
BATAVIA
A HUMAN STORY
Based on the unique 1629 true story of a shipwreck
where mutiny, murder, treason, and passion
exalt human traits.
WRITTEN BY HALASIUS BRADFORD

BATAVIA - A HUMAN STORY

LOGLINE

In 1629, Batavia—the nautical pride of the wealthiest Dutch Company—loaded with weapons and unique gems, shipwrecks on an unknown island where mutiny, murder, treason, and passion expose human nature.

TAGLINE

History is made from the sum of individual stories.

APPROACH TO THE SERIES

One-hour drama series.
This show is LOST meets TITANIC meets THE SOPRANOS, but in 1629... and it is based on a thrilling true story.
It explores human nature through the themes of Redemption, Hope, and Acceptance.

BATAVIA

A HUMAN STORY

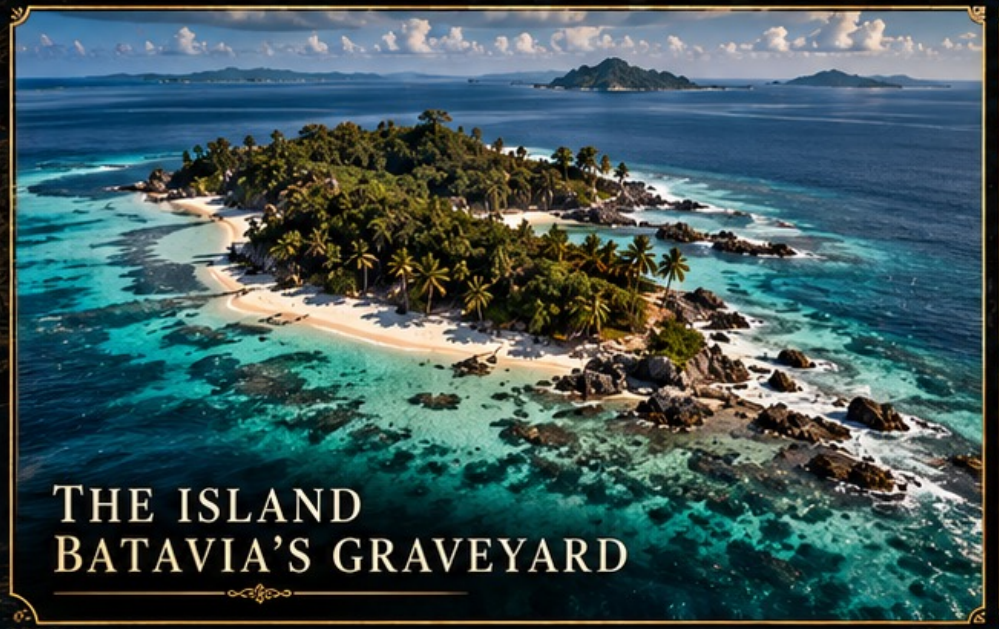
PRIMARY LOCATIONS

From the wealth of Holland
to the voyage of the Batavia,
from a remote island graveyard
to the exotic shores of Java—
our story unfolds across a world
of beauty, ambition, and danger.











