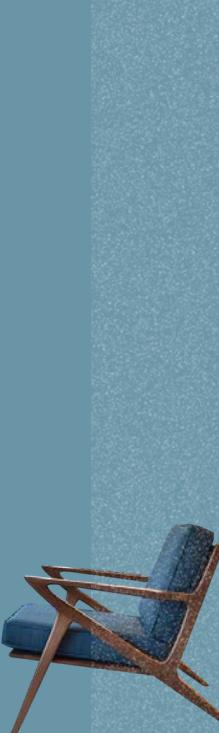


# By DESIGN



# By DESIGN

a film by **Amanda Kramer**



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CAST ..... Juliette Lewis, Mamoudou Athie, Samantha Mathis, Robin Tunney, Alisa Torres, Clifton Collins Jr., with Udo Kier and Betty Buckley. Narrated by Melanie Griffith.

RUNTIME ..... 92 minutes

LANGUAGE ..... English

GENRE ..... Drama, Comedy

YEAR ..... 2025

RATING ..... NR

DISTRIBUTION ..... Music Box Films

NATIONAL PUBLICITY ..... Fusion Entertainment

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# Logline

A woman (Juliette Lewis) swaps bodies with a chair, and everyone likes her better as a chair in a surreal, deadpan comedy from director Amanda Kramer.

# Summary

Upon seeing a gorgeous chair in a showroom, Camille (Juliette Lewis) realizes that she truly envies the life of this perfect piece of furniture. If only she could be someone's favorite thing. When she and the chair swap forms, Camille learns that she is better liked as an inanimate object than she was as a person: her mother (Betty Buckley) finds her to be a better listener, and her best friends (Samantha Mathis and Robin Tunney) enjoy a newfound, friction-free rapport. As the chair, Camille is unable to speak or move and winds up in the hands of Olivier (Mamoudou Athie), a minimalist bachelor who gradually becomes romantically fixated on his elegant new possession. Narrated by Melanie Griffith, this modern fable celebrates the messiness of female interiority with deadpan humor, surrealist flourishes, and interpretative dance numbers. An absurdist spin on the body-swap comedy, *By Design* is a bold new work from singular filmmaker Amanda Kramer.

# Director's Statement



Body horror rarely includes dance, instead focusing on gore. I don't relate to blood, but I do relate to the trappings of my form; the claustrophobic desire to burst out of it. We make so much out of objectification and yet won't go the distance to mythologize what REAL objectification might look like. There are many films where women swap bodies - with successful men, younger women, "hotter" women - and none where they exchange shape with something truly horrific: the unmoving object.

In each film I attempt to master a Brechtian distance and playful artifice. My work revels in theatricality and bold kabukiesque character design. In "Please Baby Please" and "Give Me Pity!" I had the opportunity to work with choreographers and dancers who provided my universe with an uplift, melodrama, and flow. Here I've worked with the brilliant Sigrid Lauren to create furniture made of dancer's bodies, a company of objects come to life.

Bold art is a radical act. Work now is so mired in an artist's background, their history/context, that it can feel like qualification over quality. The vanity of the self is exhausting. I want what is beautiful and tragic, elegant and guttural, lost and found. I want to be infinitely unknowable, to build a mystery. That's far more artistically and intellectually stimulating/inspirational than continually revealing myself within my "categories." By Design is up for interpretation, and I welcome all ways it makes a viewer feel.

This film has an ALL ART approach - painting, sculpture, dance, acting, fashion, digital media. It's vital that cinema not lose its art language, and vital that fine art not insist on being anti-entertainment. With each genre-bending, form-fucking project I come closer to infusing cinema with the live essence that I worship in dance, theatre, performance art and opera. If I can create a contemporary compulsion for absurdist theatre and modern dance, mesh narrative and experimentation, and reinvigorate the idea of underground "microbudget" cinema, then I'm happy as a gorgeous chair.

Influences for this particular project: Joanna Hogg's short "Caprice," Fassbinder's "Chinese Roulette," Mark Rappaport's "The Scenic Route," Cynthia Scott's "Flamenco at 5:15," the stagings of Robert Wilson and Samuel Beckett, Cafe Muller by Pina Bausch, the original "Freaky Friday," early Donna Karan, George Michael's "Father Figure" video, Alchimia furniture, Claes Oldenburg sculpture, Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice," department store displays/window design, Patricia Charbonneau's performance in "Call Me," Sandra Bernhart's expressionistic monologuing in "Without You I'm Nothing," the painterly attitude of Peter Greenaway.

