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DiPA:

Observer Pictures presents Apollyon. Written and directed by Faith McQuinn. This is episode 20. Obligations.

Armand:

Cypher. I'm here.

Gabriel:

Do we really have to stand here and watch this?

Reese:

I want to make sure they get everything.

Gabriel:

They're programmed to do just that.

Theo:

Then let's call it cathartic.

Reese:

Yes.

Gabriel:

Really? It's just mechs loading boxes.

Reese:

Let me have this, Gabriel!

Gabriel:

Emotions are strange.

Reese:

They're only strange because you have none.

Gabriel:

You both have enough for me.

Reese:

Oh, this reminds me of college, sitting on the floor eating pizza.

Gabriel:

At least this time it's because all your furniture is packed up and not because we're flat broke.

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Reese:

Oh, that apartment was so very sad.

Theo:

Oh, do you remember that cheap printed couch we had?

Reese:

How could I forget? That thing gave me a rash.

Gabriel:

What were you doing on it to get a rash?

Reese:

This place looks huge with nothing in it.

Theo:

I don't know why you decided to have everything moved this far in advance.

Reese:

I want everything done when I get to Phoenix. I want to walk in and only have to unpack small things. Plus staying in a hotel for the week feels like the vacation I've never had.

Theo:

What's it like, moving to a new city?

Gabriel:

Oh my God, that's right. You never have.

Reese:

You sweet summer child.

Theo:

Okay, good lord, you two.

Reese:

If I discount all that damn paperwork, it's essentially the same as moving from one apartment to another.

Gabriel:

Liar.

Reese:

What?

Gabriel:

Maybe moving back to a city you've been in before is like that, but moving to a new one? Not at all the same. Nashville to Atlanta felt like I was going from my nice, safe childhood bedroom to fucking Antarctica. You don't know anybody, you don't know the best places for food, you get lost every five minutes. It's hell.

Reese:

Exploring new restaurants and museums, seeing different landscapes, finding a great little brew shop you would've never come across if you hadn't gotten lost in the first place.

Theo:

Oh, good lord. I'm never moving.

Reese:

The culture shock is not as terrible as poor, stuck in his ways Gabriel is making it out to be. You never know where life may take you. You could end up in a different country, for all you know.

Theo:

I like my life just as it is. Okay, I didn't mean anything by that.

Reese:

No, no. It's true. I love you both dearly, but...

Gabriel:

You need to be closer to your kids.

Reese:

Very much so.

Theo:

Are you sorry that you came back here?

Reese:

Not at all. When Kelsey and I split, I needed to make some serious changes in my life. I've done that. And now it's time to be a different kind of parent. Sometimes you need the time to change.

Theo:

I'm going to miss the hell out of you.

Reese:

Oh, I'm going to miss you too.

Gabriel:

Seriously? More crying?

Theo:

I'm not crying.

Gabriel:

She's still here for another week!

Reese:

Is that how long you're going to wait to start missing me?

Gabriel:

It's really hard to miss someone who's not gone.

Reese:

Now who's the liar?

Gabriel:

Excuse me?

Reese:

I seem to recall a certain someone being very mopey for a few weeks when his best friend wasn't talking to him, to the point where I had to kick the two of you out of my house on Christmas.

Gabriel:

That's different.

Reese:

I'll miss you too, Gabriel.

Gabriel:

What are your plans for your final week in the ATL?

Theo:

I can tell you what they aren't. She won't be my plus one for the Honor Banquet. You've never gone, and I really think you should do this when you're about to abandon me forever.

Reese:

I have zero desire to spend my final days in this city stuffed into formal wear and pretending I give a shit about what a bunch of scientists are saying.

Gabriel:

My sentiments exactly. I try to get out of it every year, but Weiss would put me through hell.

Theo:

I like the Honor Banquet!

Gabriel:

Oh, of course you do. You also loved taking tests.

Reese:

I've never met someone who got as excited about exams as you did.

Theo:

There is nothing wrong with wanting to prove to yourself-

Reese:

... that you know something well.

Gabriel:

... that you know something well.

Theo:

Okay, okay, thank you.

Gabriel:

What are you going to do with your last week?

Reese:

I'm going to get some peach cobbler from [inaudible].

Gabriel:

Great choice.

