



DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
BROOKLYN N.Y.

September 21, 1951

Dear Sir:

I thought you might like a copy of the "Bible
Package" presentation for
"The Brownsville Boys" TV Series.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dewey Esq.
11 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y.

County Court

COUNTY OF KINGS

IN THE MATTER

of

The Investigation of a TV Series surrounding the lives of
Abe Reles, Harry Strauss, and Marty Goldstein during
the decade prior to their deaths. (1931-1941)

To:

THE HONORABLE READER

From:

ANTHONY GURINO
Creator, Producer

DON CAPRIA
Writer, Creator, Producer

Dated: December 21, 1951

Introduction

Honorable Sir:

In 1931 New York City saw the most significant change of power in gangland history. The Italian war between Sal Maranzano and Joe Masseria would decide the leadership of the "Mafia" once and for all. At that same time, in a small Jewish ghetto in Brooklyn known as Brownsville, a gang of young men decided to revolt against their current administration and kill everyone that got in their way. Known as the Brownsville Boys, led by Abe "Kid Twist" Reles, they defeated the Shapiro brothers that year for control. The decade that followed was the bloodiest in crime history, and we learned that the core group responsible for the majority of the carnage was Reles and his gang. They became the engine of the infamous killing machine known as "Murder Inc."



County Court

IN THE MATTER

of

THE

BROWNSVILLE BOYS

A TV SERIES BIBLE PACKAGE

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

1. Background
2. Summary
3. Setting / Franchise
4. Character Introductions
5. Character summaries
6. Episodes
7. Seasons

1.

It is not a healthy condition for the world to go around guessing who was who in 1930's New York crime culture. It has been almost half a century since Abe Reles and the Murder Inc. crew were in the media. These characters are practically unknown to generations of people fascinated with binging TV shows and obsessed with crime-related shows.

The Brownsville Boys and the Murder Inc. stories have intoxicated Anthony Gurino since he was a kid. The cultural obsession with the Mafia and gangland history is nothing new for a teen growing up in New York City. But Anthony held a deeper connection to this particular gang. He grew up in the Howard Beach sections of queens, only minutes away from the infamous Gambino crime family leader, John Gotti. But, Anthony's family originally came to the U.S. and settled in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, which after 1931 became the capital of crime in New York City. Legends Bugsy Siegel, Mickey Cohen, Meyer Shapiro, and the Murder Inc. gang all came from Brownsville. And Anthony learned as a kid one of the infamous gun-men from the 1930's Murder Inc. hit squad was his great Uncle; Vito "Socko" Gurino.

Anthony knew he wanted to tell a story of this gang's interior; dig deeper than the headline names of Albert Anastasia, Louis Buchalter, and Lucky Luciano and get into the core of its daily existence. He wanted to research and showcase those gang members that drove the Murder Inc. machine responsible for close to 1,000 slayings. Anthony connected with Don Capria, a true-crime author, and screenwriter he has collaborated with over the years. Don is addicted to mob history and had been building notes on the Midnight Rose crew for years. The two began their research and creating the cosmos that would fit into the world of modern-day streaming.

The Brownsville Boys is a gangster crime series set in New York City, in 1931, at the dawn of the great depression. Our story zooms in on a group of young gangsters, led by Abe "Kid Twist" Reles, a jaded street thug who hopes to overthrow Brownsville's current gang lords, the Shapiro brothers, led by Meyer Shapiro, a ruthless gang lord. The bloody street war begins, and Reles and his two closest cohorts, Harry "Pep" Strauss and Martin "Bugsy" Goldstein, try unsuccessfully to kill one of the Shapiro's, and after many failed attempts fears this is a battle they might not win. The loss will cost Reles everything; respect from his peers, community, lover, and ultimately his life.

Reles seeks aid from a local gangster ten years his senior, Louis Capone. Capone unites him with a gang of equal strength in an adjacent neighborhood; the Ocean Hill Hooligans lead by Harry "Happy" Maione. The two crews join forces, and before the end of the summer of 1931, the Shapiro brothers are dead. After they win the war, Reles plans to carve out a mini-empire in Brownsville, but the hierarchy of organized crime in New York City has more extensive plans for him and his crew. They are given murder contracts through Louis Capone that change their lives, and in turn, they create a powerhouse for the national crime syndicate.

Reles and his combination of killers are doing contract work for some of the country's most powerful men. Not politicians or Bankers or Railroad tycoons; these men were gangsters. Their names would become synonymous in years to come with crime, and their legend would surpass many politicians and actors in folklore and popularity. The orders came down from Lucky Luciano, Meyer Lansky, Bugsy Siegel, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, and Albert Anastasia. Later, after the body count was well into the hundreds, the media would dub this group of contract killers, "Murder Inc."

3.

