

BLACK LIST COVERAGE

The following coverage is reproduced verbatim from The Black List.

"GULF's prospects are limited by the waves of contraction and consolidation that have been shrinking the prestige television landscape in recent years. The project's rich setting and characters, blend of family drama and crime-thriller storytelling, and highly serialized format all feel like they would have fit perfectly into the peak-TV era, specifically the mid-to-late-2010s wave of prestige shows like OZARK. The pilot would likely have very strong pickup prospects in that era, as its distinctive visual qualities, strong character writing, and its potential to attract major Cuban talent like Oscar Isaac or Ana de Armas for key roles would have made it worth at least serious consideration from most premium cable and streaming platforms. **However, the project still has real prospects even now**."

"GULF marries the dysfunctional family dynamics of BLOODLINE with the gruesome, gory imagery of FARGO to give birth to **the next elevated location-driven psychological thriller. While it can be challenging to innovate in such a wildly popular genre, this pilot shines with its originality, sharp narrative voice, and diverse perspective.** The humid, perilous world of the Louisiana swamplands practically bleeds off the page with its hidden depths and all-consuming nature. When it comes to stand-out, thematically relevant one-liners, there are too many to choose from."

"Between the allure of its mysterious landscape & culture and its ample, skilled crews & bountiful tax incentives, there has been no shortage of development built around New Orleans and its surrounding bayous across decades of the peak TV era, but **GULF stands out amongst them for its incredibly distinct voice and perspective that resembles none of the city's typical clichés.** Like the best family dramas, it defines its specificity of setting through its characters first. The Perez's are each introduced with their own relationship to the land and given a unique perspective and aptitude for various, highly specific, uniformly exciting hobbies that establish both their position within the hierarchies of Louisiana society and a terrifically exciting milieu against which it might cast its sordid drama. As a whole, the script's eye for details is terrific, making for an incredibly inviting and intricately designed setting in spite of the many rising red flags signaling the family's looming downfall."

"GULF has a similar appeal to other series about families and crime, including hit shows like BLOODLINE and OZARK, but **it offers an original spin, with characters we haven't seen intimately featured in these roles before, and evokes a refreshingly specific as well as socially, ethnically, and culturally diverse world** that feels authentic and compelling."

"**The palpable atmosphere and energy found in shows like BLOODLINE are elevated in GULF, with the layering and sophistication of BREAKING BAD**. Each of the characters is infused with a remarkable sense of depth and dimension. The script drops tantalizing hooks and clues that speak to a show with guaranteed drama and gripping turns to come."

"The Louisiana backdrop, replete with sweaty bayous and frighteningly dangerous wildlife, leaps off the page, becoming in many ways a character in and of itself. **It feels as if a series like this one could find a natural home and a devoted fan base, especially on premium cable or streaming platforms like HBO Max, Netflix, and Amazon.**"

"GULF transports the audience to a very specific time and place, bringing its environs to life with authenticity and specificity; the wetlands, the sugar cane, the hunting, the deeply felt sense of unique history—these well-drawn, immersive details create a firm foundation upon which to craft the series. **The larger ideas being examined here—power, legacy, systems of control—are fascinating and topical, helping the show stand out in a crowded television landscape. In addition, the script's deft blending of multiple genres—family drama, crime thriller, mystery, period piece—provides a little something for everyone**, which can be useful for marketing and for appealing to viewers."

"In its richly drawn setting and cast of colorful characters, GULF bears many of the hallmarks of a successful prestige series, **following up TRUE DETECTIVE's look at Louisiana with one even more entrenched in the swamps and building out a more realistic look at the criminal underworld of the region. It would make a promising prospect for outlets like HBO or Netflix (it also has shades of BLOODLINE in its criminal family drama), or really any of the major prestige outlets**."

"The setting of GULF is engrossing and well-rendered, both in the actual details of this world and in the gothic mystery tone with which we're introduced to it. **Characters are vividly wrought, every one of them getting a noteworthy, memorable introduction and several striking moments throughout the subsequent episode, too. Dialogue is full of charm, with banter and dialect that sounds authentic to the locale** but doesn't lean so hard into that it becomes gimmicky. Characters all boast distinctive voices. It's a complex, compelling world filled with equally complicated people.

"GULF beautifully showcases the rich landscape of the Louisiana bayou, while also weaving in an incredibly **complicated family dynamic a la SUCCESSION with the crime thriller elements of OZARK and MARE OF EASTTOWN**. It could be a great fit on a premium streamer like HBO Max, Paramount+ or Netflix."

"GULF is an intriguing script that combines elements of family drama and crime drama to put a unique spin on multiple genres. **The script also makes truly unsettling use of horror imagery**, and the descriptions of the writhing ball of water moccasins and the skinned coyote skull add a sense of the macabre and supernatural to the story."

"**There is a perennial market for murder mysteries and conspiracy dramas, so GULF should have demand. The Louisiana setting is advantageous from a production perspective because of the state's film infrastructure and tax credits, which will help mitigate the sweeping set pieces and large action sequences.** This project has shades of BLOODLINE and TRUE DETECTIVE, so approaching auspices behind either of those shows could help attach proven producers to help sell this project. It would fit best at premium cable and streaming outlets because of the violence and serialized plot."

There is real potential in GULF as a distinctive series, and it's clear the writer has strong instincts for creating worlds and characters that are both commercially and thematically appealing. Combined with their vivid visual language and a high brow soap with clear goals and complications for its characters, they demonstrate a range of skills that rival those of working professionals today.