

'Ic-Çavetta ta' Pandora'
(*Pandora's Key*)

Pro.Motion Limited

Drama Fiction
13 episodes x 30 mins
October – December 2021
Primetime on One Tv

IĊ-ĊAVETTA TA' PANDORA

COMPS *Ghost Whisperer* (2005-2010)
 Supernatural (2006-2020)
 Medium (2005-2011)

TREATMENT

A married couple, who are paranormal detectives, are still grieving for their daughter who recently died in a hit and run accident. They work for a paranormal television programme called 'Pandora'.

In each episode, they investigate a supernatural occurrence which is either reported by the viewers, or else popular ghost stories which form part of our local culture. The couple visits both real-life, and also fictional, haunted locations inhabited by some of Malta's most famous ghosts, some of which are even dangerous. In certain episodes, the detectives uncover frauds who would have made up the ghosts for their own personal gain. However, and in the majority of the episodes, the detectives find and communicate with one spirit. Part of their job includes helping 'lost' souls find their way towards the light.

In a nutshell, the cases the detectives investigate are either popular Maltese ghost stories (which everyone knows), or else ghost experiences that were recounted during the television programme 'Pandora' and will now be revisited for our drama fiction.

In fact, the paranormal detectives will be meeting up with the well-known Tv Presenter/Producer of 'Pandora' to discuss what ghost stories to tackle. 'Iċ-Ċavetta ta' Pandora' will be taking a fictional look at the behind-the-scenes of the television programme 'Pandora'. (Please note that the programme 'Pandora' will not be aired as a television show, but will only be part of this fiction.)

Throughout the series, the paranormal detectives will also be in touch with the spirit of their nine-year-old daughter, who is still roaming in their house unaware that she's dead. Their dilemma is whether they should continue clinging on to their daughter's spirit, or else help her pass into the afterlife. Whilst Kylie is unsure what to do, the father cannot accept that they let go of the girl. Furthermore, they also need to hide this secret from their relatives and friends.

IC-CAVETTA TA' PANDORA

SYNOPSIS OF EPISODES

Episode Number: 1

Episode Name: T'Alla w Ommu

(TRANSLATION: T'Alla w Ommu is a very-well known street situated in the limits of Naxxar, which name translates as: God & His Mother)

Two viewers send mobile footage taken whilst driving along the road from Salina to the *Telgħa t'Alla w Ommu*, to the popular, paranormal programme *Pandora*. The viewers had given a lift to a teenage girl, who had then vanished before their eyes. The producer/presenter, Ruth Frendo, gives the footage to the paranormal detectives, Kylie and Vincent, who work for her programme. These detectives, who are married, investigate both the footage and also the popular myth of the ghost of T'Alla w Ommu. They dig into the past and find out that in 1914, the girl who appeared to the viewers, had been raped and murdered. She has been trying to find her way home by getting lifts from strangers ever since. After making the girl realize that she's dead, they show her the way to the light. Back home, they argue about whether they should help their nine-year-old child, Amy, to cross over. Whilst Kylie is unsure what they should do, Vincent cannot accept that they let go of the girl. The child is unaware that she's dead, as her spirit happily roams in their apartment. Additionally, the family gets an unexpected visit from Vincent's brother, Julian, who lives abroad and is an atheist. The brother catches the couple talking to thin air, whilst in fact they're talking to the spirit of their daughter, whom (of course) he cannot see.

Episode Number: 2

Episode Name: Il-Qassis

(TRANSLATION: The Priest)

The paranormal detectives investigate a strange haunting at an old chapel. Scared parishioners maintain that mass is occasionally being celebrated at different times of the day and night... by a dead priest. The dead priest is seen celebrating the mass even though there's no congregation. The detectives find out that the priest is aware that he's dead. The priest had made a promise to the patron saint of the chapel that if he helped to keep him and his village safe during the plague, then the priest would celebrate mass on a daily basis. The priest is thus fulfilling his promise.

Meanwhile, Julian confronts Kylie and Vincent about his dead niece. Julian believes that Kylie and Vincent need to get psychological help.

Episode Number: 3

Episode Name: Sal-Mewt

(TRANSLATION: Till Death)

Ruth, the presenter of *Pandora*, asks Kylie and Vincent to look into the case of her friend, Roberta, whose husband has passed away. The man's suicide is not the issue, but what is is Roberta's public assertion that his ghost is still with her almost like he is still alive. That belief has led to, among other things, her losing her job for fear of mental instability. Whilst Ruth believes the ghost is solely Romina's grief-coping mechanism, the paranormal detectives know better. However, they soon find out that the husband's sister is playing a cruel trick on Romina. The reason is that the sister believes that Romina is to blame for his suicide. Meanwhile, Julian meets with Kylie's mother and discloses the fact that her daughter and husband believe that Amy has become a ghost. The elderly woman, who is a sceptic, comes up with a plan as she decides to take matters in her own hands. (We will be finding out more about her plan in the next episode).

