

ROXY STERNBERG

Press Packet



<https://www.thejc.com/lifestyle/features/the-hollywood-star-who-still-teaches-at-cheder-1.57684>

The Hollywood star who still teaches at cheder

Josh Jackman

May 26, 2016

Roxy Sternberg is set to appear in a big-budget prequel to the 'Wizard of Oz', but that doesn't mean she's giving up her Sunday job



When she isn't filming with acting royalty in Barcelona and Budapest for the new TV series Emerald City, Roxy Sternberg is teaching cheder classes.

The 27-year-old has been chosen to star in an American TV prequel to The Wizard of Oz, also featuring Joely Richardson and Jurassic World actor Vincent D'Onofrio.

After four years of countless auditions and small parts in Law and Order: UK and crime drama The Tunnel, Roxy landed what she calls "the biggest thing I've done".

Born in West London, Ms Sternberg formed a strong connection with her synagogue during a childhood in which she "struggled" as a minority within a minority.

Her Jewish mother moved to the UK from Uganda as a 15-year-old. She later met and married a British Jewish man.

I see a lot of mixed-race Jews at my synagogue, which is wonderful

"There weren't a lot of black Jews," Ms Sternberg says. "A lot of people said 'Are you Jewish?' A lot of people questioned it, asking what colour my parents were. Even nowadays, I get asked if I'm Jewish.

"But it's never been a problem at West London Synagogue - we were always welcomed."

Nowadays, she adds, "I see a lot of mixed-race Jews there, which is wonderful, because I didn't see that when I was younger. It's not a nice feeling when you're standing out, day in, day out. But at West London it's not an issue, and with me around it must be really good for them, to see me and to have someone to look up to."

Standing out has become a positive for Ms Sternberg, who urges those who want to replicate her journey to "know your craft, work hard, and never give up.

"And always make bold decisions. Don't think you can just get away with delivering the script alone; you've got to make decisions which aren't in the script. They'll be wrong or right, but don't be scared to be different. Don't do what everyone else is doing."

Roxy heard about her successful audition in the middle of Shoreditch High Street. "I got off the tube and listened to the message. I met up with my sister and we cried and screamed. When I phoned my agent, I asked my sister: 'How do I talk to him? What do I say?' and she said: 'You don't need to be nervous, you've got the role!'"

She says she was daunted before the five-month-long shoot in Budapest and Barcelona. "I've never acted alongside actors whose work I know and admire, but Vincent was so reassuring and complimentary, and I took inspiration from Joely Richardson.

"I've noticed that my auditions have changed since watching Joely. She has this discipline and stillness. Plus I've got to know her, and we ended up just giggling with each other all the time on set."

Besides, once Ms Sternberg put the finished costume on, all her initial anxieties dropped away.

"They said: 'Walk like Elizabeth.' I hadn't even considered how Elizabeth walks, but I'd done all my homework and it was instant. I was like: 'I'm ready. Get me to the set.'"

Despite having secured her big break, she still teaches at West London Synagogue whenever she comes home.

The actress, who can read and write Hebrew, has taught at the shul since her batmitzvah. "I love it," she explains. "Even if I make it as a Hollywood actress, I'll come back. It gives me life. I feel so happy being in that space, partly because all my childhood memories are in that building.

"I just wanted to give children the same experience I had. There are a few who say they want to be actors and ask if I can teach them, but I just want them to have fun and enjoy cheder."

There are downsides to her double life, though. "A few of the children know I'm an actor, even though I prefer not to talk about it.

"One saw me in an advert and they never let me live it down," she says, laughing. "It was a terrible advert. They actually took off the internet," she adds, relieved.

The first 10-episode season of Emerald City is due to air on NBC in November

[HTTP://WWW.CAM.CO.UK/NEWS/ARTICLE/READ_ROXY-STERNBERG-IN-NBCS-EMERALD-CITY_ITEM_100322.HTM](http://www.cam.co.uk/news/article/read_roxy-sternberg-in-nbcs-emerald-city_item_100322.htm)



Roxy Sternberg in NBC's Emerald City

03 Jan 2017

Roxy Sternberg appears as Elizabeth in new fantasy drama Emerald City. Catch it on Fridays at 9/8c on NBC and keep an eye out for the show airing on 5 Star later in 2017!

Emerald City: Everything You Need to Know About NBC's Take on The Wizard of Oz





Emerald City

(Caution: Some spoilers about *Emerald City* ahead)

Tornado in Kansas, ruby slippers, yellow brick road, green witch who melts: most of us know *The Wizard of Oz*. Or so we think. The iconic film is just one take on the 14 books Frank Baum wrote -- books that were much more complex, adult and filled with political allegory and social commentary than the Technicolor movie we remember. That complex jumping-off point is the basis for NBC's *Emerald City*, a grownup take on the story that's (not inaccurately) being called a darker interpretation and "*The Wizard of Oz* meets *Game of Thrones*." Premiering Friday, *Emerald City* is an over-the-top, often eye-popping spectacle that keeps steady with the basic story while giving it modern updates and imaginative, playful turns. It's addictive - if only to see how the plot points you remember play out in the 21st century re-telling - and full of cultural resonance that lets it join *The Wiz* and *Wicked* in becoming inspired interpretations of the ever-evolving story. Ready to be taken, ahem, by storm? Here's everything you need to know about *Emerald City*.

Getting it made was a feat of magic

The road to getting to see the yellow brick road was packed with more

obstacles than Dorothy could've ever imagined. Way back in 2014, NBC was ready to put 10 episodes of the series on air in 2015. But after a dispute with its leaders [Matthew Arnold](#) (*Siberia*) and Josh Freidman (*Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*) things fell apart and the entire project was scrapped before it even went into production. NBC brought it back in 2015 though, bringing on a new team including executive producer [Shaun Cassidy](#), showrunner [David Schulner](#) (*Desperate Housewives*) and [Tarsem Singh](#) (*The Cell*, *The Fall*) as director. Singh mandated he shoot all the episodes (as opposed to being split among multiple directors as most shows are) like a 10-hour movie *and* that all 10 episode scripts be done in advance. Even after that, scripts were re-written as actors and locations were chosen. With so much invested, there may be many fingers crossed at NBC in hopes that this supernatural story could perhaps be its next *Grimm*, which is concluding this season.