-Amanda Kramer



# About the Cast

## JULIETTE LEWIS | “CAMILLE”

Juliette Lewis endures as one of Hollywood's most talented and versatile actors. From the moment she first stunned audiences and critics alike with her Oscar®-nominated performance as Danielle Bowden in Martin Scorsese's *CAPE FEAR*, she has worked with some of the most revered and influential directors and filmmakers of all time, including Quentin Tarantino, Oliver Stone, Kathryn Bigelow, Lasse Hallström, and Garry Marshall. Her powerful scenes alongside Robert De Niro in *CAPE FEAR* captured the quiet complexities of adolescence and earned Lewis nominations in the category of “Best Supporting Actress” at both the Academy® Awards and the Golden Globe® Awards. The auditorium sequence with De Niro remains one of cinema's classic scenes, securing a place in movie history for its tension and menace. Whether lending dramatic authenticity or a natural comedic flair to her roles, Lewis graces the screen with remarkable range as well as an original and captivating style. Following her breakout in *CAPE FEAR*, Lewis has starred in a variety of blockbusters and critically acclaimed projects, *KALIFORNIA*, *ROMEO IS BLEEDING*, *WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE* and *NATURAL BORN KILLERS* –Stone's controversial media satire about two mass murderers who become legendary folk heroes. Her other credits include the Nora Ephron comedy *MIXED NUTS* with Steve Martin and Adam Sandler, Bigelow's sci-fi action film *STRANGE DAYS* with Ralph Fiennes and Angela Bassett, the Gary Marshall-directed *THE OTHER SISTER*, Todd Phillips's *OLD SCHOOL* with Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn, and Will Ferrell, and the Robert Rodriguez-directed and Tarantino- penned vampire cult classic *FROM DUSK TILL DAWN* with George Clooney and Harvey Keitel. After a five- year hiatus from film to exclusively pursue her burgeoning music career, Lewis announced her return to acting with a series of films. These included the comedy *WHIP IT* directed by Drew Barrymore, *THE SWITCH* opposite Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Patrick Wilson, Mark Ruffalo's directorial debut *SYMPATHY FOR DELICIOUS* costarring Orlando Bloom and Laura Linney, and the acclaimed indie-drama *CONVICTION*, which also starred Hilary Swank, Melissa Leo, and Sam Rockwell. Critics applauded Lewis's performance in the latter with Time Magazine praising her “scene stealing moments” as a devious ex- girlfriend, while Entertainment Weekly raved, “Juliette Lewis reminds fans why we want her to run free forever.” The San Francisco Chronicle proclaimed, “her character work should be studied in schools. Just remarkable.” She was also seen in *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY*, based on the Pulitzer Prize® and Tony®-Award winning play by Tracy Letts alongside an ensemble cast with Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, and Ewan McGregor. She stood out in the indie film *KELLY AND CAL* for which her performance was met by significant praise from film critics including the Los Angeles Times who raved that she “delivers one of her finest performances.” In addition to her film career, Lewis has continued to add roles to her growing list of acclaimed television and series credits with IndieWire going as far as to christen 2022 “the year of Juliette Lewis.” She starred as “Natalie” in Showtime's acclaimed hit drama “*Yellowjackets*” and was also seen in Peacock's celebrated “*Queer As Folk*” reboot. Most recently, Juliette received an Emmy nomination for “Outstanding Supporting Actress In A Limited Or Anthology Series Or Movie” for her work as “Denise” in Hulu's “*Welcome to Chippendales*.” Lewis's other television and series credits span her role in Mark Ruffalo's Emmy® Award-winning HBO limited series “*I Know This Much is True*” as well as co-starring with Jennifer Garner in HBO's comedy “*Camping*,” as well as a starring role in the Mira Nair-directed HBO film *HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS*, which earned her an Emmy nomination for “Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or a Movie.” She secured a Daytime Emmy nomination for her role in Showtime's “*My Louisiana Sky*.” Most recently, Juliette Lewis is starred in the critically acclaimed dark western thriller *THE THICKET* and has signed on to star alongside Ayo Edebiri and John Malkovich in *OPUS*, a horror pic marking the first feature of writer-director Mark Anthony Green, which will be financed and produced by A24. Lewis has also appeared as the face of several noteworthy brands such as Acne, BMW, Miu Miu, Rimowa and more.



## MAMOUDOU ATHIE | “OLIVIER”

Mamoudou Athie is an Emmy-nominated actor who based in Los Angeles, California. Athie was most recently seen on stage at The Public Theater in Saheem Ali's *GOOD BONES* written by James Ijames. He recently wrapped A24's *THE DRAMA* opposite Robert Pattinson and Zendaya, for writer-director Kristofer Borgli, as well as *WARDRIVER* for writer-director Becca Thomas. Up next, he will be seen in Amanda Kramer's *BY DESIGN* opposite Juliette Lewis which is premiering at Sundance 2025. In 2024, he was seen starring opposite Emma Stone, Jesse Plemons, Willem Dafoe, Margaret Qualley, Hong Chau and Joe Alwyn in Yorgos Lanthimos' *KINDS OF KINDNESS* for Searchlight which premiered at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival. Prior to this, Athie could be seen in Maggie Betts' drama feature *THE BURIAL* for Amazon Prime Video, which debuted at the 2023 Toronto Film Festival to much praise. The ensemble cast includes Jamie Foxx, Tommy Lee Jones and Jurnee Smollett. As a talented voice actor, Athie was also involved in two highly-acclaimed animated films in 2023. First, he led Pixar's animated feature *ELEMENTAL* as the voice of Wade Ripple, opposite Leah Lewis' Ember Lumen. The film was released on June 16, 2023 and closed the prestigious Cannes Film Festival a month prior. *ELEMENTAL* went on to receive a Best Animated Film nomination from the Golden Globe Awards. Additionally, Athie recorded a supporting role for Hayao Miyazaki's latest project, *THE BOY AND THE HERON*, alongside Christian Bale, Gemma Chan, Robert Pattinson and Florence Pugh. The film has broken records as the first original anime title in history to top the North American box office chart, and is now Miyazaki's top grossing film domestically. *THE BOY AND THE HERON* was also nominated for a Golden Globe, Meaning Athie was involved in two of the five films in the Best Animated Feature category. In 2022, Athie starred alongside Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard and Jeff Goldblum in Universal and Colin Trevorrow's *JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION*, which brought in \$143 million at the box office for its opening. It has generated over \$1 billion globally since release. That same year, he also led the James Wan produced Netflix series *ARCHIVE 81*, which premiered #1 on Netflix. Athie was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Actor in A Short Form Comedy or Drama Series for his role in the FX series, *OH JEROME, NO*. He is also well-known for his lead performance in Prentice Penny's feature *UNCORKED* for Netflix opposite Courtney B. Vance, which has been applauded by critics and audiences alike. His resume also includes roles in *BLACK BOX* from Amazon and Blumhouse, Jason Reitman's *THE FRONT RUNNER* opposite Hugh Jackman, two seasons of James Ponsoldt's Facebook series *SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS* opposite Elizabeth Olsen, Netflix's *UNICORN STORE* opposite Brie Larson, the breakout Sundance hit *PATTI CAKE\$*, and Baz Luhrmann's Netflix series *THE GET DOWN*. Athie graduated from Yale School of Drama's MFA program and was given the RISING STAR honor at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2017.