Reese:

I know. I'm going to spend the day at the botanical gardens.

Theo:

Really? An entire day outside?

Reese:

Phoenix is lacking in the greenery, so I want to take it all in while I can.

Gabriel:

I thought you were all about the different landscapes.

Reese:

Doesn't mean I won't miss these.

Theo:

You'll be having one last home-cooked meal.

Reese:

Only if Gabriel is cooking it.

Theo:

Excuse me? I make very good spaghetti.

Reese:

That's nice, hun.

Gabriel:

I will gladly make you dinner. Just let me know what you want.

Reese:

Perfect.

Gabriel:

In the meantime... How about some cookies?

Reese:

You are such a wonderful man, Gabriel Larson.

Gabriel:

I know.

Theo:

Oh my God.

Reese:

If you can figure out a way for these to be shipped to me, I would love you forever.

Gabriel:

I'll get on that.

Reese:

Are you calling Kate today?

Gabriel:

No. No, this is your time. We're not talking about that. I learned my lesson at Christmas.

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Reese:

Good for you, on learning your lesson.

Gabriel:

Thank you.

Reese:

But since it is my time, I decide what we're talking about. Are you calling Kate?

Gabriel:

Yeah. Lincoln is hanging out with some friends, so I'm doing it later.

Theo:

And I'll be there for moral support. He'll be fine.

Gabriel:

I won't, but thanks for the confidence.

Reese:

It might be awful. It will be painful. But it won't be something you can't handle.

Theo:

And we can get very, very drunk after the fact, if you need to.

Gabriel:

Sounds like a plan.

Bethany:

I thought you had the day off?

Armand:

I do.

Bethany:

Where have you been?

Armand:

Bethany, I'm not one of your children.

DiPA:

Welcome home, Armand.

Bethany:

Annelle said they saw you heading towards the radio tower.

Armand:

By all means, come on in.

Bethany:

Why were you at the communication tower?

Armand:

Close the door, please?

Bethany:

Why were you at the communication tower?

Armand:

I hadn't seen Cypher in a while. I thought it was time for a visit.

Bethany:

I also heard that you asked Zurita to take over at the clinic next week.

Armand:

Would you like something to drink?

Bethany:

No.

Armand!

Armand:

I'm taking some time off.

Bethany:

Are you going past the wall?

Armand:

No.

Bethany:

You wouldn't tell me if you were.

Armand:

I would, and I'm not.

Bethany:



You're not going to tell me what's happening, are you?

Armand:

I'm not.

Bethany:

Why?

Armand:

Because sharing information means increasing the risk.

Bethany:

Oh, dear Gods.

Armand:

I'm being careful.

Bethany:

That's not always enough!

DiPA:

An incoming call from Revelation 20.

Armand:

I need to take this.

DiPA:

An incoming-

Bethany:

I know.

DiPA:

... call from Revelation 20.

Bethany:

I'll show myself out.

Theo:

Please drink this.

Gabriel:

No, I want to be completely clear for this.

Theo:

It's soda water.

Gabriel:

Oh.

Theo:

So, what time is she calling?

DiPA:

Incoming video call from Hazel [inaudible].

Gabriel:

I guess right now.

DiPA:

Gabriel, would you like to accept the call?

Gabriel:

Yeah. Yes, accept.

Kate:

Gabriel.

Gabriel:

Hi, Kate.

Kate:

Hazel.

Gabriel:

Sorry, Hazel.

Theo:

You've got this.

Gabriel:

Shh!

Kate:

Is there someone there with you?

Gabriel:

My friend Theo. She's here for moral support.

Kate:

It's nice to know you found someone.

Gabriel:

Oh, she's not... Yeah.

Kate:

How have you been?

Gabriel:

Perfectly fine.

Kate:

I'm trying to be polite.

Gabriel:

I didn't ask you to do that. I don't need you to do that.

Kate:

All right, let's get straight to the point then. Are you going to let me meet Lincoln?

Gabriel:

We are very far from meeting. This is a conversation about speaking to him, and I need to know why.

Kate:

Because he's my son.

Gabriel:

He didn't ask to see you?

Kate:

No.

Gabriel:

Then what is it? Are you hoping to get something from him? Are you dying or something?

Kate:

I'm not dying.

