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Unwell: A Midwestern Gothic Mystery

Unwell is a fiction podcast with conspiracies, ghosts, and unusual families of blood and choice set in the small town of Mt. Absalom, Ohio.

Unwell is released for free. The show can be listened to directly from the website, as well as subscribed and listened to on most podcast platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, PocketCasts and Spotify.



Unwell – More Details

Unwell, a Midwestern Gothic Mystery is an audio drama podcast launching on February 20, 2019 from HartLife NFP.

Lillian Harper moves to the small town of Mt. Absalom, Ohio, to care for her estranged mother Dorothy after an injury. Living in the town's boarding house which has been run by her family for generations, she discovers conspiracies, ghosts, and a new family in the house's strange assortment of residents.

Release Schedule: Unwell launches February 20, 2019 and Season 1 will run for 12 episodes. New episodes are released fortnightly (biweekly) on Wednesdays. We will take a midseason break between episodes 6 and 7.

Looking for a hook?

Here's some cool stuff about Unwell

This section contains some spoilers for season one. These are things we think are very cool about Unwell.

The world of Mt. Absalom is populated with queer characters. The show features a lesbian relationship between two central characters (Lily & Marisol) and a nonbinary central character (Abbie - pronouns: they/them). As queer artists, we believe this kind of representation is vitally important.

Unwell explores the relationship Lily and her mother Dot. That relationship is complicated, challenging, and loving. The story includes dealing with Dot's diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's. As creators, many of our families have dealt with (or are dealing with) memory loss. We are invested in this story line as another form of representation.



Michael Turrentine (Wes) and Mel Ruder (Audio Engineer) in the studio.

Is Unwell for kids?

Maybe teens, but probably not kids. Unwell gets pretty spooky at times and includes adult themes like dating, yelling at your mom, and owing taxes. And the people of Mt. Absalom swear quite a bit. We'd recommend parents listen to the first few episode and judge for themselves.

Content Warnings for each episode are available in episode descriptions.



A sign we sometimes need for the studio door.

Who Makes Unwell? About HartLife NFP

Unwell is brought to you by HartLife NFP, the company behind eight seasons of the acclaimed science fiction epic [Our Fair City](#). Our Fair City launched in 2011 and was a pioneer in fiction and audio drama podcasting. HartLife NFP is based in Chicago and comprised of a diverse team of professional writers, directors, actors, and sound designers. HartLife NFP has won awards and critical acclaim for its dynamic acting, incisive writing, and high level of production.

Our Fair City has over 3 million downloads. HartLife NFP has won multiple [Mark Time Awards](#), and was a Finalist for a [2013 Parsec Award](#). Our Fair City was named the year's Best Original Comedy in the [2013 and 2014 Audio Verse Awards](#).



Art by Dan Streeting for Our Fair City, Season 6 Episode 18.

Praise for Our Fair City (our other show)

Like Welcome to Night Vale, the series knows when to be funny, but the writers are also really good at tackling complex issues, albeit through the guise of mole people, zombies, and insurance executives, brought to life by some really talented actors.

Also impressive is the show's cinematic soundscape, including original music and custom effects from local foley artists. Instead of an audiobook narration, the creators liken the listening experience to watching a movie or a play through your ears.

Adam Morgan, [Chicago Magazine](#)

There's a constant sense, as there is in all good ongoing stories, that it's learning and growing as it goes along. If all that isn't enough, there's an unexpected hidden joy to checking out the show: it has, by far, the most engaged and thoughtful crew I've ever had the pleasure of observing.

Vrai Kaiser, [The Mary Sue](#)



Art by Danielle Tanimura for Our Fair City, Season 6 Episode 3.