Episode Number: 4

Episode Name: In-Nisa bl-Ghonella

(TRANSLATION: The Women Wearing l-Ghonella)

Telev viewers have been sending in letters and emails informing the programme *Pandora* that they are seeing the skeletons of women wearing the traditional Maltese costume, *ghonella*, outside a cemetery. This cemetery happens to be the same one where Amy's body is buried. It turns out that the 'women' have an important message to pass on. The women were murdered and buried in a field not far from the cemetery, and wish that their remains are buried on sacred ground. The paranormal detectives agree to help. Afterwards, Kylie and Vincent arrive home to find their 'daughter' in tears. She tells them that: "granny doesn't love me anymore". The paranormal detectives find that Kylie's mother has removed all of Amy's belongings from her bedroom, which up till date had remained untouched. The elderly woman believes that now the couple can move on with their lives. We also find out that Amy died during a hit-and-run accident. Vincent has a huge argument with his mother-in-law, and puts everything back in Amy's room just like before.

Episode Number: 5

Episode Name: L-Ispirtu tal-Palazz

(TRANSLATION: The Spirit in the Palace)

We find out that when Amy passed away, Vincent had started drinking. Whilst he is a recovered AA, he still struggles to maintain his sobriety. Ruth organizes a special edition of *Pandora*, where she hopes to contact 'the girl in the blue dress'. Ruth interviews various palace visitors who have reported seeing the ghost (who is Grandmaster De Rohan's niece) in either mirrors throughout the palace, or on the edge of the palace balconies. However, Kylie and Vincent dig deeper. They talk to the ghost herself and find out all the details related to how she fell to her death whilst trying to escape from her unwanted suitor. The spirit refuses to leave the palace as, since it was owned by her family, she believes that she has a right to live there. Now that she's no longer locked in her bedroom, she can roam around the palace as she pleases.

Episode Number: 6

Episode Name: Il-Veggent

(TRANSLATION: The Medium)

The programme *Pandora* films a séance session with a popular local medium, who has agreed to be filmed. The team is sceptic about the authenticity of the eccentric medium, since televiewers have complained that the medium overcharges them for her services. The séance has been carefully set up to try to impress the team and their audience. The séance session looks fake and is a disaster for the medium. However, and after the cameras stop rolling and the team starts leaving, the medium pulls Kylie and Vincent to the side. She mentions their dead daughter and states that she saw Kylie's dead father during the session. *(It is 'usual' for paranormal detectives/mediums to be unable to see their own dead loved ones. It is said that the reason is that loved ones aware that they are dead, refrain from showing themselves to their living family members to allow them to move on with their lives).* The medium then scolds Kylie and Vincent for not letting their daughter move on. Back in the studio, Ruth wishes to know what the medium spoke to them about. However, the paranormal detectives lie and tell her that the medium tried to convince them of her authenticity but that she is truly fake. Meanwhile, Kylie's mother dreams about her husband. The man tells her that she should have more faith in Kylie and her abilities, since she inherited her gift from his own mother. This is the first time that Kylie's mother has heard about the 'gift', and is unsure what to make of it.

Episode Number: 7

Episode Name: Fil-Belt Valletta
 (TRANSLATION: In Valletta)

The paranormal detectives investigate the Blue Dolphin House legend. During the British rule, two sailors met a young Maltese lady. Since she had forgotten her key inside, the lady asked the men to help her gain entry into her house. Reluctantly, they complied and afterwards spent a few hours chatting with her in her beautiful house, before bidding their farewell. They returned the following day to retrieve a silver cigarette case one of the men had forgotten, only to find that the house was derelict. Back to the present, when the detectives start filming from afar the Blue Dolphin House, they are chased away by an angry and aggressive neighbour who believes that the myth is decreasing property prices in the neighbourhood. However, the owner of the Blue Dolphin House locates them in the park the couple takes refuge in. The owner apologises for her neighbour's behaviour and insists that she gives them a private tour of her property, which is dusty and has been unused for various years. During the tour, which they film, the owner insists not to be filmed and they oblige. The next day, Kylie and Vincent return to the house looking for a lens they forgot behind. On their second knock, the door opens on its own. To their utter surprise, they find that their lens is covered in cobwebs and dust. Meanwhile, Kylie's mother starts believing that her niece's spirit is roaming about in her daughter's apartment. However Julian is skeptical. He argues with his brother Vincent and moves out. The grandmother insists that she spends time with her 'niece', even though she cannot see or hear her. Kylie and Vincent comply.

Episode Number: 8

Episode Name: Is-Santa tal-Mejtin
 (TRANSLATION: Holy Picture)

One of *Pandora's* televiewers is having a very weird and scary problem. He shows the *Pandora* team a holy picture ('santa') depicting his beloved father, who has just passed away. The problem is that the face of his father on the holy picture has changed and is now showing someone different; a man he's never seen before. The paranormal detectives speak to the spirit and find out that the televiewer's father is sending his family a message. The spirit has a younger brother whom he didn't know about before he died. The holy picture is showing the face of this brother, who has no other family. The spirit wants his wife and son to aid his long-lost brother, who is sick and lonely. Meanwhile, back home, the paranormal detectives find Kylie's mother lying on the floor. The elderly woman died whilst visiting

her niece. Afterwards, Amy is extremely quiet and they start worrying about her. At the end, we (the audience) finds out that Amy met with the spirit of her grandmother, who informed her that they were both dead. The elderly woman wanted them to cross over together, but Amy refused to do so. The girl believes that her parents aren't aware that she is dead.