Gabriel:

That's good. I guess.

Theo:

Gabriel!

Kate:

You want my honest answer?

Gabriel:

That would be the best approach.

Kate:

If he hadn't reached out to me, I wouldn't have ever thought to ask.

Gabriel:

Of course not.

Kate:

But the second I read his email, I knew that I wanted to connect.

Gabriel:

You had 15 years to do that.

Kate:

What I did... It's not something I'm proud of, but I wasn't in a good place then! I'm much better now. I'm married. I have two children. Twins.

Gabriel:

Will you give me a minute?

Kate:

Sure.

Gabriel:

She has children! The woman who said she wasn't cut out to be a mother!

Theo:

Gabriel.

Gabriel:

What the fuck?

Theo:

Come on. You can get through this call.

Gabriel:

Does your new family know about Lincoln or me?

Kate:

No.

Gabriel:

Obviously sharing your past transgressions isn't a good look for your new life.

Kate:

What have you told Lincoln about me?

Gabriel:

That you left, and wanted nothing to do with us. What else did he need to know?

Kate:

At least you didn't make me out to be a monster.

Gabriel:

You took care of that part all by yourself.

Kate:

He must not feel that way if he sought me out.

Gabriel:

So your new family knows nothing about your old family, yet you want to connect with my son because of, what? Some deep-seated guilt that blossomed from his random email to you?

Kate:

I don't know what you want me to say, Gabe.

Gabriel:

Oh, do not fucking call me Gabe.

Kate:

Nothing I say to you is going to change how you feel about me.

Gabriel:

You're damn right. But Lincoln is old enough to make his own decisions about you. He wants this. I'm doing this for him.

Kate:

You were always so good with him.

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Gabriel:

You have to tell him the whole truth... Hazel. He has to know about your family.

Kate:

I'll tell him. I promise I will.

Gabriel:

Your promises don't mean shit to me, but I'm still going to let you speak to him.

Kate:

When can we schedule a holo meetup?

Gabriel:

I was thinking a simple video call.

Kate:

Oh. I just thought it would be better if we could really see each other.

Gabriel:

No. We can work up to that.

Kate:

All right. It's your decision.

Gabriel:

Of course it is.

Kate:

Well, let me know when I can speak to him.

Gabriel:

I will.

Kate:

Thank you for doing this.

Gabriel:

Yeah.

Theo:

See? You made it.

Gabriel:

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Oh, that was utterly exhausting.

Theo:

But the communicator is still in one piece, and you kept your cool... For the most part.

Gabriel:

Yeah.

Theo:

And now the Honor Banquet will be as easy as a grade school science project.

Gabriel:

I hated science in grade school. I would like to drink now.

Theo:

Yes. Let's do that.

Armand:

Connect call.

Savreen:

I'll be on a plane tomorrow morning.

Armand:

You're really doing this?

Savreen:

You've spoken to your friend?

Armand:

I did this morning. Everything is set, but we can-

Savreen:

I'll be waiting.

Armand:

All right.

Savreen:

So what did you tell this Cypher person? Is his name really Cypher?

Armand:

It's the only name I've known him by.

Savreen:

Curious.

Armand:

I told him that I wanted to connect to a Limits channel. It's not something entirely out of the ordinary. Every once in a while we do it to... You know what? That's not important.

Savreen:

You don't trust me?

Armand:

I didn't tell him the entire truth, you don't need the entire truth either.

Savreen:

This is precisely why I needed you! For all this to come together!

Armand:

You don't have to flatter me, Savreen. I'm already all in.

Savreen:

I owe you so much.

Armand:

More than you'll ever be able to repay.

Savreen:

You're certain you won't have to be present to make it work?

Armand:

I can control it all from my workstation.

Savreen:

Isn't that dangerous?

Armand:

Not more dangerous than speaking to you about all of it right now.

Savreen:

All right.

Armand:

If you're at all questioning this plan, Savreen, we should find a different way.



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Savreen:

We're running out of time, and this is the best opportunity we have.

Armand:

I don't agree, but I'm obviously not changing your mind.

Savreen:

That fact hasn't stopped you from trying.

Armand:

You don't have the monopoly on stubbornness.

Savreen:

I prefer to think of it as strong-willed.