Unwell Season One Cast

Shariba Rivers (she/her) - Lilian Harper

Marsha Harman (she/her) - Dorothy “Dot” Harper

Michael Turrentine (he/him) - Wes

Kathleen Hoil (they/them) - Abbie Douglas

Joshua K. Harris (he/him) - Dr. Rudolphus “Rudy” Pelham

Amelia Bethel (she/her) - Marisol Cabrera

Isa Ramos (she/her) - Stella “Spikes” Cabrera

Pat King (he/him) - Chester Warren

Krista D'Agostino (she/her) - Hazel Gibbons

Mark Soloff (he/him) - Old Man on the edge of town

Sebastian Orr (he/him) - Various

Ele Matelan (she/her) – Various

LaQuin Grove (he/him) - Dale Harper

Bethany Hart (she/her) - Cynthia Harper

Priya Mohanty (she/her) - Doctor Alicia Laramie

Clint Worthington (he/him) - Russell

Gaby Labotka (she/her) – Sylvia

Lisa Burton (she/her)- Martha

Christopher J. Wilson (he/him) - Tony

Jillian Leff (she/her)- Selene

Unwell Production Team

Jeffrey Gardner (they/them), Executive Producer & Director

Eleanor Hyde (she/her), Executive Producer

Ryan Schile (he/him), Lead Sound Designer

Eli McIlveen (he/him), Sound Designer

Anna Rodriguez (she/her), Sound Designer

Mischa Stanton (they/them), Sound Designer

Stephen Poon (he/him), Composer

Mel Ruder (they/them), Recording Engineer

Dann Tincher (he/him), Production Artist

Dan Streeting (he/him), Visual Designer



Recording the show's theme song. From top left, going clockwise: Gunnar Jebson, Travis Elfers, Mel Ruder, Stephen Poon, Betsey Palmer, and Lauren Kelly (top), Stephen Poon (lower right), and Lauren Kelly (lower left).

Unwell Writers' Room

Jim McDoniel (he/him), Story Director

Jessica Best (she/her), Staff Writer

Jessica Wright Buha (she/her), Staff Writer

Bilal Dardai (he/him), Staff Writer

Please note that we've included pronouns for our team. A number of our team use nonbinary they/them pronouns. As you write about us, if you have any uncertainty about this we are happy to talk about it. Just ask – our contact information is on the first and last page.

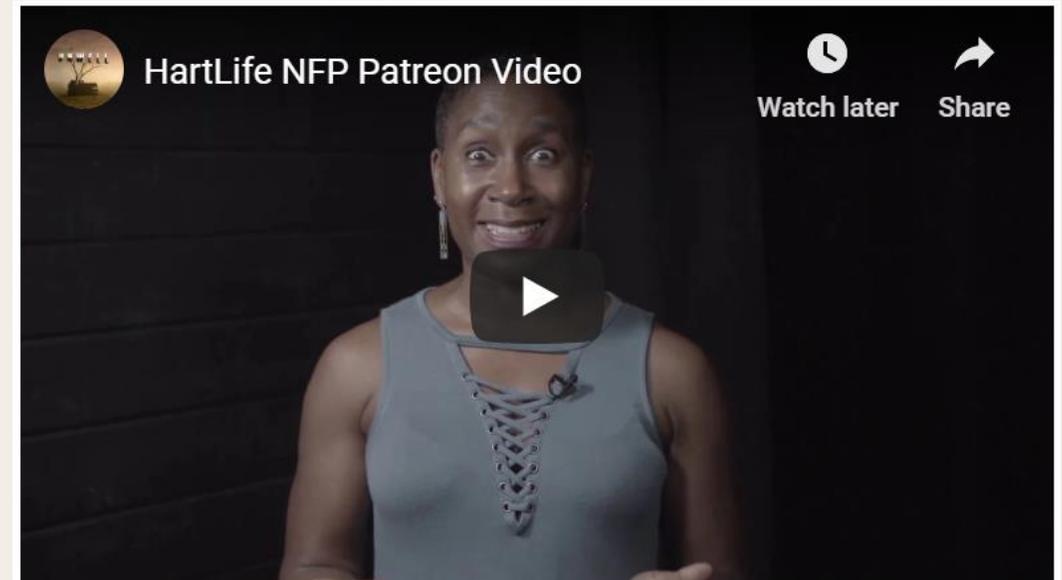


View of cast recording from inside the booth. From left to right: Amelia Bethel (Marisol), Marsha Harman (Dot), Joshua K. Harris (Ruddy), Jeffrey Gardner.

Unwell is supported by listeners on Patreon

HartLife NFP is supported by our listeners on Patreon. Patreon is platform that allows creators to connect directly to fans. At launch in February 2019 we had 125 patrons giving between \$1 and \$50 each month.

Patrons receive access to behind the scenes content. This includes annotated scripts, blooper reels, bits that didn't make it into the show, full length version of original music in the show, and other insider goodies.



You can watch the video about how Patreon supports Unwell on our [Patreon page](#). (Shariba Rivers who plays Lilly pictured above.)

Unwell Logo Package

Download the full [Unwell Logo Package here](#).

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Website: unwellpodcast.com

Email: unwellpodcast@gmail.com

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Instagram: instagram.com/HartLifenfp

Tumblr: unwellpodcast.tumblr.com

Transcripts (for accessibility) are available on our website and in episode descriptions.

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Pat King (Chester Warren) in recording.