

WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS



Cassie

Obviously we are all busy, but there has to be a time. Joanne? Thoughts?

Joanne

If we can't all meet up, why not just do it on here?

Joanne

It might be more difficult, but I will ensure everyone get a say.

Cassie

I think it's a good idea.

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?



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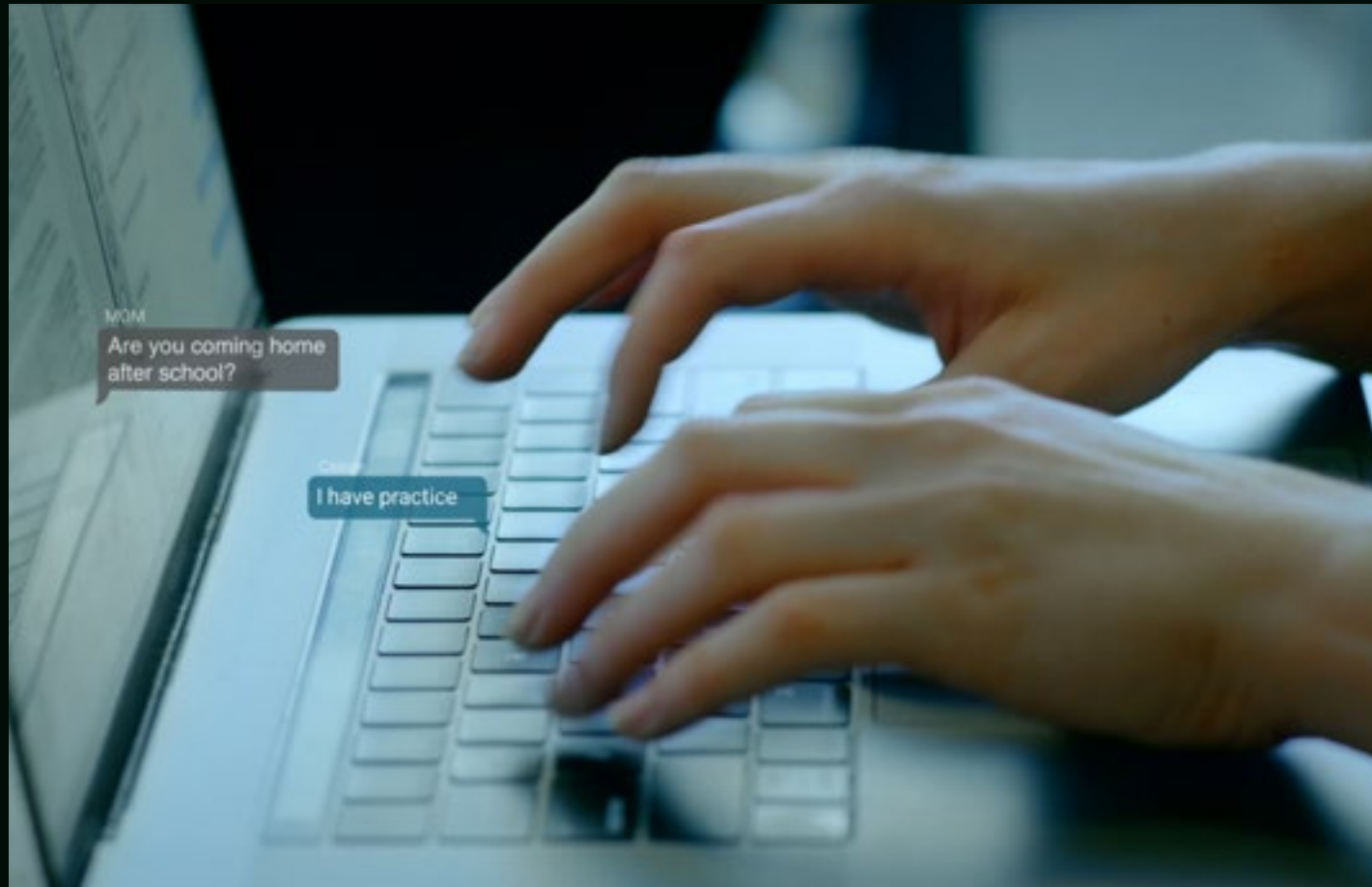
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W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?