## SAMANTHA MATHIS | “LISA”

A native of New York City, Samantha Mathis has crafted a distinguished career in television, film and theater. Her upcoming film, *BY DESIGN*, premieres at Sundance this year. She can also be seen in the Black Box Features’ *ISLE CHILD* later in 2025 which follows a teenaged Korean-American adoptee as learns his birth mother may be searching for him in Korea. She just completed the off Broadway play “Another Shot”, set in a rehab, where she played Andrea, who is on her 5th rehab and her 5th marriage. Mathis was most recently seen in the feature film *THE EXORCISM* with Russell Crowe, Sam Worthington and Adam Goldberg. Mathis can also be seen in *PET SEMATARY: BLOODLINES*, directed by Lindsey Beer. Additionally, Mathis starred in Miranda Bailey’s *BEING FRANK*, opposite Jim Gaffigan and Anna Gunn, which premiered at SXSW in 2018; also in 2018 she starred in *THE CLOVEHITCH KILLER* with Charlie Plummer and Dylan McDermott, distributed by IFC Midnight. On the small screen, Mathis most recently starred in season four and five of the Showtime hit series “Billions”, where she played Sara Hammon. In 2019 Mathis starred in Chelsea Stardust’s thriller, “All That We Destroy” which was included in Jason Blum’s anthology series on Hulu. Prior to that, Mathis was a series regular on Guillermo del Toro’s “The Strain”, for FX. Her other TV credits include NBC’s “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit”, CBS’ “Under the Dome”, HBO’s critically acclaimed “Curb Your Enthusiasm”, an arc on “Grey’s Anatomy”, the highly acclaimed TNT miniseries’ “Nightmares and Dreamscapes: From the Stories of Stephen King” and “Salem’s Lot.” Other television credits include “Collected Stories”, “The Mists of Avalon” and “Oprah Winfrey Presents: Mitch Albom’s For One More Day”. Mathis burst onto the film scene in *PUMP UP THE VOLUME* opposite Christian Slater, followed by the film *THE THING CALLED LOVE* alongside River Phoenix. Additional film credits include *THE PUNISHER*, *ATTRACTION*, *THE SIMIAN LINE*, *AMERICAN PSYCHO*, *BROKEN ARROW*, *THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT*, *HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT*, *JACK AND SARAH*, *LITTLE WOMEN*, *THIS IS MY LIFE*, *THE MUSIC OF CHANCE*, and *TOUCHED*. Mathis’s indie film credits include *BELIEVE IN ME*, *LOCAL COLOR*, *THE NEW DAUGHTER* opposite Kevin Costner, *ORDER OF CHAOS*, *LEBANON*, *PA*, *FATHERS AND SONS*, *CAMILLA DICKINSON*, Alan Rudolph’s *RAY MEETS HELEN*, and *AMERICAN PASTORAL* by Ewan McGregor. Mathis made her Broadway debut in 2002 in Arthur Miller’s “The Man Who Had All the Luck” opposite Chris O’Donnell. She was also on Broadway in Moises Kaufman’s “33 Variations,” alongside Jane Fonda and Colin Hanks, a role she reprised in Los Angeles with Fonda at the Ahmanson Theater in 2011. Mathis starred opposite Tony Award-winner Linda Lavin in “Collected Stories” at the Geffen Playhouse. In 2021/2022 Mathis starred in “Whisper House”, the off-Broadway musical ghost story with music and lyrics by Tony and Grammy Award winner Duncan Sheik and book and lyrics by Obie winner and Tony nominee Kyle Jarrow. In 2019 Mathis appeared in Second Stage Theater’s “Make Believe”, written by Bess Wohl and directed by Michael Greif. Also in 2019 she starred in “Nomad Motel” by Carla Ching at the Atlantic Theater. When she isn’t on stage or in front of the camera, Mathis is enthusiastic about her philanthropic work. She has served four terms on the board of her union SAG AFTRA. She has worked with World Central Kitchen, and Amnesty International on their Stop the Violence Campaign Against Women to stop the femicide in Guatemala. She is also a longtime supporter of animal rights, and the proud owner of a rescue dog, Annie.





## ROBIN TUNNEY | "IRENE"

Robin Tunney, was most recently seen in a recurring role in Jason Katims' drama for Apple TV, "Dear Edward," opposite Connie Britton and Taylor Schilling. Robin is most well-known for her leading roles in Fox's "Prison Break," CBS' "The Mentalist" and most recently, ABC's "The Fix," which was written and produced by famed attorney Marcia Clark. Robin made her film debut in 1992's *ENCINO MAN*, and quickly rose to prominence with her roles in cult classic films such as *EMPIRE RECORDS*, *THE CRAFT* and *NIAGARA*, *NIAGARA* for which she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. She also recently appeared in the Netflix feature film *HORSEGIRL* opposite Allison Brie and Molly Shannon.



## ALISA TORRES | “MARTA”

Alisa Torres is an actress known for her sharp improvisational skills, accent work and quick-witted humor. Her dedication to craft and natural flair for both drama and comedy has landed her roles in Amanda Kramer’s award winning feature PLEASE BABY PLEASE and Sundance selection BY DESIGN, starring Juliette Lewis, Mamoudou Athie and Udo Kier.

