Sweet Eyes

Season 1

Episode 1

Fernando arrives in the United States for the first time and in search of his true destiny. That's when he meets Erin who gets him in trouble right away by stealing a car and making him believe its hers and the keys are inside. The LA police gets notified and arrive quickly, forcing them to run away and leave their belongings behind. They find a safe place to hide in a bathroom and the magical transformation of Erin into an efervescent Marilyn Monroe begins. Erin promises to protect a very concerned Fernando whose lost all his documents, including his passport hours upon his arrival. Erin introduces him to The Walk of Fame and its many particular impersonators. We discover she deals drugs on the strip.

Right after sunset, Erin brings Fernando even more into her world by taking him to her home, an actor’s camp by Venice Beach called “The Hollywood Academy of Performing Arts”. Far from elegant, the camp consists of a bunch of old trailers stranded in an abandoned lot. There is something magical about it; string lights circle around all the trailers, leading to a common area that is lit up like a “Dia de Muertos” party. A street performance of Othello goes on under the lights. Fernando meets Howard, a veteran actor who lost his mind after interpreting hundreds of roles in Hollywood. He is the owner of the camp and trains actors in exchange for participation in street performances with the company. They only pay a small amount of rent, so it’s a done deal for starving artists. Howard offers Fernando a bunk bed in a trailer in exchange for immediate incorporation to the acting company. He agrees. We meet Marcos XXXXXXX

Fernando finally gets a chance to call home but decides to share very little and act like everything is fine. Fernando’s bed happens to be in a shared trailer with Erin and they start exchanging life stories. Erin tries to seduce Fernando but he rejects her. He believes in true love and wants to take his time.

Fernando wakes up right at sunrise and catches a glimpse of Erin coming out of water naked. He’s mesmerized. She sits on the sand and starts her daily conversation with her dead mother. It’s become a habit and in many ways therapy for her. Fernando starts to fall for Erin’s hidden vulnerability and when she returns to the tent he grabs her and kisses her passionately. They make love and their troubled romance begins. As they commence their daily communal chores they both agree to be friends and not confuse sexual attraction with love.

Erin invites Fernando to come downtown with her and spend the day. He innocently accepts, only to soon find out they’ve arrived at a drug dealers private home. The dealer gets physical with Erin and pushes her against a wall before threatening to take her life if she doesn’t pay him back. She’s in real danger, Fernando feels the need to help her out, and just like that he solidifies himself in Erin’s life, unknowingly entering her vicious circle of fear, violence and drugs.

Episode 2

We open to a desolate Erin, crying in Fernando’s arms in a state of total vulnerability. Fernando is healing her with his words and consoling her. We finally catch a glimpse of the purest version of Erin. She’s really scared and knows she needs to work hard to pay the money back if she wants to free herself from the drug world.

 As they arrive at the Walk of Fame the characters are transforming into their idols in a parking lot. They share donuts, coffee and cigarettes as they discuss the myth of acting and brag about their abilities. They think they know all the in’s and out’s of the acting world yet there they are, struggling for cash money. We hear, “Don’t wear perfume”, “Make sure you shake their hand,” “Casting directors are not friendly,” etc… They talk about everything involved in acting, they are true artists who’ve had their share of bad luck in life.
 Erin hussles all morning on the strip, desperately following people and trying to get as many “A selfie a dollar” Marilyn selfies taken. We truly experience how hard it can be to get people to pose with you and actually pay. Most of them walk away victoriously with their selfie’s and act like they don’t speak English. She also delivers drugs on the side by craftily lifting her skirt sideways and pulling small bags of cocaine from a side pocket. Cash on her left pocket, delivery on the right. Always the same, like a ritual.

The actors take turns for lunch time at peak hours on the strip. All the actors seem to manage their careers by themselves. They are actors, agents and publicists. They use their spare time to tape auditions with their phones and submit requests for casting. It's a full time job and they teach it to Fernando at lightning speed. A voluptuous singer approaches Fernando to explain to him the best corners of the metro station to sing at, “corner of Highland and Hollywood up to $20/h if you skip lunch. Peak hours when the sun hits the hardest.” Fernando skips lunch and goes to the corner of Highland metro station to sing. Fernando returns penniless and sunburnt. His first singing attempt is unsuccessful.

They return to the strip and continue their daily routine. It’s exhausting. However, the day turns around for Erin a couple hours before sunset. Everyone wants a selfie with Marilyn.

Erin surprises Fernando with a romantic sunset in her favorite place in Los Angeles, the Griffith Park observatory. It’s the most intimate moment between them so far, as they share few words but stand in awe of the pink colored sky overlooking the observatory tower. Time is standing still, held by a ray of light. Erin grabs Fernando by the hand and shows him around the neighborhood. They stop and kiss in a corner, and then continue running downhill, where the “rich” people they aspire to be live. But not today. Today they don’t care, the light breeze waves through Erin’s hair and they laugh out loud. Today is about beauty and being present. She shares her dreams of having a house with a pool, a view like just like that one, and also mentions how terrified she is of being alone out in the world and how she’d miss camp.

The sun goes down and everything changes. Darkness rushes out and the pleasant breeze becomes a cold wind. She rushes back to camp for rehearsal. Rehearsal starts at camp. All the actors have gathered together, make-up and costume ready, each with their own improvised props.

Erin and Fernando arrive late for a second time. Howard gets mad at them, and this gives way to a memorable speech on integrity, dedication and the importance of respect in all areas of life, not only acting.

He makes an example of Erin by mocking her in front of everybody, criticizing her acting and memorization skills, “If you’re not present in this reality, you can’t be present anywhere. Preparation is extremely important that is why singers and dancers prepare,” etc...