It's 1931, on the streets of Brownsville, New York, for the first summer of The Great Depression. The main thoroughfare is Sutter Avenue, and it is filled with Jewish-Americans and Immigrants trying to make a decent living during this dark time while amid a crime wave. The Brownsville Boys live in this world daily and experience the privileged life found in Upstate New York at fancy resorts and country clubs. Because their work is not affected by the depression, they also mingle with the upper class and entertainers at the many booming Manhattan nightclubs and lounges.

Prohibition has ended, and drinking is a legal sport again.

Back in Manhattan and Brooklyn, labor forces try to strengthen their stance against capitalist business owners who are in bed with greedy politicians and corrupt law enforcement. For a decade, we learn the working class's inner workings and witness the city's spirit through the eyes of our gangsters, who kill not only for money but to force a change in the way big business operates.

The decade of drama fought and seen by the Brownsville Boys will place them into some high-stakes situations and up against some of the country's most vital organizations. But the core of their conflicts will begin at home, in Brooklyn, where see the jobless men and the struggling immigrants, wondering why these people do not fight back against poverty and commit crimes. And while they look at the impoverished, these men look back at the gangsters and wonder how they could sleep at night after coming home from all the murder and mayhem.

THE INVESTIGATION INTO THESE CHARACTERS WILL PROVE THEY ARE GUILTY OF
CARRYING OVER STORYLINES FROM SEASON TO SEASON.

INDICTMENT 1.

(MAIN CHARACTERS)

ABE "KID TWIST" RELES - The instigator with dreams of grandeur.

HARRY "PEP" STRAUSS - The collector of murder contracts and lovers.

HARRY "HAPPY" MAIONE - The harborer of petty resentments.

VITO "SOCKO" GURINO - The playful disrupter.

GERTRUDE "TRUDY" GURINO - The dame with the brains.

ROSE "MIDNIGHT ROSIE" GOLD - The mother of outlaws.

EVELYN "EVIE" MITTELMAN - The kiss of death.

KITTY "KIT" KIRSCH - The innocent flower.

FRANK "DASHER" ABANDANDO - The promising jock who missed the boat.

MARTIN "BUGGSY" GOLDSTEIN - The lunatic with no leash.

INDICTMENT
1 (a) season 1 (1931-1932)

MEYER SHAPIRO - The archenemy and leader of the Shapiro gang.

IRVING SHAPIRO - The ruthless enforcer for the Shapiro gang.

LOUIS CAPONE - The mentor and guardian of the Brownsville Boys.

JOEY SILVERS - The double agent.

JOHNNY McDONOUGH - The Brownsville beat cop.

CHARLIE BATTS - The unlucky gasman.

ALLIE TENNANBAUM - The young man with a promising future.

IRVING "GANGI" COHEN - The conflicted gangster.

ALEX "RED" ALPERT - The man at the wrong place and the wrong time.

JACK "LEGS" DIAMOND - Hard to Kill.

INDICTMENT
2 (a) Season 2 (1933-1934)

JOE AMBERG - The enemy of the elite, leader of the Amberg gang.

LOUIS "PRETTY" AMBERG - The disrupter.

LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER - The mastermind behind the syndicate.

JACOB SCHAPIRO - The labor racketeer.

ALBERT ANASTASIA- The mad hatter.

VIVIAN GORDON - The woman scorn.

AURORA AMOROSO - The wrangled maiden.

ARTHUR "WEEGEE" FELLIG - The paparazzo.

FRANK GRAY - The incorruptible lawman.

CHARLES GORDON - The corrupted lawman.

INDICTMENT
3 (a) Season 3 (1935-1936)

FIORELLO LAGUARDIA - The incessant do-gooder.

DUTCH SCHULTZ - The archenemy.

THOMAS DEWEY - The battle-ax of the namesake.

EUNICE CARTER - The rising star of law & order.

HARRY FEENY - The reporter.

CHARLES WORKMAN - The old school assassin.

MENDY WEISS - Lepke's most trusted killer.

CHARLIE "LUCKY" LUCIANO - The top of the gangster food chain.

SOL "JACK" GOLDSTEIN - Gangster and unlucky ex of Eva Mittelman.

JOE ROSEN - The suspected rat who Lepke needs to muzzle.

INDICTMENT
4 (a) Season 4 (1937-1939)

BURTON TURKUS - The sharp, sophisticated, DA.

HYMAN YURAN - The garment tycoon that stop playing ball.

WALTER SAGE - The double-dealer.

GEORGE "WHITEY" RUDNICK - The loose end.

ANTHONY SICILIANO - The uncooperative union man.

IRVING "PUGGY" FEINSTEIN - The killer that needs to be killed.

SEYMOUR "BLUE JAW" MAGOON - The gangster on the verge of flipping.

ALBERT SHUMAN - The evasive turncoat the Lepke wants dead.

AL "BUMMY" DAVIDSON - The young boxer with a heart of gold.

INDICTMENT
5 (a) Season 5 (1940-1941)

PRETTY LEVINE - The getaway driver who the government got to first.

BENJAMIN SIEGEL - The fixer who returns to New York to do clean up.

IRVING NITZBERG - The clutch assassin.