## CLIFTON COLLINS JR. | “JACOB THE STALKER”

Playing everything from policemen to boxers to serial killers, and working with illustrious industry vets including Guillermo del Toro, Terrence Malick, Quentin Tarantino and Steven Soderbergh, Clifton Collins Jr. can easily lose himself in the life of his film and television characters. Collins, a native Angeleno, grew up destined to become a part of the entertainment industry. His grandfather was a well-known character actor Pedro Gonzalez, most famous for his humorous sidekick roles in 1950s/1960s John Wayne westerns. For Collins' role as Lawrence in the blockbuster science-fiction drama series *WESTWORLD* for HBO, he added his own personal touch to the character, wearing his grandfather's gun belt throughout the series. Collins will next be seen in Apple Studios' *THE LAST FRONTIER* created by Jon Bokenkamp, opposite Jason Clark and Haley Bennett. Additionally, Collins will be starring in Ari Aster's contemporary western for A24, *EDDINGTON*, alongside a star-studded cast of Joaquin Phoenix, Pedro Pascal, Emma Stone and Austin Butler. He's currently shooting the upcoming Paramount+ limited series, *JONBENET RAMSEY*, alongside Melissa McCarthy, Clive Owen, Garret Hedlund and Shea Whigham for 101 Studios. In 2021, Collins reunited with writer/director duo Clint Bentley and Greg Kvedar, the three developed and shot the independent film *JOCKEY*. The film premiered in competition at Sundance to widespread praise. Collins's moving performance was loved by fans and critics alike ultimately earning him the coveted Best Actor award at Sundance, as well as a Distinguished Performance Award at the SCAD Savannah Film Festival, Cassavetes Award at the Denver Film Festival, and an Independent Spirit Award nomination. The film also won the Audience Award at the AFI Film Festival. Collins followed this with a turn in Guillermo Del Toro's *NIGHTMARE ALLEY* for Fox Searchlight, alongside the all-star cast of Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Toni Collette, Michael Shannon and Willem Dafoe. Collins was also seen in the film *AFTER YANG*, from visionary director Kogonada, alongside Colin Farrell for A24, which premiered at Cannes Film Festival. Collins was also recently seen in Amazon's adaptation of best-selling novel *RED*, *WHITE & ROYAL BLUE*, and *THE BRICKLAYER* alongside Nina Dobrev and Aaron Eckhart. Collins' film credits include Quentin Tarantino's *ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD* opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino, Kurt Russell; Wally Pfister's *TRANSCENDENCE* opposite Johnny Depp, Morgan Freeman, Kate Mara, and Cillian Murphy; the Sundance darling, *HONEY BOY*, written and starring Shia LeBeouf and directed by Alma Har'El; *WAVES* from director Trey Shults opposite Kelvin Harrison Jr, Taylor Russell, Lucas Hedges and Sterling K. Brown; Clint Eastwood's *THE MULE*, The Hughes Brother's *DEAD PRESIDENTS*, Bennett Miller's *CAPOTE* opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman; Terrence Malick's *KNIGHT OF CUPS*; Guillermo Del Toro's *PACIFIC RIM*; Alejandro Inarritu's *BABEL*; Steven Soderbergh's drug epic *TRAFFIC* opposite Benicio del Toro, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas; alongside Colin Farrell in Joel Schumacher's *TIGERLAND*; Roger Avery's *LUCKY DAY* opposite Nina Dobrev; Dito Montiel's *MAN DOWN* opposite Shia LaBeouf and Gary Oldman; Clint Bentley and Greg Kvedar's SXSW thriller *TRANSPECOS*; Taylor Hackford's *PARKER*, opposite Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez; Lionsgate's *THE PERFECT GAME*; Paul Scheuring's *THE EXPERIMENT* opposite Adrien Brody and Forest Whitaker; the Universal cult hit *SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD* from Edgar Wright; Jim Sheridan's *BROTHERS* with Jake Gyllenhaal; JJ Abrams' *STAR TREK*; Mike Judge's *EXTRACT* opposite Jason Bateman and Ben Affleck; Christine Jeffs' *SUNSHINE CLEANING* opposite Emily Blunt and Amy Adams; and *BOONDOCK SAINTS 2* for Sony; Tate Taylor's *BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA COUNTY* opposite Allison Janney, Awkwafina, and Regina Hall.





## UDO KIER | “Aldo Fabbri”

Beginning his life with the same flair for the dramatic that would come to define his career, Udo Kier was born in Köln, Germany near the end of the 2nd world war. The hospital was bombed and buried Kier and his mother in the rubble. Both survived, and Kier would later move to London as a young adult to study English. Kier was discovered in London by Michael Sarne, who cast him in his first role as a gigolo in *ROAD TO SAINT TROPEZ*. Kier then starred in Michael Armstrong’s extremely controversial *MARK OF THE DEVIL*. He would go on to work with Paul Morrissey in Andy Warhol’s *FLESH FOR FRANKENSTEIN* and *BLOOD FOR DRACULA*, Dario Argento in *SUSPIRIA*, and Rainer Werner Fassbinder in *THE THIRD GENERATION*, *LILI MARLEEN*, and *LOLA*. Kier entered the American independent cinema scene many years later after meeting Gus Van Sant at the Berlin Film Festival. Van Sant offered Kier the role of Hans, the lamp-singing john in *MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO* with Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix. He would later have roles in Gus Van Sant’s *EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES* and *DON'T WORRY HE WON'T GET FAR ON FOOT* as well as such 90s Hollywood hits as *ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE*, *JOHNNY MNEMONIC*, *BARB WIRE*, *END OF VIOLENCE*, *FOR LOVE OR MONEY*, *ARMAGEDDON*, *BLADE*, and *END OF DAYS*. Kier is probably best known for his collaboration with Lars von Trier, appearing in most of his films including *MEDEA*, *EUROPA*, *BREAKING THE WAVES*, *DANCER IN THE DARK*, *DOGVILLE*, *MANDERLAY*, *MELANCHOLIA*, *NYMPHOMANIAC (VOL. II)* and *THE KINGDOM* (Danish TV). Kier’s recent renaissance has seen him play memorable roles in the Activision game *CALL OF DUTY*, numerous television roles in Europe and North America, including a leading role in season 2 of *HUNTERS* on Amazon, and in the films *IRON SKY*, *BRAWL IN CELL BLOCK 99*, *DOWNSIZING*, *AMERICAN ANIMALS*, *BACURAU*, *THE PAINTED BIRD*, *THE BLAZING WORLD*, *SWAN SONG* and *MY NEIGHBOR ADOLF* among many others.

