

POWER

PRODUCTION NOTES

GHOST IS DEAD

"There is no more Ghost. Ghost is Dead."

-James "Ghost" St. Patrick

"Be careful what you wish for" is the theme of Season Three, says Courtney A. Kemp, Creator, Executive Producer and Showrunner of the hit Starz Original Series "Power." "As the story picks back up, the stakes for our characters continue to rise. Each persists in a struggle to bend the world to their will, but with fleeting success. They are confronted with circumstances spun suddenly beyond their control and each is forced to accept that their expectations will not be met by the things - and people - they wanted most." As a result, Kemp says, "this season is brutal, uncompromising, forceful and bloody."

"Every character seems to be at the place they desired, but they have to live with the harsh costs of what it took to get there," Kemp continues. "Tommy has Holly back and is the boss running the drug business by himself, but he is being forced to murder Ghost, his best friend. At the same time, Ghost has gotten rid of all his nefarious attachments, including Kanan - or so he believes - and is starting his new life as a nightclub owner with no drug dealing. Tasha is mourning Shawn and believes that Ghost had a hand in his murder. And Angela is trying to navigate her new life with Jamie while keeping a huge secret, which is that her disgraced colleague Greg Knox is after both of them."

Kemp sums it up this way, "So everybody is mired in secrets and mistrust and all the stuff that makes good TV." Executive Producer Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson also gives credit to the compelling characters, adding, "It's why people are passionate about [the show], they're real people we've developed. They love or they hate the characters and the story, and that's when they start to be really invested."

"This season it's going to get crazy," says Naturi Naughton, who plays Ghost's wife, Tasha St. Patrick. "Everyone's trying to hold on to a little bit of power so that they can survive in this world, but it's a tough world to live in. People are going to fight. People are going to die."

LIFE AFTER GHOST

"Because of you, I'm now exactly the man I always wanted to be."

-James "Ghost" St. Patrick

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"In Season One, we met James 'Ghost' St. Patrick, a man leading a double life in New York City," Kemp says. "A legit life as a successful nightclub owner and a brutal criminal life selling narcotics on a grand scale. In the series, we know that Ghost, Jamie and James St. Patrick are completely separate entities. He is James in the professional, legitimate world; Ghost in the drug world and with his wife and best friend, Tommy; and Jamie, the hopeful adolescent who was Angela's first love. We've always seen Ghost put himself first, with great success. But the choices he's made up to this point force our other characters to claim their independence from him – in ways both subtle and violent."

Omari Hardwick, who brings James "Ghost" St. Patrick to life, says that, "deep down, Ghost has good intentions and is extremely loyal, but he still wants what he wants, and in the end he's loyal to himself just a little bit more than everybody else."

The series is called "Power" because Kemp is fascinated by the common illusion that we have power over our lives when in reality, controlling life is as impossible as controlling the tides of the ocean. It's the stubborn refusal to accept that fact that is destroying Ghost's world. He controlled and manipulated his entire life and surrounded himself with the illusion of power. Now as he has been trying to use his power to go on the straight and narrow, he's found that the tools that got him to top of the drug food chain make it almost impossible to get and keep him down.

In Season Two, Kemp recalls, "Ghost continued to pursue this goal of a new existence, even after he discovered Angela is a federal prosecutor targeting his drug boss, Felipe Lobos. He truly believed that if he played his cards right, he could achieve his objective. Ghost never lets difficulty or morality deter him from his plans, as we saw in the end of Season Two, when he literally shoots his way out of being Ghost."

"In Season Three, he emerges as James St. Patrick, squeaky clean, in a designer suit with his arms around his gorgeous childhood sweetheart, Angela, having convinced her and himself that Ghost is dead for good," Kemp says. "He has everything he wanted, but, as forewarned, 'be careful what you wish for' – somebody knows what it took for him to get there, and it all hangs on one condition: the new perfect life belongs to James St. Patrick. If Ghost reappears, it will all go away."

"My character tells Angela there is no more Ghost and he is Jamie from here on out. Act like it never happened, like it's just a story in a book," says Hardwick. "You and I can run off now and be everything that we ever dreamed of being. James might have a shot at walking away and becoming legit, but he doesn't have a shot at walking away with no repercussions from Ghost's actions."

"Season Three is the fallout season," he continues. "It's the fallout of all of these people surrounding this one man's journey, and the actions they've all taken. It's them trying to pick up the pieces and at the same time saying, 'Don't think that you're going to do what you did to me and get away with it.'"

