

MARLA GIBBS is

Mildred
4 a million



227K



831



1,930



93k

a short film by Kimmie P Callaway

Mildred **4 a million**

**a short film starring
MARLA GIBBS**

IMDB tt33354011

mildred4amillion.com

pillowfight!! website

TikTok & IG: @mildred4amillion

shot in Van Nuys & Inglewood, CA



**WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY
Kimmie P Callaway**

**PRODUCED BY
Jason Serrato**

**CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
Calvin Callaway**

**PRODUCTION DESIGN BY
Carine Teoh**

**COSTUMES BY
Cynthia Ranae'**

**EDITED BY
Andrew Nixon**

**ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
Jose "Choco" Reynoso & Ben Nix-Bradley**

**CASTING BY
Miriam Hoffman & Candice Bernstein, CSA**

RUNTIME: 20

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logline

[LINK TO SCRIPT](#)

A gregarious 93-year-old who desperately wants to connect with her tablet-obsessed great-granddaughter sets out to get a million followers on TikTok.

synopsis

93-year-old Mildred is pulling out all the stops in anticipation of her great-grandchildren coming to visit: ironing napkins, polishing silver, pulling out the fine china, baking Snickerdoodles and making her famous Jell-O salad.

Unfortunately, the visit is highly anticlimactic. Mildred's granddaughter Britney is distracted by work emails, the 5-year-old twin boys wreak havoc on the formal setup, and Stella Jean, the 7-year-old great-granddaughter that Mildred was especially excited to connect with (they share the same middle name!) is buried in her tablet.

As they say their goodbyes, Britney mumbles apologetically to Mildred "Good luck getting her attention without a million followers on TikTok..." The next day, that's exactly what Mildred sets out to do.

Mildred's mail carrier Krystal helps her set up the TikTok account @Mildred4aMillion, then Mildred hits the grocery store, passing out her handwritten handle and asking strangers to follow her. When asking folks in person only amounts to 5 followers, Mildred leans on her super cool physical therapist Andre for guidance, and he breaks down the "9 ways folks are getting famous on the internet." Mildred starts down the list:

She tries 1. SINGING, 2. DANCING, 3. COOKING, 4. putting on MAKEUP, 5. UNBOXING (vitamins,) 6. playing VIDEO GAMES (Solitaire,) and is only up to 48 followers, so opts for Hail Mary with a 7. STUPID STUNT: Mildred steals a motorized shopping cart from the grocery store to go "off-roading," but tips the cart over and breaks her arm!

When all seems lost, Mildred jokes with Andre that with her arm broken she can't make an 8. SEX TAPE, so she's left with only one option - the option she never believed would get any attention - 9. JUST TALKING...



Mildred 4 a Million is an ode to all the grandmas and great-grandmas out there. It's about human connection across generations. And it's funny.

fun facts

- Marla Gibbs's original jazz song 'It's Never Too Late,' written and performed by Marla and recorded & mastered with her grandson Amil Gibbs in 2006, plays under the end credits of the film.
- Marla Gibbs turned 93 years old 2 weeks before the table read of *Mildred 4 a Million*; she showed up to the read completely off book including a 2-page monologue. The rest of the cast was in awe.
- The signature in the film's logo/title card is the director's real grandmother Mildred's signature from a recent birthday card
- Many of "the real Mildred's" items were used in the film, including her recipe box and embroidered tablecloth.
- Co-star Brie Eley (Britney,) writer/director Kimmie P Callaway, and Editor Andrew Nixon all went to high school together in Houston, TX





writer/director's note

This film is a love letter to my real-life 93-year-old grandma, Mildred Jean Reine, (known as “GG” to my 3 and 5-year-old daughters,) but it is also a celebration of the old, painstaking methods of doing things that may often seem pointless in today’s lightning-fast need-it-now culture of tech.

Mildred has seen it all in her lifetime. The FM radio was invented the year she was born, and now satellites in outer space give real time traffic updates to everyone’s personal pocket phones.

She still sees value in pulling out the fine china and ironing the napkins for company, even if it’s only an hour-long visit; she writes thank you notes and letters and makes cookies and Jell-O salads from scratch. She curls, styles and cements her hair, puts on full makeup and dresses to the 9's to go to the grocery store, even if everyone else there is wearing yoga pants.

I’m not gonna lie, I’ve never ironed a napkin before, but the faster, more stressful and anxious our lives get, the more I question what exactly we’re rushing to do. I don’t know about you, but I’m exhausted by the pace we’re expected to keep.

