

VOL. 02

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BE ADVISED

BONUS MATERIALS

★ EPISODE GUIDE ★
★ BANNED? ★

Behind the scenes of that controversial season finale!

SOUNDTRACK
TO THE ORIGINAL SERIES

**AMERICAN
HERO**
★★★ **STORY**
MINUTEMEN

AMERICAN HERO STORY ★★★ MINUTEMEN

Inspired by true events, **AMERICAN HERO STORY** is an anthology series that gets under the hood of costumed adventurers and our endless fascination with them, be they aspirational icons, disturbed avengers, or noxious novelties. Season 1 re-examined Rorschach, the once abominable, now beloved hard-boiled vigilante of the Nixon era, famed for his inkblot mask, brutal tactics, and reactionary, retrograde worldview. Season 2 introduces us to Rorschach's "Golden Age" inspirations, led by that most mysterious of mystery men, Hooded Justice.



Written by J. T. March III
Directed by Edwina Taylor

The year is 1938. The Communist Red Scare is smothering America. Blackboard culls on TV, and a circus strongman waddles ashore in Boston harbor with a bullet in his head. We killed him and why? The answer lies in 1938 — Germany is on the march, superheated cities are the rage, and New York is still recovering from a radio hoax about an alien invasion as a man with a hood and a noose around his neck falls a stickup in Queens. His name is HOODED JUSTICE and he has just unknowingly started the career of costumed adventure legend. He has inspired a new genre of mystery, new horizons to be donned as the dark, even: cops, cops, cops. (NITE OWL, criss crossed Eddie Blake [THE COMEDIAN]; GOLF DOLLAR BYRON LONES [MOTHMAN]; ad man William Brady [DOLBY BILL] and most notably, privileged playboy Neilson Gardner [CAPTAIN METEROLIS].)



Written by J. T. March III
Directed by Ryan Michaux

The Masterminds that MOLON THE MYSTIC is planning to transform the Macy's Thanksgiving Day balloons into Prohibition Era Hydrogen balloons... but there's more: the group are rising as Nations professes his love for Hooded Justice, who is certainly intense in sex, but not in revealing his identity. Situations is sort on low-profile missions with Muthman as the mismatched partners clash over his casual racism and homophobic. The Canadian expresses he's the group's biggest brand as America's children rush to buy his costume for Halloween. Dollar Bill attempts to break his contract with National Bank, but retreats when he realizes they own his costume, name and likeness. Flashing forward to 1955, SENATOR JOE MCCARTHY calls a meeting of the Cigar Conspiracists and presents a shocking plan.



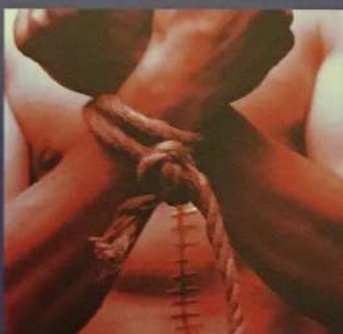
Written and directed by J. T. March III

Germany's non-aggression pact with the U.S.S.R. triggers Hooded Justice's multiple personas and causes them to blast The Minutemen come under fire for their brutal tactics while working with the police to quell a riot in Harlem while The Comedian's masculine toxicity explodes when he sexually assaults Silk Spectre. Beaten to a pulp by Hooded Justice, Eddie is quietly voted out of the group, then joins the Marines, putting his fellow adventurers into a tough spot as America goes to war in Europe and Japan.



Written by J. T. March III
Directed by Edwin Taylor

Enter THE SILHOUETTE. The first female crimefighter roars onto the scene as she brings an international child pornography ring to their knees. But Ursula Zandt is not just Silhouette, she is also a closeted woman of same-gendered preference. Buxleisure dancer Sally Jupiter capitalizes on the costume craze by rebranding herself SILK SPECTRE, going so far as to hire actors to stage crimes for her to foil. Meanwhile, Hooded Justice thwarts radical anarcho-feminist TWILIGHT LADY from kidnapping Judy Garland at the premiere of *The Wizard of Oz...* and it is here where he first meets Captain Metropolis. Their chemistry is instantaneous and Metropolis has a big idea — Why fight alone when they could form an entire team of heroes?