## **MIRANDA BAILEY | “Diane the Wailing Woman,” Producer**

As the CEO of Cold Iron Pictures, Miranda Bailey is a Spirit and Gotham award-winning producer, director and actress. Bailey is thrilled that Cold Iron's latest film, in collaboration with Smudge Films (I SAW THE TV GLOW), Amanda Kramer's BY DESIGN will be opening the Sundance Film Festival 2025 NEXT Category. Bailey also produced Morrisa Maltz's JAZZY, which premiered at Tribeca 2024 and is currently nominated for the John Cassavetes Award and Best Editing Independent Spirit Award. Bailey's other recent projects include: Kit Williamson's UNCONVENTIONAL, a Revry Original Series; GOD'S COUNTRY, which premiered at Sundance 2022; and THE BOY WITH THE LIGHT BLUE EYES, a Greek-language feature film. Bailey's producing career spans over two decades, during which she became known for uplifting new talent and putting up-and-coming directors on the map. She produced Noah Baumbach's THE SQUID AND THE WHALE, James Gunn's SUPER, Marielle Heller's THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL, and the radical directors DANIELS' first film SWISS ARMY MAN. In addition to Cold Iron Pictures, Miranda Bailey is an actress and director. Her documentary THE PATHOLOGICAL OPTIMIST and comedy Feature, BEING FRANK, starring Jim Gaffigan, gained several film festival awards. In 2018, unsatisfied with the number of female film critics and jobs for female film journalists, Miranda founded CherryPicks, a female-fronted film and tv review site aimed at growing the voices and critical writings of women and nonbinary writers.

[www.TheCherryPicks.com](http://www.TheCherryPicks.com)

## **MELANIE GRIFFITH | “Narrator”**

Melanie Griffith received an Academy Award nomination, a BAFTA nomination and won a Golden Globe award for her memorable role as Tess McGill in Mike Nichol's smash hit WORKING GIRL. In 2003, she made her Broadway musical debut in Chicago as the fame-hungry Roxie Hart, impressing critics and audiences alike.

Griffith's performance opposite Liev Schreiber, John Malkovich and James Cromwell in the HBO movie RKO 281 earned her both an Emmy and Golden Globe nomination. She received rave reviews for her performances in the following films – CRAZY IN ALABAMA, directed by Antonio Banderas, Larry Clark's ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE, and Woody Allen's CELEBRITY, opposite Kenneth Branagh. She also provided the voice of 'Margalo' in Sony's family hit, STUART LITTLE 2. Griffith has collaborated with some of the film industry's most important directors. Her career began at age sixteen in Arthur Penn's NIGHT MOVES. She then appeared in the murder mystery THE DROWNING POOL starring Paul Newman, gained attention as a starlet who holds the missing piece to the murder puzzle in Brian de Palma's BODY DOUBLE, and then co-starred in Jonathan Demme's off-beat comedy-drama SOMETHING WILD. She received Golden Globe nominations for her roles in both BODY DOUBLE and SOMETHING WILD. She went on to star in Mike Figgis' stylish film noir STORMY MONDAY with Tommy Lee Jones and Sting, Robert Redford's THE MILAGRO BEANFIELD WAR, and John Schlesinger's psychological thriller PACIFIC HEIGHTS opposite Michael Keaton and Matthew Modine. Reteaming with director Brian de Palma, she starred with Tom Hanks and Bruce Willis in BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES, before joining Michael Douglas and Liam Neeson in the World War II espionage romance SHINING THROUGH. After starring in PARADISE with Don Johnson, Griffith followed with Sidney Lumet's police drama A STRANGER AMONG US, a remake of Garson Kanin's BORN YESTERDAY, and Robert Benton's NOBODY'S FOOL opposite Paul Newman. Her other film credits include Richard Benjamin's charming comedy MILK MONEY opposite Ed Harris, a cameo role in NOW AND THEN, Fernando Trueba's TWO MUCH, starring Antonio Banderas and Daryl Hannah, Lee Tamahori's MULHOLLAND FALLS with Nick Nolte, Adrian Lyne's controversial film LOLITA, John Waters' CECIL B. DEMENTED, the crime thriller TEMPO, SHADE opposite Sylvester Stallone and Gabriel Byrne, Suri Krishnamma's DARK TOURIST, and AUTOMATA.

On television, Griffith starred in the comedy "Twins," opposite Sara Gilbert. She also starred in the miniseries "Buffalo Girls," which earned her a Golden Globe nomination, and starred with James Woods in the HBO film "Women & Men: Hills Like White Elephants." She also appeared in the casino drama "Viva Laughlin." Griffith's other TV credits include a guest star on the TV comedy series "Raising Hope," USA network's TV movie "Call Me Crazy," CBS' "Hawaii 5-0," and Hulu's "The Path."

In 2001, Griffith was honored with a Special Festival Award for her body of work at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2014, Melanie was honored with the Taormina Arte Award in Taormina, Italy. Her most recent on-screen credits include the independent feature DAY OUT OF DAYS for writer/director Zoe Cassavetes, as well as the Hallmark feature JL RANCH with Jon Voight. She was most recently seen in THE PIRATES OF SOMALIA with Evan Peters and Al Pacino, THE DISASTER ARTIST with James Franco and Seth Rogen, THE HIGH NOTE with Dakota Johnson, and starred as Mrs. Robinson in the play "The Graduate" at The Laguna Playhouse in March 2018. Griffith can also be seen in a guest starring role in Showtime's "SMILF."