Armand:

Don't you have a plane to catch?

Savreen:

I do. I'll message you in a couple of days.

Armand:

I'll be here.

Lost Portals:

(Singing).

Thank you. Thank you.

MC:

Another round of applause for Lost Portals. Everyone, please enjoy the appetizers and each other's company. Dinner will be served shortly.

Merrick:

Victoria, you look wonderful.

Victoria:

Merrick! I didn't expect to see you here.

Merrick:

When I heard the ambassador was going to be here, I couldn't miss the chance to meet them.

Victoria:

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Oh, pardon my manners. This is Theodora Ramsey.

Theo:

Theo.

Merrick:

Nice to meet you, Theo.

Victoria:

And this is my boyfriend, Gabriel.

Merrick:

Gabriel, great to finally put a face with the name. I've heard so much about you.

Gabriel:

You as well.

Victoria:

Merrick is my former lab partner, she recently moved into biological engineering.

Theo:

That's a big jump.

Merrick:

It's what I studied before.

Theo:

What brought you to the veterinary department?

Merrick:

Well, I-

Weiss:

Hello, hello everyone. Did you all see Ambassador Bennett? They're presenting Dr. Khanna with her award tonight.

Victoria:

Dr. Weiss. Good evening, sir.

Weiss:

Good evening, Gabriel, Theo, Dr. Kimathy.

Merrick:

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Good evening, Dr. Weiss. I'm going to mingle some more. Great meeting all of you.

Gabriel:

You too.

Victoria:

I'll catch up with you later. Is your wife here with you tonight?

Weiss:

Oh, not this year. She had more pressing matters. I really think she just didn't want to come, and made up an excuse.

Victoria:

Do you know why the Ambassador decided to present this year's award?

Weiss:

The ambassador and Savreen are acquainted, I believe.

Theo:

Really?

Weiss:

Yeah. You sound surprised, Theo. You didn't know?

Theo:

I didn't.

Gabriel:

Honestly, I'm no longer surprised by anything I find out about Savreen Khanna.

Weiss:

And speaking of, it looks like the guest of honor has arrived. If you'll excuse me.

Milgrim:

Hello everyone.

Weiss:

Good evening, Felicity.

Milgrim:

Dr. Weiss. Dr. Ramsey, have you had a chance to speak with Dr. Khanna yet?

Theo:

No, I haven't.

Milgrim:

There's no better time than the present. Will you join me?

Theo:

Yes, of course.

Milgrim:

Dr. Porter, lovely to see you.

Dr. Porter:

Felicity, it has been too long.

Milgrim:

Senator Armstrong, how are your sons?

Senator Armstrong:

Oh, just wonderful, Felicity.

Milgrim:

You'll have to tell me all about them before the evening's over. I'll introduce you to the Senator later.

Theo:

Okay. Oh!

Milgrim:

Dr. Khanna.

Savreen:

Would you excuse me?

Milgrim:

Dr. Khanna. I'm Dr. Felicity Milgrim from the DHH.

Savreen:

Lovely to meet you.

Milgrim:

You, of course, already know Dr. Ramsey.

Savreen:

Good evening, Theodora.

Theo:

Good evening.

Milgrim:

It is beyond incredible to meet you, your work at the ICRS is just something I've always admired.

Savreen:

Thank you, Dr. Milgrim.

Milgrim:

And Dr. Ramsey is following in the footsteps of brilliance that her mother laid down. May she rest in peace.

Savreen:

Yes. Theodora is much like her mother, in many ways.

Theo:

As I've been told.

Savreen:

I'm so sorry to cut this short, but I need to make some preparations before the award ceremony.

Milgrim:

Please, don't let us keep you. I hope we can speak further. I would love to hear your thoughts on women in leadership positions.

Savreen:

I'm in town for a few more days. We can maybe meet for lunch.

Milgrim:

Oh, that would be fantastic.

Savreen:

I'll make sure to connect with you. Now, if you'll excuse me?

Milgrim:

I'll see if you can come to that lunch as well.

Theo:

You don't have to do that, Dr. Milgrim.

Milgrim:

Oh, but I want to, Theo! I want to see you succeed.

Theo:

I should get back to my meal.

Milgrim:

Yes, yes, do that.