The rhythm & visual style of the film reflects this contrast between the pacing and aesthetic of the Depression Era versus Gen Alpha culture. Mildred’s slow & deliberate pace is juxtaposed against the frenetic, quick cut, vertically framed world of 2024.

But the beating heart of this project is the touching performance from the legendary Marla Gibbs. One week after her ninety-third birthday, Marla showed up to our table read completely off-book (including Mildred’s two-page monologue), putting actors fifty years younger to shame. Every day she proved to be the most hard-working, committed, and professional actor I’ve ever known.

Cast and crew alike were entranced and enamored by Marla’s performance. Watching her bring Mildred to life and realizing how resonant the project was to her personally made us all feel as if we were part of something bigger than any one of us, something transcendent.

I’ve never been on a set with so many laughter-filled tears, and it’s my hope to bring this feeling to audiences at large. And to make everyone want to pick up the phone and call their grandma.

xxo, kimmie P

A scene from the movie 'The Color Purple' featuring Celie (played by Whoopi Goldberg) in her home. She is standing in a room with wood-paneled walls, holding a long wooden staff. To her right is a fireplace with a brick surround and a wooden mantel holding a clock and framed pictures. A small television sits on a wooden cabinet next to her. In the background, a window with patterned curtains is visible. The foreground is out of focus, showing a table and chairs. The text 'cast bios' is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

cast bios



Marla Gibbs

MARLA GIBBS (Mildred,) a native of Chicago, Illinois, has carved her place on the international stage as a loved celebrity. A five-time Emmy-nominated actress, Marla is known for her memorable portrayal of the maid, Florence, on the CBS hit comedy, “The Jeffersons.” Marla’s talent soon won her another hit sitcom, the NBC series, “227.” She developed the sitcom from the original stage play of the same title and cut her teeth as Executive Producer on the show.

An activist, Marla always fought to ensure diversity was not only in front of the camera but behind it as well. She stood her ground when top executives wanted her to play a single mother on the show. Her vision won out and “227” became a hit show where audiences could find two loving parents raising their daughter and dealing with real issues. Marla has been honored as both a maverick and living legend. An eight-time NAACP Image Award winner, Marla has received numerous prestigious honors over the years, including Essence Magazine’s Woman of the Year.

She began studying acting at PASLA (Performing Arts Society of Los Angeles). Ironically Marla would eventually open a theater and school with her daughter on the same block years later. She went on to hone her craft at the Mafundi Institute and Watts Writers Workshop. Marla immediately loved the theater and went on to appear in a number of local productions including “Medea,” “The Amen Corner” and “The Gingerbread Lady,” before landing her first film role in “Black Belt Jones.”

Marla’s voice has been heard on the animated TV series, “101 Dalmatians.” She continues to appear on popular shows including “The First Family,” “ER,” “Cold Case” and “King of Queens.” She’s enjoyed recurring roles on “Passions” and the “The Hughleys,” and gave stellar performance in the critically acclaimed film, “The Visit.” The same is true for the film, “Lily in Winter” where she played Natalie Cole’s mother. Her tour de force portrayal as a jazz legend in, “Stanley’s Gig,” won her critical notice.

But, Marla’s first love has always been singing. She sang and co-wrote the theme song to the sitcom, “227,” and “Checking In” and in 2006, Marla released her own CD, “It’s Never Too Late.” The project partnered her with the legendary HB Barnum and her friend, the late jazz luminary, Gerald Wiggins. Marla wrote most of the songs including 2 with producer, Amil Gibbs. The CD is currently being re-released in late summer of 2013. The new recording will include a bonus track from Marla speaking to us about her journey from the streets of Chicago to the Hollywood Marquee. Her message is all there, on the CD... “It’s Never too Late,” and this titular song plays in the end credits of Mildred 4 a Million.

In addition to acting, Marla’s community support is unsurpassed. She revived the legendary Los Angeles jazz supper club, “Marla’s Memory Lane,” and co-founded Crossroads Theater and Acting school which helped to launch the many careers.



Brie Eley

Originally from Sugar Land, Texas, **BRIE ELEY** (Britney) has been performing, dancing and acting since she was knee-high to a grasshopper. After graduating from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, she moved to New York to attend Marymount Manhattan College and live out her Broadway Baby dreams. Instead, she fell for the Bard, which led her to the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University and shows with the Classical Theater of Harlem and Kings County Shakes.