LOG LINE



Three high school students go through their stressful, but normal day. Everything is totally ordinary, until it's not.

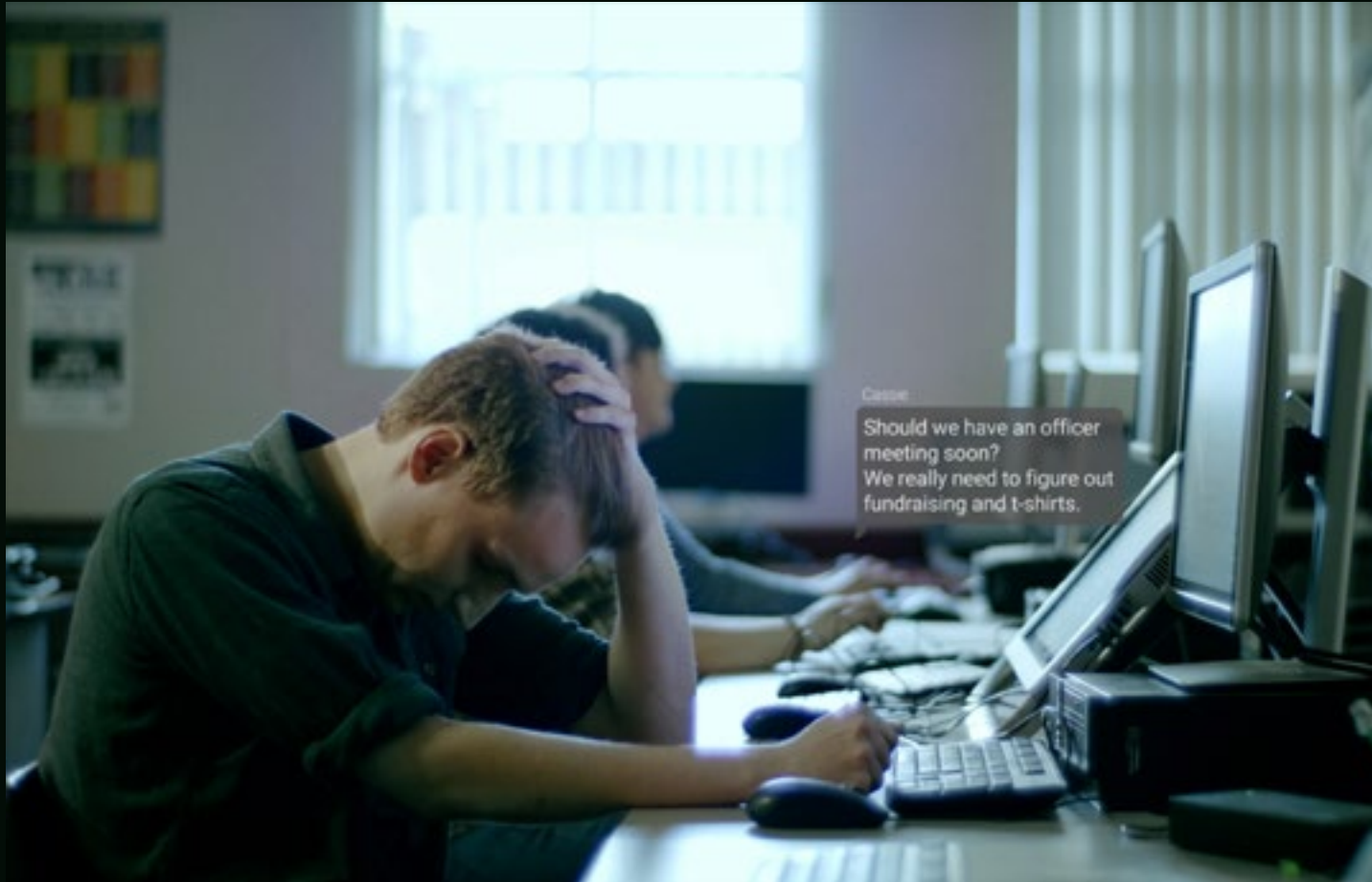
THEMES:

Advocacy

Mental health

U.S. Public Education

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?