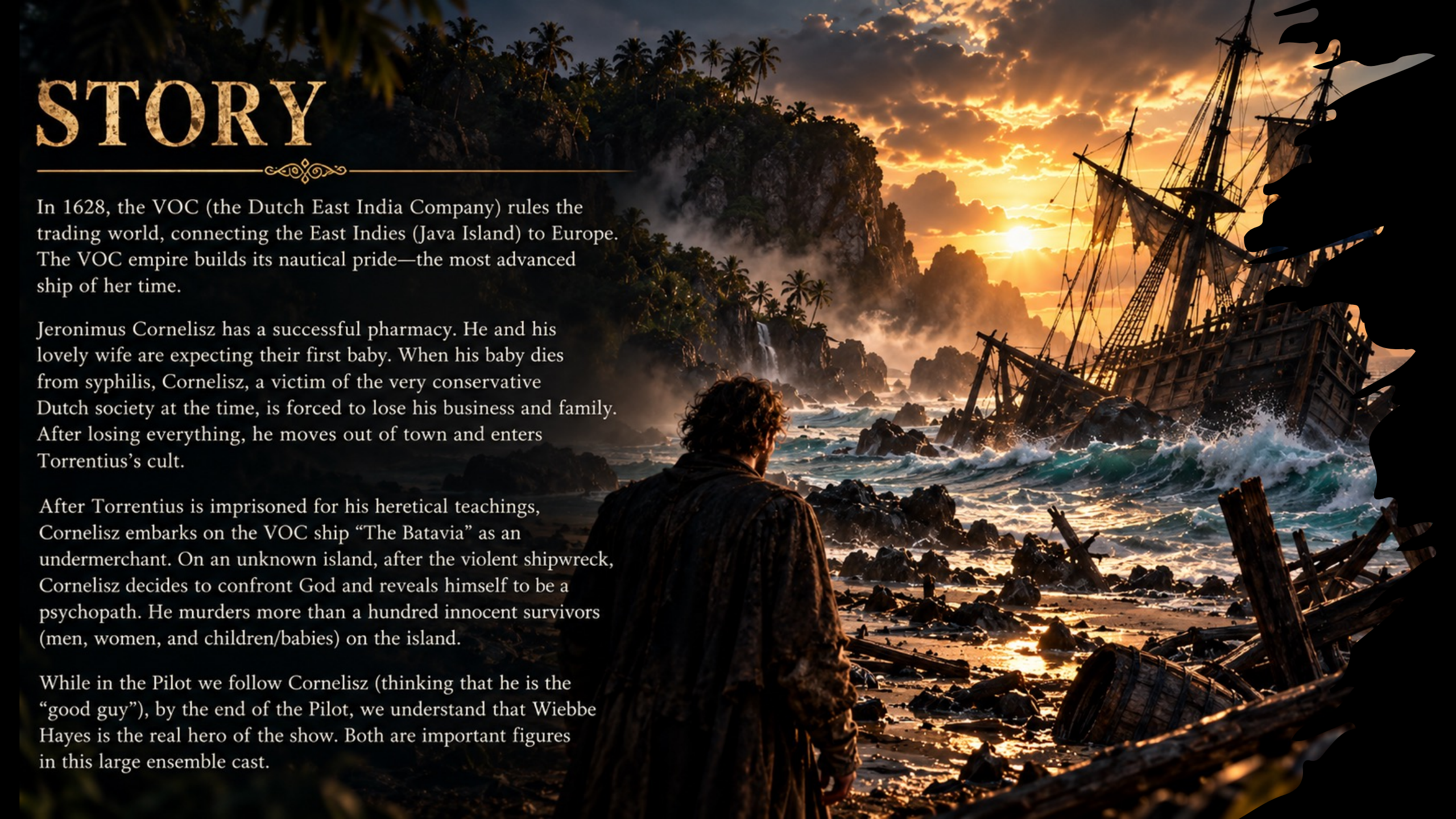
STORY

In 1628, the VOC (the Dutch East India Company) rules the trading world, connecting the East Indies (Java Island) to Europe. The VOC empire builds its nautical pride—the most advanced ship of her time.

Jeronimus Cornelisz has a successful pharmacy. He and his lovely wife are expecting their first baby. When his baby dies from syphilis, Cornelisz, a victim of the very conservative Dutch society at the time, is forced to lose his business and family. After losing everything, he moves out of town and enters Torrentius's cult.

After Torrentius is imprisoned for his heretical teachings, Cornelisz embarks on the VOC ship "The Batavia" as an undermerchant. On an unknown island, after the violent shipwreck, Cornelisz decides to confront God and reveals himself to be a psychopath. He murders more than a hundred innocent survivors (men, women, and children/babies) on the island.

While in the Pilot we follow Cornelisz (thinking that he is the "good guy"), by the end of the Pilot, we understand that Wiebbe Hayes is the real hero of the show. Both are important figures in this large ensemble cast.





UNDER MERCHANT

JERONIMUS CORNELISZ

SOME CHARACTERS FROM THE ENSEMBLE CAST

29 years old. He is an educated, good man living in Haarlem (Holland).

Although he is from a humble family, Cornelisz manages to finish his degree, something unusual at that time in Haarlem, Holland.

Cornelisz's father suffered from schizophrenia, making Cornelisz's childhood unpredictably violent. What drives Cornelisz's life is his desire to be different from his father.