Written and directed by J. T. March III

A surreal adventure takes us deep inside Hooded Justice's mind and at long last, his secret identity: he is Arthur Kravitz, hood name "Mandrill." And Arthur Mandrill, Soviet subversive with psychic powers, or Arthur Mandrill, Soviet subversive with psychic powers, or Arthur Mandrill, Soviet subversive with psychic powers, he decided to become a real one! Not even the man under the hood knows for sure. Nelson's misanthrope that Hooded Justice unmask only makes him more paranoid as the FBI captures him in a daring trap. The Feds are well aware of Justice's sexual preferences and threaten to expose him unless he recovers a secret film of J. Edgar Hoover en flagrant with none other than Captain Metropolis. Caught between betraying his lover and exposure, Hu has no choice but to brutally murder the G-Man, setting in motion events that will change American History forever.



Written and directed by J. T. March III
Directed by Malorie XY

Past and present become one as years pass and The Minutemen begin to disintegrate. Out: Paragons of Golden Age decency like Nite Owl, Jr. The Comedian, now rebuffed as a star-spangled, gun-toting super-cop, Silhouette is ousted by the press and in a stunning display of hypocrisy, Metropolis votes her out of The Minutemen. Dollar Bill dies in a tragically ridiculous accident. Silk Spectre marries her agent. Hooded Justice experiences intensifying memory lapses and begins to wonder if someone tampering with his mind, which would sound crazy... if it weren't absolutely true.

BANNED?

ABOUT THE FINALE NO ONE SAW...

American Hero Story has never shied from sensationalism and controversy. "I've always been a troublemaker. It runs in the family," says creator J.T. March III, whose previous Emmy-winning, pop phenom shows, *Mysterious Island* and *Fogdancing*, ushered in the content-warning era and whose late grandfather, sci-fi grandmaster James Trafford March (*Plastic Souls*; *Manhattan Shrugged*), was "nasty number 69" on Nixon's infamous enemies list. But he never imagined — nor wanted — "the fiasco" (his words) that brought season two of *American Hero Story* to an abrupt end. As the famously reclusive writer commences season three (yes, fans, there will be a third season), March granted a rare interview to discuss the brouhaha surrounding *The Minutemen*'s final hour...



J.T. March III on the set of *American Hero Story: Minutemen* (Image blurred at Mr. March's request)

Since this is a soundtrack album, let's quickly talk about the music. You took a very different approach to scoring in season two.

In the first season, I had this idea of appropriating soundtracks from the hero cinema of the late seventies — Richard Donner's *Transcendent Man*, Oliver Stone's *G.I. Joe* films — and applying them to Rorschach, this profoundly complicated man who fancied himself an enlightened dark knight. For Season 2, our composer (*Chicken Fat Slim*) wanted to write original music instead of swiping and sampling while still working within our aesthetic of hyper-pop meta-satire. So the season starts with Bernard Hermann/Henry Mancini-style film noir — but fizzes with industrial crank. Then it evolves into acid jazz abstraction and finally ends up as something wholly unique... the whole idea was to mirror what was going on in Hooded Justice's head.

There's a hidden track at the end of Side A, featuring The Nine Inch Nails and David Lynch on guitar. What can you tell us about that?

Internally, we call the song "Atmospheric Whooshing Number 9" or "Zelda's Theme." The song was a gift from Trent, Atticus and David; they were big fans of the first season and were apparently obsessed with it while they were doing the recent season of *Axon N*.

Who's Zelda?

We originally embraced one of the legends about Hooded Justice — this idea that he had psychic powers capable of clouding people's minds like the fictional pulp hero, The Shadow. So we created a character to interact with the real-life Minutemen... a psychic detective named Zelda Deschaines who was investigating Rolf Muller's murder in '55. The idea was that HI was telepathically linked with Zelda, prodding her to solve Rolf's murder.

What happened to Zelda?

Well, the strike happened. I had just finished episode 6 when the union asked us to stop writing. I had plotted a nine-episode season, so we had a ton of story to cram into that final hour. I had to kill a lot of darlings and throw out some babies with the bathwater, but I was happy with what we shot. The network wasn't. We were at an impasse until my partner Edwina suggested a fix — Cut Zelda out of the entire season. It meant going back into the edit and reimagining the whole story to be more philosophical — I mean, here's Hooded Justice, who literally created this cultural form, "the superhero," that became both popular and toxic. How do you destroy demand for that? How do you erase a legacy? Those are questions we'll be exploring in Season 3, but through a different character altogether.