The central question this season, according to Kemp, is, "How long can James stay a good guy? When threats and dangerous things happen, who will show up to protect and take care of things,

James or the Ghost persona? Who would you want to show up and have your back in a bad situation?"

ANGELA GETS HER MAN, BUT LOSES HERSELF

"If I accept what you are and I love you anyway, what does that make me?"

-Angela Valdes

"In Season Two, Angela Valdes continues her affair with Jamie, the man she suspects is Ghost, the target of her task force's investigation," Kemp says. "She compromises herself morally, emotionally, and professionally to confirm Jamie's real identity and to take down Lobos. The consequences of her immoral and illegal behavior nearly destroy her career, but she survives by launching a fierce counter-attack against her enemies. Angela's self-destructive and obsessive relationship with Jamie ultimately leads to the corruption of her core identity, but she doesn't care. Amid the wreckage, Angela and Jamie are left standing and despite knowing that he is Ghost, she chose love over reality."

Their unrelenting attraction is partially due to the alluring hold of "young love," explains Lela Loren, who portrays Angela Valdes. "Jamie St. Patrick is Angela's first love. They grew up together in Queens and when you're children and experience love purely for the first time, it opens you up in a way that you've never encountered. So when Angela left him for boarding school, it cut off that piece of her and she's been fed only by ambition, discipline, and success. But those things don't actually completely satisfy her, so when Jamie comes back into her life and reignites that hunger in her, she can't resist and now she can't give up on him. They can't give up on each other."

"At the end of Season Two, Ghost violently attempts to extricate himself from the drug life, including taking on Lobos, who doesn't end up dying and Kanan, whose body disappears," Loren explains. "When she learns about the carnage from her colleagues, Angela thinks Jamie is possibly dead and in that moment, she realizes that she doesn't actually care about all of those other things anymore - the murders, her case falling apart - all she wants is Jamie alive because she loves him. She's in a defenseless, weak state when he promises her that Ghost is dead, and she agrees to continue if he keeps that promise. She believes him."

"This season, Angela will compromise everything to have Jamie," Kemp says. "She has invested too much to let the relationship go. If there is a chance for them to find happiness, she will do all she can to keep them together, especially now that Ghost is gone. But she's setting out on a new trajectory, professionally and emotionally, trying to reclaim her core identity with a vengeance."

TOMMY'S THE BOSS

"This is my business. It's the only thing I was ever good at."

-Tommy Egan

"They've been like brothers since childhood, but we end Season Two with Tommy and Ghost going their separate ways," Kemp says. "Tommy wants to stay in the criminal world and keep distributing for Lobos, but the Mexican drug cartel leader has one condition - Tommy has to kill Ghost. Reunited with Holly and angry and hurt by Ghost's betrayal, Tommy agrees to the murderous task."

Now that he's the boss of his own drug network, with a gorgeous redhead (and dog) by his side, what more does Tommy need? He too will learn to 'be careful what you wish for,' resulting in the most dangerous Tommy we have ever seen."

"The center of 'Power' has always been Ghost and Tommy," says Joseph Sikora, who plays brutal bad boy Tommy Egan. "They're brothers. It's about their fight for power and what they do with the power that they have. It's their journey through life together and also their journey through life apart, as we've seen through two seasons. It's about the stretching of their relationship and how much that band can get pulled without snapping, and then at the end of Season Two, it snaps. So now, what happens?"

Or as Hardwick puts it, "We're all trying to pick up the pieces after the fallout from last season, so how do you put Humpty Dumpty back together again? And for the bromance of the show, how do you put Ghost and Tommy back together again?"

"We know that Tommy's a hustler and a thug, but with each episode we've learned that he's more than that," Sikora says. "He's a brother, a son, and his relationship with Holly brings out a whole other emotional side of him. You'll see a lot more of that this season. They're both survivors. They see that drive in each other and that animal instinct of survival is also that really raw sexual instinct between them and what also makes their fights so angry, impassioned and crazy intense."

"Tommy's also a businessman and his rank and position in Season Three is elevated to the drug CEO of the pipeline into New York City," Sikora explains. "Tommy now has to deal with all the work and frustrations of running a corporation and Tommy does it Tommy's way and gets stuff done. He is capable of incredible good and incredible bad. If you're against Tommy, bad things will happen to you. Tommy has very laser-like focus and goes from A to B. There is no in between. Things are very black and white with Tommy and there are rules that have to be followed. So if you break a rule, Tommy plays the street referee and you get fouled, and by fouled, I mean you get killed."