BENJAMIN "BENNY THE BOSS" TANNENBAUM - The accountant.

JULIE CATALANO - The loyalist who was forced into snitching.

J. EDGAR HOOVER - The top of the law food chain.

WILLIAM O'DWYER - The good cop turned DA.

HYMAN BARSHAY - The lead defense attorney.

CARMINE SCAFFOO - The mystery witness.

FRANKLIN TAYLOR - The Judge.

ABE “KID TWIST” RELES

Born and raised on Brownsville's callous streets, Abe “Kid Twist” Reles is a master manipulator and the master of ceremonies wherever he goes. The son of Austrian immigrants, Abe began a life of crime in his teens and worked his way up to a gangster's role by his mid-twenties. Now, in his thirties, Abe has become a restless street soldier and thinks the time has come to take over the Brownsville territory he calls home. He plans to rub out the Shapiro gang, rule Brownsville and finally marry his sweetheart, Kit. Taking over Brownsville will not come easy. The upcoming battle will invite a danger into his life like he's never faced before. He loses his grip fast during the war, and soon during it starts losing his mind. He is wounded physically in a gunfight, and when faced with death, he realizes the only way to win this battle is to seek help. The idea of needing someone's help is embittering, but Abe must get aid to survive. By joining forces, Abe sacks Brownsville and a year later marries Kit. With a baby on the way, everything in life seems to be in place, but the hierarchy of crime in New York City has its own set of plans for Abe. He is asked by Louis “Lepke” Buchalter to turn his gang into the exclusive, elite, hit squad of killers for the national crime syndicate. His dreams of being a local crime lord soon vanish because this job offer is not one he can refuse. Abe takes on the leadership role and begins the journey of doing dirt for some of the nation's most powerful men. The law applies unprecedeted pressure on these men creating the need for more blood on the streets. Abe does his best to protect his bosses and balance family life. When the bosses get indicted and convicted, the wheels start falling off one of the most well-oiled killing machines in the history of crime. Abe will have to choose loyalties as he faces prosecution of the death sentence.

HARRY "PEP" STRAUSS

The tall, intimidating man, well known in small circles for his murderous ways, Harry "Pep" Strauss has one goal in life; being the best at whatever he is doing.

Whether it is an assault, murder, drinking, or sexing up a dame, he gives it his all, which is how he measures success. He doesn't worry about money, law, or politics; he is too concerned with living in the moment and controlling his immediate surroundings. He is a sex addict, and his good looks have made him a player amongst women, and he never cared to keep one around until he met Evelyn "Eva" Mittelman. Then Pep began to lose control over his thoughts and emotions, trying to keep up with a woman who has an insatiable appetite for money, attention, and sex. The relationship is harrowing, but PEP refuses to back down from the daily challenge of trying to make this young woman happy. For Pep, the work becomes the only thing that takes his mind off Eva, but the work isn't daily, and Eva is.

HARRY "HAPPY" MAIONE

A cocky, temperamental, tough guy who never smiles and never backs down from a challenge. Happy had planned to build his dominion with his gang in Ocean Hill, but when his mentor, Louis Capone, contacts him to help another crew in Brownsville, plans changed. Happy learns there won't be two leaders in this combination, and loyalty will trap him in a crime syndicate that will never let him leave. He begins drinking excessively to compensate for his loss of power, but no amount of alcohol can drown his feelings of envy and jealousy. He lets his temper get the best of him, and he wrecks relationships much faster than he can build them. To the women in his life, he is a possessive and obsessive lover who does not think before he speaks and does not think before he acts, and he acts frequently.

VITO "SOCKO" GURINO

The funny and sadistic tough guy that since his youth has been equal parts business and pleasure. The loveable young kid who grew up on Brooklyn's streets learned to bet on the ponies and run crap games by 12. He grew closer with Dasher and Happy in his teens as they dove deeper into a life of crime. He made good money taking bets up at Saratoga raceway, but no luck with the ladies there. Back in Brooklyn, he became infatuated with a young starlet he caught performing one night at a club. Vito proposed to her every night he would see her, and about a year after they met, she said yes. Trudy keeps Vito on his toes as she spends his money as fast as he can make it.

GERTRUDE "TRUDY" GURINO

Music is a young girls' game, and a few years into her 20's, Trudy saw her career wasn't moving fast enough and decided to give this funny young regular at the club a chance to date her. When she first met Vito, he was a patron and a fan that promised to give her the world if she gave him a shot, and when they began dating, she quickly found out he wasn't kidding. First, TRUDY made him her angel investor, and a few months later became his wife. She stopped Vito from burying all is cash in holes upstate and turned him into a homeowner, property owner, and business owner. She wanted a home, a vacation home, a rental home, a hair salon, and a baby. Vito gave her everything she asked for, but there has been no luck making a baby.

