

# ESSENTIALS

A FILM BY ALLISON TOREM

MOTION 66 STUDIOS PRESENTS "ESSENTIALS" WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ALLISON TOREM  
PRODUCED BY EVA FABRAY, ADAM REBORA, & ALLISON TOREM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHIL ORTIZ CINEMATOGRAPHER  
PHIL ORTIZ CO-PRODUCERS MILES DIXON, KATE COLEY, & JACQUELINE XERRI ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS MIRIAM BUDAYR,  
JACK BOURGEOIS, T.J. ROBINETTE, JOSH SCHULTZ, ALEX THOMPSON, LISA CISNEROS, GABRIELA MEDINA, TAMARRA NEWBERN  
& WILL KINNEAR EDITED BY ERIC MARSH COLOR BY JEFF ALTMAN AUDIO ENGINEERING BY THAW AUDIO POST  
MUSIC PERFORMED BY CLAY CORSO STARRING ALLISON TOREM & AUSTIN PENDLETON



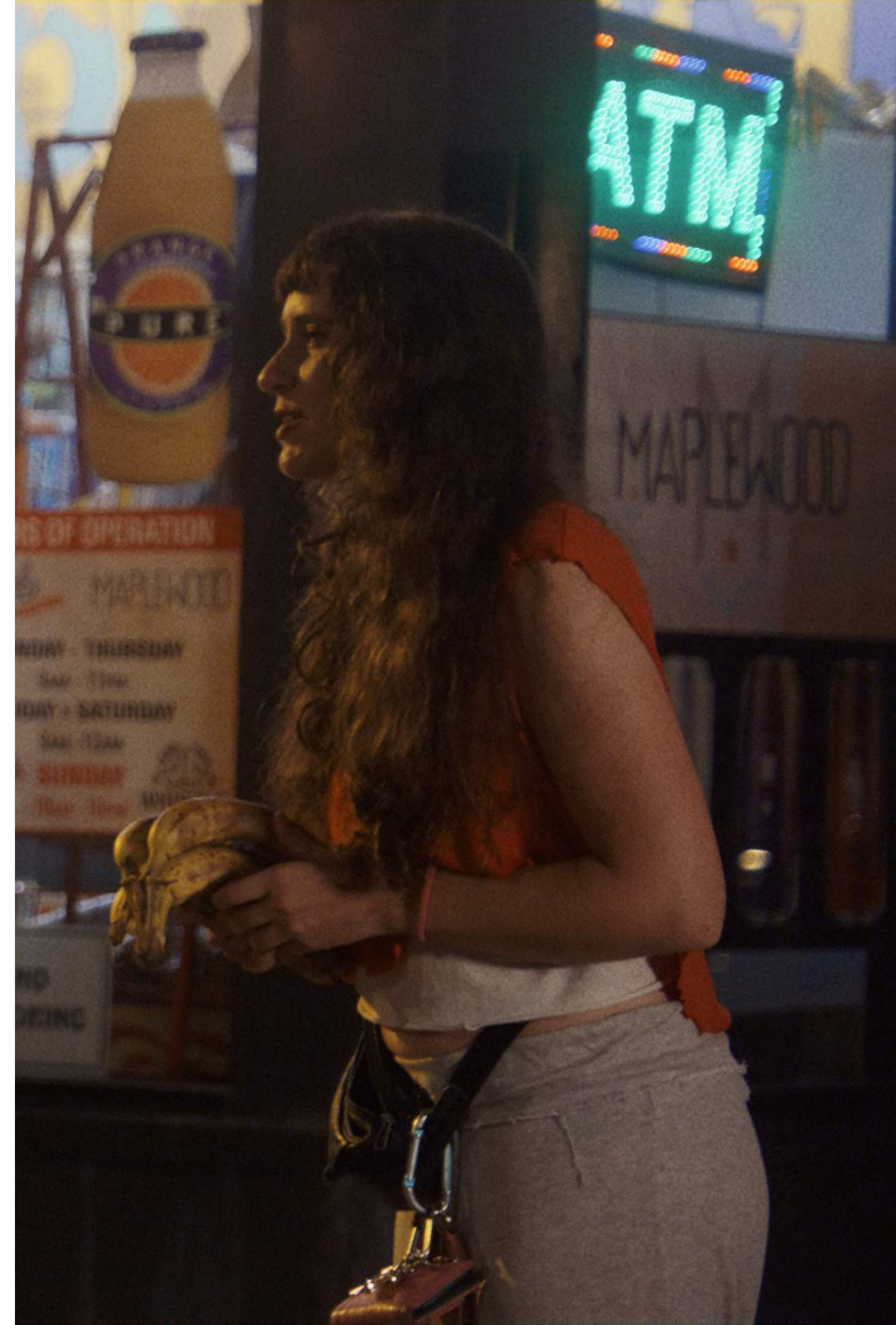


# LOGLINE

A passing joke between pedestrians turns into a good excuse to slow down in this bittersweet short at the intersection of generations.