So far, there are no signs of madness in Cornelisz. He is intelligent and calm, but courage is not a characteristic of his.

Because of trauma from his mad father, a fisherman, Cornelisz is afraid of water.



SOLDIER

WIEBBE HAYES

He is an honest and brave soldier. After his parents died when he was twelve, he had to support his family. To provide for his three sisters, Hayes joined the Dutch military. Despite his youth, he is a bright, excellent soldier. He will become the real hero of the story, with Cornelisz as the antagonist. Hayes forms an army on the island to prevent Cornelisz from murdering more innocent people.



LUCRETIA JANSDR.

She is an astonishing Dutch beauty from the Dutch nobility.

Everything in Lucretia's life seems perfect. She married her high school sweetheart, with whom she has three beautiful children.

Although Lucretia has no formal education beyond high school, she loves to read. As part of the nobility, Lucretia plays the piano and has refined manners.

After her husband goes to Java for a one-year job, Lucretia's children fall ill, and all three die within a week.

Still mourning, Lucretia makes the desperate decision to sail on the Batavia to meet her husband in Java and deliver the bad news.

REVEREND GIJSBERT BASTIAENSZ.

He is a Calvinist predikant who entrusts his life to God and his family. The predikant and his wife have seven children. He raised his family on the Lord's word; they live in a lovely union.

The predikant is brave enough to follow his faith, even in the most adverse circumstances. After hearing God's voice in his dreams, the predikant follows the command to travel to Java to spread the Word in the East Indies. He exemplifies what it means to follow one's faith with resilience.

The whole family (the couple, their seven children, and their pregnant maid) embarks on the Batavia from Holland toward Java.



Show's Sub-plots

- The backstory of **Jeronimus Cornelisz** and his wife.
- **Pelsaert** (first in command) and his mistress (the wife of a Prince) in Java.
- **Jacobsz** (Skipper of the Batavia) and his lover **Zwaantie** (Lucretia's maid).
- **Hayes'** backstory and his secret infatuation with Lucretia.
- **Lucretia's** backstory. Having lost her three children, she sails on the Batavia to meet her husband in Java, not knowing that her husband had also passed away.
- **Predikant's** backstory.
- The heretic painter **Johannes "Torrentius" Van der Breeck** and his Rosicrucian cult.
- The story of the mutineers **Wouter Loos** and **Jan Pelgrom**, whom Pelsaert abandoned on an unknown island while returning to Java.
- The story of other notorious mutineers, such as **David Zevanck**, **Jan Hendrixssz**, and **Stone-Cuter**.
- The ruthless **Jan Coen** (Dutch East Indies' General Governor).









Episode 1 & 2 (two-hour Pilot)

Cornelisz's backstory. He is portrayed as a good hero until the end of the Pilot, when a twist reveals his evil side. The audience realizes that Hayes is the hero to follow and Cornelisz is the antagonist in the show.

Lucretia's backstory and her relationship with Cornelisz aboard before the wreck.