Vincent D'onofrio as The Wizard, Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Susan-Li Ong as Isabel, *Emerald City*

It's breathtakingly beautiful

Calling *Emerald City* ambitious is a bit like calling a tornado a rain storm; Singh aimed to use as little CGI as possible to capture the

"original magic" in part through the use of soaring, fanciful scenery. That meant shooting on locations that required going to half of Europe -- including a remote national park in Croatia, 15th Century castles in Hungary and the Park Güell in Barcelona. It looks as grand and cinematic as it sounds. Singh is known for his elaborate, gorgeous visuals and *Emerald City* continues that reputation. Landscape shots make the series feel otherworldly; interior shots inside castles and temples sing with vibrancy and ruthless attention to detail.

All the main players - and their motives - are different than you remember

For starters, Dorothy ([Adria Arjona](#)) is Hispanic - and she's no sweet, canary-voiced lady; she's an ass kicker. Part of the fun in watching the series is meeting the new iterations of the characters you know, so I won't spoil it all here. But suffice it to say Toto isn't a harmless little lap dog; the Scarecrow is a rugged, handsome man left for dead without any recollection of who he is; and the Tin Man is fully human when we meet him. All these people are, in the beginning at least, mortals who become helped by and victim to the magic that rules Oz - magic that The Wizard ([Vincent D'Onofrio](#)) is working to eradicate and thereby starting a war. Forget the old notion of everyone skipping merrily down the yellow brick road (which here is lined with saffron-colored opium poppy pollen, by the way): these people are out for revenge and they're willing to kill to get their way.

It's not for kids

Emerald City is about as close to an HBO epic saga as you've seen on network TV, with sensual sex scenes and occasionally gory violence. We're talking throats being slit, shootings (yes, there are guns in Oz - more on that later) and quite a bit of blood. That aside, *Emerald City* might be so adult - not in the boom chicka wow wow sense but in the difficult emotions and contrasting philosophical theories sense - that the action and motivations of the characters could be a snooze to youngsters.

Don't hold your breath for slippers

Cause they ain't there. (They weren't in the original story either by the way; the silver shoes Dorothy co-opts were changed to red in the film to

better highlight the new color technology at the time.) Dorothy does get a fabulous pair of gloves from the witch she accidentally kills, though, and those give her powers.

Modern themes, including political commentary, are ever-apparent

Schulner, the producer, has noted how Baum's books bear the feminist influences of his mother - one of the first suffragettes. Baum's second book, in fact, has an army of women marching on Emerald City in protest of being ruled by men and you can certainly see a theme of female empowerment present in this adaptation. The centuries-old tug-of-war between science and religion couldn't be more overt; it's a commentary as loud as the suffering of the poor and working class while people in power play puppet master with their fates. Then there's Tip ([Jordan Loughran](#)), a character not very well known to casual *Wizard of Oz* fans, who'll come to play a big role and be a moving meditation on the complexities of gender identity and compassion for transgender individuals. Guns work their way into the story too, illustrating how they upset the natural order and cause untold destruction. And it's hard not to see the battle initiated by the portly Wizard as anything but the result of his own insecurities, fear and actual powerlessness - a damning and timely rebuke of, ahem, some modern-day leaders.

It ends with a big twist

By the middle of the 10 episodes, so much has happened you'll surely be wondering if the "wicked" witch will melt into a puddle, if her and her crew ever get what they wanted from the Wizard or if Dorothy ever makes it home. Very little of what you think you'll expect to see becomes relevant by the end of the first episodes although yes, Dorothy does land back in Kansas. Only when she does, she has unknowingly unearthed way more trouble than she ever could have imagined -- and she'll be haunted by someone who presents a very compelling reason for her to go back.

Emerald City debuts Friday, Jan. 6 at 9/8 c on NBC.

<https://www.bustle.com/p/the-emerald-city-cast-features-familiar-faces-to-lead-you-down-the-yellow-brick-road-27930>

The 'Emerald City' Cast Features Familiar Faces To Lead You Down The Yellow Brick Road



SOURCE: Michael Muller/NBC

By JEFFERSON GRUBBS

Jan 6

This Friday, NBC begins its epic journey over the rainbow with the premiere of [Emerald City, a Wizard Of Oz adaptation](#) that combines the familiar story of L. Frank Baum's classic novels with the gritty realism of *Game Of Thrones* into a sumptuous visual feast provided by filmmaker Tarsem Singh (*The Cell*), who directed all 10 Season 1 episodes. In this version, Dorothy Gale isn't an innocent farm girl with a yappy pet anymore... she's actually a capable nurse with a K-9 companion she discovers in a squad car shortly before they get swept up together in that fateful twister. But that's not the only difference audiences will find, as [the cast of Emerald City](#) takes on wildly revamped versions of the characters we've all come to know and love over the years.

Thankfully, these unfamiliar approaches to characters like the Scarecrow (now a handsome, amnesia-stricken man) and the Wicked Witch (now an unpredictable

opium addict) will be grounded by familiar faces that many viewers will recognize from other television projects and movies, including Marvel villains and a particular Person Of Interest. So before you tune in to the series premiere of *Emerald City*, get to know the 12 performers who will be guiding you on this strange trip down the Yellow Brick Road...

11. Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth



SOURCE: Michael Muller/NBC

This English actress has put in her time acting in guest roles on a variety of British television series — including *Law & Order: UK* — and makes her American debut this year in both *Emerald City* and an upcoming episode of AMC's martial arts drama *Into The Badlands*.

https://pro-labs.imdb.com/name/nm4662925/?ref_=sch_int



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Roxy Sternberg

Actress

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KNOWN FOR

[Emerald City](#) (2017) | [Chewing Gum](#) (2015) | [Siblings](#) (2016)

NICKNAME

Raquel

HEIGHT

5' 7½" (1.71m)

AGE RANGE *

Performs ages 18-35

ETHNICITY *

Mixed

HAIR *

Brown (Shoulder Length)

EYES *

Brown

PHYSIQUE *

Average

Show all profile details

* Starred info submitted by page owner via IMDb Resume (has not been verified by IMDb).

