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*Now is the oldest you've ever been,
and the youngest you'll ever be again...*

S O U T H - B O U N D



Relax, it's all downhill from here.

Beginnings...



“Whoever started that ‘high school is the best four years of your life’ bullshit must’ve died immediately after that graduation speech...

Or maybe they just did student council.”

Greetings from the Olive Orchard

We’ve been waiting for you, campers of 2018! Come pack your things; you’ll need a good sturdy water bottle, some clothes you aren’t afraid to ruin, proof of vaccination and a positive, learning attitude! Pre-conceived sense of self or solid plans for the future are not required. Actually, we’d prefer you leave those at home.

The Story

Olive Orchard Arts Camp (which was actually once a peach-orchard), located in the farmy grasslands right at the heart of Jersey, is a place to thrive -- whether you're a camper, a staff member, or bacteria culture, you're guaranteed a space to grow into the strongest version of yourself... at least that's how they rope you in. But why give a kid a paintbrush if you aren't expecting a damn mess?



With all the youth and good company of HBO's

Betty and the bitingly sincere comedy-drama turmoil of *Skins*, South-Bound circles through the narratives of Olive Orchard's 'South Section': two bunks of adolescents on the brink of maturity, as they go about a four week long, artwork-intensive, sleep-deprived-sleepaway childhood farewell... their last summer as senior campers. Weaving in and out of several stories as they all mingle and connect with one another, the show captures the chaotic nature and communal spirit of camp, the escapism of a summer

retreat clashing with ever-present reminders of reality, while also expanding on themes of community, belonging, self-discovery, and staring down the face of the unknown.

Themes, expanded

Here's the thing: 'representation' doesn't mean *a thing* unless it's rooted in experience and designed for connection. South-Bound is a coming-of-age story, but it's a coming-of-age for those who are so rarely centered that they probably haven't even been the main characters of their own lives. Until now. While featuring



leads whose identities and circumstances are diverse, complicated, and perhaps not entirely *stable* at times, this show is led by a cornucopia of kids who are *real, complex, honest, human...* and for the most part, *just damn tired*-- But, here's this temporary family who gets you entirely, who sees you as exactly the person you want to be... what happens after it's all over? How do we cope with the fleeting beauty of youth?

Moreover, South-Bound is about stepping into a new territory of life with zero guidance when you've been winging it since you were old enough to grab things and *run*. Your

existence has been solitary and dark... until you learn that everyone's in the same crowded room with their eyes closed. It's about realizing that while the road you walk is definitely not a beaten path, it might not be total wilderness.

Maybe, just maybe, you've uncovered some footprints in the dirt.



Tone & Style

Visually, the show will follow in the footsteps of nostalgic-yet-modern indie film favorites such as the Florida project, Short Term 12, and Lady Bird. It carries certain vintage elements -- no cell

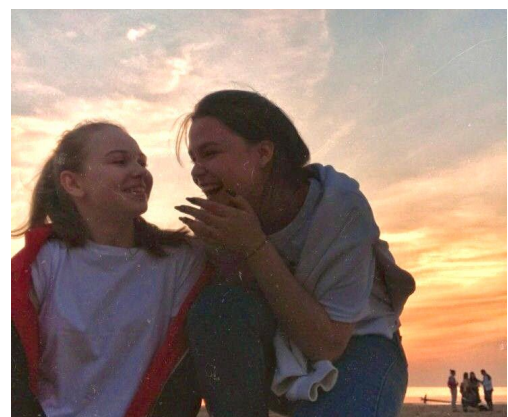


phones allowed, a 'retro' look to the place, but our characters unmistakably embody the modern day Gen Z-er who gets fashion pointers from Tiktok and Instagram. With



emphasis on both movement and place, it should be quick at times, but paced well enough for us to stop on occasion and breathe the summer air. Though the plot is character-driven, the atmosphere of *camp* should be tangible in every scene: a small community of creatives

in their element, emotionally and mentally as open as the fields they're living on. The setting should become a character in itself -- camp is a living, breathing creature that's allowing us to make a home on its back. The people we become when we're here, these interactions and connections couldn't come to be, anywhere but here.