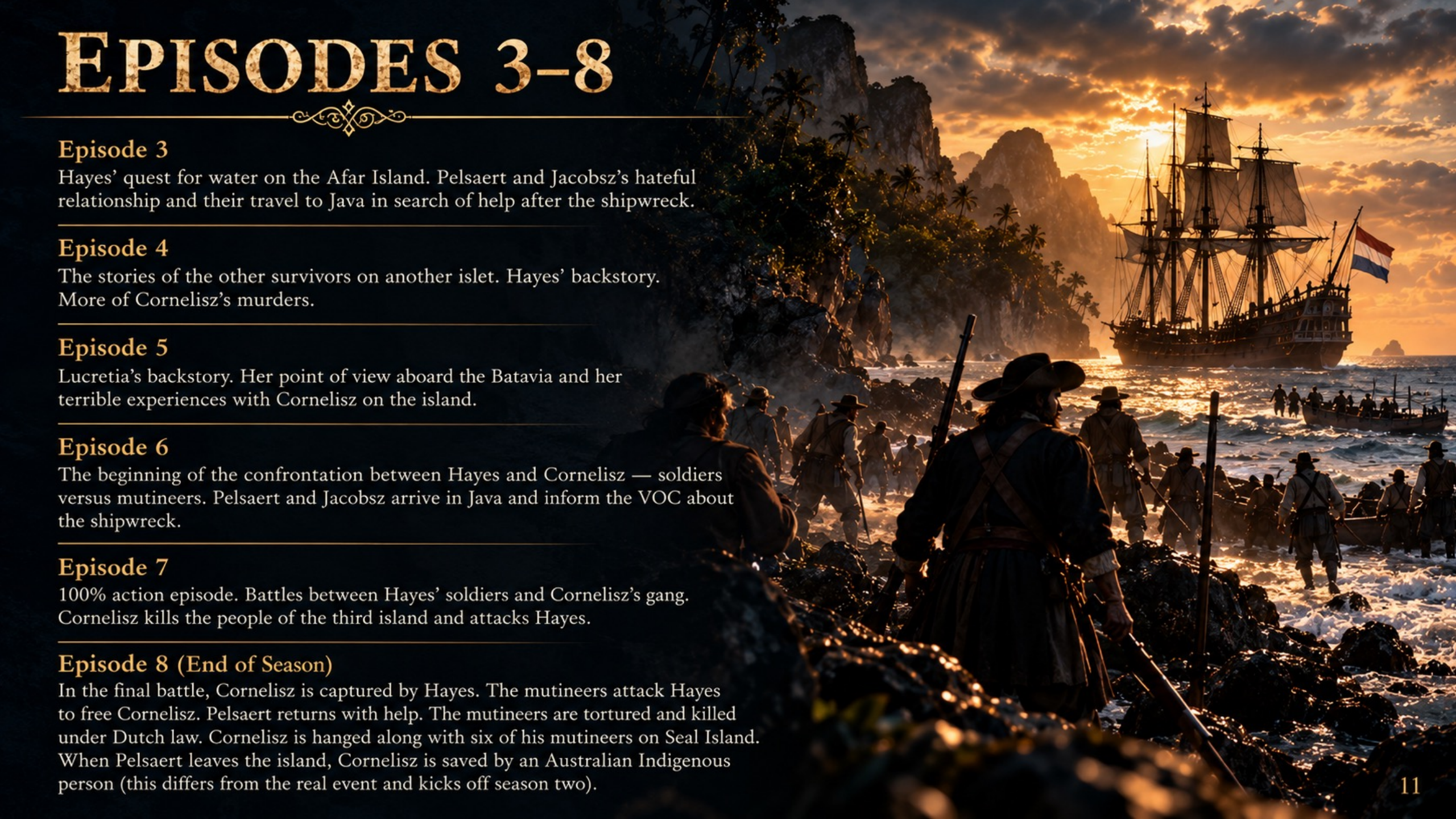
The chaotic conditions and plans for mutiny aboard.

Batavia sinks, and Cornelisz takes command of the island.

Flash-forwards reveal mysterious, bloody murders on the island.



Episodes 3–8



Episode 3

Hayes' quest for water on the Afar Island. Pelsaert and Jacobsz's hateful relationship and their travel to Java in search of help after the shipwreck.

Episode 4

The stories of the other survivors on another islet. Hayes' backstory. More of Cornelisz's murders.

Episode 5

Lucretia's backstory. Her point of view aboard the Batavia and her terrible experiences with Cornelisz on the island.

Episode 6

The beginning of the confrontation between Hayes and Cornelisz — soldiers versus mutineers. Pelsaert and Jacobsz arrive in Java and inform the VOC about the shipwreck.

Episode 7

100% action episode. Battles between Hayes' soldiers and Cornelisz's gang. Cornelisz kills the people of the third island and attacks Hayes.

Episode 8 (End of Season)

In the final battle, Cornelisz is captured by Hayes. The mutineers attack Hayes to free Cornelisz. Pelsaert returns with help. The mutineers are tortured and killed under Dutch law. Cornelisz is hanged along with six of his mutineers on Seal Island. When Pelsaert leaves the island, Cornelisz is saved by an Australian Indigenous person (this differs from the real event and kicks off season two).

Second Season Concept

In the second season, the show departs from historical facts to develop new fantastical situations.

Before dying on the gallows, Cornelisz is saved by an Australian Indigenous person. He saves two of his mutineers hanging beside him and forms an army with them and some Indigenous people.

After attacking an English ship, Cornelisz sails for Java to attack the Dutch fort and take revenge on Pelsaert and Hayes.
He wants Lucretia back, who has married Hayes.