Filmography Filter

TELEVISION IN PRODUCTION (1 TITLES)YEAREPISODE COUNTSTATUS



- **Into the Badlands** (TV Series) – Ravel (1 episode, 2017)20171Released
 - Episode #2.5 (2017) – Ravel
 -

PAST FILM & VIDEO (4 TITLES)YEARBUDGETU.S. GROSS



- **The Seventeenth Kind** (Short) – Kate2014£47K



- **It's a Lot** – Crhissy2013£200K



- **Meeting Place** – Olu2012



- **The Writer's Circle** (Short) – Alexandra2012

PAST TELEVISION (9 TITLES)YEAREPISODE COUNT

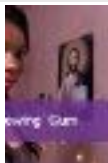


- **Emerald City** (TV Series) – Elizabeth (7 episodes, 2017)20177
 - They Came First (Feb 10, 2017) – Elizabeth
 - Beautiful Wickedness (Feb 3, 2017) – Elizabeth
 - Everybody Lies (Jan 27, 2017) – Elizabeth

Show more



- **Siblings** (TV Series) – Amy (1 episode, 2016)20161
 - Old Man Model (Jan 18, 2016) – Amy
 -



- **Chewing Gum** (TV Series) – Meisha (1 episode, 2015)20151
- Possession (Oct 20, 2015) – Meisha
-



- **Mount Pleasant** (TV Series) – Caroline (1 episode, 2014)20141
- Episode #4.5 (Oct 14, 2014) – Caroline
-



- **Badults** (TV Series) – Girl in Flat 17 / Giff (2014) (2 episodes, 2013–2014)2013–20142
- RX: 6 Changes (Jul 7, 2014) – Girl in Flat 17
- Girls (Aug 13, 2013) – Giff (2014)
-



- **Law & Order: UK** (TV Series) – Alice Edwards (2 episodes, 2013–2014)2013–20142
- Pride (Apr 2, 2014) – Alice Edwards
- Fatherly Love (Aug 28, 2013) – Alice Edwards
-



- **The Tunnel** (TV Series) – English Journalist 2 (1 episode, 2013)20131
- Episode #1.5 (Nov 13, 2013) – English Journalist 2
-



- **PhoneShop** (TV Series) – Monique (1 episode, 2013)20131
- Nick Nack Paddy Whack (Aug 1, 2013) – Monique
-



- **Pini** (TV Series) – Cassandra (1 episode, 2012)20121
- You Want to Look Like That Part 1 (Sep 2, 2012) – Cassandra
-

OTHER (1 TITLES)YEARBUDGETU.S. GROSS



- **Guitar Hero Live** (Video Game) – Lead Female (voice) 2015

Additional Credits (submitted by page owner via IMDb Resume)

TELEVISION COMPANY/DIRECTOR

- **PhoneShop** * – Monique Talkback Thames, Phil Bowker
- **Law and Order UK** * – Alice Edwards Kudos, Mat King
- **The Tunnel** * – Sam English Journalist Kudos, Hettie Macdonald

* Starred info submitted by page owner via IMDb Resume (has not been verified by IMDb).

Getty images

NBC's 'Emerald City'.



Roxy Sternberg, Vincent D'Onofrio and Isabel Lucas.





Roxy Sternberg, Adria Arjona and Oliver Jackson-Cohen.



<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2013/sep/28/this-weeks-new-films-blue-jasmine>

It's A Lot (15)

(Darwood Grace, Femi Oyeniran, 2013, UK) Femi Oyeniran, Red Madrell, Roxy Sternberg. 96 mins

Broad teen comedy riffing on black British class differences.

<http://www.thehollywoodnews.com/2014/02/11/lot-blu-ray-review/>

It's A Lot Blu-ray Review



By

Luke Ryan Baldock

-

Feb 11, 2014

Directors: Darwood Grace, Femi Oyeniran,

Starring: Femi Oyeniran, Red Madrell, Roxy Sternberg, Jazzie Zonzolo, Charley Palmer Merrell, Miles McDonald, Jack Doolan, Rozanne Pallett,

Running Time: 96 Minutes

Certificate: 15

Extras: Making Of, Deleted Scenes,

A film that proudly exclaims “Featuring The Stars Of ANUVAHOOD, ADULTHOOD, & KIDULTHOOD” didn’t fill me with confidence. Those films have a very specific audience which I am certainly not a part of, but IT’S A LOT is a much lighter and broader comedy than those efforts, and can actually be laugh out loud hysterical at points. At the same time though, it lacks a certain amount of polish that could have made the film more consistent.

Centring on Shawn (Oyeniran), a young man who has dropped out of a prestigious secondary school to attend a “normal” college. He finds himself trying to integrate himself with the likes of his streetwise cousin, Kai (Zonzolo). After attempting to impress a popular girl by borrowing his dad’s car, Shawn smashes it up and must raise £19,000 to get it fixed. To do this he and his mates start a fake charity to get the money, while also juggling an impromptu house party, run ins with drug dealers, and the usual teenage worries of sex and partying.

On the surface the film takes a lot of previous topics covered in teen films, and attempts to add a London edge. Although this is sometimes successful, the comedy itself is very inconsistent. Some of it relies on absurd characters, other times it goes for a more surreal approach, and also gives the odd nod towards observational humour challenging youth culture. There are even elements of parody at times, such as the hot, bitchy girl being introduced, only to then show her doin a number two. However, it’s all very hit and miss, with the hits being uproarious and the misses being embarrassing. One moment the use of generic musical tunes such as a typical western theme and a riff on PSYCHO’s famous core are painstakingly obvious and juvenile, the next we get one of the funniest scenes I’ve seen in years as a pair of police officers named Anthony and Declan decide to humiliate a bunch of partygoers.