Structure & Form

Due to the nature of the show's themes and its emphasis on the beautiful, painful temporary, **it will be written and produced as a limited series.** 220-240 minutes from beginning to end, split into eleven 22-30 minute episodes. Each episode will have an A story that focuses on a specific character & introduces their arc to us, and a B story that serves as a more lighthearted and self-contained 'adventure-of-the-day', while previous arcs continue as C stories, eventually weaving together and resolving at the finale.

There should be no other seasons. We want it to *hurt* -- the idea that this experience, with these people, all together at *this exact moment in time*, can never happen again... their arcs are complete, they're moving into the larger world, and they have to be okay, whether they like it or not.



The Kids



“Where do you think we are? ROTC training? It’s art camp. We’re all built like the evil toys in Toy Story.”

JUNO: 17, Non-binary, white, short and small, a little weird, but in the loveable way. “High functioning” ASD; has heightened sensory needs (dubbed ‘super senses’). Out of everyone, Juno might be the most secure in their identity... but they are the worst with change. While others brace themselves for impact with the future, Juno pretends it does not exist. What they don’t realize is that this is actively doing more harm than good.

PHOEBE: 17, curly-haired Jewish girl, sweet as honey. Juno’s best friend, the “good cop”, the mom friend. Though she’s talented and smart, Phoebe has struggled with self-harm and suicide in the past. Now recovered, she strives to be a ‘beacon of hope’ for others or something corny like that, but occasionally fails to see her own self-worth, and is prone to being pushed around.

EMIR: 16 , a soft-spoken Black writer with image and identity issues. He keeps to himself, not out of antisocialness, but insecurity and *fear*. Lots of it. He doesn't speak unless spoken to, mainly focusing on his writing, on occasion observing the drama. Secretly, he feels stuck. Everyone else seems to want to stay in this moment, but he wants nothing more than to move on from this confusion... it's just that he has no idea where to. Not here, but not home. Anywhere but home.

NYA: 16 , a Black girl and dance prodigy. Confident, empathetic and passionate, Nya will always stand up for herself and her friends, but is also the type to want to *understand* those who wrong her. She's incredibly anxious about her future but tries to fuel all her negative emotion into her work, which is a questionable but easier method than being vulnerable and letting others in.

ALLIE: 17 , singer-songwriter and ukulele player. Has an eating disorder but hides it incredibly well... until she can't. Easygoing, occasionally sarcastic, reaches people through humor but uses this to deflect as well. She'd rather die than admit she has a problem or needs help. Sometimes this leads her to pick fights if someone questions her.

MILES: 17 , Allie's (younger by a minute) twin brother. Miles is an offensive-on-purpose cishet edgelord who would *definitely* run a troll blog, and is rude to everyone, *especially* Allie... but his rudeness is different with her; it's an obscure manifestation of brotherly concern. He doesn't know how to help her, and a genuine display of that kind of love messes up his tough-guy persona. He tries to hold her accountable, which only makes her sneakier, and her behavior more dangerous.

LUCY: 16 , Pennsylvania Dutch, actress and “high-functioning” autistic like Juno. Thing is, she’s the complete opposite of Juno in most ways: an extrovert despite her occasional social awkwardness (which she uses to her advantage, to make others laugh), and secretly harbors lots of philosophical thoughts on neurodiversity. Has a crush on Miles.

MALEIK: 11 , Nya’s brother. A little shit. Doesn’t want to rely on his sister as much as he does, but secretly has a problem with the fact that she’s leaving for college soon. He takes it out on her and others by causing problems on purpose.

KIERA: 17 , a smuggler of gum, phones, and tattoo ink. Very ADHD. Her arc isn’t explored very much besides the fact that she believes rules are meant for breaking in the cleverest ways possible, and brags about the fact that she’s never been caught... yet.