## MADISON MCKINLEY | “Sarah the Stockist,” Executive Producer

Born and raised in Vail, Colorado, Madison McKinley started modeling at the age of 16. Her ethereal beauty resulted in having her included in *Mode* magazine as one of the 100 Most Beautiful Women. After an appearance on the TV series *30 Rock*, she fell in love with acting and segued into the thespian realm. Her film credits include *THE WOLF OF WALL STREET* with Leonardo DiCaprio and *MOLLY’S GAME* starring Jessica Chastain. On TV she has guest starred in numerous series such as “*Damages*,” “*Orange is the New Black*,” and “*Vinyl*,” which reunited her with Martin Scorsese, amongst others.

During the Covid pandemic Madison moved to Mexico and took time to reassess what she wanted to do artistically. It was always her dream to produce as well as act. With an eye towards the business of entertainment and a desire to see quality projects being made she jumped into producing. She recently had her first short *ITSY BITSY* debut at the Hollywood Shorts Festival. Reuniting with her childhood friend Miranda Bailey, the duo decided to collaborate on their first feature film which was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival, *BY DESIGN*, just chosen by *Vogue Magazine* as a film to watch. Madison fell in love with the innovative script about a woman who body swaps with a chair which results in everyone liking her better. Feeling like an inanimate object is something that most people can identify with, and the creative and thought-provoking story is something that she believes will deeply resonate. Their next project is the LGBTQ+ TV series “*Unconventional*” starring Kit Williamson which will debut on Revry in February. She is passionate about giving a voice to marginalized groups.

Madison supports Point of Pride, an organization that provides life-changing healthcare services for trans people. She loves snowboarding, skiing and scuba diving and resides between Colorado and Mexico.



# About the Filmmakers

## **AMANDA KRAMER** | Director, Writer

Amanda Kramer was named one of the "Directors Who Will Define the Next Decade," alongside Chloe Zhao, Greta Gerwig, and Ari Aster by IndieWire. Her most recent narrative film, PLEASE BABY PLEASE, starred Andrea Riseborough, Harry Melling, Karl Glusman and Demi Moore. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Outfest, and opened IFF Rotterdam 2022, headlining a full retrospective of her past work. Her documentary SO UNREAL, narrated by Debbie Harry, premiered in 2023 at Fantastic Fest and Rotterdam.



## **MIRANDA BAILEY | Producer, Actor**

Please see the above section.

## **SARAH WINSHALL | Producer**

Sarah Winshall is a creative producer and the founder of the independent production company, Smudge Films. She was awarded the 2025 Independent Spirit Producer's Award, launched the Los Angeles Festival of Movies in 2024, in 2023 received the Dear Producer Award, and was a 2022 Gotham/Cannes Producers Network Fellow. Her latest film, *BY DESIGN* (dir. Amanda Kramer), will premiere at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival. Other recent films include: *I SAW THE TV GLOW* (dir. Jane Schoenbrun, A24), *GOOD ONE* (dir. India Donaldson), and *DREAM TEAM* (dirs. Lev Kalman & Whitney Horn). Previous work has played at Cannes, Sundance, Berlinale, SXSW, New Directors/New Films, CPH:DOX, Outfest, Rotterdam, at MoMA, and on the Criterion Channel.

## **NATALIE WHALEN | Producer**

Natalie Whalen began her career in ICM's International and Independent department. She currently serves as President at Cold Iron Pictures | Film Arcade. Whalen executive produced *THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY* directed by Morrisa Maltz starring Academy Award nominee Lily Gladstone and produced Maltz' follow up feature *JAZZY* which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival 2024. She is nominated as a producer on *JAZZY* for the 2025 Spirit Awards. Most recently, Whalen produced Amanda Kramer's *BY DESIGN* starring Juliette Lewis which will premiere at Sundance 2025 and produced Kit Williamson's independent TV Series *UNCONVENTIONAL* which will be distributed by Revry. Previously, Whalen served as co-executive producer on the Sundance western thriller *GOD'S COUNTRY* starring Thandiwe Newton, as co-producer on Jake Paltrow's *JUNE ZERO*, and as associate producer on Hulu's *THE AMAZING JONATHAN*.

## **MADISON MCKINLEY | Executive Producer**

Please see the above section.

## **PATRICK MEADE JONES | Director of Photography**

Patrick Meade Jones is a cinematographer known for his work across film, music videos, and commercials, collaborating closely with directors to craft distinctive visual styles. He has worked with director Amanda Kramer on five films, including the upcoming 2025 Sundance premiere *BY DESIGN*. A native of the Chicago suburbs, Patrick moved to Los Angeles to study Film and Television at Loyola Marymount University, where he developed a deep understanding of how filmmaking techniques can both help and challenge unique cinematic visions. Starting out as a film loader and digital imaging technician, he assisted other DPs making the transition from film to digital. His early short films *ANDROID LOVE* and *IDIOT BOX* garnered recognition from the International Cinematographers Guild Emerging Cinematographer Awards in 2009 and 2010. Over the years, Patrick has shot music videos for artists like Billie Eilish, Imagine Dragons, Leon Bridges, Magdalena Bay, and Weezer, and commercials for top brands like Instagram, Pinterest, Gucci, Go Daddy, Amazon, and VW. Passionate about independent film, his short *CAN*, directed by Kailee McGee, won the Audience Award at the 2024 SXSW Film Festival, while his feature *PLEASE BABY PLEASE* earned the Grand Jury Award at the 2022 Outfest Film Festival.

## **BENJAMIN SHEARN | Editor**

Benjamin Shearn is a film editor and writer. His work has played at Sundance, South by Southwest, Berlinale, Tribeca, BFI London, CPH:DOX, Fantastic Fest, Fantasia, TIFF: Next Wave, Edinburgh, Outfest, MIFF, Beyond Fest, Sitges, ComicCon San Diego and the Frontieres Showcase at Cannes. Shearn's most recent work *BY DESIGN* is premiering opening night of the 2025 Sundance Film festival in the NEXT section, and a retrospective of his collaboration with filmmaker Amanda Kramer was featured at the 2022 Rotterdam Film Festival. Projects Shearn has edited for have been featured in Variety, Sight & Sound, New York Times, The Guardian, Art Forum, Film Comment, L.A. Times, Senses of Cinema, Nowness, Mubi Notebook, AV Club, Film Threat, Paste Magazine and Film School Rejects.

