



-ANIMATED SERIES -

The Furies Animated Series

Logline: An animated series similar to Netflix's *Love, Death and Robots* where each episode will feature a unique animation style and the origin stories of The Furies, an elite band of female assassins controlled by a nefarious mastermind— Hades.

GENRE/FORMAT: Short (under 10 min.) animated vignettes

Audience: 16+ Male and Female, Fans of Anime & comic books, Superhero genre

Synopsis of Origin Stories:

XAN STONE: Xan is a Columbia University undergrad in the 1980s, who unwittingly betrays a friend and then finds herself a lucrative new line of work: becoming an operative for The Order, a secret organization controlled by a mysterious figure named Hades.

GIA: Gia's strange childhood is revealed as a new breed of Fury, with tightly-monitored and digitally-surveilled upbringing to become the ultimate weapon of vengeance for Hades and The Order.

NARI: Nari's career as a hardcore North Korean patriot for the Dear Leader takes a detour when she's asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. She defects and becomes one of the most lethal Furies under The Order's control.

XIAO JIAN: Xiao Jian (a former PRC colonel and Shaolin kungfu master) and her American diplomat husband are betrayed by both the Chinese and Americans agencies, leading her to join Hades to seek revenge.

FATIMAH: Fatimah is captured and tortured by her own Chechen relative, after he finds her working against them with the KGB. But he underestimates her pain threshold, and an urban legend is born with top sharp-shooter skills and an unrelenting need to mete out vengeance.

The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

VALERIA: Kidnapped as a child from her drug cartel family and raised in the jungles by indigenous people, Valeria's origin story follows her violent rite-of-passage when her tribe is decimated by militia-backed loggers.

EPISODE I - XAN:

This episode takes place in the late 80's/early 90's, so it could work with a period look and feel and playing off the music from that era. Think New Order and The Pixies as the background music and a retro look to the whole episode.-

On the Columbia University campus, a college-aged Xan is fiercely dueling a computer programming major named George Rush during a fencing team sabre practice. Xan and George are in a tie but a hidden judge decides in George's favor. She is summoned away to a limousine, waiting outside the fencing club building. Inside sits a mysterious woman Hebe who brings news that Xan's long estranged father, Hugh Stone, has just committed suicide under the pressure of investigation into his private equity company. Her father, however, has left her the head of a multi-million-dollar charitable foundation he created a decade ago. The financial settlements will take several years and Xan, in the meanwhile, will have to give up her privileged debutante life. Hebe offers Xan a potentially lucrative "business" as a new path: cooperate with an underground network and do a few minor errands of 'global consequences.' All Xan has to do for her first gig is go out tonight with another classmate, an exiled Middle Eastern prince, Tarek. Later, we see Xan convincing Tarek to come to a NYC nightclub, where they party and experiment with MDMA, surrounded by a crush of gay men, vogueing. Xan and Tarek are separated for a moment, but suddenly Hebe appears and drags Tarek away. We see through Xan's eyes as Hebe moves in, pulling Tarek close in a seductive dance and then stabbing him lethally through the heart before anyone notices, to the beat of the music. Hebe vanishes into the crowd, leaving a dead Tarek pressed in between sweaty dancing bodies. A shocked Xan immediately dashes after Hebe. Xan catches Hebe before she can jump into a speed boat on the East Harbor to escape. Xan quickly disables her. Surprised by Xan's instincts, Hebe tells her that Hades will want to speak to her. Flash forward to Xan undergoing a gauntlet of trials as we hear the male voice of Hades rattling off commands: Scale the side of a hotel building and sneak into a room, jump from a footbridge onto a moving train, extract a book from a high security library, avoiding cameras and setting off alarms. The final scene shows a triumphant Xan receiving an ornate card with one line on it: Welcome to The Furies.