And which character would that be?

There are some legalities to work out. Let's just say I hope we can make the announcement once the lawyers return from space.

So have we seen the last of Hooded Justice?

Never say never. It would be difficult, now that Cheyenne Jackson is doing the Nixon mini-series for the foreseeable future. I don't know why he wanted to do another non-fiction historical drama and he doesn't even look like Tricky Dick, but I guess the lead's the lead. Personally, I'm itchy to escape the past... It's time to directly engage the hero narratives of today. Who gets to be a hero? Who doesn't? Have we inherited poor models of heroism to discuss themes of justice? Those questions were already on our mind as we finished season two — which is why we used that VED Talk ["Toward Less Obvious Forms of Heroism"] for the post-credit scene of episode six.

Will we ever see the original finale you shot?

No. But we might try to restore the Zelda Edit and put it on these new-fangled DVD things we went on strike over.

Can you tell us what happened in the original finale?

I've read every theory from every Doc Know-It-All out there, and frankly, I'm disappointed no one's figured it out. We know the historical Hooded Justice became obsessed with a conspiracy he could never prove. We know he had beef with The Comedian and we know Hoover had a hard-on for masks. I appropriated all this of this actual history to make an educated guess on what really happened.

How so?

As you saw in the show, Hooded Justice was suffering from identity crisis. Was he a Nazi? A Soviet subversive? A counter-culture radical? In the original finale, HI learns that a secret society led by Hoover and McCarthy was running a black-op involving mind-control. The goal: grooming bogymen to unite Americans against common enemies and distract them from the structural problems of society. HI was their guinea pig... His nose was embedded with a hidden receiver; their messages were encoded in the radio and TV signals of various programs, from the "War of the Worlds" hoax to *Black Freighter* serials. The plan was to build Hooded Justice into this beloved cultural icon, just so they could eventually destroy him on live TV by making him unmask during the HUAC hearings and confess to being an enemy of the state. But HI figures out the truth and he goes on the run... but when he tosses his costume and the messages stop, his mind kind of snaps and he forgets who he is. His real

name and history are forever lost to him; he's free, but now he's lost himself. But he's still gay because, y'know, that's part of him... he just doesn't remember that he was love with Nelson. It's like a Romeo and Juliet thing, but with amnesia instead of suicide.

So who was Rolf Muller?

Another victim of McCarthy's Mind Control. A sweet circus strongman, an immigrant from Germany, easy to frame as a Communist. They programmed him to kill Hooded Justice, but HI kills him instead. The Comedian, he's working for the CIA at this point, films the whole thing to blackmail HI into silence. Wanting justice for Rolf, HI knows he needs a proxy, so he psychically connects to Zelda, hoping to guide her toward the truth. I know, it sounds a little convoluted, but we put a lot of thought into this shit. In the epilogue, we find HI living in San Francisco as Arthur Mann, an underground artist making coded graphic novels about the secret history of The Minutemen.

I loved how you guys made those fake graphic novels to promote the series. Hummmmm. Who says they're fake?

So there's no truth to the rumor that the finale was banned because of an orgy scene that defied every content-warning imaginable?

Oh, yes, there was an orgy. Eight continuous minutes of simulated hardcore sex, shot with Steadicam, on a working blimp, involving two hundred extras, 22 different species of animal and unfold gallons of potato soup. But the network loved it... and had it aired, the audience would have too. It was just a casualty of the strike.

You're an avowed Truther. You believe the government is lying about the Dimensional Incursion Event and you allege your grandfather unwittingly participated in manufacturing the D.I.E. and was murdered to cover it up. Is it true the finale was found to be in violation of the Content Code Act for promoting your beliefs in the form of allegory? My belief that The Squid was a hoax has nothing to do with this. And for the record, I hate "Truther." I am not one of those paranoid nutters who thinks Nixon had The Comedian kill Kennedy. I might be paranoid, but I'm not crazy.

Finally, it is true the finale never aired because Senator Joe Keene of Oklahoma pressured the network to pull it because it portrayed his father, retired Senator J. David Keene, as a member of a real-life secret society known as "Cyclops?"

Jesus, this is why I don't do interviews. Let me be clear, okay? Joe Keene had absolutely nothing to do with the fate of the finale and I never shot a scene involving his father. I could never ever write a bad thing about any Keene because both of those men are the kindest, bravest, warmest, most wonderful human being I've ever known in my life.