## **SOPHIE HARDEMAN | Costume Designer**

Sophie Hardeman is a Dutch-born, Los Angeles-based fashion and costume designer. Her work merges traditional workwear with high-end couture, reflecting an of-the-moment perspective. Hardeman's designs engage contemporary ideologies while challenging myths of mass culture, gender identity, and conformity. Working fluidly between fashion and costume, she develops stories that drive both character building and design evolution.

## GRACE SURNOW | Production Designer

Grace Surnow is a production designer based in Los Angeles. She has been nominated for a VMA and has worked with a variety of artists and brands including Charli XCX, Haim, Billie Eilish, Alex Prager, Gucci, Adidas and more. With a background in sculpture, she has developed her style through heightened visuals in the art, fashion, and commercial realm. *By Design* is her first feature.

## CHAIR

Designed by Emile Baumann, a Swiss man, in the early 1900s, who started a furniture company called "Baumann." It was big in France, which is where the chair was sourced from. He started by making children's chairs and expanded from there, becoming well-known for simple bentwood style chairs. The chair is from the 1950s, per the seller. (It may have been used as a urinal.)



# Credits

Writer/Director - Amanda Kramer

Producers - Miranda Bailey, Sarah Winshall, Jacob Agger, Natalie Whalen

Executive Producers - Madison McKinley, James Belfer, Karen Belfer, Jason Beck, Lauren Mann,  
Riccardo Maddalosso, Topher Lin, Alex Bach, Kyra Rogers, Todd Remis

Co Producers - Kat Barnette, Mireia Vilanova

Director of Photography - Patrick Meade Jones

Editor - Benjamin Shearn

Production Designer - Grace Surnow

Costume Designer - Sophie Hardeman

Composers - Giulio Carmassi and Bryan Scary

Music Supervisor - Taylor Rowley

Choreographer - Sigrid Lauren

Makeup Department Head - Anouck Sullivan

Hair Department Head - Nevada Raffaele

Sound Producer - Alexandra Fehrman

Line Producer - Kat Barnette

First Assistant Director - Patrick Weir

# Cast

Camille - Juliette Lewis

Olivier - Mamoudou Athie

Lisa - Samantha Mathis

Irene - Robin Tunney

Marta - Alisa Torres

Jacob the Stalker - Clifton Collins Jr.

Gary - Keir Gilchrist

Sarah the Stockist - Madison McKinley

Diane the Wailing Woman - Miranda Bailey

Gio - Cristo Montt

Regina - Bridey Elliott

Esther - Greer Cohen

Tara - Jessie-Ann Kohlman

Len - Sophie von Haselberg

Sheila the Intern - Ruby Cruz

The Journalist - Michelle Farrah Huang

The Art Director - Jim Chapa

The Photographer - Cricket Arrison

The Mover - Isaac Britt

With Udo Kier as Aldo Fabbri

and Betty Buckley as Cynthia

and Melanie Griffith as the Narrator

Company Dancers - Liana Kleinman, Gigi Todisco, Annalise Gehling, Jordan Gaskin, Sigrid Lauren

# Crew

Production Manager - Allison Bunce

Second Assistant Director - David Waton

Script Supervisor - Abbey Spacil

Production Coordinator - Emmett Kowalski

Production Assistants - Miles Cohen, Jason Marrs, Anthony Frederick

Camera Operator - Terra Gutmann-Gonzalez

A First Assistant Camera - Melisse Sporn

B First Assistant Camera - Kyle Summers

2nd Assistant Camera - Milana Burdette

Camera Utility - Brook Lee Karner

Art Director - Anjélica Vasquez

Property Master - T Marsh

Lead Man - Kevin Lopez

On-Set Dressers - Evelyn Jimenez, Brenda Gomez

Set Dressers - Daniel Oregel, Jose Lopez, Carmen Burroughs

Construction Coordinator - Dustin Ruegger

Builders - Andrew Considine, Toby Bennett, Andre Rodriguez, Zacary Rojas-Gracie

Scenic - Anne Gormley

# Crew

Gaffer - Nate Thompson

Best Electrics - Lincoln Webb, Eric Gilbert

Electric - Jesse Lee

Key Grip - Carl Stewart

Best Grip - David Kinchen

Grips - Niklas Weikert, Daniel Wyland, Sully Perez, Riley Prichard

Assistant Costume Designer - Jacqueline Cingolani

Costume Production Assistant - Sean Powell

Hair Department Head - Nevada Raffaele

Makeup Department Head - Anouck Sullivan

Hair Assistant - Glenda Thompson

Key Makeup Artist - Angelique Fox

Makeup Assistants - Sarah Bonnel, Sussy Campos

Sound Mixer - Gloria Marie

Additional Sound Mixer, Boom Operator - Fiona Gaye

Boom Operator, A2 - Alan Arguelles

# Crew

Accountant - Maggie Dunlap

Set Medic - Chari Watkins

Additional Set Medic - Lindsay Thompson

Stunt Coordinator - Brandon Melendy

Intimacy Coordinator - Logan Davis

Stand Ins - Dario Lee, Kirstin Racicot

Set Photographers - Jason Al-Taan, Katherine Rosario

Assistant Editor - Kyle Boberg

Music Editing - Rebeca Arango

Post Production Coordinator - Julia Stier

Color and Finish by Picture Shop

Finishing Colorist - Alan Louis Gordon

Finishing Producer - Nancy Fuller

Finishing Executive - Derek Eby

Title Design by Jim Chapa

# Crew

Re-recording Mixer - Josh Aude

Dialogue Editor - Kai Scheer

Sound Designer - Kathryn Wang

Additional Sound Design - Benjamin L. Cook

Sound FX Editor - Daniel McNamara, MPSE

Foley Artist - Mike H. Miller

Foley Mixer - Chris Stucker

Stage Technician - Ally Hustings

Loop Group - Katy Fullan, Jessie-Ann Kohlman

VFX Services Provided by New Compositions: Matt Lathrom, Cameron McManus, Jamie Parreno and Agate Pictures: Paul Santagada