TASHA ON HER OWN

"Ghost may be a lying, cheating sometime motherfucker, but he's the father of my kids and I need to protect him. Even from himself."

-Tasha St. Patrick

"When we first meet Tasha in Season One, she is the insecure wife and deposed consigliere of her drug-dealer-turned-club-owner husband, James 'Ghost' St. Patrick," Kemp says. "Her insecurities are given credence upon discovering her husband's affair with Angela, a woman different from her in every way. Tasha learns the hard way that she can't depend on Ghost to fulfill her needs, so she replaces him with Shawn. Season Two ends with Tasha heartbroken and infuriated by Ghost, because she thinks he killed Shawn, and scared, because as far as she knows, she's next. She can do the math: Ghost has a new woman, Angela, to help raise the kids. Tasha's death would make it easier to form his new family. Tasha begins Season Three feeling like she doesn't know Ghost anymore and that he could now be her enemy. She also realizes she is alone."

Naturi Naughton plays Ghost's wife and the mother of his three children. She says that this season, "everything changes and everything that Tasha and the others thought they could stand safely on

is shaky. They don't know who they can trust and they are forced to stand up for themselves. Everyone becomes an island and you'll see different sides of each character."

Tasha's journey in season three is "challenging," says Naughton, but, "she becomes her own woman and starts to recognize her own power. Ghost was such a huge part of her life and this is the first time that she can actually imagine it without him, which is kind of scary, but interesting and fun to watch."

Tasha is still reeling from Shawn's murder. "Shawn's death makes her angry, hurt and she feels guilty. She feels like she was supposed to protect him in some way," says Naughton. "At first, she's really mad because she believes Ghost did it and maybe she put him in that position by sleeping with Shawn. That maybe Ghost found out and in a jealous rage, killed him." But Naughton says Shawn's death is also a wake-up call. "Tasha was very selfish and cavalier with Shawn and she never thought that it would lead to his death. This realization forces Tasha to deal with herself and start looking at her own behavior and being accountable: You did this and now this young, innocent boy is dead."

Naughton thinks Tasha's growth will be fun to watch, "because you're going to see Tasha go through this moment of 'okay, you played me, I can play you back, and I can take care of myself and family while doing it.' She's a big girl now. She's a woman. Look out."

NEW YORK CITY AS A CHARACTER

"Power" is a story that could not be told in just any city and for that reason the entire production was again based in New York City. The majority of the show is filmed in locations throughout the five boroughs at iconic New York locations including Grand Army Plaza in Central Park, Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, Union Square and all the way out to Staten Island. In fact, this season featured the most on-location shots throughout New York and its boroughs more than any other season. Interior scenes were shot at the show's homebase on the dedicated soundstages in Brooklyn's Steiner Studios.

His New York City experience is central to James "Ghost" St. Patrick's storyline: He begins his life in poverty and earns his way to wealth - he completely transforms his world without ever really leaving his childhood behind. His roots are in Queens, his dreams are across the bridge and a universe away in Manhattan.

Whether filming in SoHo's chic James Hotel or abandoned warehouse complexes and weather-worn piers in the far reaches of Red Hook, Brooklyn, capturing the textures and mixtures of life throughout the city adds to the richness of each character and the believability of the storylines.

"The city itself is a character," says Jackson. "New York has so many diverse ethnicities and people involved in different things and we want to represent the city properly. It's important to differentiate a person being a Puerto Rican from a person being Dominican, how they would say things, their accents, expressions, and their energy would be different. This is best done by shooting in the actual hoods and capturing the feel there. It honors the story and makes it real."

Kemp confirms, "You can't fake New York. People know. The reality, the grittiness, the smell and look - you can't do it anywhere else."

"In one scene we're shooting in a gorgeous hotel and then next we're shooting in a back alley," says Jackson. "That's the world we live in on 'Power' and that is New York. It's special and important to the story that we're able to capture New York City's multifaceted sides, just like depicting all the characters' complexities on the show."

New York's power is felt on and off the screen, Naughton explains, "There's a visceral effect here that makes you want to go after your dreams. New York City makes you feel like, 'Okay, I can do this. I'm bad-ass and I can do this here.' It's a cliché, but so true. 'If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere.'"