ROSE "MIDNIGHT ROSE" GOLD

A Jewish-Austrian immigrant cannot write or read in English but survives on Brooklyn streets better than any college graduate. A mother of two teens has spent the last two decades of her life running a candy store next to the two trains on Saratoga and Lavonia. Her store's light may be the only light in Brownsville during the great depression after midnight, giving her the nickname "Midnight Rose." She is the godmother of the Brownsville Boys, allowing them to operate a criminal enterprise from the rear of her store even with the police knowing their business. She keeps her chin up and mouth shut tight when being questioned by the police. She has reached a point in life where security means everything to her, and she knows that the gangsters in her neighborhood will protect her much better than the police.

EVELYN "EVA" MITTELMAN

By the age of 16, Eva Mittelman was already one of the most sought after girls in Brooklyn. In a borough of brunettes, this gorgeous, buxom teen died her hair blonde to make sure everyone on Coney Island noticed her as she walked the beach in the summer. One night, at the age of 18, one group of boys ruined her innocence for good. Since that day, her resentment has her emasculating every man she dates. She flirts, seduces, captures, teases, and cheats on her man just to see what length one will go to keep her. Then she met Harry "Pep" Strauss. She truly falls for Pep but tortures him with stories of past men and behavior threatening his ego. And as long as she plays this game of resentment, she will never move on from her broken past.

KITTY “KIT” KIRSCH

Some girls grow up sweet and innocent, but very few stay that way. Kitty “Kitt” Kirsch had a youthful and radiant vibration that makes everyone want to be around her. She was a dreamer and believer that everything she wants in life will make it to her with ease. But life doesn't work that way, and KIT learns fast how cold the world can be. Traumatized by an attacker, she starts losing faith in humanity and slowly slips into a negative mindset struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mood disorders. She thinks marriage will save her, or a baby or wine, but the truth is she cannot escape the dark thoughts that cloud her mind and make her wish she could delete her past.

FRANK “THE DASHER” ABANDANDO

The Dasher's youth was about sports and pretty women, and his dream of becoming a success story one day. Everyone around him believed he was on his way to becoming a Brooklyn Dodger. But one bad game and a torn ligament changed the Dasher's path forever. The broken dream led to shame and boredom. The Dasher couldn't stand an unpopular existence, and he knew there was a chance at fame if he went to work with Happy and ultimately become a gangster. What the Dasher lacks in creativity and wit, he makes up for with strength and honor. He is the best kind of cohort a gangster could ask for as he will complete any task without question or concern for the consequences. In his personal life, the Dasher has no trouble scoring the ladies but keeping one is a different story. He gets caught in a bizarre love triangle with a woman he thought only had eyes for him.

MARTIN “BUGGSY” GOLDSTEIN

Just beneath the surface of his cold-blooded temper is an honorable and honest street soldier. His most trusted friend, Abe Reles, is the only one that understands his crazed humor and manic personality; even Martin doesn't know what's wrong with him. Buggsy became detached from society at an early age leading him to a life of crime that would never lead him to a life of boredom. He learned that he was more vicious than the average man at an early age, and this trait was noticed and praised by his best friend, Abe Reles. Abe would put that insanity to work, scaring business owners, gamblers, and “would be” tough guys that tried to beat them out of a buck. As Martin grew older, he grew more vicious and socially. He drifted further and further from sane. Adding alcohol and drugs to the mix made him a powder keg amongst powder kegs.

LEPKA BUCHALTER

A criminal mastermind assembles a brutal gang of killers to infiltrate labor unions and handle top priority gang assassinations. Lepke is on the path to becoming the most powerful racketeer in the United States. He mentors many men in both the legitimate and illegitimate business worlds, and at home, he is a loyal husband and loving father to an adopted son. But his infamy and reputation have placed him in the crosshairs of the special prosecutor, Thomas Dewey. His paranoia unveils a dark side that has him trusting none of his business associates and killing all those who could potentially take the stand against him.

LOUIS CAPONE

A local fixer and mentor of the Brownsville Boys. Capone is responsible for putting rivalries through discourse or war. For decades he has cultivated young Brooklyn gangsters and will turn the Brownsville Boys into the nation's most prolific hit squad. He operates out of the Coffee Pot, a small café in Brownsville, and deals directly with Lepke and Anastasia to handle their murder business.

WEEGEE

At one time, people didn't just walk up to people and take a photograph, but WEEGEE did. A fearless immigrant with a talented eye and a mysterious intuition, WEEGEE just left his daily job at the papers to become a freelancer and lands a significant advancement by becoming the first photographer in New York to be granted a police scanner. Now he is arriving at murder scenes, fires, and emergency calls at the same time, or many times, even before the police. As he follows Brownsville murders, he grows a little too close for their comfort.

FRANK GRAY

A cold but honorable homicide Detective that has solved decades of murder cases in Brooklyn. Frank Gray does not eat or sleep much and is well known for his aggressive and proactive style. He first set eyes on the Brownsville boys when they knocked off the legendary SHAPIRO brothers, but to catch them, he must find a witness willing to speak, and once he does that, they have a layer of political protection as well. He learns they are tied to the lofty crime lords Albert Anastasia and Lepke Buchalter. Still, with no hard evidence or informants, an arrest or conviction is going to be nearly impossible.