Her time in classical work then inspired an exploration into the worlds of contemporary theater (Actors Theater of Louisville, The Kennedy Center,) followed by work in independent film (Charlie Kaufman's *Synecdoche, NY*) and improvisation (The PIT, io West and UCB NY.) Her interest in film production and digital sketch creation naturally brought her to Los Angeles, where she could continue to act while creating projects. "Password Deals" advanced to the finals of the NBC Short Cuts festival, and her other shorts have screened across the US and been licensed to Hulu.

In 2020, she combined her love of community with civic organization and founded Here and Ready, a nationwide networking collective for Black actresses which has a talent database website.

As an actress, she was last seen onstage in the Wallis Annenberg's production of *King Lear* opposite Joe Morton, which garnered a 2024 NAACP Theatre Award nomination for Best Lead Actress. Her recent on-camera work includes *9-1-1*, *The Rookie*, *Unstable*, *Loot* and *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*.

Thanks to her incredible reps at DPN Talent, you might also recognize her from a number of national commercials. These days, she's just excited to share the sunshine, closet space and remote with her incredible husband Tim.

Thank you to Kim, Marla and the M4AM team for this opportunity. @brieeley



OBRIELLA GENESIS WITRON is a young actress, model and voiceover artist based in Los Angeles, California. She is best known for her role as 'Isabel' in Legend of El Cucuy.

Obriella has starred in numerous short films, as well as several student films with USC School of Cinematic Arts, UCLA School of Theater Film and Television, Los Angeles Film School and Ghetto Film School.

She made her theatre debut in Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat as she performed with the children's choir at the La Mirada Theatre.

She also portrayed, Gina Torres's character; Paramedic Captain Tommy Vega in a reenactment scene of 9-1-1 Lone Star, on the Fox YouTube Channel.

Obriella has appeared in various national and international commercials. As well as on international billboards and print ads. She has worked with multiple brands such as Mattel, Disney and Hasbro in commercial spots.

Obriella has also appeared on multiple episodes of Abbott Elementary as a student.



Julian Ashley Mitchell

JULIAN ASHLEY MITCHELL (Andre) is an American actor and musician born and raised in Oklahoma City.

Best known as the electric funk/rock performer, W. Puscie Jones, Julian is also credited for viral videos impersonating Samuel L. Jackson and has been featured the film, “Treatment” with Brie Larson, Josh Leonard, & Kate Aselton.

He has been featured in multiple comedy sketches on TV series including Loiter Squad, The Dudesons, a Taye Diggs piece for HuffPost Comedy, and viral prank skit with 94+ million views “Magic Rahat: Walking on Water.”

Julian is also a Personal Trainer and Nutrition Coach with a focus on active older adults.

He is incredibly grateful to longtime friend and writer/director Kimmie P Callaway (who wrote the part of Andre specifically for him) for giving him the opportunity to work alongside one of his most beloved childhood icons, the legendary Marla Gibbs.

HAYLEY KEOWN (Krystal) is an Actor / Writer, born & raised in Tulsa, OK. She is a proud USC & Theater Alumni (fight on!).

Recent Credits: The Family Plan (Apple TV+), St. Denis Medical (NBC), Reservation Dogs (FX), The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (Amazon), The Morning Show (Apple), You (Netflix), Lodge 49 (AMC), The Gifted (Fox), Lifetime TV as well as a slew of independent features, shorts, & voice over projects,

She’s written, produced, & directed several shorts & a web series and has recently begun to narrate and produce audiobooks for Audible.

When she is not performing, you will find her volunteering for Young Storytellers, mentoring graduating USC School of Dramatic Arts students, boxing at Mad City Boxing Club, frolicking in nature, scuba diving, or winning game shows (she’s won 4! No, seriously).

Thankful for this incredible cast and crew. In particular... fearless leader Kimmie & the incomparable talent that is Marla Gibbs. IG: @hayleykeown



Hayley Keown



crew bios

writer/producer/director bio

KIM “Kimmie P” CALLAWAY hails from Houston, TX where she attended various public arts magnet schools including the prestigious High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, for theatre and piano. Beyonce also went there, not to brag or anything.

Kim then spent 7 glorious/notorious years in New Orleans, LA, obtaining a degree in television production & theatre from Loyola University and collecting a wealth of fodder for her writing.

She is a 4x Telly-winning director, 2023 Screencraft Screenplay Fellowship Finalist, and part of the Emmy-winning team behind the streaming series Park Bench with Steve Buscemi.