Victoria:

Wow, you really have made an impression with Felicity Milgram.

Theo:

It seems I really have.

Gabriel:

Did Dr. Khanna have any words of wisdom?

Theo:

She did not.

Victoria:

I didn't know they knew each other.

Gabriel:

Who?

Victoria:

Dr. Weiss and Khanna. They're over by the stage.

Gabriel:

Well, Weiss is quite the social butterfly.

Victoria:

He does seem to be in his element. I'm going to run to the restroom, I'll be right back. Don't let them take my plate!

Gabriel:

I'll guard it with my life! What do you think they're talking about?

Theo:

I have no idea.

Gabriel:

Looks heated.

Theo:

Wouldn't you look heated too, if you were having a private conversation with Xavier Weiss? I'm sure it's nothing.

Gabriel:

What if it's something?

Theo:

It's a public event! And the ambassador is here.

Gabriel:

Again, nothing that woman does surprises me anymore.

System Computer:

Remote connection terminated.

Armand:

No, no, no.

System Computer:

Remote connection failed.

Armand:

Shit. DiPA. Call Savreen.

DiPA:

Calling Savreen Khanna. Call cannot be connected at this time. Armand, would you like to leave a message?

Armand:

Disconnect. Okay, okay. We've gone this far. Let's get it done.

Savreen:

There are many people who'd like to speak to me.

Weiss:

Yes, but none of them are going to ask what I'm going to ask.

Savreen:

And what is that?

Weiss:

Are you worried?

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Savreen:

About the award? No. It's not my first. It is nice to have Killian here. I haven't seen them in a long while.

Weiss:

Of course you're on first name terms with a US ambassador.

Savreen:

Are you jealous?

Weiss:

Always. What are you planning to say in your speech tonight?

Savreen:

I'm going to thank the committee for the award, and say a few things about my years with the ICRS.

Weiss:

A few things.

Savreen:

Xavier, I told you not to worry.

Weiss:

Okay, this isn't the place, Savreen.

Savreen:

It isn't the place for what?

Weiss:

Damn it, I'm trying to help you.

Savreen:

No, you're trying to help yourself. And I promise you will come out of this with nary a scratch.

Ambassador:

Good evening, everyone. I'm Kylian Bennett, but I'm sure you all know that. When I was asked to present tonight's award-

Savreen:

I should head to the stage.

Weiss:

Savreen, I-



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Savreen:

Xavier, please go enjoy the rest of the evening.

Ambassador:

... I did not hesitate to say yes. Our guest of honor is a dear friend of mine, and I may be a little biased, but her-

Milgrim:

Catching up?

Ambassador:

... receiving this award-

Weiss:

Yes, but-

Ambassador:

... has been a long time coming.

Weiss:

... she doesn't have much time for old friends at the moment.

Ambassador:

Savreen was a celebrated scientist with the CDC-

Milgrim:

That's too bad.

Weiss:

It really, really is.

Ambassador:

... at the start of the outbreak and it was no surprise...

Armand:

Come on, come on, come on.

Ambassador:

Savreen is not only-

System Computer:

Remote connection restored.

Armand:

Yes!

Ambassador:

... passionate about her work, she is passionate about the ICRS. She has never backed down from a challenge to advance the betterment of our society. She is one of the best biochemists I've ever met, and easily one of the most genuine humans I've had the pleasure of knowing. Without further ado, please stand and give a warm welcome to the stage this year's Hadiya-Nicole Green Award of Excellence recipient, Dr. Savreen Khanna!

Victoria:

Great, just in time.

Gabriel:

Should be a good one.

Theo:

Stop it.

Savreen:

Thank you, Ambassador, and thank you to the US Consulate for this amazing award. Dr. Green was a pioneer and humanitarian during her lifetime, and as I accept this award, I hope that people will see me as half the person she was. I've always had a love for science.

Gabriel:

This doesn't sound like the start to an innocent acceptance speech.

Savreen:

I chose biochemistry as my area of study-

Theo:

You are not allowed to call me paranoid ever again.

Savreen:

... because I wanted to understand the foundations of life, not just at the molecular level, but also the larger systems within all life. When I received my doctorate all those many years ago, I never thought that I would bear witness to something that would be so destructive to all the life I wanted to understand.

