

BIRDLAND

There's no place like home.

BIRDLAND
a series for television

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THE SHOW

It's an upstairs-downstairs dramedy set at a major league baseball stadium.

But it's not about baseball. It's about the people behind the scenes of the stadium, the people who help make the magic happen, both on and off the field.

It's about figuring out who you are and finding love and discovering that "home" means something different for everyone.

This a working-class city with high-class aspirations. It's about black and white and straight and gay and everything in between.

This is Baltimore. This is America.

This. Is Birdland.

THE SEASON

When the Baltimore Birds owner suddenly dies and leaves the team to his only child, Georgia, the team and franchise are shaken to the core and their quest for a World Series title or even a playoff spot is constantly in doubt. Complicating matters for Georgia: a recent break-up with the Birds' star first baseman, Jimmy Jones, and the return of her former high school flame, Tommy Kane, who quit his job teaching English at an all-boys prep school to take a job as a beer vendor at the Birds Stadium. It's supposedly to help spark Tommy's creative juices so he can finally finish his novel, but he's secretly hoping to rekindle things with Georgia, "the one that got away."

Season One begins on opening day and ends during the final game of the year.

Along the way, we'll meet a cast of characters that include ushers, beer vendors, parking attendants, souvenir salespeople, and concession workers, all struggling to carve out a corner of happiness for themselves with what they know is a part-time job that ends once the baseball season is over.

As the Birds chase a world championship, we follow the up and downs, trials and tribulations of not only the team, but the city of Baltimore and the people working

in and around the stadium where dreams are born and crushed faster than you can say “strike three!”

MAIN CHARACTERS

While this is a true ensemble show with dozens of characters in several different “worlds” within the stadium hierarchy, the core of the series is the love triangle between Georgia, Tommy and J.J.

GEORGIA “GEORGE” KOSCINSKI – 32, White female. Former Executive VP of the Baltimore Birds where she managed the day-to-day business operations overseeing marketing & advertising, branding & promotion, major corporate sponsorship sales & ticket sales, governmental & public affairs, media & public relations, ballpark facility design & management, event operations, concessions rights negotiation and self-operation. But she quit after last season when the job became too stressful. She began to resent baseball and wanted to get out before it was too late. But fate has other plans for her.

THOMAS “TOMMY” KANE – 31, Mixed race male (white dad, black mom). He has been teaching creative writing and English at a northeast prep school, but his heart was never in it (he wants to be a full-time writer). His girlfriend dumped him because he wasn’t advancing fast enough. He recently quit teaching and moved back to Baltimore after his mother died (breast cancer) to be near his Irish Catholic dad (“Charlie”) who works concessions at the stadium. Tommy asks his Dad for a job at the stadium: he needs to get out, have real-life experiences. Tommy now sells beer running up and down the stands – and he loves it! He secretly took the job hoping to run into his high school sweetheart, Georgia. Which he does. Literally bumping into her and spilling beer all over her. The old chemistry is still there. But the tricky thing is Tommy and J.J. strangely become friends as well.

JIMMY “J.J.” JONES - 29, white male, a bit country. The All-Star first baseman for the Birds. Began a relationship with Georgia 2 years ago but as his star rose on the field, and the attention he got from female fans rose as well, his eye wandered more and more and Georgia broke things off after she confirmed he was cheating on her. J.J. isn’t so much “in love” with Georgia as he hates to lose. And he’s very competitive. When he spots Tommy in the tunnels chatting with Georgia, he sees a way back in with her... through Tommy.

OTHER CHARACTERS AND PLACES

BEER HERE: *The back room where all the beer is tracked for the vendors.*

CHARLIE KANE – 58, white. Tommy's Irish Catholic dad. Lonely after his wife died a few years ago. Charlie distributes the beer. Some other vendors accuse him of playing favorites with Tommy... giving him better sections, not charging him for spilled beer. (There are a lot of politics in beer vending.)