JOHNNY McDONOUGH

The Brownsville beat cop that watched ABE RELES and crew graduate from street kids robbing pushcarts to a gang of cold-blooded killers. He has tried to uphold the law and bring them to justice many times, but the gang grew too big for a man with a badge, uniform, and honest approach to the law. He watches the community of Jews and immigrants become two-bit players in a turf war as he grows frustrated each day by the system that is supposed to protect them. He feels useless as a cop and struggles with "protecting and serving" with so much corruption.

EPISODE 1 (a)

A phone rings in the rear of MIDNIGHT ROSE'S candy store. ABE "KID TWIST" RELES, MARTIN "BUGGSY" GOLDSTEIN, and HARRY "PEP" STRAUSS sit at a table in the backroom, waiting quietly to hear the news on the other end. MIDNIGHT ROSIE informs them that somebody just killed "Fat Joe" Masseria in Coney Island. The Castellammare War is over. ABE RELES is happy because this confirms no leader is permanent. Then, IRVING and WILLIE SHAPIRO enter the candy store and walk to the rear to discuss business. MEYER SHAPIRO wants ABE to handle a non-payment from a store owner on SUTTER AVE personally. The storeowner not in ABE's territory but is someone ABE knows; his girlfriend, KIT's family friend, ITZIK.

When ABE confronts the ITZIK, he hears a story explaining the delinquency he knows to be honest. ABE knows MEYER is not one for sympathy, but against his better judgment, he confronts him. MEYER is infuriated with ABE for favoring a family friend over business and questions his loyalty and ability to collect. MEYER also lets him know he is aware of his feelings for him, and the ABE has been bookmaking on the side. He wants ABE to prove his loyalty and gives him firm orders to handle ITZIK and send a message, so other store owners on SUTTER AVE know MEYER SHAPIRO means business. ABE sets up a meeting with LOUIS CAPONE at the COFFEE POT, and when entering, he sees a rival gangster from Ocean Hill named HARRY "HAPPY" MAIONE. ABE sits with LOUIS CAPONE and expresses his concern for MEYER's decision, and CAPONE lets him know, the boss is always right. ABE must obey the boss's orders until he becomes one.

ABE returns to MIDNIGHT ROSE'S to pick up PEP and head over to the liquor store. PEP is MIA, but BUGGSY is there, ready to go; maybe a little too drunk and too eager. ABE and BUGGSY enter the store and take no excuses from ITZIK. ABE slaps him around, but ITZIK's young daughter pokes out of the rear and witnesses. ABE grows a conscience and takes her out of the store to calm her down. While in the store without ABE, BUGGSY does not like the looks he's getting from ITZIK or the sly, Yiddish remarks. BUGGSY loses it unloads on ITZIK, and he falls his head braces neck on the stool. The daughter and ABE return inside to see the bloody mess.

EPISODE 1 (b)

Brownsville police officer JOHNNY MCDONOUGH spotted ABE RELES speaking to ITZIK's daughter outside the liquor store. The cops bring him in for questioning but get nowhere as the daughter refuses to admit ABE'S involvement. On his way out, MCDONOUGH lets ABE know ITZIK will probably die, and ABE will probably end up dead too one day, all while trying to make the SHAPIRO's rich.

When he returns home from the police station, he gets the same treatment from KIT; she also knows he is responsible for ITZIK's condition. ABE heads to MIDNIGHT ROSES to count out weekly earnings and set aside THE SHAPIRO'S tax, including the liquor store's loss. ABE tells the crew he is tired of the SHAPIRO's control of Brownsville and introduces a plan to change it all. The gang begins meeting with potential turncoats from the SHAPIRO crew, starting with ALLIE TANNENBAUM, SAUL BERNSTEIN. Then JOEY SILVERS and SILVER'S seems very open to the idea of change. The gang sits in the rear of MIDNIGHT ROSIE'S with SILVERS and sets up a plan to hit MEYER in a car lot where they hold a weekly card game. The goal is to wait in the darkness behind the cars, and when the door opens and they see SILVERS, MEYER will be next. A spotter will turn the car lights on, and they will ambush MEYER, IRVING, WILLIE, and the rest of the gang. They grab GEORGE DEFEO, a young hopeful from the neighborhood.

ABE takes KIT to see their weekly picture at the Pitkin Theater. As they exit, he is met outside by MCDONOUGH to learn ITZIK is dead. As they walk home, KIT says he needs to change professions if he is serious about their relationship. He kisses her goodbye and heads out to do the work of the devil. MEYER and his gang finish cards as ABE waits in the lot with BUGSY and HARRY staring at the door as young GEORGE sits nervously for the cue. His door opens he greeted by IRVING SHAPIRO and a bullet to the head. It's an ambush; The SHAPIRO's hit the lights and open fire on ABE, BUGSY, and PEP. BUGSY and ABE catch bullets, but the gang escapes with minor wounds, and now the war for Brownsville begins.