SYNOPSIS



Cassie, Jay and Joanne frantically text back and forth attempting to have a successful day at a stressful high school. They struggle with finishing assignments, soon to be long distance relationships and mental health. Despite their struggles, the day is entirely normal, until it's not.

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

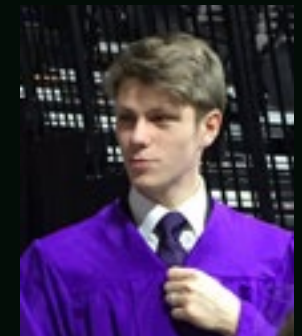
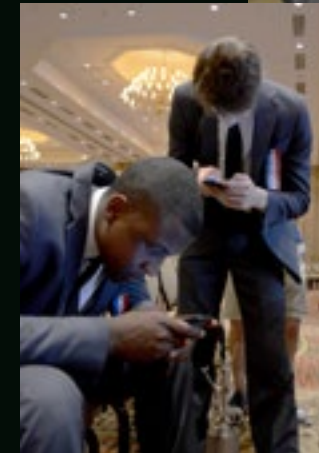
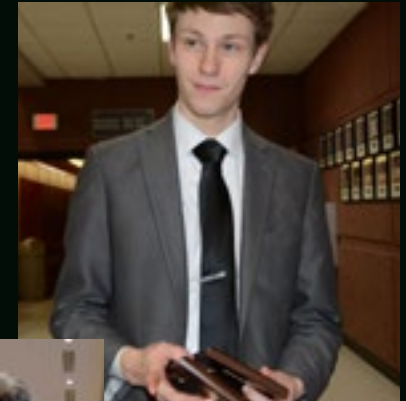
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



By the time I graduated from high school in 2015, I realized my experiences were not mirrored by any TV show or movie I had seen. “What Kind of Day Has It Been?” was born as I looked back on those years of my life. I recall the stress of the environment and the expectations I felt that I had to live up to. I realized other young students were, and are, far more concerned with the next test score and obtaining goals for our future than who would win Prom Queen and King. It often felt that adults trivialized the stress and pressure that we fought through every day. This film implements those feelings and true emotions through three students going through their seemingly ordinary days until one of their worst fears interrupts everything. By the end of the film, I hope that it is not just seen as entertainment, but sparks conversation around issues such as mental health, public education as well as social and political causes.



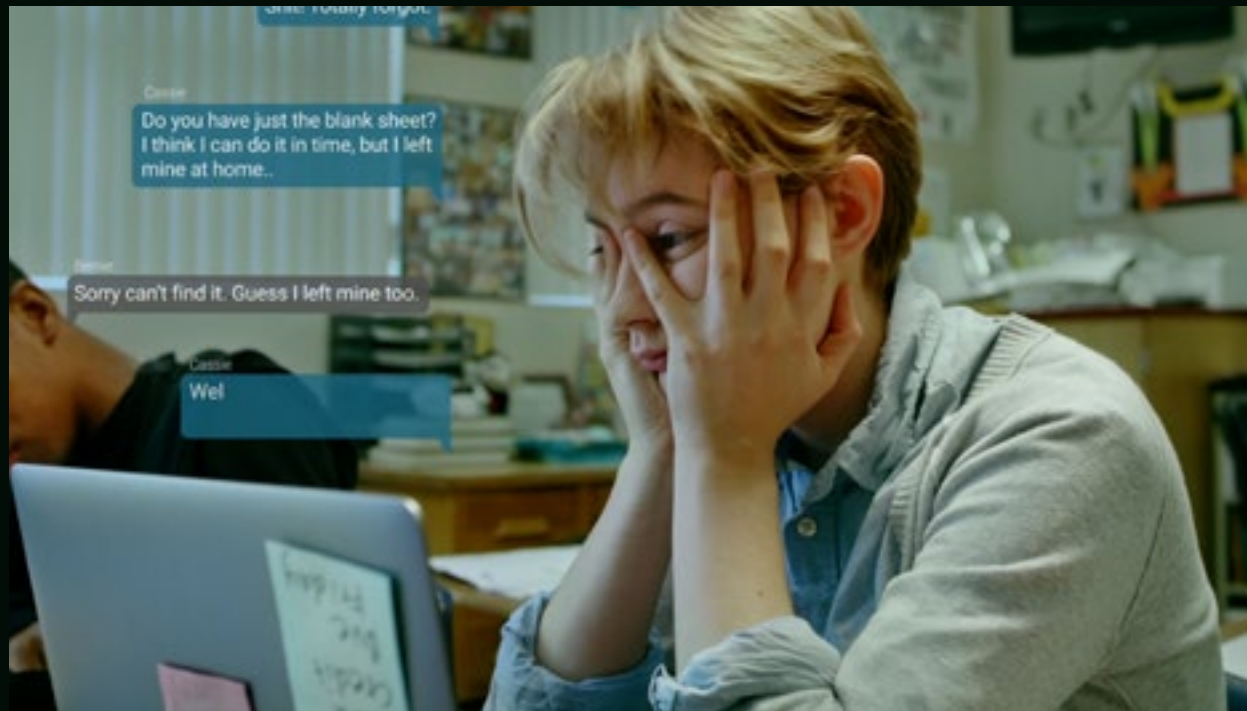
ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS



High School Senior 2015

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

WITH THE UNIQUE NATURE OF TEXT MESSAGES AS DIALOGUE,
HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE HEAR IS
LOCATION SOUND VS. POST-SOUND DESIGN?



FAQ



Although a risky choice, we decided to capture no on location sound, this would ultimately buy us more time on set, but we took a risk in post. Thankfully, our sound designer Matt Somogyi, did an incredible job building everything you hear in the film in post. Including the two concluding lines. In addition, Matthew Chilelli, our incredible composer was able to elevate that sound design with his music.

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

WHAT CAMERA WAS THIS FILMED ON?



FAQ



We were fortunate enough to work with a Black Magic Mini Ursa Pro. Our team debated several different options, and ended going with the Black Magic for its incredible price range, image quality, and robust technical design.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU HAVE ON SET?



FAQ



We had 3 days on set. It was a small amount of time that was made even more challenging by several technical difficulties (never step on a set without hiring a DIT) however, we were able to still get all the footage we needed in that short time.



WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?

FAQ



WHAT WAS THE DIRECTORIAL VISION FOR THIS PROJECT?

The director also happened to be the writer, Elijah D. Reynolds. He had lived with this story for over a year before actually bringing it to life on set. In that time he developed a strong vision that payed homage to many directors he admires while also trying to set his own course. A general rule of film making is to “save your close ups” allowing an audience to see the importance of a moment in the story but also the importance of a moment to the characters. Story set up is generally done in wider, or mid shots, it’s “working your way in”. Elijah wanted to reverse this rule. Much of the film revolves around the stress and anxiety these students feel, everything in their minds seem incredibly important. To convey this, Elijah and DP, Dakota Hadfield, created a more claustrophobic atmosphere in the shots, which are primarily close ups, extreme close ups, or mid close ups to provoke an actual nervous reaction from audience members. Wide shots aren’t used for set up, they are more used as a point of relief from that tight feeling. The camera is constantly moving inwards on its subjects, trapping them in a near never ending panic.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

FAQ



WITH SO MUCH OF THE FILM BEING IN CLOSE UPS, HOW DID THAT EFFECT THE ACTOR'S PERFORMANCES?

When you are constantly that tight in on an actor it's very hard to hide, this was something our three leads Aubrey Pyser, Shane Morton and Asia-Renee were aware of going into filming. Thankfully, all three are incredibly well trained and professional, they had a great awareness of their characters and were able to create very genuine performances with body language alone. The crew were constantly giving the actors their frame so they knew what space they had to work with. Additionally, while Elijah likes to watch the actor's performances in real time, he was able to look at the monitor and give minuet directions as the scene was playing out. This collaboration resulted in incredible performances.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

FAQ



THE TONES AND COLOR PALLET OF THE FILM DOESN'T MATCH WHAT YOU WOULD TYPICALLY SEE IN A "HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE". WHAT PROMPTED THIS CHOICE IN COLOR?

