visited them on the eve of their court martial, and how pivotal will that moment turn out to be for Scotland?

Writers

Gabriel Urbina

Gabriel is a Costa Rican-American writer and director, best known as the Creative Director of the award-winning podcast *Wolf 359*. He is also the producer, writer, and director of the anthology series *Zero Hours* and co-host of the creative writing talk show *No Bad Ideas*. He is the winner of multiple writing awards, and has contributed to various audio fiction podcasts, including *The Bright Sessions*, *Wooden Overcoats*, *Anthology*, and *Our Fair City*.

SEVAN

SEVAN is an award-winning NYC and London-based actor-playwright. His NY work includes The Public Theater, The New York Theatre Workshop, The New Group, The Culture Project, New York Stage and Film, New York Musical Theatre Festival. London: The Bush Theatre, Arcola Theatre, Theatre503, Tamasha, Rich Mix, The Shubbak Festival. He is an alumni of The Public Theater's Emerging Writing Group, Rising Circle's inaugural INKTank Lab, The Bush Theater's Inaugural Emerging Writers Group. He has been shortlisted and a finalist for the Princess Grace Award, Papatango Playwriting Prize, Sundance Theatre Lab, O'Neill Festival.

Lauren Johnson

Lauren is an historian, writer and historical interpreter who specialises in the 15th and early 16th century. She is author of works including *So Great a Prince: England and the Accession of Henry VIII* (2016) and *Shadow King: The Life and Death of Henry VI* (2019). Lauren is currently working on a biography of Margaret Beaufort, the survivor of the Wars of the Roses and matriarch of the Tudor dynasty.

David K. Barnes

David is a writer, dramaturg and script editor based in London. He is the creator of the critically acclaimed, award-winning sitcom podcast *Wooden Overcoats*. Other audio credits include *Doctor Who* and *The Discovery Adventures* and his stage plays include the Offie-nominated *Birthday Suit*. He is currently a script consultant for Audible, and developing new sitcoms for several companies.

Lettie Precious

Lettie is a British playwright, poet, author and artist from Sheffield currently living in London. Winner of the Royal Court and Kudos Fellowship 2019. In 2018 they completed BBC London Voices Writers' Room and the Graeae Write To Play year-long attachment. As part of Queer Upstairs their play THE GREY AREA had a rehearsed reading at the Royal Court Theatre, Jerwood Upstairs in 2019. Their first full length play, THIS IS US, developed on attachment with Graeae, had a rehearsed reading in 2019 at the Bush Theatre, in association with Talawa and Tamasha and Graeae theatre companies. Previous work has been showcased at Soho Theatre, Oval Playhouse, The Arcola and Theatre Royal Stratford East. They became a published author in 2018.

Alex Lynch

Alex is a writer and actor based in London. He has written on the multi-award winning podcast *Wooden Overcoats*. His comedy credits include work for the BBC and Radio 4, most notably his four part series *Expenses Only*.

Eli Barraza

Eli is a writer based in Los Angeles. She became involved in podcasting through the writer's room for *ars Paradoxica*, but she is best known as co-founder of the podcast collective The Whisperforge, and her own show *The Far Meridian*. She has also written guest episodes for other podcasts, such as *Our Fair City* and the critically-acclaimed drama *The Bright Sessions*.

Abir Mukherjee

Abir is a Scottish bestselling author based in London. His series of crime novels set in Raj era India have won him a string of awards including the CWA Endeavour Dagger for best historical crime novel of 2017 and the Wilbur Smith Award for Adventure Writing, and have been included in the *Sunday Times*' 100 Best Crime & Thriller Novels since 1945.

Steven Camden (Polarbear)

Steven is a spoken-word artist, novelist, playwright and screenwriter. He has written three Young Adult novels for HarperCollins and his poetry collection *Everything All At Once* was published in July 2018. He was co-writer and script mentor on the Akram Khan Company's Olivier Award winning production *Desh*, as well as script writer for LIFT festival's acclaimed production *Turfed*. His own plays, *Back Down* (2015), *Mouth Open*, *Story Jump Out*, and *I Knew You* (2017) have toured nationally and internationally to five-star acclaim.

Maeve O'Lynn

Maeve is a Northern Irish writer based in Belfast. She has published short fiction and poetry in *Banshee*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Fallow Media*, *The Honest Ulsterman*, *Abridged*, and *The Tangerine*. She was shortlisted for the 2018 Hennessy New Irish Writing Award and the 2019 TU Short Story Award. Her work has been featured on the Poetry Jukebox, Belfast.

Jon Cooper

Jon is a writer and interactive theatre-maker. An alumnus of The Old Vic's New Voices Company (2006), he has written and created work for Merlin Entertainment, Channel 4, EA, Historic Royal Palaces and numerous shows which have run to critical acclaim in central London and the Edinburgh Festival.

Beth Crane

Beth is a writer and artist based in London. She is the creator of the sci-fi podcast *We Fix Space Junk* and the *Automnicon* series of novels as well as a writer on the upcoming BBC *Murmurs* podcast. She also laser cuts custom jewellery, including a slightly gory collection for the Old Operating Theatre Museum.

Jonathan Sims

Jonathan is a writer, performer and games designer based in London. His work primarily focuses on the macabre and the grotesque. He is the mind and the voice behind acclaimed horror podcast *The Magnus Archives* and the high-octane space-cabaret *The Mechanisms*.

Cast

- E1. **Leech** - Lachlan McCall
- E2. **Catalina** - Elsa Ocha
- E3. **Eleanor Cobham** - Lydia Rose Bewley
- E4. **Mehmet** - Atilla Akinci
- E5. **Louise Lehzen** - Laura Pradalska
- E6. **The Executioner** - Adam Cunis
- E7. **Caroline Herschel** - Aletta Lohmeyer
- E8. **Robert the clerk** - Ben Crystal
- E9. **Robert the kitchen boy** - Sam Hallion
- E10. **Lady Alice Hill** - Michelle McMahon
- E11. **Thomas Phelippes** - David Oakes
- E12. **Bess Raleigh** - Emma Pallant
- E13. **The Stranger** - Roger Barclay

Crew

Director - Alexander J Newall

Executive Producers for HRP - Adam Sibbald and Claudia Strange

Producers - Alexander J Newall, Adam Sibbald, Claudia Strange

Script Editor for HRP - Sarah Kilby

Artwork - Lyndon White

Editors - Rusty Quill

Main theme - Arranged by Domini Hooper and Nick Hart

Words adapted from the original 17th century ballad 'The Sea-Martyrs'.

Sound Design & additional music - Samuel D F Jones

Recorded at - Soho Radio Studios and Voice Sounds Studio

Creators - Historic Royal Palaces and Rusty Quill