RICK - 30, white. A hotshot vendor who thinks he's the best and isn't happy about Tommy getting the good intel about the best sections, or even Charlie letting Tommy sell beer (not peanuts or soda first). Rick's other passion is being a drummer in a local band that's pretty decent. Tommy encourages Rick to give the band a go instead of beer vending.

CRABLAND: *The signature concession stand where they serve Maryland-style crab cakes. Older vendors (25 - 40) work here because they have to sell beer, too. Most of the Crabland employees are black.*

TREY – 26, black male. Fun-loving, proudly gay and flamboyant.

CHRIS – 28, black male. Closeted, straight-laced Christian with a serious girlfriend. Trey is the one who trains Chris. A friendship forms and eventually blossoms into a sexual relationship.

MARQUIS – 28, black. A real ladies man. Homophobic. Hates Trey.

RANDY - 33, white, doughy. The manager of Crabland.

BIRDLAND SOUVENIRS: *A t-shirt, ball, mug, and bobble-head stand. The younger vendors work here, (15 - 24), plus a few older ones who don't like the hustle of the restaurants even though the tips and money are better there.*

SHANTE & ALEXIS (42 & 18) A black mother-daughter team that works at one of the Souvenir stands. Shante is helping her daughter Alexis raise her baby girl so Alexis can finish high school. Alexis has eyes for a young white boy (GAVIN) also working at the souvenir stand. Shante is not happy about her daughter seemingly making the same mistake again.

GAVIN - 18, white male, high school senior at prep school, doing this job as a lark over the summer. Will likely quit early (in August) if he gets into his waitlist school (Princeton), but will go to Georgetown and commute if it comes to that. When he meets Alexis, however, college suddenly seems unimportant.

OUTSIDE THE STADIUM

MARTHA (53, white) A homeless super fan. Lives in her van and survives off discarded hot dogs and popcorn and by selling bottled water during the season for extra cash. She's never been inside the stadium. Her husband died in a car accident driving to pick her up at the airport when he was supposed to be at a Bird's game. But Martha yelled at him and insisted he pick her up because she didn't want to pay for a cab. After the accident, she snapped and went off the grid (10 years ago). In her previous life she was a waitress with working-class roots.

DARNELL & PETE (both 16, one black; one white) A couple of hustling kids who make their living selling parking spots (that are technically free) to unknowing fans and tourists for \$20 a spot. (\$40 during the playoffs) It's a sort of hidden lot that's actually very close to the stadium through an alley. They have access to 20 spots... 30 if they double park. They can clear \$48,000 a summer, plus another \$10K if the Birds go to the Series!) But a run-in with the police will leave them scrambling for the rest of the season.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: *The upstairs management offices at the stadium.*

GEORGE KOSCINSKI (everyone called him "**Mr. K.**") - 71, white male, old European look, bit of a paunch belly. Owner of the Baltimore Birds. He dies in the first episode, but we see him in flashbacks and in Georgia's visions as she imagines conversations with her father. He wanted boys, but only had one child, a girl. So he raised Georgia like a son.

KAI – 32, Asian-American female. Attractive executive assistant to Mr. K., and later to Georgia. She had been Georgia's friend and confidante for many years and continues in that role even after Georgia becomes the owner.

JESSIE – 28, Latina female. Sexy. Works in the ticket sales department.

ADAM – 32, White male, Jewish. A low-level management type trying to work his way into upper management. This "secret" couple (Jessie & Adam) are always trying to manipulate their way into higher positions within the Birds' organization.

DUGOUT: *The players, coaches and trainers*

BUCK – 58, white male. The Birds' manager. Salt of the Earth. One of the best managers in baseball though his salary doesn't show it. His wife is always trying to get Buck to quit baseball and retire.

VICTOR SAVAGE – 26, Dominican male. A gentle beast of a catcher.