BRUNO: 16 , A troublemaker smartass. Gets away with *everything*. Exists as an antagonistic force against Emir and Nya specifically, though they aren’t his only targets.

SONJAY: 17 , Bruno’s hypeman. Little to no brains of his own. In all honesty, he just wants to be accepted and involved in a close circle of friends, so he shadows the biggest/toughest personality around, and that’s enough for him.

The Staff

“Listen, the last thing I need for my repertoire right now is to be connected to this goddamn illegal sillyband smuggling ring. I’m supposed to be the one confiscating them.”

TEGAN: 23, Bunk 16’s counselor. At the bottom of the social food chain in her sorority in real life, but a damn good camp counselor in the world of Olive Orchard. Likes to be silly, socialize with the kids, and flirt with Max for fun, though she sometimes doesn’t think things all the way through, which leads to some very... very interesting situations.

MAX: 24, Bunk 17’s counselor. Art-school graduate and proud stoner. Contrary to Tegan, he does tend to think about the consequences of his actions, and ends up cleaning up a lot of her mess... although he doesn’t really mind if it means spending time with her outside of official job things.

TARA: Late 30s-early 40s, the Camp Director, white lady, a real pain in the ass & an antagonizing force for pretty much everyone else.

The Episodes

ONE

“Lucky Number”

A.) We meet the kids on the ‘South’ end of Olive Orchard as we follow a day in Juno’s routine, including their classes, rec time, CIT duties, also learning a bit more about the others in the process... right up until dinner, when Juno has a panic episode in the cafeteria at dinner and ends up in the infirmary.

B.) Sonjay and Bruno get into trouble after a bunch of lewd graffiti starts showing up in increasingly bizarre places... but they actually aren’t the culprits. Maintaining their innocence while being forced to clean it all up, they try to catch the culprit.

C.) We follow the chain of custody of a hoodie belonging to Tegan, which happened to have a pot brownie in its pocket. As it gets passed down from person to person, it’s unclear where it went, but the last person to receive it - Juno - receives it with a completely empty pocket.

TWO

“Fine Lying”

A.) While Juno’s in the infirmary, Phoebe must get through the day without their usual presence and finds it tougher than she imagined. Namely, she finds herself doing a number of ridiculous tasks because she can’t bring herself to say ‘no’ to anyone.

B.) Max and Tegan slack off while on kitchen duty for the day, where they end up flirting with each other much more than usual... until Tegan notices that her hoodie (and the weed brownie inside of it) is nowhere to be found.

C.) Right before they’re let go, Juno spots Allie signing in and being made to lay down; with a feeling that she’s hiding something, Juno feigns burnout & weakness in order to stay and find out exactly what it is, only to be left with more questions than answers.

THREE

“Confessionals”

A.) We follow Allie, increasingly exhausted and getting worse at hiding it all, as she goes through her day dodging questions, deflecting with humor, and straight up lying to cover her tracks. However, things get complicated when Juno catches her stealing from the nurse’s stash of confiscated things.

B.) Emir and Bruno get into an argument that makes Emir feel more ostracized than usual from his Bunk. As he spends the day coming across things that just rub it in his face, he finally finds a safe spot alone with Nya.

C.) Tegan and Max try to keep it together as they search desperately for the missing hoodie/pot brownie, constantly getting sidetracked by meaningless interactions and assignments that get in the way of their investigation.

FOUR

“Snicklefritz”

A.) We finally get to see some of the kids’ final-projects-in-progress as they work hard to prepare for the final showcase... and the mental stress all of South is feeling because of it.

B.) After an exhausting day of nothing but stress, Tegan finally finds her hoodie again... empty. Max tries to console her by doing something nice for her - well, his version of nice, which involves yet another consumable cannabis product.

C.) Now with the immense power of the pot brownie at their disposal, Juno decides to divide it up between several of the highest bidders in exchange for their offers - including a Wifi Password, a classroom master key, and a bottle of tattoo ink.