April 2021

Page 2



The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

EPISODE 2 - GIA:

This episode is a broken flashback in which it's hard to tell what is a real memory vs. a planted memory. We like to think of this one as an episode from Neil Gaiman's Sandman where Delirium is the one in charge. The whole piece should seem almost like a bad hallucinogenic trip and be very disorienting for the viewer. Audio/voices should be used to give it an extra layer of depth.-

It's 1999 -- a 5-year-old Gia executes a judo roundhouse kick that surprises her master. He takes her aside and speaks to her about how to use her force more judiciously, but she's barely listening. Returning to her isolated ranch house on a Texas farm, Gia is met by a stoic nanny, who tells her that her mother is calling—Gia takes the call. While she is talking, we see her and the ranch house through a closed-circuit TV—the whole house is under mysterious surveillance, watched by a shadowy figure in different location in a dark room. We flash a decade forward to Gia as a teen, a beautiful half-Mexican tough girl with no time for *quinceaneras*. Sneaking away from the house, Gia enters a fight-in-a-cage, gritty and highly illegal MMA tournament in one of the local Texas towns wearing a Zorro-like head-mask; she's the only female contender. The crowd jeer at her until she delivers a nearly fatal head-kick to her opponent-making herself the victor. She collects the prize-money—in cash—and races home on the motorbike and steals back up to her attic room just in time to take a Skype-like video call from her mother, who apologizes again that she will miss her birthday. As soon as Gia hangs up, she goes online—collaborating with some hacker friends to skim small sums off thousands of Internet banking accounts to take a secret trip to LA. Gia thinks she has gotten away with it, but a surveillance view of her computer and wider corner surveillance view of her sitting at the desk suggests there is someone tracking her movements. At the airport, as she is about to board the flight to LA, Gia is pulled off the flight by her grim-faced nanny and a few other men. A few months later, Gia is in full uniform, enrolled in a military academy that looks more like a tight-security prison. In addition to academic studies, she has to participate in draconian physical exercises. Despite her size, Gia outperforms in various sessions. We pull out to more surveillance images of her at the academy being watched by a shadowy figure. He types: 'Is she ready?' The screen writes back. 'Almost'.

The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

EPISODE 3 - NARI:

The look for this episode could be extremely bleak, black and white only, with perhaps just splashes of vibrant color when there's blood or other violence. The style could be reminiscent of Frank Miller's *Sin City*.

2008 North Korea. A very focused and determined 20-year old Nari stands behind the Great Leader Kim Jong-Il watching the mass games. She is congratulated by the Great Leader for being one of the best comrades—she has turned in more than 20 fellow students for being a traitor. And once the Games are over, a military general announces the execution of her only brother—that she has just reported as a traitor. He looks at her in shock while she methodically recounts all the times he has secretly watched South Korean TV shows. A gruesome firing squad comes in, but over the sounds of bullets hitting their mark, Nari does not bat an eye. Back at work—at the elite spy training academy, Nari rehearses through her Chinese, Japanese & English language lessons with intensity—displaying incredible fluency for someone who has never been abroad. When she makes a mistake, she digs her fingernails sharply into her flesh—her arms are scarred or indented from this type of ongoing punishment. Nari's first international assignment is to sabotage a Japanese ship suspected of carrying military cargo. The mission being top priority, the security department head and Nari are smuggled through to Japan to board the ship. The mission goes off without a hitch. The electricals have been disabled and mini-bombs planted strategically to go off. Her superior then orders her to commit suicide because her mission is over and her sacrifice to the Great Leader will be honored in history. Nari does not understand this order and she argues that she will be better serving the nation on more operations, but her superior insists and passes her the cyanide pill. Pretending to comply, she then turns on him, quickly inserting the cyanide pill into his mouth and crushing his jaws together. He dies instantly. The bomb is ticking, but now Nari realizes why the superior did not introduce the escape procedure. Quickly making up her mind, Nari disables the detonators, and restores the electricals. She hides inside the ship before she can disembark and from then on, she will never be the Great Leader's little soldier again.

The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

EPISODE 4: XIAO JIAN

This character has always felt like a homage to the David Mack *Kabuki* books and we'd love to explore that mix of black and white with hand painted, watercolor styles in the mix.-

Xiao Jian, a beautiful People's Republic of China military colonel in her twenties, is at her father's deathbed at the top military hospital in Beijing for senior cadres. The decorated general is heaving his last breath. He tells her: 'I'm the last of your family. Once I'm gone, you're free. Never forget that.' After attending the military ceremony for her father's funeral, Xiao Jian arranges for a clandestine meeting inside the Beijing Metro with Richard, a top US diplomat she has been having a secret relationship with. She tells him that the time has come. He nods. A week later, Richard resigns from his role and he and Xiao Jian elope to Vietnam. While strolling in the West Lake in Hanoi, Xiao Jian is pulled aside by PSB (Public Security Bureau of China) agents who accuse her of collaborating with a famous US spy. They are willing to take her back—she can stay in the marriage but continue to spy on her husband. Xiao Jian refuses and walks away from them—telling them she will report on him no more even if she had done it before. Later that night, Richard and Xiao Jian are celebrating their marriage on the balcony of their hotel room when a bomb erupts just below them. Richard is killed outright but Xiao Jian survives only because she stepped inside the room to get more ice. Xiao Jian, although in complete shock, goes into a stealth mode and leaves the hotel immediately. Next morning, at the Hanoi airport, the two PSB agents are about to go through security when they are suddenly sprayed in their eyes with a spray bottle. The woman—Xiao Jian in disguise—slips away before they can react. They pass through security and within a few minutes, collapse—dead from the nerve gas. Xiao Jian's revenge exacted, she now finds a way across to Cambodia.