THE EPISODES

“OPENING DAY”

Outside the stadium, as fans trickle in for opening day, Homeless Martha sells bottled water and belts her off-key version of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” Upstairs, Georgia has been filling in for her dad while he recovers from recent surgery. But while Mr. K. was always a hands-off kind of owner, Georgia can’t help but be more hands-on. While she’s overseeing the JumbroTron operators as a fan proposes to his girlfriend in the stands, J.J. storms in upset that Georgia’s texted him that she’s breaking up with him... again! Meanwhile downstairs, Tommy learns the ropes from his dad about being a beer vendor. On his second trip, though, he crashes into Georgia spilling beer all over her. Later, they reconnect when Tommy discovers a lost boy in his section. Georgia and Tommy (along with some ushers and a cop) reunite the boy with his drunk and negligent dad. When Georgia returns to her office, her father is there. He tells her he always liked Tommy, but more importantly she shouldn’t be afraid to run the team by herself, the way she wants to. As Georgia’s about to protest, her assistant pops in to say her mother is on the phone. Georgia turns around to see her father is gone. As J.J. hits a walk-off home run, and Georgia discovers her father just passed away, Martha sits under the overpass, alone, quietly singing... *“For it’s one, two, three strikes you’re out and the old. Ball. Game.”*

“MR. K.”

The entire team and dozens of baseball luminaries turn out for Mr. K.’s funeral. Tommy is about to take a seat in the back but Georgia spots him and asks that he sit up front by her. “Daddy always liked you,” she whispers. J.J. sees this and is hurt. Many in the Birds organization are stunned to learn that Georgia is now the team owner and fear for the future of the ball club in such inexperienced hands. J.J. finds Georgia after the reception at her mother’s house and expresses his condolences. In a moment of weakness, Georgia kisses him and they sleep together.

“MAY”

Tommy and Georgia slowly rekindle their friendship as he encourages her to run the team how she sees fit—not the way her father would. J.J. thinks the post-funeral sex means he and Georgia are back together but she insists it was a momentary lapse of reason. Gavin and Alexis have begun dating, but she lies about the baby – tells him it’s her much younger sister (“Mom’s accident!”) Trey and Chris become friends and spend most of their breaks together, while Marquis keeps a watchful eye on them. During pre-game autographs, a fan hands J.J. a candy bar wrapper from the ground to sign. Tommy is there and they sort of laugh about it after, forging the beginning of a friendship between two of Georgia’s exes (the ballplayer and the beer vendor).

“JUNE”

Jessie & Adam have been trying to undermine Georgia since she took over the team in an attempt to make the Birds finish lower in the standings and take a job with their A.L. East rivals; they've secretly told other teams that J.J.'s contract is on the block to be bought out -- setting up Georgia to look bad no matter how things shake out. A fan negotiates with a vendor to sell him a hot dog and burger in a plastic helmet because his son will only eat food out of a helmet, but all they normally serve in helmets is ice cream or nachos. J.J. invites Tommy out for a beer after a game.

“WEST COAST SWING”

During a long stretch of away games, we see what our stadium employees do on their off-days. Meanwhile, out in California, J.J. is caught cheating when Georgia shows up to talk to the other team about a possible trade before the deadline. Chris finds Trey at his other job (as a coffee barista) and they end up having sex in the store's bathroom.

“JULY”

Georgia gives Martha her “owner's seats” by the Birds dugout for a game. Martha walks in with awe and wonder having never been inside the stadium before. She buys a beer from Charlie and they immediately begin a flirtation. We see flashbacks to Martha's previous life. Trey & Chris continue having sex on the D.L. but Chris is still not out of the closet.

“ALL-STAR BREAK”

J.J. and Victor are selected to be part of the American League All Star Team. He invites Georgia to come as his guest to Houston so they can “talk things over” about their on-and-off relationship. Tommy advises her not to go, he thinks Jimmy is bad news, but she goes anyway. When she comes back, she literally leaps back into Tommy's arms.

“AUGUST”

Georgia and Tommy are dating and it's going wonderfully. A group of mentally challenged kids from a local school come to a game during a massive heat wave. Martha and Charlie's flirtation has blossomed into a relationship. Alexis and Gavin begin a sexual relationship; when Shante finds out, she tells Gavin that Alexis is a young mother.