EPISODE 1 (c)

ABE wants revenge on JOEY SILVERS for the double-cross, but first, he must get MEYER SHAPIRO. The SHAPIRO'S lets all the locals know ABE is no longer collecting their gang's debts. ABE will run out of money soon, or MEYER will kill him. ABE heads to the pool hall on SUTTER AVE with PEP and BUGGSY to recruit new muscle. IRVING "GANGI" COHEN seems ready to join the gang with a few other young thugs when as they exit the pool hall, a car rolls by slowly with MEYER SHAPIRO firing off bullets from a Thompson machine gun. Bullets fly in every direction, and young men flurry like flies, quickly realizing how serious a commitment it would be to fight for ABE. ABE notices ALLIE TANNENBAUM at the wheel and WILLE and IRVING firing off from the rear. BIG GANGI and crew are no longer willing to fight.

ABE goes to LOUIS CAPONE for advice. CAPONE tells him he should join forces with another gang. The AMBERGS will want a ton of money, and ABE doesn't have enough to offer. He mentions the Ocean Hill Hooligans, who might do it for future profits once the war is over, but ABE never got along with HAPPY MAIONE. He decides to hide out and lick his wounds until he gets a chance at MEYER again.

MEYER takes a more aggressive approach to this war and tries to get ABE to show his face on the streets. He sends his brothers into a store with slot machines that belong to ABE. He tells the owner ABE is "finished" in Brownsville, and he will be back later to remove the devices. Word gets back to ABE, so he sends two young torpedoes to watch over the store. MEYER returns with another drive-by hitting young George Galfin and Louis Fisher. The SHAPIROS wounded two more kids. The cops arrest MEYER and IRVING for the shooting, but no one is willing to testify that they did it. They walk. ABE stays in hiding, so MEYER Goes after the one thing ABE holds sacred. MEYER follows KIT home from the movies, and when she is alone, he kidnaps her. MEYER beats and rapes her and dumps her off in an empty lot across from Pigtown. The war is now personal.

EPISODE 1 (d)

A broken and tormented ABE target sits in a basement apartment with his loyal gunner BUGGSY. KIT'S family no longer wants him around her. He needs to revenge. The two sneak around Brownsville to pick up the bits of cash they still have on the street. In a rush not to be seen in public, ABE gets into an argument with a gas attendant. Abe lets it all out on the attendant, beating him within inches of his life. The attendant, CHARLIE BATTIS, is hospitalized, and after he comes to, he speaks to the cops. ABE and BUGGSY set up another assassination attempt. They pay a young thug money to lure MEYER out of the Democratic club. ABE waits for MEYER to exit and takes his shot. He fires but only hitting MEYER in the arm. A shootout ensues, but the SHAPIRO'S escape with only one wound. MEYER kills the young thug. Rumors in Brownsville circulate that MEYER SHAPIRO can't be killed.

ABE hauled in for the beating of CHARLIE BATTIS. With no money, he must call on CAPONE again for assistance. He is bailed out and goes straight to CAPONE for help. KIT'S family doesn't want ABE around. He is ready to make a deal with HAPPY MAIONE and the Ocean Hill Hooligans. After some convincing from CAPONE, the two gangs ally and plan to kill MEYER. MAIONE and RELES agree to split up the three territories evenly after the war. The two gangs decide the first attack should be a show of force, so they roll two cars down SUTTER AVE to the Globe Cafeteria and open fire on the SHAPIRO gang who hangs in the front. The combination sweeps the street with gunfire hitting a few SHAPIRO thugs and the message to MEYER that ABE is no longer fighting alone.

HARRY STRAUSS suggests they hit them at their home, and the gang sets up an ambush to catch all three in the hallway of their apartment building. He finds a way they can sneak into the SHAPIRO building unnoticed. They enter when they know the three brothers are together at an event. When the SHAPIRO'S return home from the democratic club, plans change, and only IRVING exits the car to go home. ABE, STRAUSS, and GOLDSTEIN have the lights off in the hall. IRVING knows something is wrong, but before he can act, he is hit with 18 bullets. The first SHAPIRO is dead.

SEASON 1 (cont.)