She has created original series, comedy sketches, music videos, commercials and custom content for major networks and brands for nearly 2 decades, including FOX, Amazon, Discovery, MTV, AOL, HuffPost Comedy, and Verizon Media Group.

Kim founded boutique production company Pillowfight!! Productions in 2017 with a focus on visually striking, socially conscious humor with heart.

When she’s not filmmaking, Kim enjoys reading, singing and dancing badly, snowboarding, playing Texas Hold’Em and inventing toys & games for children. FUN FACT: She was a top 4 Finalist on ABC’s The Toy Box, a toy inventing competition show, in 2017.

She married Director/Cinematographer Calvin Callaway in 2018 and because of him is the proud mother to 2 beautiful human children, 1 very talented pug, and an orange tabby named Bubblegum. They are all New Orleans Saints fans.





producer bio

JASON SERRATO is an award-winning indie film producer and commercial producer driven by his passion for storytelling and tireless spirit. He is known for the cult hit BUBBA HOTE, heartbreaking urban drama BABY and his featured role in the documentary GAME MASTERS.

He fell in love with Mildred's outsider journey right from the start and has been committed to the project ever since. Jason continues to inspire new generations through his work as a board game publisher, gaming producer and messing around on Tik Tok (Critical_Chill). Here is a link to [Jason's IMDB page](#).



director of photography bio

CALVIN CALLAWAY was born and raised in College Station, Texas. He moved to Los Angeles in 1999 to attend the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Calvin has remained LA based ever since and worked all over the world as a Director and Cinematographer on numerous commercials, scripted and unscripted projects.

He's also married to the Director, and the 2 have successfully collaborated on many projects through the years., including 3 and 5-year-old daughters. Here is a link to [Calvin's WEBSITE](#).



production designer bio

CARINE TEOH is a production designer and art director whose career started in music videos and commercials. Her experiences gave her a solid foundation that leads to her seamless transition into cinema, where her work has been featured at renowned festivals such as La Semaine de la Critique of Festival de Cannes, Cannes Next, Busan International Film Festival, Unreal Fest, Raindance Festival, etc. Known for her meticulous attention to detail and profound understanding of narrative nuances, emotional resonance, and structure, she will continue to pave the way with her unconventional approach to filmmaking.

When she is not reading a script or a treatment, you can find her lounging at home with her dog, and rumor has it she is still trying to explain to her parents what exactly it is that she does for a living. Here is a link to [Carine's WEBSITE](#).



costume designer bio

CYNTHIA RANAE' is a distinguished fashion stylist and costume designer. She began her career by dressing models for fashion shows to showcase her boutique's clothing line. During this time, Cynthia realized that her passion for fashion was not merely an interest but a divine calling.

Committed to leading a purpose-driven life, she has collaborated with prominent networks such as Lifetime, Hallmark, and BET, as well as national brands including Amazon, Ring, and Marriott. Most recently, she had the honor of working with Roc Nation for the NFL Super Bowl halftime show.

Working with and dressing Marla Gibbs, one of her lifelong idols, was a dream come true and she's still pinching herself that she got to pull from Mary Jenkins' closet!!



composer bio

JOSE 'CHOCO' REYNOSO was born in New York, New York. He is a house producer, audio engineer, and member of the Epic Rap Battles of History crew.

He began his career in the early 1990s, in which he produced several tracks with the label Groovin' Records. He then went on to collaborate with a variety of well-known artists, such as the Wu-Tang Clan, Guru, Rage Against the Machine, and many more.

Choco created 30's era jazz tune 'The Heat Up' inspired by Harlem Heat for the opening scene of Mildred 4 a Million.