DCP Packaging/Delivery Consultant Bradford Operations: Samuel Gursky

# Songs

“Someone to Watch Over Me” written by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

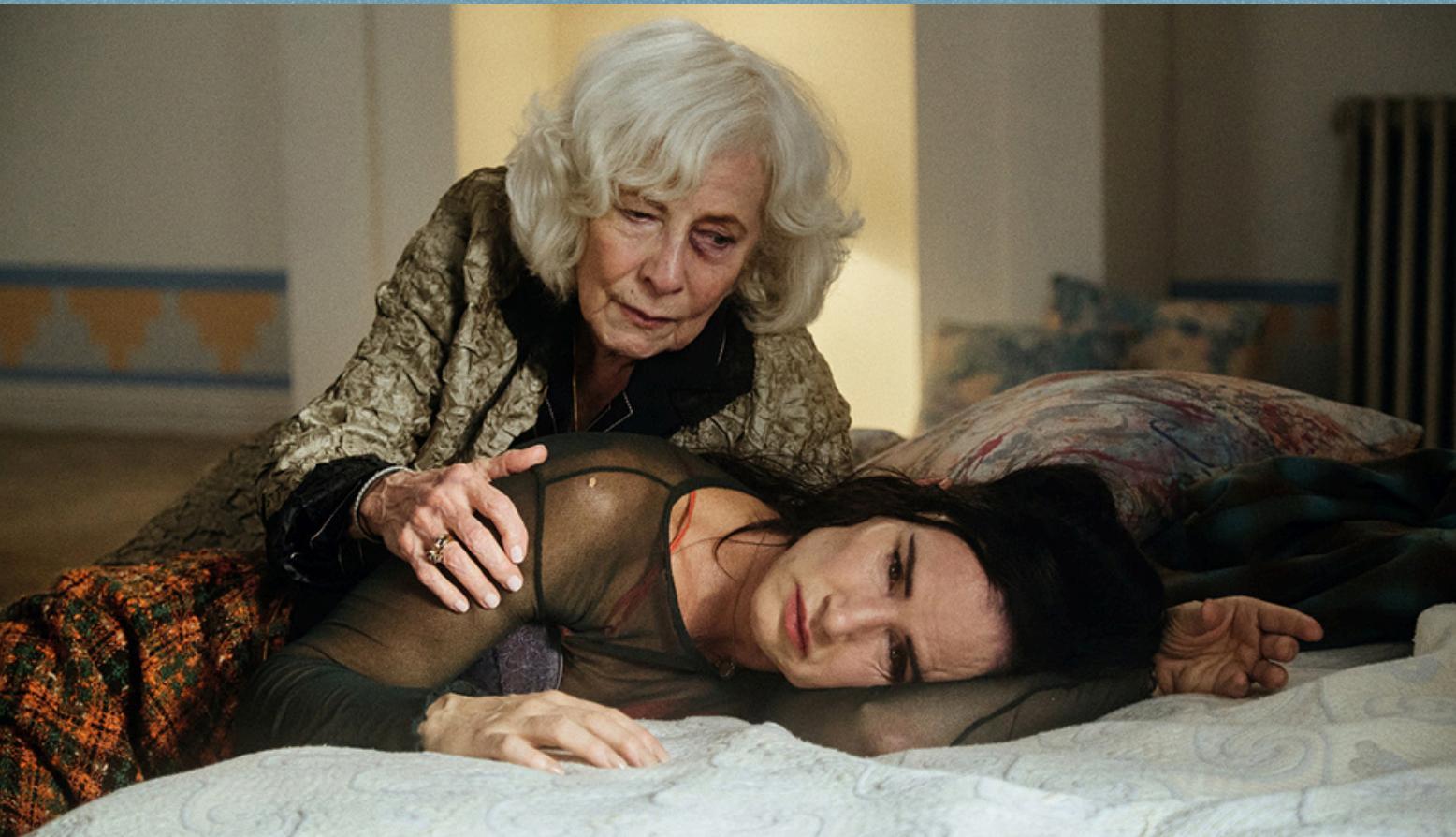
“Are You Lonesome Tonight?” written by Roy Turk and Lou Handman

“Yes Sir, That’s My Baby” written by Gus Kahn and Walter Donaldson

“S Wonderful” written by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

“Remember” written by Irving Berlin

Performed by Giulio Carmassi and Bryan Scary



# ABOUT MUSIC BOX FILMS

Music Box Films is the prestigious North American distributor of acclaimed international, independent, and documentary feature films. Recent releases include Cannes Directors' Fortnight baseball comedy *Eephus* by Carson Lund; Sarah Friedland's Venice prize-winning coming-of-old-age drama, *Familiar Touch*, starring Kathleen Chalfant;

Angus MacLachlan's poignant family portrait, *A Little Prayer*, starring David Strathairn; and Charlie Shackleton's Sundance award-winning true-crime autocritique, *Zodiac Killer Project*. Upcoming releases include the Dardennes' Belgian Oscar Entry, *Young Mothers*; Amanda Kramer's Sundance body swapping comedy starring Juliette Lewis, *By Design*; and François Ozon's Albert Camus adaptation, *The Stranger*. Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates the Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premier venue for independent and foreign films. For more information, visit [www.musicboxfilms.com](http://www.musicboxfilms.com).



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