EPISODE 5: FATIMAH

The episode would lend itself to the gray/bleak style of an *Atomic Blonde* graphic novel but maybe with a hint of constructivist, abstract backgrounds.-

In a dark, grimy cell, 20-year old Fatimah, Chechen-turned informer to the KGB, is being held by two men, tied up to a chair. Slowly, they start to break each of the fingers on her right hand. Fatimah flinches in deep pain with every break, but to the men's surprise, she won't make a sound. Upon closer look, it's clear that Fatimah has been battered for several days now—her

The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

face is swollen and her body is black and blue with cuts everywhere. One of the men standing over Fatimah is her uncle who spits on her and kicks her for being a traitor to her own people and being a spy for KGB. He strokes her in a sexy way along her neck and chest and mentions that she was always his favorite niece. Her uncle asks for the names of her KGB bosses and she seems to finally relent. But the two names she spits out are the very names of two men standing over her—with an expletive added. Furious, they get ready to break the fingers in her left hand. As her uncle leans in to threaten her once more, Fatimah suddenly head-butts him, rendering him unconscious. She then wrenches her left foot out of the binding (only by severely spraining the foot while doing it) and gives a bone-crunching knee-kick in the head to the other man trying to grab her. When she sees that her uncle is starting to move off the floor, Fatimah flips herself and her chair and lands one of the chair legs on her uncle's throat—killing him instantly. She then painfully gets herself out of her the chair by loosening the bindings one by one, injuring or cutting herself more in the progress. Once she is free, she grabs her uncle's gun and puts a bullet in the temple of both men. Then she bangs on the door loudly and stands against the other side of the door. When it the door opens, she shoots the incoming guard dead and takes his gun. She runs out of the compound and positions herself behind a truck. And she begins to sharp-shoot the remaining men she sees inside the compound without missing a single one—Fatimah has perfect aim. She checks her gun—no ammunition left. As she walks away, she mutters, “You should've broken my left hand first, asshole. Then you'd all be alive.’

EPISODE 6: VALERIA

We always imagined Valeria's story playing out almost like an animated version of a Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel, complete with its magical realism and lush sceneries.-

Off the coast of Nayarit Mexico, a young girl plays with her *abuela* on a private secluded beach with a grand estate overlooking the water. Suddenly, a small boat comes ashore and two men jump out. One man walks over to the *abuela*, calling out her name “Inez Beltran-Leyva?” As she nods proudly, he shoots her and grabs the little girl, kidnapping her in the blink of an eye. Cut to the jungles of Columbia, as the same kidnapper dumps the bound and gagged girl in front of a shaman in a remote village. The shaman asks him, “What is her name?” The kidnapper laughs and fires back, “Valeria Beltran-Leyvan is what her father Hector called her. But you can call her whatever you want, because she is nobody now.” We close in on the girls frightened but defiant eyes and then FLASH FORWARD to the future as we see a now-grown up Valeria, as

The FURIES: AGENTS OF VENGEANCE
-ANIMATED SERIES-

the shaman paints her face in a ritual. The village people are preparing to leave as we see smoke and a fire lapping at nearby trees. Jeeps come crashing through, as we see militia men open fire on the villagers. Valeria attempts to protect her shaman but he is killed with a bullet through his head. She howls at her loss but flees in time to see the leader of the militia get out of the last jeep. Later in the dark of the night, the drunken leader steps away from the celebration to take a leak in the woods. Suddenly, a poisonous dart pierces his throat. As he falls, Valeria steps up, looming over him. The next morning, no one can find the leader, until suddenly they all gasp as they see something dangling from the tree—a shrunken head of the leader, with its mouth stitched up, rocking back and forth.