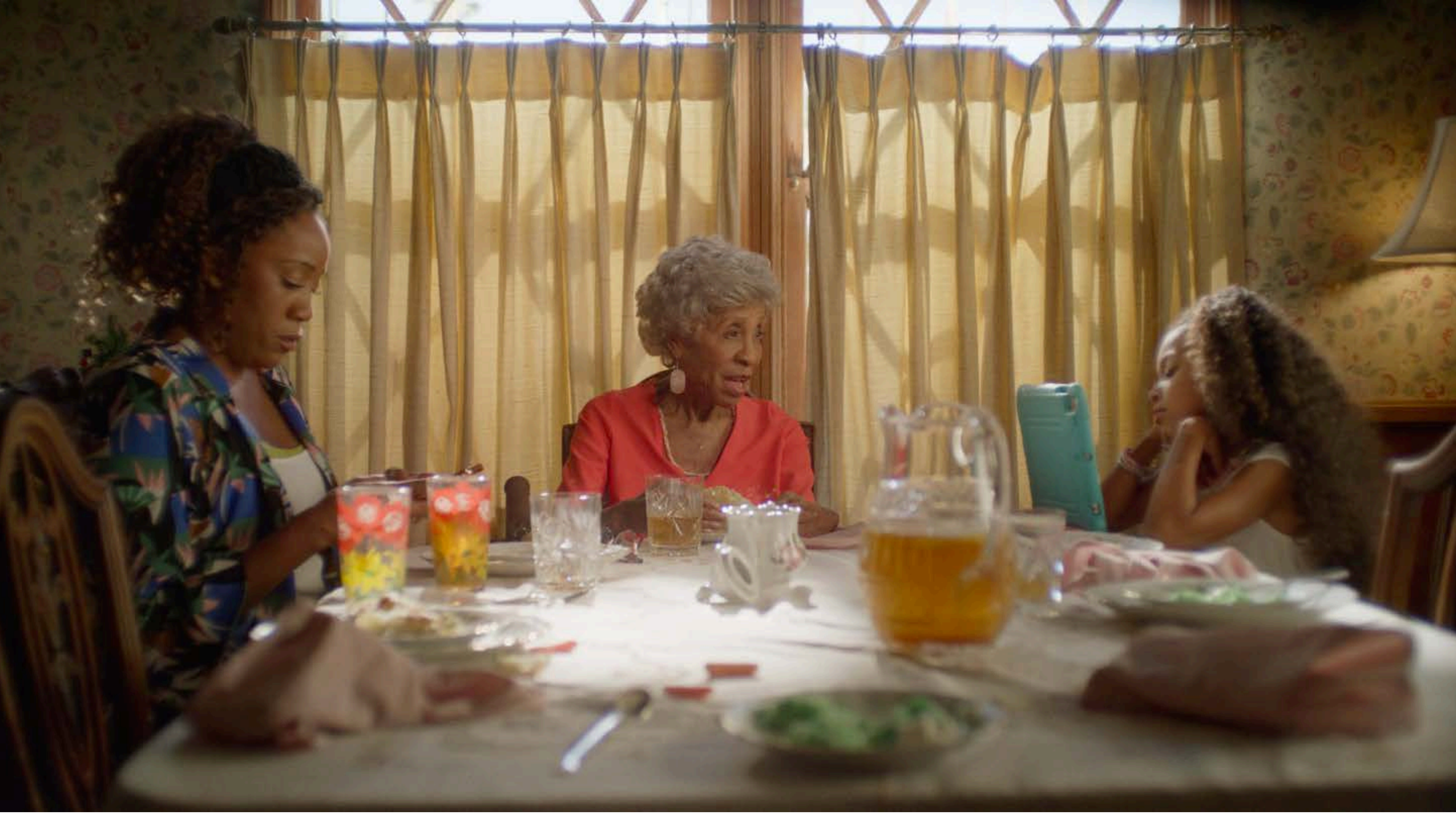
composer bio

BEN NIX-BRADLEY is a composer and engineer from Los Angeles who melds digital art, software development, and formal music training into every work.

In 2023, he earned a B.M in CSUN Media and Commercial Writing under the study of Elizabeth Sellers. Ben shares his expertise in music production and technology as a private tutor and guest speaker in local schools.

Familiar with many linear and interactive storytelling pipelines, Ben quickly integrates with new creative spaces and people while providing insight from past experience.















- DANCING
- SINGING
- MAKE UP
- VIDEO GAMES
- OPENING BOXES
-



00:12:12:12 00:21:14:09



YUM!!
criticahel
vegan version?











mildred4amillion

300 viewers

LIVE



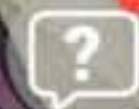
HAHAHA

victorthemixer

u can't take those out the store!!!

andre_wears_pearls

GO MILDRED GO 🤘







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pillowfight!! website

TikTok & IG: @mildred4amillion

The background of the image shows three cakes on a green tablecloth. Two cakes in the background are decorated with green frosting, red strawberries, and white flowers. A third cake in the foreground is decorated with brown frosting and chocolate shavings. The text is overlaid on the cakes.

THANK YOU

Pillowfight!!

PRODUCTIONS