“SEPTEMBER”

Gavin confronts Alexis about the baby. When she admits it, he says he’s not sure he can continue dating her. Darnell and Pete are approached by a cop about their “car parking” business. They run off. The cop chooses to chase Darnell (the black one). Darnell is caught, roughed up a little by the cop, and about to be cuffed, when Pete appears out of nowhere and sucker-punches the cop, allowing both boys to run off. The next day, their parking lot has chains around it and two officers guarding it.

“THE RIOT”

Word spreads on social media about “the white boy who punched a cop and got away with it while the cop was beating and arresting his black friend.” Peaceful protests around the stadium turn violent and the city of Baltimore goes on lockdown. Under advice from the Mayor, the Birds play their next home game in front of an empty stadium. Georgia is not happy. Her stadium employees count on those 81 home games for their income. The next day, she disobeys the mayor’s order and opens the stadium to the fans. The Birds go on to win a crucial home stand and make it to the playoffs securing the final Wild Card spot.

“A.L.C.S.”

Charlie finds out that Martha is homeless. He’s not sure he can deal with that baggage. When Marquis accuses Chris of being gay, Chris denies it, choosing to remain closeted and break things off with Trey. Trey is pissed at Marquis and says something to him when they are alone after the game (which the Birds won, they’re going to the World Series!). While the revelry continues on the field and around the stadium, Marquis attacks Trey and is about to rape him, but Chris opens a back door, unknowingly breaking things up. Chris gets the wrong idea and thinks Trey is having sex with Marquis to get back at him. He leaves them alone, and Marquis finishes the deed.

“GAME 7”

The final game of the World Series is at home, in Baltimore. The city needs this win to heal. Martha tells Charlie about her husband dying and why she is the way she is. Mirroring the first episode, a fan proposes to his girlfriend in the stands, only this time it’s before the bottom of the 9th inning. Georgia happens to be in the booth at that moment and the doors burst open like before. Only this time... it’s Tommy. He’s there to propose. Georgia’s floored and doesn’t know what to say. Then a *crack* of the bat! J.J. has led off the bottom of the 9th with a solo shot to tie the game! We cliff-hang on Georgia not answering Tommy and on the Birds possibly going into extra innings with the World Series on the line.

FUTURE SEASONS

“SEASON 2”

The Birds begin their next season as World Series champs! Georgia said no to Tommy. He spent the off-season back at his teaching job and trying to write. She spent the off-season buried in work, trying to maintain her championship team. Despite knowing better, Tommy returns to his beer vendor job for the summer. He and Georgia do an awkward dance all season trying to maintain their friendship but both feeling wounded. J.J. continues his rise in popularity on and off the field. He begins a high-profile relationship with a young pop star, making headlines and attracting paparazzi. Martha and Charlie continue their relationship, slowly. Chris confronts Trey about what he saw. Trey breaks down and confesses that he was raped. Chris threatens to expose Marquis if he doesn't quit his job at the stadium. Darnell and Pete have found a new secret parking lot and are raking in the cash. Gavin and Alexis fumble into a relationship while he struggles with being a “stand-in father-figure.”

“SEASON 3”

J.J. cashed in on his career year and got snatched up by New York. The team gutted, and plagued by injuries, the Birds slide into last place. The final few months see fewer and fewer fans and Georgia must begin letting people go. Tommy makes her decision slightly easier by quitting. Martha's bi-polar disorder causes a rift in her relationship with Charlie. Darnell and Pete get mugged, losing half their earnings. Shante won't allow Alexis to date Gavin anymore. Trey tries to get Chris to be open about his sexuality, but Chris gets back together with his ex-girlfriend instead.

“SEASON 4”

Charlie explains to Martha that she's worth struggling through the bad days for. Gavin tells off Shante and declares his love for her daughter, proudly broadcasting to anyone who asks that the baby is not his, but he is the baby's father. Chris comes out of the closet and openly dates Trey. Darnell and Pete have saved enough money to afford college. Georgia sells the team and marries Tommy at the stadium.

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