He invites Fernando to walk into the middle of the communal stage and tell everybody how he’s planning on surviving if he kicks him out. Fernando responds with, “Singing,” and then Howard asks him how much money he made today. Fernando doesn’t answer. They all make fun of him and start chanting, “Moment of truth! Moment of truth!”. Fernando is confused but they begin throwing out actor names for Fernando to improvise on. They agree he can’t sing or speak English so he should be mute. Someone screams, “Chaplin!” and they throw a bucket, a broken stick and a torn jacket at him.

Fernando takes the props, breathes in and begins his show. He becomes a hero in the eyes of everyone. They break out in laughter, but this time it's different. They are mesmerized by his work. Howard realizes right there that Fernando has what it takes to make it. He has cracked the shell. Erin watches Fernando in awe. She’s in love.

Episode 3

Fernando and Erin cuddle up in a deep sleep. The trailer door opens abruptly. Howard jumps in and throws a bucket of water on both of them and says, “Punishment for tardiness! 5 a.m. actor training begins now!.”

The actors sit around Howard who motivated teaches the craft. “What was your first reaction when I dropped the water? Your breath! It all begins with the breath. And then the thought, and then you react.” Howard gives them a master class in acting. It's all they could ever hope for, they are thrilled.

Erin and Fernando ride the train to work and happily share their food. We witness their humanity in full fledge, they are happy and content in the present moment. Erin is happy because she has an audition. There is hope again. She leaves Fernando and walks away rehearsing her lines over and over again, each time a different take. She’s talented.

At the strip, it's a brand new day and back to the routine. The actors get ready in the parking lot and share breakfast. One of them is really sick but there is no other option; the show must go on.

Fernando paints his hat and cane. Marco helps him with his outfit. He is ready to take over the strip and become Charlie Chaplin the legend himself. They arrive on the strip and occupy their places.

At Erin’s audition, we get an insider view of the casting process. She arrives to a casting office in Hollywood were there are many girls that look just like her. Finally she gets called in and the casting director after a long conversation asks Erin to take her clothes off. She refuses and leaves in pain.

Erin is lost in her thoughts on the train back to the strip. She decides to study her lines for Howard. Maybe this time if she takes her training seriously, the next audition might be the one. She doesn’t lose hope. It's a numbers game.

Fernando’s costume is ready by lunch time. He steps onto the strip and the other actors clap and welcome him to the family. The costume is on point and tourists notice him right away offering dollars in exchange for photographs. Life’s good for Fernando as he is finally getting the opportunity to act in Hollywood.

Minutes later Marco, another of the street performers, goes around announcing to the team that he found a way to get into the show business. He’s crafted a detailed plan that depends on spending all his money on an expensive gym membership so he can use his looks to seduce a producer and finally get his chance to debut on the big screen. They all laugh, it sounds like one of Marco’s many bound to fail attempts to cheat the system.

Erin arrives to the same bathroom and transforms into Marilyn. When she comes out she gets the news that one of the performers is missing. Nobody seems to have much information but word has it she was found dead in the parking lot. Erin has a bad feeling about it, she knows exactly who did it, the same people that are after her.

Fernando performs for the first time and is a huge success (Each episode will feature a different Charlie Chaplin act).

Erin spots one of the drug lords walking down the strip. She gets so scared she starts running away, pushing tourists away and getting lost in the crowd. She spots a tour guide bus and jumps straight in. The tourists are perplexed at first but soon welcome her as one of the typical Hollywood cliches they were all waiting for. She sits on the back seat and looks down to the floor, helpless. In the background we hear the tour guide describing celebrity homes to the tourists.

Episode 4

Marco - Signs up in the expensive gym. Meets producer

Howard - Mirror. Breathing exercise. How do you breath when you are happy, sad, etc

Fernando - Show. Misses family. Maybe flashback. Learns English

Erin - poses naked for a photographer to pay the drug dealer. Great performance. Goes to agencies to leave her headshots but nobody wants unsolicited material.

Episode 5

Marco - Relationship with producer. She takes him to a mansion that she just moved in. Tells him that she was used and that she wants to be treated like a lady. She tells him she is producing the next huge film

Howard - Subtext. Mental communication. The line is an extension of your thought. Some art exercise. The moving photo exercise.

Fernando - Tries to sing again. Fails. First Audition. Misses family. Maybe flashback. Learns English

Erin - poses naked again for a photographer to pay the drug dealer.

They go to a mix and match event to meet agents. Its a trap its only actors and no agents. Probably organized by actors

Episode 6

Marco - Goes deeper in the relationship with that women

Howard - Building a character. 4 data bases of information. Scene work. Subtext

Fernando - Scared to sing again. Fails. BIO Chaplin

Erin - Bio Mary

Episode 7

Marco - Goes deeper in the relationship with that women. Gym.

Howard - Art Sculpture. Show is getting close to be performed.

Fernando - BIO Chaplin

Erin - Bio Mary

Episode 8

Marco - Discovers that she might not be truthful

Howard - Rehearsal scene like that movie

Fernando - BIO Chaplin

Erin - Bio Mary

Episode 9

Marco - Follows her around

Howard - Acting

Fernando - BIO Chaplin

Erin - Bio Mary. Goes to pay, but he doesn’t want to let her go. He gets killed. In revenge they call the police on the illegals at HAPA

Episode 10

Marco - Finds out he has been tricked

Howard - Final show

Fernando - BIO Chaplin

Erin - Bio Mary

The police arrives and arrests Erin. Fernando has to hide in the middle of the ocean seeing them taking her away to jail.