Milgrim:

She is an exceptional speaker.

Weiss:

She is exceptional.

Savreen:

I know what viruses can do. A virus killed my husband. I'm sure that same virus took the lives of many people you all loved as well, but to be angry at the virus gets us nowhere. That was part of my decision to be a part of the ICRS. To become a public servant. I wanted my expertise to be the reason no other person had to experience what I went through. The work I did within this institution helped make that desire a reality. But in achieving that reality-

Gabriel:

That seems very close to revealing herself.

Savreen:

... sacrifices had to be made.

Theo:

I'm sure only a handful of people would make the connection.

Savreen:

I'm in a room full of workaholics.

Gabriel:

Okay.

Savreen:

So I know we all have sacrificed something to reach our goals, to do our duty; a good night's sleep, a proper meal, relationships. Yet there are people who've made greater sacrifices than anyone in this room has ever made. They've sacrificed their lives; some willingly, most unwillingly. On this special night, I may be the one being honored, but we should really be honoring them.

Armand:

This is beautiful, Savreen, truly beautiful.

Savreen:

We, as doctors, either as physicians or researchers...

We, as doctors, either as physicians or researchers, have always lived by the oath of doing no harm. But sometimes, the advancement of science requires us to decide what is harmful and what is not. This month marks the 25th anniversary of Redivir.

Gabriel:

Still think I'm being paranoid?

Theo:

She wouldn't. This is a live broadcast.

Gabriel:

Seems like the perfect time, honestly.

Victoria:

Will you two be quiet?

Gabriel:

Sorry.

Savreen:

[inaudible] creation and introduction into our society was an incredible feat of science that literally changed our world. I'm proud to have been a part of the ICRS when it was introduced. I am less proud of the steps it took for us to get there. At the time, I knew I would be sacrificing my career, and I couldn't bring myself to do that. Now, my career has taken a very different path, and sacrifice has a very different look. The ICRS is on the verge of changing the world again, and as we've done in the past, we're relying on people who aren't in this room to make sacrifices. And unlike you, they're not allowed a choice in the matter.

Weiss:

Still in awe of her, Felicity?

Milgrim:

What is she doing?

Savreen:

Now, with the possibility of a new vaccine on the horizon, the DHH is performing human challenge trials in order to expedite the vaccine's development. That means that the clinical researchers are purposefully infecting healthy humans with AVS. They're also purposefully keeping this information from the test subjects. [inaudible]-

Milgrim:

What on earth is she doing? We need to cut that feed!

Weiss:

Felicity, I think the damage has been done.

Milgrim:

Damage can always be repaired, Dr. Weiss.

Savreen:

... lying to people when it comes to their health and wellbeing. The ICRS cannot hide from the people they're meant to help and protect. While I believe in HCTs and the incredible work that-

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Armand:

Yes!

Savreen:

... the ICRS has done to protect our society, I do not believe in lying to people.

Armand:

No, no, no, no! Shit!

Savreen:

We, as public servants, should be serving the public. It is our duty to protect our society, and being transparent is part of that protection.

Theo:

Holy shit.

Gabriel:

Oh, this is wild.

Theo:

How are you laughing at this?

Gabriel:

It's better than crying! Oh, fuck.

Theo:

What?

Milgrim:

Dr. Ramsey. A word?

Theo:

Of course, Dr. Milgrim.

DiPA:

This episode featured the voices of Marquita Richardson as Theo Ramsey, James David West as Gabriel Larson, Pamela Paul as Savreen Khanna, J.K. Robbins as Xavier Weiss, Marisha Tapera as Reese Williams, Torres Fontain Jr. as Armand, Kirsty Woolven as Dr. Milgrim, Marina Verlaine as Victoria Kimathy, Courtney Holly as Bethany, Amanda Noriko Newman as Kate, Bob Raymonda as the Ambassador, William Ledbetter as the MC, Tonia Ransom as Merrick, and me, Drea Silvertooth, as DiPA.

Producer, Amanda Lorraine. Assistant Director, Van Donnell. Sound design and mix, Joshua Suhy. Sound recorded by Courtney Holly at Baumann Sound Studios. Original theme composer and music supervisor, Katharine Seaton. Additional music provided by Soundstripe Music. Apollyon is an independently

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