The unevenness extends to the tone of the film as well, with a sudden and very serious leukaemia subplot thrown in for the third act. This, along with broadly drawn characters with little complexity, means it’s a very bumpy ride, but one that is thankfully never dull.

I liked it a lot more than I expected to, and it has certainly made me readjust my views on a lot of the talent involved. Whenever my preconceptions are proven

wrong, I'm immediately impressed. The key here, is that Grace and Oyeniran may wish to focus on the comedy that works and the issues they wish to discuss, rather than trying to do everything, both story and production wise, in a single film. Themes of social class, family, and honesty are all summed up in short lines of dialogue and characters turn themselves around far too quickly. With so much going on, there are bound to be moments for all audiences to enjoy, but with little breathing space, the likable actors find themselves suffocated by the nonstop onslaught of ever rising conflicts.

[usr=2]IT'S A LOT is released on DVD and Blu-ray on 17th February.

CHEWING GUM WINS BAFTA



(<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/jan/08/michaela-cole-enjoy-making-people-uncomfortable-chewing-gum-season-two>)

Chewing Gum's Michaela Coel: 'I enjoy making people uncomfortable'



Like Her Majesty, the Queen – a woman she is not habitually compared to – Michaela Coel has two birthdays. The actor-writer-showrunner's regulation one is in October, and she's had 29 of those. A more recent innovation is her "artistic birthday", which falls on 22 May. It recognises the first time she did anything creative, which in her case was to write a poem. By this calendar, she's 10 years old.

So, how does she celebrate? Does she throw a party? "Normally I'm by myself, writing somewhere," she says, before exploding into a honking laugh. "So I celebrate it by crying loads!"

The story of how that teenager became the Coel sat opposite me in a Soho restaurant, who in 2016 [won two Bafta awards](#) (breakthrough talent and best female performance in a comedy) for her E4 sitcom, *Chewing Gum*, is a strange, brilliant and, I'm going to venture, unprecedented one. A decade ago she was an evangelical Pentecostal Christian who lived on an estate in east London with her mother and sister. She had a mohican, practised celibacy and tried to convert everyone she met. She was pretty successful too: she had grown up in a household that "definitely believed in God" but didn't attend services; now she brought her family and then-boyfriend into the church, though her hardline stance did alienate most of her school friends. She wrote her first poem one afternoon after reading the Bible, inspired by the language of the Psalms and Proverbs. She performed it a few days later at a poetry cafe in Ealing.

Coel is not religious now – though her mother, sister and ex-boyfriend still are – something that becomes clear pretty quickly during the first series of *Chewing Gum*, which aired in October 2015. The central character is an unworldly 24-year-old called Tracey Gordon (played by Coel) from a Pentecostal background who decides to leave the church and fast-track her missed adolescence. Specifically she wants to lose her virginity. She is guided on this quest by her best friend Candice ("A Tinder bang ain't even a bus fare, bro") and her idol, Beyoncé. At one point, Tracey prays to a poster of the singer on the wall of her bedroom: "I need the strength you had to switch from R&B to hip-hop when they doubted you – Amen."

The show is rude, fearless and uncensored – also stunningly observed and very funny. And somehow it manages to skewer hellfire-and-damnation religion while at the same time showing much fondness for it. "I wasn't really doing anything artistic before," says Coel. "It was absolutely

becoming a Christian, 100%, and that's why every year I celebrate that day. It reminds me that I can do whatever I want, because it was a big deal to leave [Christianity](#). Especially because I was known as a Christian poet. I was on stage at Wembley Arena at gospel events, so it's a big deal to suddenly go, 'I'm going to have sex with guys, I'm going to write TV shows about this stuff and I'm going to be this person.'"

Chewing Gum, which returns [for a second series](#) this week, is both deeply autobiographical and not. Even Coel can't work out if Tracey is exactly like her or the total opposite. It's particularly hard to decipher today over lunch: Coel wears a buttoned-up shirt and a prim, knitted jumper; her posture is ramrod straight and the effect is of a fashionable librarian. Very Tracey. She squeals with shock when I point this out: "Oh my God, I mean look at me now! That's not on purpose. I didn't dress like that before, that's hilarious. The idea with Tracey is that she's a child in the head, so a lot of her costumes are quite childlike."

Coel glances down at the banquette she is sitting on. "Oh God!" she exclaims. "I've got a fucking backpack, like a fucking kid!"

Where Tracey and Coel clearly do overlap is that they are magnets for a certain kind of misadventure, often sexual. One example: in the new series Tracey finds herself in a sex club – the fancy *Eyes Wide Shut* kind, where single women and couples submit a photograph, pay a fee and are invited to an orgiastic party where everyone wears masks. This, naturally, was inspired by something that happened to Coel, not long after she had renounced Christianity.

"It was just a weird experience for someone like me, who is not that way inclined," she recalls, sipping a herbal tea, ignoring her celery and apple salad. "It's like being in a weird zoo, it's very odd, and everybody is a certain way, and I'm just not that way."

"The first day at secondary school, I saw a girl smash a girl's head through a window"

How did she wind up in a sex club then? "Well, I'm massively open-minded to pretty much anything," Coel replies. "So I thought, 'I'll go for the experience and because my boyfriend really wants to, because obviously I'm not doing a very good job!'"

She erupts into laughter again. "So, really, it was because of my boyfriend I went, because if you go to a sex club it's gotta be because you want to have sex with people, and I just want to have sex with my boyfriend. So it's hard... We're not together any more."

The plotline is a hint that the new batch of *Chewing Gum* episodes are not going all vanilla on us. If anything, Coel felt even more daring this time. “I know it’s hard for people to imagine, but I do have a line – I do have a rude line,” she smiles. “And I would say my toes are over the line with that episode. I can’t pretend it’s not. It’s a little bit much. This is the truth. All I can hope is that people forgive me, ha ha! And, you know, just stay with me, ha ha! Because it’s a bit much even for me.

“But I enjoy making people uncomfortable. For me, I don’t want to write a show that doesn’t make people uncomfortable. I don’t think I know how to write a show that doesn’t make people uncomfortable.”