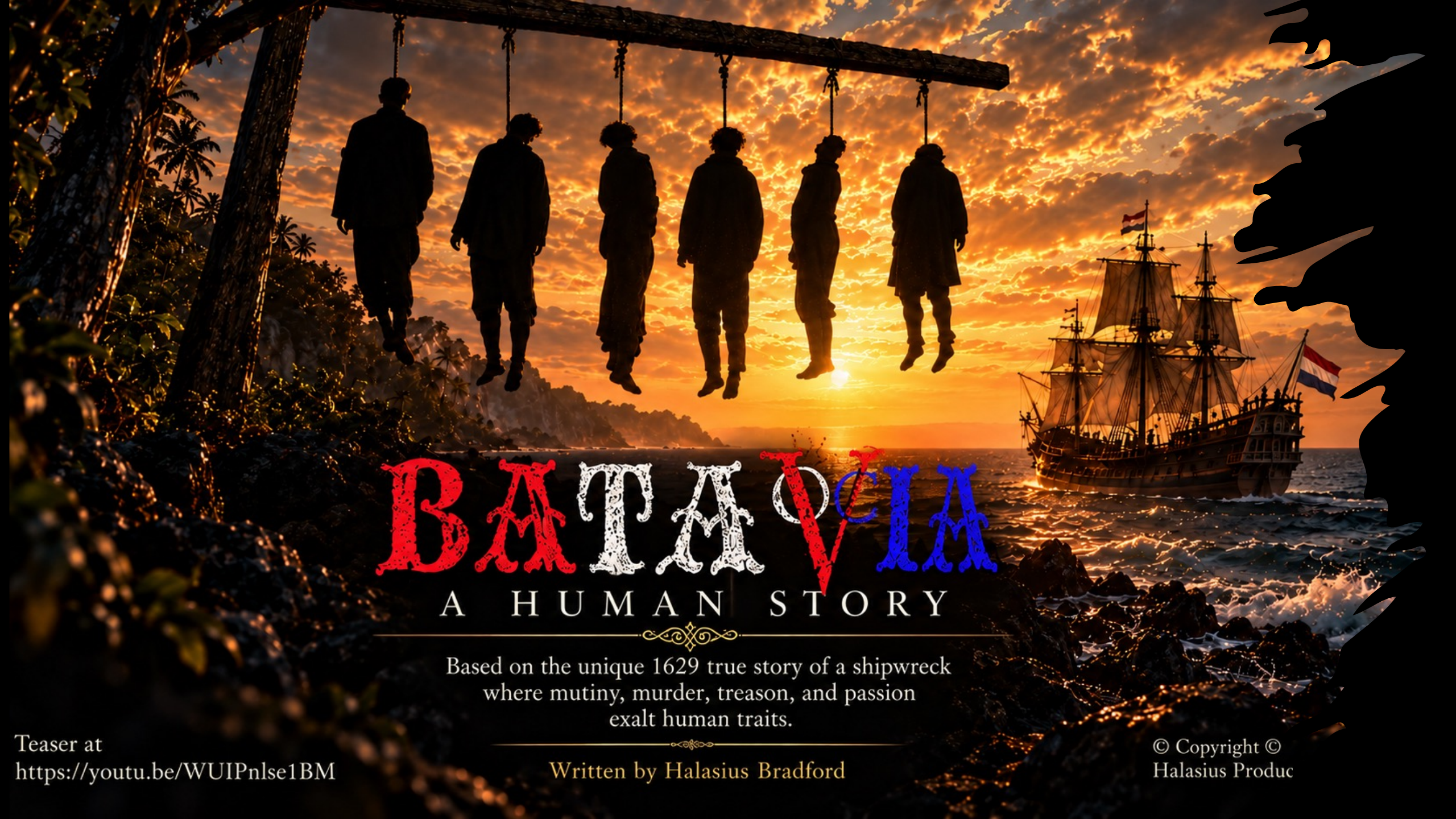


The Tone / Wrap up

This is a vast, real story, as few as there are.

The show has an endless source of material. It can develop into several seasons to analyze the ‘human condition’ and learn about redemption.




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Written by Halasius Bradford
Teaser at
https://youtu.be/WUIPnlse1BM
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