



Hammer Town

Where you're from is who you are

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Hammer Town - HAMMER TOWN is a dramedy limited series/film which takes place in Hamilton, Ontario during the autumn of 1983. Hammer Town is a somewhat autobiographical look at the life and times of its creator, Paul Wales. The industrial backdrop of Hamilton post WWII made it the ideal setting for an immigrant work force to not only find steady employment but also begin a new life in North America. This influx of immigrants, from the UK, central and eastern Europe, Asia and the Caribbean created a very diverse and specific culture for Hamilton. Teetering between humorous light hearted moments and real family dramas, this dramedy is an intimate and

authentic portrayal of each character's quest to find their own identity. Off-the boater parents struggle to retain their old world values, language and traditions while navigating life in this new, foreign, unfamiliar land. Meanwhile their off-spring must stickhandle respecting their ancestry and family's customs while also growing into first generation Canadians.

Stylistically the series is a cross between any John Hughes movie and Alan Parker's "The Commitments." Flashbacks and a voice over narration shape the flow of the narrative. The music from the seventies and early eighties era underscores Hammer Town. Younger siblings herald British new wave music and fashion as their own while their older siblings staunchly maintain their devotion to their seventies style of denim and classic rock. Despite their differing musical tastes, both generations face a shared dilemma: whether to remain in Hamilton, where familiar factory jobs and the family business await, or to venture elsewhere in pursuit of broader horizons. The older siblings lean towards tradition and prioritising stability whereas the younger siblings grapple with conflicting emotions, torn between honouring their parents' legacy by staying and feeling the pull of the unknown beyond their hometown.

The screenplay will delve into the intricate dynamics between first-generation children and their immigrant parents, encapsulating the struggles of cultural assimilation, familial expectations, and the pursuit of individual identity. Topics include the impact of WWII and the Depression, navigating language barriers, the clash between tradition and modernity, prejudice, factory life and the preservation of traditional foods and music, and their importance in defining cultures.

Proposal

Produce and release a film that is essentially a limited series composed of two extended, self-contained episodes acting as a backdoor pilot.

This approach allows the network to explore the potential for a new series in a more detailed and expansive manner than a single episode might permit. By creating a longer, self-contained story arc, the creators can more effectively introduce the main characters, settings, and plotlines, giving the audience a better sense of what the series would be like.

Moreover, this backdoor pilot/limited series/film can access financing from two different sources, meaning it can secure funding for both film and television. This dual financing approach can provide a larger budget and higher production values. Additionally, the backdoor pilot film could run in film festivals, offering further exposure and gauging audience interest on a broader scale. If the standalone film is well-received, it can serve as a strong foundation for launching the new series.