As I say, Coel doesn’t often overlap with the Queen. “Yeah,” she says, “it so happens that my life is very colourful.”

Roxy Sternberg. Film affinity

<http://m.filmaffinity.com/en/search.php?>

[stype=cast&sn&stext=Roxy%20Sternberg](http://m.filmaffinity.com/en/search.php?stype=cast&sn&stext=Roxy%20Sternberg)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liPsGi21LhQ>



Roxy Sternberg Interview It's A Lot: Premiere

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Red Carpet News TV
Published on Jul 3, 2013

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Roxy Sternberg Interview It's A Lot: Premiere

Red Carpet News interview, 'It's a lot' Leicester square premiere.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01YPARvIJmc>)



EMERALD CITY STARRING BRITS

JORDAN LOUGHRAN & ROXY STERNBERG BEGINS ON 5 STAR 9PM TONIGHT

Posted by Tammy V | 8 Feb, 2017 | Screen, Screen News | (<http://thebritishblacklist.co.uk/emerald-city-starring-brits-jordan-loughran-roxy-sternberg-begins-on-5-star-9pm-tonight/>)



TBB Congratulations to British actresses Jordan Loughran (*Dixi, Evermoor*) and Roxy Sternberg (*Chewing Gum, It's A Lot*) who earlier this year landed reoccurring roles on US TV series Emerald City.

Emerald City is a dark re-imagining of the classic *The Wizard of Oz* the book series written by L. Frank Baum. The TV series which was developed for NBC by Matthew Arnold and Josh Freidman will make its UK debut tonight (Wednesday 8th February) on 5 Star and stars Puerto Rican Adria Arjona (*Narcos, True Detective*) as Dorothy Gale. Emerald City's version of Dorothy is a 20-year old nurse from Lucas, Kansas, with abandonment

issues, after her mother left her on a door-step as an infant. A Tornado carries Dorothy to the Land of Oz where she then embarks on an journey to see the Wizard unaware that life as she knows it is about to drastically change, as unbeknownst to her, her life destiny to fulfil a prophecy that has been with her since birth.

Roxy Sternberg plays Elizabeth, a member of the Wizard's High Council who wants to prove herself and help protect Oz from the beast that haunts them all. Jordan Loughran plays the role of Tip, a young teenage girl who after being freed from a spell that has kept her in the form of a young boy for most of her life, sets out on her own journey of self-discovery.

BAFTA TV Awards 2016: Michaela Coel says *Chewing Gum* series 2 will be 'more cringe'

Actress promises more "shocking and rude" scenes when the sitcom returns.

BY [SUSANNAH ALEXANDER](#) AND [NAOMI GORDON](#)

8 MAY 2016

Michaela Coel might have [just won a BAFTA](#) for her performance in *Chewing Gum*, but she's not about to start taking it easy.

The actress told reporters at the awards ceremony that she's already hard at work on the second series - and promised that it will be even "more cringe" than the first.

"I'm always pursuing what's next," she said, "and I'm trying to make series two even better than the first one if I can."

When asked if we can expect the next series of the estate-set sitcom to be even more shocking and rude, the star answered: "Yes, because my life has become more shocking and more rude."

She added: "It's just going to happen. People are always going to switch off because it's a bit much for some people. It is gonna be a little bit more cringe."

Coel added that she hopes the show has provided viewers with a more realistic insight into what it's like to live on an estate, saying that other series haven't been truthful enough.

"I know that when I wrote it I wanted people to watch that world," she said, "and it's a world they might not necessarily be familiar with.

"I wanted them to be attracted to the people. There's been a lot of stuff on TV set on estates and I felt a little bit repelled."

And she's certainly being allowed to make her series the way she wants to, as she said that Channel 4 have granted her a lot of freedom with the production.

<http://www.digitalspy.com/tv/news/a793365/bafta-tv-awards-2016-michaela-coel-says-chewing-gum-series-2-will-be-more-criinge/>

<http://www.radiotimes.com/tv-programme/e/dym9sy/siblings--series-2---3-old-man-model>

Siblings

E3 of 6

ABOUT EPISODE GUIDE



S2-E3 Old Man Model

SUMMARY

Hannah thinks her luck with men has changed when she meets underwear model Dylan, but is disheartened to discover he lives with his ex Amy - who also happens to be his best friend. Meanwhile, Dan finds himself in hospital after a spot of DIY goes badly wrong and takes it upon himself to break fellow patient Frank out for one last adventure. Comedy.

CAST & CREW

Hannah Charlotte Ritchie
Dan Tom Stourton
Dylan Jeremy Neumark Jones
Frank Geoff McGivern
Amy Roxy Sternberg

<http://www.biguppower.com/wp-content/themes/bigup/popup-pagewhatsup.php?postid=129>

IT'S ALOT MOVIE



It's a lot, it's a lot! We at Big Up have marked October 25th in our diaries for the release of brand new film, It's A Lot.

Starring one of our favourite comedy queens, Miss London, Anuvahood's Jazzie Zonzolo and Arnold Oceng, It's A Lot is definitely one to watch.

We love our British Urban comedy films, especially when they feature familiar faces! Directors Darwood Grace (Anuvahood) and Femi

Oyeniran (who also plays the lead) have pulled together a great list of cameos, mostly from BBC Radio 1xtra! Don't miss Sarah-Jane Crawford, DJ Target, Tim Westwood and Ace, who all feature in the film.

The British Urban comedy is set in London and focuses on the life of middle-class teenager Shaun (Femi Oyeniran). Unhappy at his 'posh' school, Shaun secretly enrolls at his cousin's college where he's introduced to a grittier, more exciting world of girls and parties. Shaun takes a liking to Chrissy (Roxy Sternberg), the college resident hottie and spends his time trying to impress her but ends up in deep trouble.

So, one wild party and a destroyed Lotus later, Shaun's on a mission to raise £20,000 to repair all the damage he's caused before his parents get back from holiday.