MUSIC DRIVES POWER

Music drives the series narrative and returning viewers will certainly begin the new season with Gil Scott Heron's thundering rendition of "Me and the Devil" in the final scene of Season Two still vivid in their minds. The blues classic's heartfelt grit was the perfect compliment to the aftermath of Ghost's schemes to get out of the game.

Founding member of the platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated band Tonic, composer Jeff Russo has returned for a third season to create another provocative score. Returning musical supervisor, Jennifer Ross, delivers soundtrack choices that enhance the storytelling, while compelling viewers to pull out their phones to search for the name of the song and artist.

Courtney A. Kemp says, "The music of 'Power' this season runs the gamut from dance, electronic, UK R&B artists, and of course, hip-hop - as always, G-Unit represents."

Fans have come to expect the series' uniquely powerful playlist, which mixes the classics with the new, and Ross' selections will pleasantly surprise even the most ardent music junkie with new cutting-edge tunes mixed in with oldies meticulously matched to scenes that make them seem brand new again. The sound this season will definitely not disappoint. The Season Three premiere kicks off with music by Major Lazer feat. MO & DJ Snake and the season will continue to roll out with a diverse mix of music including artists: Tinashe, Childish Gambino, Skrilla Jones, Lolawolf, Craig Craig, Luna Aura and Go-Go classic "We Need Some Money" by Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers, to name a few.

And of course, the songs pumping throughout Truth and the other nightclubs in the St. Patrick growing club kingdom will be current and on rotation in the hottest New York City clubs today. And "Power" wouldn't be complete without songs from Executive Producer and Grammy-award winning artist, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson including "Body Bag," "Burner on Me," and "I'm The Man," along with G-Unit artist and actor, Rotimi, with his single, "What They Want."

THE POWER OF FASHION

Another driving force throughout the production is the look. Kemp says, "The idea that perception is reality and how we dress is one of the ways that we as humans signify: *this is how I want to be*

treated. Or, this is how you have to respect me. And you see that throughout the series. Ghost and Tasha wear beautiful expensive clothes because that's how they want to be perceived. The gang members wear colors they represent because that's how they want to be perceived."

Costume Designer Frank L. Fleming returns for his third season to create this multilayered urban fashion landscape with a mix of designer, gritty street-wear, club and office clothes, depending on each character's perception of power.

Fleming says, "Angela's Season Three fashion direction took inspiration from a more intimate relationship with James St. Patrick. The goal was to suggest a more shared lifestyle between the couple. Angela's broader awareness of James' lifestyle becomes more visible in a stronger use of color and monochromatic themes often referenced in James' nightclub owner wardrobe."

"Dre's wardrobe in this new season is very much a reflection of a young man seeking an aspirational lifestyle from a man he hopes to connect and learn from," Fleming says. "Ghost is very adamant about the tone and face of Truth and is very visible in sharing that direction with Dre throughout the season. So the closet built for Dre is a more elevated suit game than the street persona established in Season Two."

As the owner of New York's hottest club, James "Ghost" St. Patrick and his label-loving wife, Tasha, have mingled with the city's chicest players. The couple's closets are filled with lavish pieces from Tom Ford, Dolce & Gabbana, Rick Owens, Celine, Giuseppe Zanotti, Gianvito Rossi, Devon Scott, Musika Frere, Jacob & Co. and Jennifer Fisher among other top designers.

Naughton says of her character, "Tasha is a gangster. She's the type of woman who can have the glock in her bag, but also loves to dress up in Alexander McQueen, Agent Provocateur and Louis Vuitton. She's dynamic and multifaceted, a mother who has to go to the school and deal with the things in that element, and also know how to facilitate the drug game, help hide the money, hide evidence and deal with taxes and papers."

"Tasha from head to toe has to be fabulous and I feel beautiful in all these magnificent clothes," Naughton says. "Dressing up and then shooting in an actual New York City club gives me a vibe that helps Tasha come to life. Something just hits you and makes you feel like, 'Okay, I feel good, I look good.' It all helps me to get in character and bring out the strong, fun and sultry side of who Tasha is. I couldn't see her dressing any other way."

There is a slight downside to this amazing style, Naughton admits. "My feet hurt because I'm in six inch heels in almost in every scene, and I have to return these fab clothes after we're done shooting. I wish I could take the clothes home with me."