MEYER SHAPIRO gave IRVING a massive funeral. Five thousand mourners filled the Brownsville's streets, and a motorcade of 50 cars took his remains to his final resting place in Queens. MEYER rode in the first car, in the front seat, making sure everyone saw him, the fearless leader of Brownsville. But for the combination, everything had changed. The gang was hungry. They caught up with MEYER a few weeks later, out in the street at night with no bodyguards. Gunfire woke up the neighborhood and landed a bullet in MEYER'S arm. Police chased the gang and the following day brought them in for questioning. With no witnesses, they were all back on the street within a few hours. A week later, they caught two SHAPIRO members on SUTTER and left them dead in the street. Then HAPPY MAIONE tracked down and killed the turncoat, JOEY SILVERS. ALLIE TANNENBAUM noticed the wind's direction changed and came to the gang and asked for a truce. ALLIE helped setting up MEYER, and one fall morning, the police found MEYER'S body in the basement of a building on the lower east side. One bullet left behind the ear, a "ride job" for sure. FRANK GRAY brought in ABE, MAIONE, and BUGGSY for questioning, but they were released shortly after due to lack of evidence. The master of disguise, HAPPY MAIONE, camps out in Pigtown after learning WILLIE SHAPIRO was hiding out there. MAIONE spots him, and they kidnap him and bring him to the basement of an abandoned building and work him over in the most brutal fashion. After the beating, they take him to the flats of Canarsie to bury him. A pedestrian up for a morning stroll spots them on their dig, so the gang flees. The coroner reported sand in WILLIE'S lungs, which meant the gang was burying him alive. Rumors of the gang's succession made it from Brownsville to the offices and penthouses of New York's top gang lords in Manhattan. Once they knew how capable the Brownsville Boys were, the calls for work came in. LOUIS CAPONE sat ABE down with his first mission, to head up north during the coldest of winters to take out the gangster that had escaped death 100 times; LEGS DIAMOND.

After the gang defeated THE SHAPIRO brothers, ABE began his plans to make Brownsville into his mini kingdom. But before he could complete the deal, he was sent up north to serve time for the assault charge on CHARLIE BATTS. For the first time since linking up, the gang is off guard and enjoying life. VITO ties the knot with his sweetheart TRUDY, and the wedding event sparks new love for THE DASHER and PEP. The DASHER meets AURORA AMOROSO, a fashion writer, and PEP steals EVELYN MITTELMAN away from her date at the wedding. LOUIS CAPONE hands the group a few murder contracts. Staying silent during the battle for Brownsville was the AMBERG'S, who begin picking up collections and rackets while ABE is away. A new power struggle starts with the AMBERGS, who cloak behind the powerful BUGSY SIEGEL. But the AMBERGS are greedy, and they make the mistake of killing HY KASNER, a Brownsville bookmaker who is close to ALBERT ANASTASIA. They thought the murder would go unnoticed, tossing the body into a sewage pipe, but a new crime photographer nicknamed WEEGEE caught photos of the corpse, and it made every news outlet in the city. The syndicate put their crimes to a vote and decided the AMBERG'S needed to killed and the Brownsville troop should do the work. HAPPY, PEP, and RED ALPERT lure JOEY AMBERG and his bodyguard. PRETTY AMBERG is more than upset. His brother was the moneymen, and now business is being rerouted. He begins lashing out around the city and creating problems for everyone. PEP and BUGGSY pay ABE a visit in the joint and learn KITT expects a baby, and ABE needs to win this appeal and get home a.s.a.p. thinking it would be good for ABE, PEP visits the gas station and puts a slug in LESTER COLLINS, the wrong attendant. WEEGEE grabs photos of the hit even before the police arrive. Brownsville is a hot spot again for murder. MENDY WEISS is called on to talk PRETTY AMBERG into a truce, except it was a setup. The club meeting in Williamsburg has men waiting in the backroom. The gang gives him a beating, and then PEP carves him up like a turkey. The unit proves their worth again.

MAYOR LAGUARDIA is on a rampage to crack down on crime in the city. . He appoints the incorruptible THOMAS DEWEY as special prosecutor to go after the crime lords. DEWEY has a hit list of top tier gangsters, and DUTCH SCHULTZ is at the top. SCHULTZ believes the only thing that will slow DEWEY down is a bullet. After seeing DEWEY send WAXEY GORDON to go away for a decade, the syndicate agrees with SCHULTZ. CAPONE brings ABE to meet LEPKE. LEPKE wants the gang to be exclusive to him. He puts them all on salary and promises bonuses for unique work. He wants them to be the syndicate's exclusive group of contract killers. LEPKE tells ABE of the plot to kill DEWEY. It was the tightest preparation for murder the BROWNSVILLE BOYS ever did. The scouting was done by ALBERT ANASTASIA himself, tracking DEWEY each morning by his home to learn the precise time to kill. The night before the hit, the syndicate holds an emergency meeting. LEPKE and LUCIANO fear the repercussions and pull the plug on the hit. SCHULTZ is furious and announces he will do it himself. The syndicate knows SCHULTZ means business, and the only way to protect their interests is to protect DEWEY and kill SCHULTZ. Since the group was ready to kill DEWEY, LEPKE calls in MENDY WEISS and CHARLES WORKMAN to handle the hit. In one week, DUTCH SCHULTZ gets whacked, LUCIANO gets indicted, ABE has a son, the DASHER catches his love AURORA with another man, PEP kills EVELYN'S ex upstate, MAIONE gets hitched. ABE gets to meet with LEPKE several times and is schooled on how LEPKE runs the criminal enterprise. EUNICE CARTER, the new young A.D.A. on LUCIANO'S case, brings critical witnesses and evidence to the trial, and LUCIANO is convicted and sentenced to 30 years. And then, DEWEY indicts LEPKE. LEPKE starts buying off possible witnesses, sending many of them out of state, or retiring them. During LEPKE'S trial, reporter HARRY FEENY investigates the missing witnesses, and when a few surface dead, WEEGEE is on the job again, making the front page with the photos. LEPKE loses the trial and refuses to surrender. He jumps bail and goes into hiding. ABE and the crew know this won't be good for business.