From "Hugging Superman" (Warner Bros. Television)

SOUNDTRACK
TO THE ORIGINAL SERIES

AMERICAN HERO STORY ★★★ MINUTEMEN

Side One: We Can Be Heroes

- 01 **Mystery Man**
Hooded Justice theme
- 02 **Plastic Soul**
Captain Metropolis theme
- 03 **Novelty Act**
Nite Owl theme
- 04 **Kid Stuff**
Silhouette theme
- 05 **Razzle Dazzle!**
Silk Spectre theme
- 06 **Surrender Dorothy**
- 07 **Reign of the Superdupermen**

Side Two: Who Am I?

- 01 **Crazy Clown Time**
The Comedian theme
- 02 **The Future is Crisis**
Minutemen theme
- 03 **The Problem With Bank Doors**
Dollar Bill theme
- 04 **Sex Stuff**
- 05 **Nostalgia Trap**
- 06 **Meta Gala**
- 07 **Reboot**
Toward Less Obvious Forms of Heroism



Music from *American Hero Story: Minutemen*
Composed and performed (except where noted) by Chicken Fat Slim
Lyrics and concept taken from *The Golden Age* by Arthur Mann,
Under the Hood by Nellie Messen, *Plastic Soul* by John Telford March, and
"Toward Less Obvious Forms of Heroism" (VED Talk) by Adrian Veidt
Voice by Chryssie Jackson
Additional music by Big Fish (courtesy of Owl Cave Music)
The Nine Inch Nails courtesy of The Nuff Corporation
Mixed by Peter Harvey Wood courtesy of Madman Attack
Recorded by Freddy Warthen at Golden Apple Studios, Los Angeles

Produced by J. T. March III and Chicken Fat Slim

AHS LP02
STEREO



WATCHMEN and all related characters and elements © & ™ DC (s19)



of the so-called "Cavalry Wave" of anti-communist freshman lawmakers.

OKLAHOMA SENATOR SLAMS HOODED JUSTICE FOR DEFYING HUAC

By JUNE ABAR

Special to the Tulsa Star-Sentinel

June 1, 1955 — Senator J. David Keene publicly rebuked the nation's foremost masked vigilante yesterday, blasting the mystery man known as Hooded Justice for refusing to reveal his identity to the House UnAmerican Activities Committee.

"Hooded Justice has made a suspicious and dangerous choice," said the Oklahoma junior congressman, who made his remarks during a white tie fundraising event at the Tulsa home of Sheriff Dale Crawford.

"This is the action of a man with no love of country or loyalty to the flag. After all America has done for Hooded Justice — the privileges and agency we've permitted him and his kind to enjoy, and profit from, for so long — he owes us full disclosure for the sake of total accountability."

Sen. Keene suggested that the position taken by Hooded Justice could prompt the government to reconsider its controversial tolerance for so-called "super-heroes" should others follow his example. "Our committee is aware of at least 27 costumed adventurers with suspected ties to subversive organizations," said the senator, who won election last year as part

of the so-called "Cavalry Wave" of anti-communist freshman lawmakers.

"America needs rescuing from infiltration and unrest. So for someone of Hooded Justice's stature, with his influence, to engage in this kind of civil disobedience sends the wrong message to other masks. We must know where their allegiances lie. We can't let just anyone run around in hoods and capes. If we can't regulate them, we'll have to purge the whole lot of them."

HUAC began ordering masked vigilantes of a certain stripe to testify after *The New Frontiersman* published photos of Mothman fraternizing with a group of screenwriters, novelists and comic book artists allegedly linked to socialist clubs at the 13th World Science Fiction Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Comedian — who campaigned last year for several HUAC members, including Sen. Keene — was the first to answer the summons and has since served as justice of the peace of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's committee, delivering subpoenas to other cloaked crime-fighters. The order requires them to answer questions before the committee and reveal their names and faces, in private, to one of its members or a sitting U.S. senator representing their state of birth. To date, a dozen masked vigilantes have complied, including the former members of The Minutemen, the corporate-sponsored, self-styled "battalion" of costumed adventurers formed in New York in 1939, now defunct.