Part of this story's purpose is to give a more realistic view of the stress high school students are under every day. Often when we see even more dramatic films or television shows in High Schools, colors tend to pop a little brighter, everything has a little more sunshine to it. Ultimately a lot of those stories have more to do with romantic relationships, friendships, and the social constructs of school. Nothing is inherently wrong with that, but this story was more about the actual mechanics of school and what happens in the classroom. As of late, more of high school is thinking about the future than it is the moment. Everyone is concerned with what college they get into, what field of study they can best set themselves up for, how to pay for college, if the job market they are entering is stable. These are all overwhelming and very imprisoning thoughts. So, the thought was to create a setting that had all the typical things you would see in a classroom, but then create a pallet that you would expect more from a prison setting. It helps the, primarily, adult audience lean in and find that these issues are more pressing than what they might have imagined. It creates an opportunity to realize that these kid's primary stressors are not trivial and can actually be quite serious, which is why we see such a dramatic incline in mental illness in much of the American youth.



WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS?



FAQ



Elijah D. Reynolds, Emman Sadorra and Olivia “Liv” Johnson, met each other while working in Television Development. They quickly grew to be great friends and artistic collaborators. Each of the Executive Producers were working on different ideas and agreed to create each other’s short films. They started on Emman’s project XOXO, DARLA, then moved to WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN? Most recently these artistic collaborators worked on Liv Johnson’s short film, EMPTY NEST.

WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?

**AUBREY PYSER IS CREDITED AS BOTH CASSIE,
ONE OF THE LEAD CHARACTERS AND AN ASSOCIATE PRODUCER,
HOW DID SHE END UP IN BOTH THOSE ROLES**



FAQ



Aubrey has been a close friend of the writer and director Elijah D. Reynolds for several years. As soon as Elijah took on making the film he chose to cast Aubrey in the role of Cassie long before casting ever began. As the process continued Aubrey proved herself vital in its creation, giving notes and feedback on several iterations of the script and eventually helping in the overall casting of the film.

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

WRITER/DIRECTOR



ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS

Elijah's life long passion for film was grown in America's heartland, Missouri. At a young age Elijah was an advocate for others and chose film as his platform to bring awareness to social and political issues. After graduating from High School Elijah moved to LA and began his career in the film industry. After working in television development at Canny Lads Productions and Shoe Money Productions, Elijah switched to the creative side of the industry. In 2019 he produced four short films, XOXO, DARLA, EMPTY NEST, EXODUS 4: THE FACE OF GOD and WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?" which he wrote and directed. It is Elijah's hope that "What Kind of Day Has It Been?" will spark conversations surrounding mental health and public education.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?



PRODUCER



EMMAN SADORRA

Emman Sadorra is a writer/director/producer from Eagle Rock, CA. Emman began his career in TV development as a Creative Executive at CannyLads Productions. There, he worked on a number of drama and comedy projects for both ABC Studios and Universal TV, including the NBC comedy I FEEL BAD. Emman currently works on the ABC show BLACK-ISH, and continues to write and direct his own material. He's drawn to stories that explore themes of identity and finding the humor in unexpected places.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

PRODUCER



LIV JOHNSON

Liv is a director and producer based in Bozeman Montana, where she is working towards an MFA in science and natural history film making. Before that, she worked with Amy Poehler's Paper Kite productions on shows like BROAD CITY and RUSSIAN DOLL, as well as feature productions WINE COUNTRY and MOXIE. She has produced short films XOXO, DARLA, and WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?, as well as writing and directing her own short film, EMPTY NEST. Beyond narrative film, her background in environmental science and passion for the outdoors has led her to develop an interest in documentary, specifically communicating scientific results to the public. She is interested in stories with purpose, beauty, and joy.

oliviajohnson.com



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

COMPOSER



MATTHEW CHILELLI

Matthew Chilelli is an American Composer for media. From raw, intimate emotion to epic, cinematic spectacle, his versatile sound was inspired by classic film composers like John Williams, James Horner, Hans Zimmer, and Thomas Newman. Performing as a saxophonist in Ensembles and Jazz Bands from an early age, Matthew developed a passion for orchestration and now produces high quality, orchestral music in a range of styles. Matthew won a regional Emmy for music composition, he currently edits and writes music for the Scriptnotes podcast in Los Angeles, and he has had the pleasure of working closely with directors and editors to create bespoke music for film projects, video games, and documentary series. Matthew also contributes to several music production libraries when time allows.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER & “CASSIE”

