

*A 1 hour period drama, based on true events. In the late 19th century at the height of South Africa's diamond rush, British imperialist Cecil Rhodes' insatiable ambition quickly turns into a game of violent pursuits, as he uses any means necessary to gain power and influence, and form what will become the world's most notorious diamond corporation...De Beers.*

In a gritty and grainy Hell on Wheels meets Boardwalk Empire 1 hour weekly serial, we will go on a journey of discovery and allow for the audience to make their own determination...

We will begin in 1880 by peering into this wild west of a world mainly through the POV of Cecil Rhodes, the polarizing founder of De Beers and our anti-hero—if we can even call him that. He is a man who only lived to be 37 years old but whose accomplishments crippled the South African economy and, to this day, over a hundred years after his death has failed to recover from beneath his plague. His De Beers company has impacted and shaped most of the present societies of the world and can be felt in almost every culture—to see the uncompromising lengths that people have been willing to go to in order to obtain the precious diamond is merely a reflection of Rhodes' own ambition. His influence has seen statues and monuments built in his honor and, even more so, the world's highest academic scholarship be named after him; the esteemed "Rhodes Scholar".

Seeing him portrayed on screen like never before, raw and unfiltered; akin to Pablo Escobar in Narcos, we will see the many captivating and conflicting colors of Rhodes as he gives us a glimpse into a seemingly extinct time, not far removed from our present day. We meet Rhodes shortly after his arrival in New Rush (Kimberley), South Africa during the height of the "diamond rush". At the ripe age of 30 he is armed with only a small financial backing and a burning ambition to ascend to the greatest of heights among society. We will look at how Rhodes will leverage power, relationships and allegiances all in an effort to appease his own desires.

We will also look at Rhodes' longtime rival, Barney Barnato. As Rhodes has acquired a wealthy backing as well as having obtained an Oxford education, Barney is anything but. Known as the cockney jew d'esprit, he comes from Whitechapel, the extremely poor East End of London. Barney is a nail and tooth scrapper with an ambition that surpasses even that of Rhodes. We run into him shortly after Rhodes arrival, as Barney's older brother Harry Barnato attracts him to Kimberley with the prospect of good work in the mines. Though at first, Barnato is ignorant to the craft and culture of diamond mining, his hustler's ambition will allow for him to learn quickly, and soon allow for him to rise and surpass his fellow scrappers working the trenches of the mines.

The third "partner" in this epic undertaking will be the character of Juma Balewa, a young Zulu Soldier who finds work as a minor after fighting in the Anglo-Zulu war. Juma is educated and intelligent, and this allows for him to befriend Barnato upon his arrival in Kimberley as both of them start off in the slums of the mines as diggers and scrapers. There is a deep darkness and rage within Juma; one that has been a shadow of his since birth, one that was illuminated and exploited in war, and one that will craft his destiny in the depths of the mines. Personal vendettas, envious political tactics, social injustices, the demise of an entire country will be left in their wake. From the ashes, those who survive will survive beyond life and death through the Exalted Mines...