

Tenement Museum Podcast, 'How To Be American' Season 2 Trailer

(quizzical music)

(birds cooing and fluttering)

(male and female voices speaking foreign languages overlapping)

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Amanda: Welcome back to How To American, a podcast by the Tenement Museum. My name is Amanda Adler Brennan. We've got new stories and more history for you in Season 2. In each episode, we'll discuss the ordinary people of the past and present, who have lived through journeys of immigration and migration. The people who have shaped what it means to be, and to become American. We're going to take a look at why so many important events in our history have unfolded around issues of immigration and national identity. And we'll talk about what has motivated immigrants, migrants and refugees to come to America, examining the myths, and the realities. That's no easy task, but we're up for the challenge, with the help of our guests. In Season 2, we'll question the history that we need to rethink.

(quizzical music fades into tense underscore)

Lauren: The draft riots really heightened this sense of question about place. Those who were spared, and their businesses, they still saw the trace of that violence, so these spaces were still marked by people who were lynched, or by burned properties, and so black New Yorkers were faced with the question of, "Do I rebuild here or do I move?"

Amanda: We'll consider how Americans have referred to themselves over time, and why that's important.

Matthew: Ethnic identity itself, the proclamation that "I'm not American, I'm not just American" but, "I'm Irish American, I'm Greek American, I'm Polish American, I'm Jewish American." It becomes a really important way of expressing a kind of dissent against, really, all of that assimilationism.

Amanda: We'll tell you about the pastimes that have brought us together in surprising ways.

Riccardo: And the home plate is just very incredibly symbolic, and that I think ties a lot into immigrants and baseball, making a new home. Making it home was basically, I think a metaphor for becoming American.

Amanda: This season is about the dreams that motivate us to reach for the stars, quite literally.

(tense underscore fades into uplifting underscore)

Franklin: The launch of the Sputnik satellite, that triggered something in me, in that space became something that was not just something about science fiction, it was something real. You know many of us wanted to become space explorers, and that sort of childhood dream and longing gradually subsided in some of my friends, but it stayed with me.

(uplifting underscore fades into intriguing jazz music)

Amanda: Considering the stories you haven't read, listened to or learned about in school is relevant now more than ever. After all, humankind has always been on the move. As the founder of the Tenement Museum, Ruth Abram once said "People remember stories much more than facts. "When the facts are hung onto the tree of story, they become relevant, they become memorable." To understand our migration history, it's not enough to look to the past. We have to consider the present, and think about the future. This is How To Be America Seasons 2. Join us for our first story of the season dropping on February 13th, 2020. How To Be American is produced by Rachel Davila Ramirez. 'Til next time, I'm Amanda Adler Brennan for the Tenement Museum.

Jas: Hey listeners, I'm Jas Chana, the Associate Director of PR at the Tenement Museum. Thanks for joining us. Off the mic is our podcast team, Angela Serratore, Katie Lopez, Emily Mitzner, Jamie Salen, Katie Heimer, Michelle Moon, David Favaloro, and David Eng. Our music is provided by Titlecard Music. Additional music is provided by Blue Dot Sessions. A special thanks to CDM Studios, Charles de Montebello, Tucker Dalton, and the entire CDM staff. Please rate, comment and subscribe wherever you listen to podcasts, and thanks for listening.