# SYNOPSIS

Schlepping home from an ill-conceived grocery haul in early lockdown, Vivian is interrupted by a senior citizen who makes a corny joke on his nightly walk. While their reasons for isolation differ, they find excuses to remain in the moment in a tentative connection which could, and perhaps should, end at any moment but it doesn't, until it does, leaving them shaken by the unexpected intimacy they have shared with a stranger. *Essentials* is a celebration of the transformative power of "small talk" in large urban environments between two differently alienated pedestrians.





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Although “small talk” between strangers, lacking in obvious utility and grace, is often dismissed as superfluous or insincere, it can, on occasion, be deeply motivated by two differently isolated individuals. During periods of contact deprivation especially, our daily lives distilled to the most functional tasks and familiar relationships, the spontaneity and aimlessness of a clumsy remark or a canned topic of conversation may offer a unique joy, defamiliarization, and even freedom to be more honest and vulnerable than we are with those we see often and are sure to see again. With *Essentials*, it is my intention to offer a grounded, character-driven narrative which both honors and transcends the absurd circumstances of the present historical moment, with all of the sensitivity and humor that viewers, especially those living alone in big cities, deserve.

—ALLISON TOREM



## ALLISON TOREM

**WRITER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER | ACTOR**

Allison Torem is a Chicago-based filmmaker and actor. As a writer/director/producer, short film credits include *Beefsteak, Or Your Money Back, Essentials* (nominated by Indie Outlook for Best Short Film Of 2022), and the surreal comedy *Road Head*. Other production credits include Emma Thatcher's feature directorial debut *Provo* (co-producer) and the short film *Horchata* (co-writer and producer, now available on Omeleto). She is currently revising three feature-length screenplays, including the absurd, queer comedy *Wannabe* (Semifinalist for Screencraft's 2021 Comedy Competition, Quarterfinalist for Scriptapalooza's 2021 Feature Competition and Screencraft's 2021 Writing Fellowship). Acting credits include Lookingglass' *Trust* dir. David Schwimmer (Jeff Award Nomination for Actress in a Principal Role), Stephen Cone's *The Wise Kids* (voted Best Supporting Performance of the Year in The Village Voice Poll), and Bradley Grant Smith's *Our Father* (SXSW 2021). She is inspired by artfully imagined, existential film and television in which the comedic value and elements of the ridiculous are inextricable from the vulnerability of the acting.