Alright so the plot is kind of lifted from an episode of Fresh Prince, but we're still going to be first in line at the cinema for this one! Are you?

<http://www.denofgeek.com/us/tv/emerald-city/232286/emerald-city-trailer-and-premiere-date>



NEWS

Mike Cecchini

Dec 30, 2016

The **Wizard of Oz** mythology is getting yet another facelift, and this time it's for television. NBC has given a 10-episode straight-to-series order for **Emerald City**.

Here's the official synopsis:

Swept up into the eye of a tornado, 20-year-old Dorothy Gale (Adria Arjona) is transported to another world — a mystical land where an all-powerful ruler (Vincent D'Onofrio) governs over one kingdom, has outlawed magic, and faces not only the wrath of a growing cauldron of witches but a looming disaster brought on by a mythical force. Epic, romantic and fantastical, “Emerald City” is an empowering tale of a young woman finding her true strength and identity even as she battles to bring a divided world together.

With 14 books in L. Frank Baum's series about the Land of Oz, there's certainly plenty of material to work with.

Emerald City Premiere Date

Emerald City will arrive on Friday, January 6th with a two hour premiere event from 9-11 pm.

Emerald City was first conceived by writer Matt Arnold and Josh Friedman, who were intended to serve as executive producers...but then the project died. The project is now in the hands of executive producers David Schulner and Shaun Cassidy. Vincent D'Onofrio stars as

the Wizard of Oz, with Adria Arjona, Ana Ularu, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Jordan Loughran, Gerran Howell, Mido Hamada, Joely Richardson, Isabel Lucas, Stefanie Martini, Suan-Li Ong, Florence Kasumba, and Roxy Sternberg.

<http://www.dailynews.com/arts-and-entertainment/20170106/how-filmmaker-tarsem-singh-shot-emerald-city-like-an-eye-popping-motion-picture>

How filmmaker Tarsem Singh shot 'Emerald City' like an eye-popping motion picture



EMERALD CITY -- “The Beast Forever” Episode 101-- Pictured: (l-r) Vincent D’onofrio as The Wizard, Susan-Li Ong as Isabel, Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth -- (Photo by: David Lukacs/NBC)

Emerald city

What: Two-hour premiere of the fantasy drama that re-imagines a darker Oz.

When: 9 p.m. Friday.

Where: NBC.

“This definitely isn’t Kansas,” says 20-year-old Dorothy Gale, played by Adria Arjona, in an early episode of NBC’s much-anticipated, grown-up fantasy drama “Emerald City.” And it definitely isn’t the Oz that you have come to expect: This Dorothy shows up with a gun and opium pollen is what gives the yellow brick road its distinctive hue.

All 10 episodes of the re-imagined Frank Baum tale are directed by Tarsem Singh (“The Cell,” “The Fall,” “Mirror Mirror”). The Indian-American filmmaker, who attended Art-Center College of Design in Pasadena, has a reputation for creating fantastical visual worlds, and “Emerald City” has its fair share of eye-popping spectacle.

and article paragraph 1 who start

<https://nerdreactor.com/2016/12/30/nbcs-emerald-city-review/>

NBC's Emerald City review

I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore. When NBC announced they were developing their own tale of *Emerald City*, there seemed to be many complications. After two years of back and forth discussions, potential cancellation before production, and a change of a showrunner from Josh Friedman to David Schulner, the series was finally ready to premiere. Also, it seems like lately, Hollywood has run out of ideas and are coming up with remakes or reinventions of beloved stories, twisting them into a contemporary version. But, NBC's *Emerald City*, the reimaged version of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*, works wonderfully. After viewing the first two episodes, I am hooked.

This twisted and dark version of Dorothy Gale, her companions, The Wizard and the witches of Oz draws for more drama and enticing storylines. Dorothy (Adria Arjona) is a nurse who seems to want more in life than living in a little town in Lucas, Kansas. After a tornado brushes through her town, Dorothy is whisked away in a police car (with a dog "TOTO") into the world of Oz. Unbeknownst to her, she has accidentally killed the Witch of the East (Florence Kasumba) and instead of the shoes being forced on Dorothy, she obtains something else magical. While on her journey to find the wizard (Vincent D'Onofrio) who would take her home, she runs into several characters from the beloved tale, including characters not featured in the classic 1939 musical.

The Wizard has taken control over the kingdom and has outlawed magic. He must deal with the witches, who grow angry under his control, and the potential disaster from unnatural forces – which brought Dorothy to Oz.

There are many differences between the original story and this version. Instead of a scarecrow without a brain, Dorothy runs into a hunky soldier named Lucas (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), who has no memory of his former life, strung up on a cross, left to die. It's obvious that there is chemistry between the two characters to become something romantic. Come on. Two good-looking people on an adventure together constantly staring at each other... yeah. It's bound to happen.

Instead of real flying monkeys, the wizard has robotic monkey drones that record everything happening in his town. The Yellow Brick Road is a yellow opium-filled road full of hallucinogenic effects, which makes brilliant imagery. The munchkins are warriors who aren't small and aren't the kindest people. And, instead of the Wicked Witch of the West (Ana Ularu) being completely green, she is a smoking hot druggie temptress who could send shivers down your spine with just her stare.

You should also expect several Easter eggs paying homage to the musical and books. There are a lot if you could catch them.



Pictured: (l-r) Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Ana Ularu as West, Gerran Howell as Jack, Joely Richardson as Glinda/North, Stefanie Martini as Lady Ev, Jordan Loughran as Tip, Vincent D'Onofrio as Wizard/Frank, Adria Arjona as Dorothy Gale, Florence Kasumba as Wicked Witch/East, Mido Himada as Eamonn, Oliver Jackson-Cohen as Lucas, Isabel Lucas as Anna — (Photo by: Michael Muller/NBC)

Directed by Tarsem Singh (*The Cell*, *Self/Less*), there never seems to be a dull moment in *Emerald City*, especially with a fantastic cast consisting of D'Onofrio, Arjona, Ularu, Mido Hamada, Gerran Howell, Jordan Loughran, and Joely Richardson. D'Onofrio, Ularu, and Richardson steal every scene they are in, even without saying a word.