Hooded Justice surprised many longtime observers of the masked vigilante scene by announcing his decision in the form of an ad published in the *Amsterdam News*, New York's leading black newspaper. "At this time, I am not prepared to share my truth to the world. And I will certainly not bow to the bullying

of this racist Congress. For as long as the structures of law and order are controlled by corrupt elites whose singular, cyclopean focus is to protect and fortify the interests and flourishing of the ruling majority, I will never surrender my mission to help the invisible and the oppressed."

Hooded Justice's former associates were quick to distance themselves from him. "I haven't spoken to HJ since we broke up... the Minutemen," said Captain Metropolis. "I wish he hadn't said what he said to that Harlem newspaper. It's not a good look for him and it certainly hurts the rest of us devoted the cause of crimebusting and safeguarding the America we know and love." The Comedian was more blunt: "Hooded Justice was always a total weirdo if you ask me. It might be better off for everyone if he just, you know, faded away. I don't think he'll like the alternative."

The Comedian's words were ironically echoed, albeit without the veiled threat, by a spokesman for the NYPD's Black Officers Union, which in recent years has spoken out against The Minutemen's prejudicial approaches to vigilante policing. "He's right. Hooded Justice should fade away. They should all fade away," Lt. William Reeves told the *Amsterdam News*. "Look, it's heartening to see someone like Hooded Justice finally voice some kind of sentiment that speaks to the concerns of the black community. But I think all those do-gooders could find other, better, healthier ways to help keep their communities safe. It's time for masked vigilantes to hang up their capes and let the guys with the badges do the job of policing. We're far from perfect ourselves, and we have to get our own house in order. But the public deserves watchmen they can trust. And I don't think anyone can trust someone who wears a mask."

NEWS & NOTES

HAPPENINGS AND DOINGS AROUND THE GREATER TULSA AREA

ITEM!

Valkyrie Traveling Circus will arrive town on July 4 for its annual month-long residency. The popular big top spectacular will set up shop across from Bell's Amusement Park with daily shows at noon, 3 PM, and 8 PM. Headlining attractions include, as always, Wagner's Winged Wonder-Warriors, which this year will bring seven super-star prize artists from the fabled Uberfalke pool in Berlin. New performers include the Enigma, a mystic mentalist; Twyla, a lady lion tamer; and The Superdupes, a clown show parody of popular costumed adventurers. Valkyrie's regional promoters regret to inform the people of Tulsa that fan favorite strongman Rolf Muller will be traveling with the circus this season due to commitments elsewhere. Filling his place will be Rolf's longtime protégé, Hugo, who, in *The Iron Gladiator*, newly returned to America from a successful European tour.

ITEM!

Public hearings will be held at 4 PM and 5 PM on July 30 at the Tulsa offices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to discuss complaints filed at the mortgage division of the National Bank Company. The NAACP's legal counsel, Thurgood Marshall, will be in attendance. Any Oklahoma resident who has been denied an FHA-insured home in the past 20 years at any branch of the National Bank Co. is encouraged to attend and share their stories. Those currently buying property under contract with private individuals or companies and have questions or

ITEM!

Dreamland In The Park has announced the line-up for its annual summer movie series. This year's festival will salute the work of pioneering black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, beginning on June 19 at twilight with *Trust In The Law*, the late director's long-unseen biography of famed Oklahoma lawman Bass Reeves. Other films to be shown over the course of the weekly showcase include *The Homesteader*, *Within Our Gates*, *The Hypocrite*, *Body and Soul*, *When Men Betray*, and *The Wages of Sin*, all silent, and *The Exile*, *Underworld*, *Birthright*, and *The Betrayal*, all talkies. This year, profits from Dreamland In The Park will be directed toward The Black Film Foundation and The Greenwood Memorial Fund.



ITEM!

Baehr Books on Radnor Road will be featuring an appearance by acclaimed author Mary O'Connor (*Wise Blood*) on July 1. She continues her regional tour in support of *A Good Man Is Hard To Find* and *Stories*. She'll be reading a pair of works, "The Life You Save May Be Your Own" and "Late Encounter with the Enemy." She'll be answering questions and signing autographs. "We're honored to be welcoming a talented young author from rural Georgia," said proprietor Jason Baehr. "This debut collection of her short stories combines the best of violence, dark comedy, and divine grace. Her stories are edifying and haunting at the same time. Everyone who shows up to read is in for a real treat."

ITEM!

The United States Atomic Energy Commission will be conducting geological sur-