Episode Number: 9

Episode Name: Katerina

(TRANSLATION: Katerina)

The post-wedding photo session of a newly-wed couple at Mdina is ruined by an uninvited guest – a headless bride lurking in the shadowy roads. In addition, the couple starts receiving strange apparitions from the headless bride, warning them to give up their love. Kylie and Vincent find out that the headless bride is called Katerina. After murdering a Knight for wronging her, Katerina was sentenced to death. However, the court allowed her to marry her true love just minutes before her execution. The paranormal detectives help Katerina to cross over. However, and to everyone's surprise, instead of the ray of light allowing the spirit to access heaven, smoke appears. Katerina is dragged into the smoke. However, before she disappears, Katerina curses the couple.

Episode Number: 10

Episode Name: Il-Princep

(TRANSLATION: The Prince)

After their ordeal, Vincent and Kylie believe that they are cursed. Vincent starts drinking, whilst Kylie contacts her ex-fiance. As Kylie starts kissing her ex-lover, images of her daughter flash before her. Ashamed, she returns home and promises her husband to help him with his alcoholic problem. Kylie is unsure whether the images were a reflection of her guilty conscious, or whether it was her daughter Amy who had really intervened. Meanwhile, since televiewers continue sending their experiences, Ruth is particularly interested about a story where a young Turkish boy dressed as a 'prince' is seen playing in private home courtyards and walking through walls. The detectives talk to the ghost child, who recounts his story in the south of Malta. The paranormal detectives find out that the ghost child was the son of a rich Maltese merchant and his Turkish servant. The boy died with the plague and is afraid to move on. The couple show him the light into eternity. Before the boy moves into the light, he tells the couple that Kylie's parents are anxiously waiting for their niece.

Episode Number: **11**

Episode Name: **Il-Grey Lady**

(TRANSLATION: Grey Lady is the name of the well-known ghost)

Kylie and Vincent investigate the story of the Grey Lady at Fort Saint Angelo. A televiewer believes that he not only saw the Grey Lady, but that the spirit was also aggressive and vulgar with him. Through their research, the detectives find out that in the early 15th century, the married lord's mistress (now know as the grey lady) decided to leave her lover. The lord's guards took her away, killed her and threw her body in a cell in the fort's dungeon. During the years, there were various sightings of the ghost. Furthermore, during WWII the Grey Lady saved a group of men by leading them out of the room they were staying in, just before a German bomb hit the room. The paranormal detectives want to help her cross over, but the spirit refuses. They decide to accept her wish, especially after what happened with the Headless Bride.

Episode Number: **12**

Episode Name: **Bighi**

(TRANSLATION: Bighi location is found in the south of Malta)

Pandora receives footage from televiewers showing strange 'shadows' taken in the location known as Bighi. Thus, Kylie and Vincent investigate the popular story of the soldier and woman who fell in love during WWII. Since the woman's family didn't approve of the relationship, the couple ran away and eloped. However, the soldier passed away and the pregnant (unmarried) woman had no choice other than return to her family. She died whilst giving birth. The paranormal detectives contact the spirit who reveals that she is sad since she feels lonely and sad that she never got to meet her child. Kylie and Vincent manage to locate the woman's niece, who is still alive. The spirit finally feels relieved and happy, and walks into the light where her lover is waiting for her. Back at home, Amy reveals that she is feeling lonely. She especially misses her grandparents. At this point, Kylie is convinced that they should let their daughter move on, but Vincent is not convinced.

Episode Number: **13**

Episode Name: **Mabiba Immaġinarja**

(TRANSLATION: Imaginary Friend)

A family contacts *Pandora* as their young son is stating that he is playing with the ghosts of other children. Whilst the father believes that these ghosts are just 'imaginary friends', the

mother believes her son. The paranormal detectives arrive to find that the boy has the same gift they have. Moreover, Kylie and Vincent are shocked to find that Amy is one of the kid's 'imaginary friends'. Back home, Amy admits that since she feels lonely, sometimes she leaves their home. The parents are angry as they believe that she shouldn't be leaving the apartment on her own. But Amy replies that since she's already dead, nothing bad can happen to her. This is a huge surprise for the parents, who had believed that Amy thought that she was alive. Kylie and Vincent decide to not only help both the boy and his family cope with the gift that he has been given, but to also tackle their personal dilemma once and for all. Both of them now know what they have to do. The paranormal detectives help their daughter into the light, where the grandparents are indeed waiting for their niece. Kylie and Vincent are finally happy knowing that their daughter is exactly where she's supposed to be.

THE END