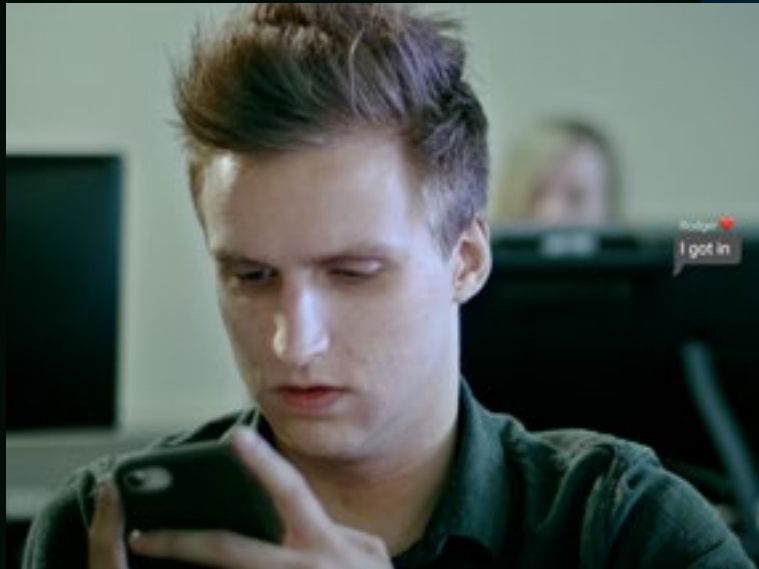


AUBREY PYSER

Originally from Kansas City, Missouri. Aubrey Pyser has studied acting in New York, London, and Los Angeles. Graduated with an Associates Degree in Musical Theater from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in 2019. Alongside a co-star role in Mad About You (2019), this is Aubrey's first professional film. A young, androgynous performer, Aubrey wishes to push for social equality through the medium of film.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?



“ J A Y ”



SHANE MORTON

Originally from Kona, Hawaii Shane Morton studied at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and Graduated with an Associates Degree in Acting. This is Shane's first film project he's been apart of. Shane hopes to one day be able to use acting as an outlet to show people the real life epidemics we are facing.



W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

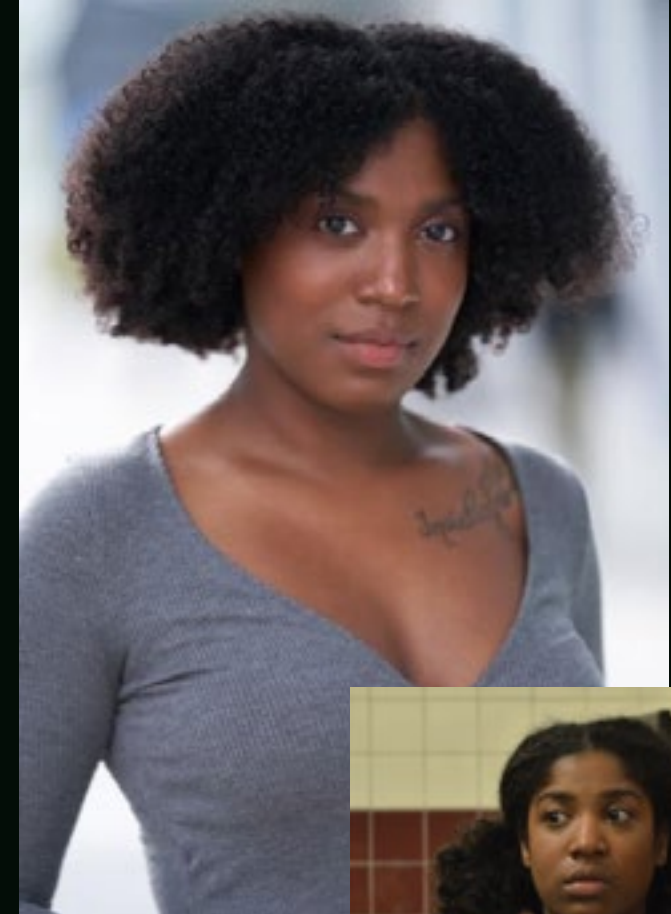
“JOANN”



ASIA-RENEE

Asia-Renee is an up and coming American actress born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She began her acting career as early as kindergarten participating in school plays and acted on and off in school during her elementary and high school years. Although Asia-Renee always knew she wanted to be an actress, it wasn't until she went to college at California State University East Bay, and majored in Theater, that she started to actually pursue acting as a career. Since finishing college Asia-Renee has been focusing on continuing to work on her craft at Speiser/Sturges acting studio where she studies scene study, and acting technique. More information about her can be found on her IMDB, and Backstage profiles as well as her YouTube and Instagram pages.