SEASON 4

With LEPKE in hiding, the gang invests their time and money into Brownsville. HAPPY buys a bar, PEP buys a home with EVELYN, VITO opens a new garage, and ABE and BUGGSY invest in a young boxer, AL "BUMMY" DAVIS, who is throwing a left hook from hell. During their weekend trips to the Catskills, ABE sneaks off to visit LEPKE in hiding. LEPKE gives ABE a list of potential witnesses that need to be killed. The locations are all over the United States, and the operation will take months to complete. ABE wonders how many people have to die to protect LEPKE. He begins growing a conscience, questioning his actions, and doing drugs to mask his pain. The first order of business is the murder of GEORGE "WHITEY" RUDNICK. Once it's complete, PEP orchestrates the murder and flies to Detroit to handle a problematic piece of work for The Purple Gang. It takes three attempts to hit HARRY MILLMAN, but PEP completes the job and returns home to kill WALTER SAGE in the Catskills. LEPKE is frustrated with the lack of communication while hiding upstate, so he sets up a disguise and residence on Coney Island. Back in Brooklyn, he learns his money and union control is diminishing because he is on the FBI's most-wanted list. He summons ABE and hands him orders to kill a dozen more men. ABE thinks this will never end. HAPPY and DASHER remove key union reps, CESARE LATTARO, while BUGGSY and PEP take out IRVING FEINSTEIN. PEP tortured him for his disloyalty and set him ablaze in an abandoned lot near the Brooklyn Bridge. HARRY FEENY reported, and WEEGEE'S photos were front-page news again. All of this carnage happening as the gang deals with personal difficulties. KITT is on to ABE'S drug use, HAPPY is caught having an affair with a prostitute, PEP and EVELYN'S lack of time together has them fighting perpetually, they and after his marriage proposal, DASHER loses AURORA to tuberculosis. The crises have them off balance, they get sloppy, and the machine begins to fall apart. LEPKE hears all of this news from his radio while restricted in the Coney Island flat. From prison, LUCIANO assures him after he surrenders, a retrial will be in his favor. A radio host offers to get LEPKE turned in safely, he accepts the offer, but on one condition, he wants the FBI director, J. EDGAR HOOVER, to be the man that cuffs him.

SEASON 5

The final season begins with HARRY RUDOLF, a crazed and unstable criminal on Rikers Island, giving details about the murder of his friend RED ALPERT. ALPERT was killed by ABE during the SHAPIRO war, so arrest warrants were issued to ABE RELES, MARTIN GOLDSTEIN, and ABE "PRETTY" LEVINE. PRETTY was the weak link and the DA's were confident they could make him sing, but PRETTY was a mute, totally surprising the DA's. So they played hardball and brought his wife and child into the interrogation room. TURKUS convinced PRETTY to admit his part without ratting on the gang, and when he did, they detained his wife as a material witness. It took 25 days of her imprisonment for PRETTY to crack. Once he did, they went after ABE. After two weeks, ABE broke. ABE outlined over 200 murders in the tri-state area and hundreds more across the US. The prosecution struck gold and took HARRY STRAUSS, FRANK ABANDANDO, HAPPY MAIONE, CHARLES WORKMEN, MENDY WEISS, LOUIS CAPONE, and LOUIS "LEPK" BUCHALTER into custody. With the Brownsville Boys all behind bars, LEPKE got word to BUGSY SIEGEL, asking him to return to New York to clean up the mess. The first to go was LEPKE'S accountant, and then a few more potential witnesses disappeared. ABE knew LEPKE'S strategy, so he began naming names that might get killed. The POLICE offered the potential witnesses protection before SIEGEL or GURINO killed them. BLUE JAW MAGOON and JULIE CATALANO both feared assassination and began to sing for the prosecution. THOMAS ODWEYER led the prosecution against HYMAN BARSHAY and the defense and knew he would win with ABE'S testimony alone. The trials began, and hardened killers like PEP and BUGGSY squirmed in their chairs as witnesses recanted how the defendants burned many of their victims, some even buried alive. The trials lasted months until everyone was convicted and sentenced to death. Following LEPKE'S conviction, on ABE'S testimony, O'DWEYER indicted ALBERT ANASTASIA for the murders of Union reps' MORRIS DIAMOND and PETER PANTO. On November 12, 1941, ABE RELES fell to his death out of the HALF MOON HOTEL's sixth-floor window while under heavy police protection. ODWEYER tossed ANASTASIA'S case, and the rumors in Brooklyn claim the police tossed ABE to his death. Our decade of MURDER INC. ends here.