D'Onofrio and Richardson are veterans to the screen and it shows in the series. D'Onofrio's Wizard isn't at all silly as the musical version. In this adaptation, the Wizard has a commanding presence, only to mask his real self-pitying state. Richardson's portrayal of Glinda, the witch of the north, isn't the typical "good" witch. She has many shades and it's an interesting interpretation.

Ularu is absolutely fantastic as the witch of the West. She is definitely one to watch out for.

NBC's *Emerald City* is an epic, romantic adventure and plays on the story we all grew up with, but for the aging and mature audience. The CGI and special effects have improved vastly from the musical to now, which beautifully showcases the world of Oz and makes it more realistic. *Emerald City* premieres on Friday, Jan. 6 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on NBC.

<http://www.asiastarz.com/articles/16157/20161124/emerald-city-premiere-date-trailer-new-game-of-thrones-wizard-of-oz.htm>

'Emerald City' trailer, premiere date: Is this upcoming fantasy series the new 'Game of Thrones'?

By Shane Olga Ocampo / 2016.11.24



Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Ana Ularu as West, Gerran Howell as Jack, Joely Richardson as Glinda/North, Stefanie Martini as Lady Ev, Jordan Loughran as Tip, Vincent D'Onofrio as Wizard/Frank, Adria Arjona as Dorothy Gale, Florence Kasumba as Wicked Witch.

<http://www.asiastarz.com/articles/16157/20161124/emerald-city-premiere-date-trailer-new-game-of-thrones-wizard-of-oz.htm#ixzz4YmjyYygh>

"Emerald City," a new series based on the classic tale of "Wizard of Oz," will arrive this January on NBC. On Thursday, the network has dropped the first official trailer of the fantasy series.

Viewers who are big fans of "Game of Thrones" must keep an eye out for "Emerald City." The new, modern version of this classic tale follows Dorothy (Adria Arjona), a young woman who after getting swept up into the eye of a tornado is transported to the world of Oz. There, she meets an all-powerful Wizard (Vincent D'Onofrio) who governs over one kingdom, has outlawed magic, and faces not only the wrath of a growing cauldron of witches but a looming disaster

brought on by a mythical force.

On the trailer released via Facebook, viewers are introduced to Dorothy and her trained K-9 police dog, Toto. Together, they are whisked away to the magical land of Oz where mythical creatures and witches rule. The story kicks off with a familiar death of a wicked witch that will trigger a not so good response from her evil sisters

<http://telltaletv.com/2017/01/emerald-city-review-science-and-magic-season-1-episode-4/>



Emerald City Review: Science and Magic (Season 1 Episode 4)

January 22, 2017 Becky Peters Emerald City, Reviews

Emerald City has successfully become much more intriguing, thanks to “Science and Magic.” However, this is not in any way because of Dorothy or Lucas and their journey. One hundred percent of the credit for this intrigue goes to Tip and Jack’s respective storylines.

Even though it is heavily implied that Dorothy is the new Beast Forever, I find myself wanting to spend more time with Jack and Tip while they both try to figure out how to live with their new bodies – and how to survive in or escape from their respective prisons (which we

will, hopefully, see more of in the weeks to come).



EMERALD CITY — “Science and Magic” Episode 104 —
Pictured: (l-r) Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Vincent
D’Onofrio as Wizard — (Photo by: Rico Torres/NBC)

<http://www.tvguide.com/news/emerald-city-nbc-review/>

Today’s **News**

Emerald City: 6 Things to Love About NBC's Take on *The* *Wizard of Oz*



by **Malcolm Venable** | Jan 5, 2017 10:00 AM EST

(Caution: some spoilers about Emerald City ahead!)

Emerald City, NBC's modern update of *The Wizard of Oz*, has a lot working in its favor. We already know the basics of the story, as so many reboots bank on, which lets us dive in with diminished risk and piqued curiosity about how this interpretation will unfold. A strong, modern heroine guides the action. It's a gorgeous piece of work, stuffed with elaborate visual

cake as well as stories that are fundamentally compelling and plausible. (Well, as plausible as can be, given the context.)

Of course, the fact that it was scrapped and restarted from scratch doesn't exactly telegraph confidence and, in watching, you couldn't be faulted for imagining the whole thing is the result of someone yelling in a meeting, "Give me ideas for *Game of Thrones*, but different, now!" Unlike *Wicked* or the network's own redo of *The Wiz*, the "Why - and why now?" isn't apparent from the outset, making *Emerald City* seem suspiciously like an exercise in indulgence.

Mawkishness creeps in often, and when one episode ends with Dorothy (*Adria Arjona*) whipping out a distinctly modern device in this medieval otherworld to share a moment with a love interest, it's enough to make you want to wish for a tornado to whisk you out of there for good, too. But *Emerald City* is likable - lovable, even - in certain parts. Here's some of what you'll dig about the latest interpretation of Frank Baum's tale.

Emerald City: Everything you need to know about NBC's take on The Wizard of Oz

1. The diversity

Dorothy is Hispanic, speaking Spanish when we meet her; East Witch, while taken out entirely too early given the delicious evilness Florence Kasumba gives her, is black, and given importance via the intense

campaign for retribution by her sister, West Witch (**Ana Ularu**). More people of color are sprinkled throughout the series, with Tip (**Jordan Loughran**), who we'll get to later, being the most prominent. What's commendable here is that the inclusion doesn't feel like boilerplate casting just to check off a list, but rather casting that rounds out the promise of an imaginary world full of all types of people. After all, if you can have munchkins, flying monkeys and a talking lion in a story, certainly you can have some generals, heroes and villains who aren't white, right?

2. Dorothy is a gun-wielding badass

The Dorothy most of us associate with this story is a gingham-clad, Ivory soap pure personification of fragility. She's by and large passive in our collective consciousness - a woman whose story unfolds less by her own volition but rather, choices made for her. Not this Dorothy. She's still compassionate and nurturing, but she's engaged in her own choices and more than willing to fight - as in actual hand-to-hand combat - to further her agenda. She's packing heat too, making her more Lara Croft than Judy Garland.



Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Susan-Li Ong as Isabel,
Emerald City

<http://ew.com/recap/emerald-city-season-1-episode-5/>

'Emerald City' recap: 'Everybody Lies'

KELLI BAMFORTH

POSTED ON JANUARY 27, 2017 AT 10:00PM EST
DAVID LUKACS/NBC

Emerald City

TYPE:

TV Show

GENRE:

Drama, Sci-Fi

RUN DATE:

01/06/17

DIRECTOR:

Tarsem Singh

BROADCASTER:

NBC

SEASONS:

1

CURRENT STATUS:

In Season

Tonight's *Emerald City* episode gave me everything I wanted — more of the delightfully unhinged but can't-take-my-eyes-off-her West, a gathering of all the major characters in the same vicinity (though they don't all know it yet), and a face-to-face meeting between Dorothy and the Wizard. It's also the first episode that literally left me gasping at the end, which isn't too easy to do after my many years of excessive TV-watching. Without further ado, let's get to it.

Well, so much for Ojo being an ally for Dorothy ... It turns out he's kidnapped her and brought her to West, who's promised to bring back his wife from the Prison of the Abject in exchange. (Silly Ojo, don't you know you can never trust a witch?) While Dorothy's locked up in West's dungeon, Jack and Lady Ev are riding into Emerald City amid great fanfare for the Festival of the Beast. It seems like a rather joyous celebration considering The Beast Forever's imminent return, but I guess when life's about to give you hell on earth, you make lemonade (or something like that). Meanwhile, an injured Eamonn has returned to Emerald City with Lucas and Sylvie in tow and continues to insist that Lucas isn't a traitor.

West starts her interrogation of a restrained Dorothy, who's not so forthright in giving West the answers

about East's death she's so desperately seeking. In between the indentured Tip bringing her opium tea, West threatens to "suck the lies from Dorothy's marrow," which I suppose is persuasive enough for Dorothy to direct her to the gun in her bag. When West unknowingly points the muzzle in Dorothy's direction, she flinches and inadvertently shows the witch how to use the weapon. Luckily, West doesn't realize the chamber is empty, so when she pulls the trigger, Dorothy's brains stay in her skull versus dirtying up the dungeon — though a frustrated West knocks her unconscious instead.

Meanwhile, the Wizard has invited Ev's royal family to Emerald City to ask for their help in building weapons to defeat The Beast Forever. With Emerald City's "expert knowledge" and Ev's "technological prowess," they will win the coming battle, so says the Wizard. Hilariously, Lady Ev/Princess Langwidere manages to provoke a bickering match between Elizabeth and Anna — two of the Wizard's most trusted advisors who disagree about what the signs say regarding The Beast Forever's return — so the Wizard doesn't get an answer quite yet.

West contacts Glinda with the magical equivalent of FaceTime to tell her she found their sister's killer. Ever the control freak, Glinda tells West not to do anything until she arrives. A frustrated West again yells for tea, and again Tip brings it on command. Obviously pleased with her new pet, West orders Miranda (the "old" Tip, she explains) to check on the prisoner and empty the chamber pot. Dorothy's awake and using her foot to pull a piece of glass closer to her when Miranda enters

and dumps the dirty liquid into something that leads to Emerald City's sewer system. Seemingly pissed at being replaced by Tip, she steps on Dorothy's foot and pushes it into the broken glass. Ouch.

In another part of the city, Sylvie awakens a sleeping Lucas and lets him know Dorothy's nearby. The two quickly set off to find their fellow traveler, who's admittedly seen better days: West has returned and is basically like, "no more Mrs. Nice Witch." With one flick of her magic finger, she pulls Dorothy into a standing position, across the room, and into the air before resuming her questioning. She wants Dorothy to tell her why East was coming to see her and whether she was acting as someone's agent when she killed her ... basically, any information about the circumstances of her death.

When Dorothy answers "I don't know" in response to "Who's K. Chapman?" West contorts her body into painful-looking positions, prompting Dorothy to finally admit K. Chapman is her mother. After some pointed comments about how wretched Dorothy must be for her mother to have abandoned her, West drops the levitating Dorothy to the floor, hard. That's when East's bejeweled gauntlets randomly reappear. When West grabs Dorothy's hands, what looks like flames shoot up into West's arms and cause her to scream out in pain.

<http://etcanada.com/news/183503/wizard-of-oz-turned-on-its-head-in-new-trailer-for-dark-sexy-emerald-city/>

‘Wizard Of Oz’ Turned On Its Head In New Trailer For Dark, Sexy ‘Emerald City’

title

By BRENT FURDYK. Author byine 23 Nov 2016 8:01 PM

Published

After watching the new trailer for “Emerald City”, NBC’s upcoming reimagining of “The Wizard of Oz”, it’s clear that we are definitely not in Kansas anymore.

Accompanied by her dog Toto (a rough-and-tumble German Shepherd), a young woman named Dorothy (Adria Arjona) is caught up in a tornado that sends her into a strange, magical realm that resembles “Game of Thrones” more than it does the 1939 Judy Garland classic.

This Oz, in fact, is full of deep intrigue, dark magic and bloody battles as competing forces fight for control of the land of Oz, with Vincent D’Onofrio (“Daredevil”) as the Wizard, along with Joely Richardson as Glinda and Florence Kasumba the Wicked Witch of the East — who, in this version, looks like she could give Cersei Lannister a run for her money.



L-R: Roxy Sternberg as Elizabeth, Ana Ularu as West, Gerran Howell as Jack, Joely Richardson as Glinda/North, Stefanie Martini as Lady Ev, Jordan Loughran as Tip, Vincent D'Onofrio as Wizard/Frank, Adria Arjona as Dorothy Gale, Florence Kasumba as Wicked Witch/East, Mido Himada as Eamonn, Oliver Jackson-Cohen as Lucas, Isabel Lucas as Anna (Photo by: Michael Muller/NBC)