IMDb **BACKSTAGE** | **YouTube** | **Instagram**



WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?



“ MOM ”



ANESSA JOHNSON

Anessa grew up performing in community theater and always had a love for acting. In 1996 she landed her all time favorite role as real life Mom to Elijah D. Reynolds. Through the years she has enjoyed exploring creative processes and was grateful to be a part of WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN? It is an authentic narrative that will pull at any parent's heart, especially if they have watched their child endure the every day stress of school, mental illness and social issues.

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

CAST CREDITS



CASSIE Aubrey Pyser

JAY Shane Morton

JOANN Asia-Renee

MOM Anessa Johnson

STUDENTS Avery, Hannah Rochelle Martin, Sarah Best,
Nathan Barron, Caromonie Fuselier,
Gina Kim, Oliver Montecristo, Trevor McIeroy,
Sofia Guadalupe Lugo, Kara Smith,
Ameres Groves, Alexander Norton

TEACHERS Collin Reynolds, Liv Johnson

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

CREDITS



Executive Producers **ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS**
EMMAN SADORRA
LIV JOHNSON

Associate Producer **AUBREY PYCER**

Writer **ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS**

Director **ELIJAH D. REYNOLDS**

First Assistant Director **EMMAN SADORRA**

Director of Photograph **DAKOTA HADFIELD**

First Assistant Camera **LOVUEN REYES**

Second Assistant Camera **IVAN KHOMENKO**

Gaffer **JEONGWOO NOH**

Key Grip **EMMA JUNCOSA**

W H A T K I N D O F D A Y H A S I T B E E N ?

CREDITS



Script Supervisor **EMMA JACKS**

Production Designer **KRISTEN BATKO**

Make up & Hair Design **CARMONIE FUSELIER**

Prop Materials **ISABELLA DESLANDES**
ANESSA JOHNSON

Editor **LORIS LAI**

VFX Design **LORIS LAI**

Color Grade **DENIS OGORODOV**

Sound Design **MATT SOMOGYI**

Sound mix **MATT SOMOGYI**

Score **MATTHEW CHILELLI**

Graphic Designer **ANESSA JOHNSON**

WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?

SPECIAL THANKS

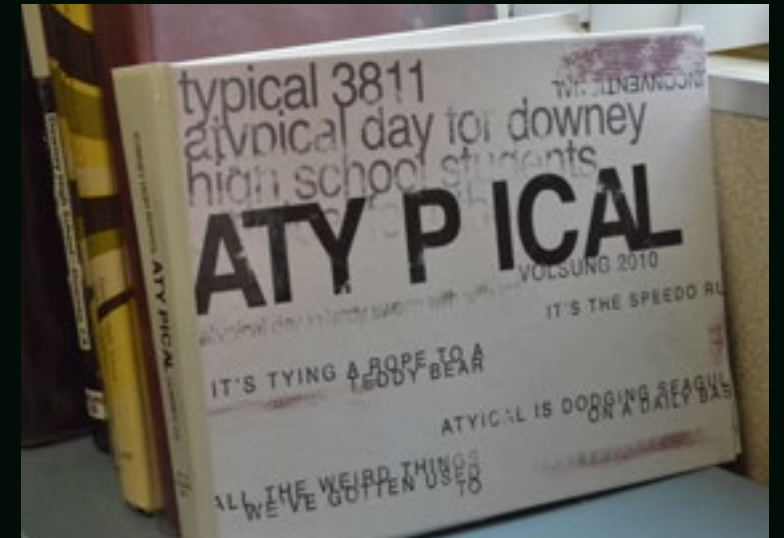


DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL

THE LOFT CHURCH LA

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

STUDENTS EVERYWHERE WHO USE THEIR VOICE AND
WHO CHAMPION OTHERS WITH KINDNESS



WHAT KIND
OF DAY HAS
IT BEEN?

