

SLAYERS EAST SEASON TWO

Episode Five Audits and Auditions

It's the chance of a lifetime for the girls of Exeter... Meanwhile, suspicion falls on Lex Madsen as a pattern emerges in the strange events of the past month.

In this episode, three storylines are working in parallel. Firstly, the group try and uncover the truth about the manipulations they have encountered this past month, a trail that will lead them to Madsen and possibly to Tremis. Secondly, the Watcher's Council send over an agent to audit Alison's performance and determine her fitness for duty. Thirdly, a supernatural force known as the youthstealer arrives in town on the back of a promotional tour by a music producer.

The primary arc of this episode is to get the three love-stories solidified for the second half of the season. However, if the character arcs come together like Jenni and Margie indicated, Cynth and Candy may fight this episode. Such a conflict should be a pretty serious fight, enough to drive Candy in a different direction entirely.

Characters involved in the episode:

Hubert Cheyne

Brian Stevens

Candace Knight

Hyacinth Papagiorgio

Zak Stevens

Meryll Stevens-Knight

Agapanthas Papagiorgio

Chrysanthemum Papagiorgio

Niles Pipe

Max

Lolly

Heather

Steph

Andrew

Christian

KITTEN AND SONG CLUB:

Peter Gillis, music producer, has announced plans for a new pop group made up of girls in their early teens: "Kitten". He is taking his show on the road, combining the auditions with a publicity push for current star Magda's new single. The show has come to Exeter, where the call has gone out for girls aged 13 to 15 who can sing and dance, who have pizzazz and personality and drive.

Magda, 18, is the "baby" of Song Club, Gillis' current sensation, all brown curls and puppy fat. She has been sleeping with Gillis but they're currently at loggerheads. She wants a better financial cut for all the girls, but Gillis offers it to her only. She is very tempted.

The Kitten auditions will take place before an audience at a local mall. The best of the bunch will receive a call-back to a more private venue. All participants receive a free Song Club tee and a copy of Magda's single. First up, Magda performs her song,

with some back-up singers doing the backing vocals instead of the other members of Song Club. Then the girls who want to audition get three minutes each to strut their stuff...

THE STAGE MOTHER

Erin Honey, 13, is at a different school to Candy and company. She is known to them from her participation in numerous extra-curricular activities, dance competitions and drama events and suchlike. Her mother Caroline is the stage mother from hell. Erin isn't the nicest of girls, but she has a good heart; her mother is too far gone though. Tremis is manipulating both these two. It uses their dysfunctional relationship to drive them both to extremes. Mother will *demand* the best of her daughter. Daughter will *push* herself to win at all costs.

Caroline will sabotage another girl, putting something nasty in her mug. Maybe even Lolly will be the victim? Erin will *not* be dissuaded from competing – this is her chance at a big break. Tremis' herbs are near the poison (valium?) that is administered.

THE YOUTHEATER

Lucy Skye, secretly a supernatural entity known as the youtheater, has attached herself to the tour in her role as an MTV videojournalist. She will feed on the young girls who audition.

Lucy ("my parents were Beatles fans") is 20. She is black and enthusiastic and has a knack for engaging with young people. She is attractive, hip and competent, and generally an appropriate reporter for MTV. She is on a gig she engineered herself, a minidocumentary about the making of Kitten.

At the audition, every girl coming off stage is given some up-close attention, "how did that feel" kind of thing. This is the final part of the feeding process that will afflict all of the children taking part.

To dispel suspicion, Lucy will be the first to point out that the children coming off-stage are not well, exhausted by the lights and attention maybe... Hube can diagnose this as cellular atrophy. Aging. Their youth is being consumed.

The youtheater is a Native American spirit. It can be forced to reveal itself by a ritual that Brian can locate and help perform. Note that, when she is uncovered, Lucy will be defeatable by pummeling. Her touch is quite nasty, though it isn't as bad when people resist it. She has learned a lot over the years and is far from a pushover.

THE WATCHER AUDIT

The Watcher's Council has decided that while Alison is in the UK, before she applies for leave to return to Exeter and resume her position as watcher, they should audit her past performance. They dispatch Ms. Beverly Brightly to evaluate.

Brightly will watch and ask about Alison's watching behaviour and success. She will be keen to uncover how many people do know about Candy's secret, and how much of a nexus this site has become.

She will watch Candy train and go through all Alison's notes. How Candy handles the youtheater will be an excellent case in point.

Hubert is powerless to stop her. He can't get in her way and can't offer Candy much advice. He is scared of Ms Brightly. His desire to help Alison has drawn Tremis'

attention, and if the demon can manipulate Hubert into going too far with his desire to help, then it will...

When she is satisfied that she has seen enough, Ms Brightly will leave to report her findings to the Council. The outcome is “up to the Council.” At stake is Alison’s permission to return to Exeter.

OTHER ANGLES

Lolly really wants to win and Stephi and Heather are helping. It is all on!

Max will be looking for a chance to put Cynth into a corner. If they’re alone together he might take her hand, or try to kiss her even.

Candy and Andrew are doing fine. It’s up to Candy how far things have gone. But he’s always keen to hang with her, which could be problematic when slaying is needed.

Zak and Heather get the opening scene and the rest is up to Zak. Heather’s keen but she can’t let on to Lolly and she doesn’t know how she can do anything by herself.

As far as the investigations go – well, improvise! Things might bring the group back to the Langborn Estate, which is under heavy guard. Cynth’s parents can identify the herb – St Aaron’s Wort. Hardly found outside of Europe, reputed to have medicinal properties – expunging demon possession.

PRECREDITS:

Zak meets Heather walking her dog. The dog keels over and is very sick. Heather panics, the dog has to go to the vet. Earlier they were in the park by the mall and Heather let the dog run free... She’s worried it must have eaten some poison in the park...

They go to the vet – at the mall? – and the dog is pronounced very close to death.

“But that’s okay. This dog has clearly had a good, long, healthy life.”

Heather is distraught. The dog was given to her as a puppy at Christmas.

[The youtheater was in the park by the mall. Later this can be shown on a television broadcast of some kind... Cynth would be a natural to see it, of course.]

Suggested outline:

SCENE ONE: Intro the watcher audit

SCENE TWO: Intro Lolly’s goal

SCENE THREE: Investigating the herb

SCENE FOUR: At the mall

SCENE FIVE: Sick kids

SCENE SIX: The youtheater revealed