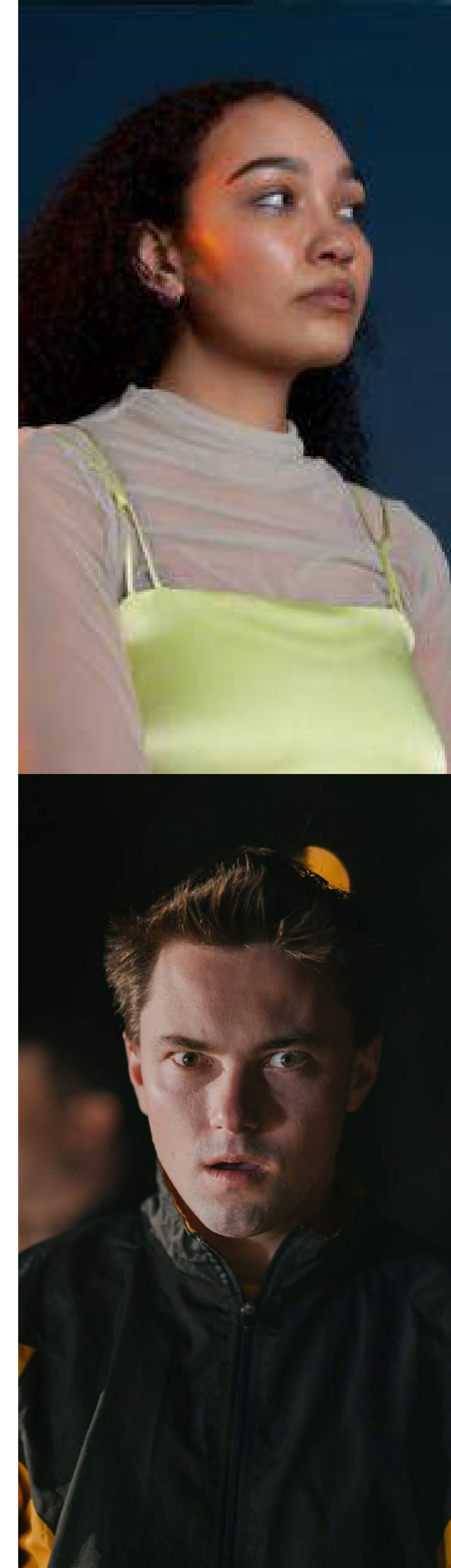




## AUSTIN PENDLETON

### ACTOR

Austin Pendleton is known as a prolific character actor on the stage and screen, whose six-decade career has included roles in films including *Catch-22* (1970); *What's Up, Doc?* (1972); *The Front Page* (1974); *The Muppet Movie* (1979), *Short Circuit* (1986); *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge* (1990); *My Cousin Vinny* (1992); *Amistad* (1997); *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), which earned him a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture nomination; and *Finding Nemo* (2003). Austin received a Tony Award nomination for Best Direction of a Play for the Broadway revival of *The Little Foxes* in 1981. He has received two Drama Desk Award nominations and is the recipient of a Special Drama Desk Award in 2007. He also received a Obie Award for Best Director for the 2011 off-Broadway revival of *Three Sisters*. Recent Broadway credits include *Choir Boy* in 2016 and *The Minutes* in 2022.



## EVA FABRAY

### PRODUCER | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Eva Fabray is a Chicago-based film and television writer, director, assistant director, and producer. While attending Iowa State University, she was Editor in Chief of an on-campus magazine and she wrote, directed, starred in, and produced the pilot *Broke*. Since then, she has produced a handful of comedy specials as well as short films, including *Essentials* and *Road Head*. She is currently in pre-production for her short film *Please Call Me Back*. She is drawn to realistic dialogue, absurd comedy, and POC stories with positive outcomes.

## ADAM REBORA

### PRODUCER

Adam Rebora is a Chicago-based actor, improviser, filmmaker, and visual artist. Whatever the medium, he has a passion for bringing the whimsical and wonderful to life. Recent film credits include the short films *Doors* (writer-director), *Scoped Out* (writer-director), *Essentials* (producer), and *Road Head* (producer). He is currently in post-production for his first feature film, *Margaret & The Alien*.



# PRODUCTION

*Essentials* was shot over 2.5 nights in the summer of 2021 in Chicago, IL on a micro-budget. Days before production, the team's base camp, located a block from location, unexpectedly fell through. Seeking a replacement, Allison posted on The Annoyance Theatre's students and performers Facebook group. It just so happened that someone, then a stranger to Allison, lived in the apartment directly above location and was happy to help.















# STILLS











# CREDITS

## CAST

Vivian	Allison Torem
Max	Austin Pendleton
Newscaster (Voice)	Allyson Womack
Paula (Voice)	Martha Hansen
Writer & Director	Allison Torem
Executive Producer	Phil Ortiz
Producers	Allison Torem
	Eva Fabray
	Adam Rebora
Co-Producers	Miles Dixon
	Kate Coley
	Tamarra Newbern
	Jacqueline Xerri
Associate Producers	Miriam Budayr
	Jack Bourgeois
	T.J. Robinette
	Josh Schultz
	Alex Thompson
	Lisa Cisneros
	Gabriela Medina
	Will Kinnear

Cinematographer	Phil Ortiz
Gaffer	Chris Richards
Key Grip	Peyton Johnson
1st Assistant Camera	CJ Mattia
2nd Assistant Camera	Jeanine Lex
Production Audio Engineer	Kevin Vicks
Editor	Eric Marsh
Colorist	Jeff Altman
Sound Design & Final Mix	Tugrul Gultepe
Additional Audio	Kiely Cushman
Engineering Support	Edwin R. Ruiz
Assistant Director	Eva Fabray
Script Supervisor	Elena Chamorro
Wardrobe & Production	Korina Carpenter
Design Consultants & Assistants	Tully Olsen
	Eva Fabray
Hair & Makeup Artist	Corrine Ashley

Key PAs	Nina Strong
	Sarabi Woods
	Caprice Williams
PAs	Cameron Crum Crumley
	Leah Koontz
	Ian Keiser
	Allyson Womack
	Anamaria Volkober
Location Scouting	Sam Keralakis–Taylor
Assistant	
BTS Photographer	Luis Chavez
2nd UNIT	
Gaffer	Justin Smith
1st Assistant Camera	Liam Stephens
2nd Assistant Camera	Adam Rebora
Grip	Luis Chavez
Hair Stylist	C.C. Aguiar
Makeup Artist	Maxxine Luciano
Music performed by	Clay Corso



# CONTACT

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allisontorem@gmail.com

[IMDb](#) | [Instagram](#)

BTS by Luis Chavez | [luchaphotography.com](#)

Available Upon Request: Screener and Additional Stills

## FILM SPECS

Chicago, IL    Year: 2022

Duration: 16:34 Min.    Genre: Dramedy

Aspect Ratio: 2:1    Format Size: Red 4K

Available Format: 4K or 2K Prores and/or H265

Sound: Stereo    Color

THAW AUDIO POST 