FIVE

“Portrait”

- A.)** As his emotional turbulence progresses, Emir willingly destroys the project he’s been working on for weeks, with only a little more than a week left until the showcase.
- B.)** Juno trades the master key with Sonjay for an expensive pair of headphones, which may or may not have been stolen. Tegan and Max have to face the awkwardness of the night before where, while stoned off their asses, the two of them might’ve shared a kiss.
- C.)** Tara, the camp director, is hot on the trail of some very interesting cases - including a leaked Wifi password and several stolen items from the camp office.

SIX

“Miles to Go”

- A.)** While stressed about his final piece of music for the showcase, Miles also tries to work up the nerve to confront his sister about her obvious problem with food.
- B.)** When she finds Emir in the theatre girls’ bathroom about to chop his hair off, Naya tries to help him dig deeper into the turmoil he’s feeling, and they both confess to each other: she’s a lesbian, he’s confused about his identity, but they have each others’ backs.
- C.)** As part of their CIT duties, the South kids are tasked with babysitting the youngest campers overnight. Chaos ensues.

SEVEN

“Northies”

- A.)** Maleik makes it his mission to act as difficult and annoying as possible around her and her CIT friends to cope with the fact that camp is ending. It backfires when he accidentally hurts himself while on their watch.
- B.)** Stuck on the question of whether or not to confess her crush on Miles, Lucy lets it manifest in funny interactions and (discreetly) following him to learn more about him.

C.) After a breakthrough in her snooping, Tara decides to confront South about her findings in the middle of the night.

EIGHT

“Infinity”

A.) With a piece of the brownie Juno traded him (for the masterkey), Bruno tries to bribe Max into giving him the Wifi password - which backfires for obvious reasons.

B.) When Naya finds out that Maleik was hurt on Phoebe’s watch, she goes off on her, *hard*. For the first time, Phoebe stands up for herself.

C.) Lucy, Juno, Abby and Kiera share personal stories about disability, life at home, and anxiety for the future while tattooing themselves with Juno’s contraband ink in the communal bathroom at 3 A.M. - only to have Tara walk in on the during a random Bunk inspection.

NINE

“Exile”

A.) It’s the day before the final showcase, and several people are freaking the fuck out- including Naya. Aware of the current beef between the two, Juno assumes Phoebe’s usual role of friendly counsel, and ends up giving her possibly the best advice she’s ever gotten.

B.) Allie tries to cover up a potentially life-threatening health scare, but gets found out and is threatened with emergency hospitalization. Max accidentally gets tied into a contraband sillybandz black market-type smuggling operation.

C.) Both Max and Tegan must finally face the facts when confronted by Tara about the deep, deep trouble their campers are in and the damages they’ve done.

TEN

“Confrontationals”

- A.)** Bruno realizes that he must make amends with the people he's hurt. He tries, with mixed results, but is able to repair his standing with one of the most important: Emir.
- B.)** Tegan has to break the news to all of South that Max has been fired. What she's dreading is how to tell them that he took the fall for her, he can't come back next year, and that she isn't either, because they both plan on eloping.
- C.)** Juno helps Emir come to a conclusion about everything he's been feeling.

ELEVEN

“Polaroid”

- A.)** The final showcase of all of South's senior projects begins. Their artwork is displayed, performed, showcased, applauded, and there's tears of mixed emotions onstage as they receive their last applause as campers.
- B.)** The last Bonfire night of the season. All of South sit sprawled across an island of blankets, finally partaking of the last two brownie pieces that Juno has saved for this occasion. Tegan keeps an eye on them from afar.
- C.)** Sitting apart from the rest, Emir confesses that they're probably a trans woman to Naya. It suddenly clicks for Naya, too - her crush on a 'boy' was actually a crush on a girl. The two of them rejoin the island of stoners. The kids crack jokes, take pictures with Phoebe's polaroid, look at the stars, and enjoy each other's company for the very last time.