



LETTERS FROM JORDAN PEELE & DAVID WEIL



In 2017, I sat down with David Weil as he told me his vision for this show about a team of vigilantes hunting Nazis in America. From the first scene of the first episode, I was hooked. David explained to me why he wanted to tell this story and how undergoing this endeavor would be an emotional journey. I knew then it was perfect for Monkeypaw, and that this show was going to be a lot of things - It was ambitious. It was relentless. It was thoughtful. At times, it was jaw-droppingly twisted. But beneath all these layers, it remained a personal story.



Jordan Peele

HUNTERS

It's a surreal and true privilege to write you this note and to have you watch and experience HUNTERS. This story was inspired by the greatest superhero I've ever known. She was my grandmother, my Safta, Sara Weil.

To me, my grandmother was the ultimate badass of wartime Poland. She was a teenager when war broke out in Europe. And though she was later imprisoned in Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen, though she was starved and beaten, she fought and suffered and ultimately survived. She survived. The only one of her immediate family to do so.

When I was little, my grandmother, ever the hero, realized that her story was a weapon, a seed, and – with a sense of duty – she needed to tell it. And so, when I young, she started to tell me and my brothers her story. About the truths of the camps, the horrors of her experience, the human capacity for evil, but most importantly, as she would always stress, the ultimate goodness of humanity, the light of a righteous few, and the resilience of the human spirit. At the time, her stories felt like the stuff of comic books and superheroes. Grand battles between good and evil. And that became the lens through which I saw the world. A world of heroes and villains, colored by injustice and darkness, but a world where light and hope were possible.

As I got older I struggled with questions of legacy, birthright and responsibility. HUNTERS is my quest to answer those questions. It's a love letter to my grandmother. It's an attempt to fulfill my birthright. To put on the vigilante cape. To shed light on hidden crimes and secrets. To seek the justice she never received. To keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and to continue her story, a story that is now a weapon, a seed...

And though my specific inspiration for and journey to this story begins with my grandmother...the destination HUNTERS arrives at – the series itself – is a story that touches all of us. Because HUNTERS is a story that belongs to all of us. A story about a band of others who fight for the right to exist. It's an exploration of the delicacy between savagery and civility, between revenge and justice, between good and evil. And it's an attempt to try and understand when our pursuit of justice goes too far. If we hunt monsters do we risk becoming the very monsters we've been hunting? Must we put our souls at stake?

I needed to tell this story, about a team of heroes, all marginalized by the world, fighting for their place in it, fighting to save it, fighting for that little bit of light my grandmother used to tell me about. For this is a time when we need heroes more than ever. Heroes like my grandmother.

Thank you for coming along on this ride and for engaging with HUNTERS. I hope you enjoy it.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Weil', written in a cursive style.

David Weil