

THREE MEALS EPK

Contact Info

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Logline

When her brother's health worsens, Yasmin returns from living abroad to convince her mother, Suzy, to turn off his life support machine.

Short Synopsis

Segmented into three conversations over three meals in the span of one day, this mother and daughter drama charts the chasm between their worldviews, and their desperate attempt to communicate despite their love for each other.

Medium Synopsis

Yasmin, early 30s, arrives home from living abroad. Her mother Suzy is preparing breakfast, and they navigate their first conversation with immediate resentment. Yasmin wants to know what Suzy's plan is with her brother's treatment given the dire prognosis, whereas Suzy wants to avoid this conversation entirely. By lunch, they're back at the house and are continuing an argument that started at the hospital. Over prep of soup, Suzy berates Yasmin and it ends bitterly. Yasmin awakens from a nap, alone in her childhood home, exhausted by grief. By the time it's nightfall, Suzy returns to find her prepping dinner. The two finally connect, and Yasmin's guilt for

resenting her mother results in an insistence that they should keep her brother's life support on. Suzy, understanding what she must do, asks Yasmin when she flies back.

Writer/Director Bio

Pelin Keskin Liu is British-Kurdish Emmy winning and James Beard nominated producer of food documentaries and is currently Executive Producer of Branded Content at Rolling Stone. At Eater she won their first Emmy with 'Cooking in America', an exploration of NYC's immigrant cuisine. She also received a James Beard nomination for the short documentary on salt production in Senegal. With over 10 years of experience producing short docs in the restaurant world, she has shifted to narrative filmmaking and focuses on telling stories about the complicated aspects of womanhood. Her first feature screenplay 'The Pearl' won Filmmarket Hub's 'Best Screenplay' in 2022. 'Three Meals' is her first short narrative film.

Producer Bios

Yuki Maekawa-Ledbetter is a Brooklyn-based, Japanese-born creative producer and filmmaker. She co-owns the production company ML-NEBULA, dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive space where underrepresented filmmakers can thrive.

Her work has been showcased in museums and international film festivals, including the Museum of Pop Culture, Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tribeca Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, BFI Flare London, HollyShorts, NewFest, and Urbanworld, among others.

Notable producing credits include *Alien The Dreamer*, a sci-fi feature for Paramount Players & BET Films; *The Black Disquisition*, an acclaimed animated experimental short distributed by Black Public Media; *Ramadan America*, an anthology feature amplifying American Muslim voices; *Friends of Sophia*, a queer sci-fi short distributed by DUST; and *BRAND NEW*, an award-winning narrative drama with a limited release on AMC+.

Max Gardner is an award-winning producer, director, multidisciplinary creative and co-founder of A+M Creative. His work covers a wide range of genres and styles, with an emphasis on story-first projects that connect at the human level. The broad spectrum of his work can be seen in projects like "GO/DON'T GO," a feature-length dystopian love story, "NEUMAN" a short form dark comedy, and "STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY," a solemn parable on race and police violence, among other projects he has produced.

Director's Statement

As a writer and director, I always want to explore how life is composed of two truths at all times.

Since moving away from home in my mid-20s, I have often wondered what my own mother's journey might have looked like if her life didn't take the path it did. At the age of 20, she went from daughter, to wife and then mother, all in rapid succession. Life is a series of choices, and I know that for many women, it feels difficult to make them when the burden of responsibility is often theirs to keep. Now, in my mid-30's, I see my own

divergent path mirroring certain aspects of my mother's own trajectory, and my desire to engage with the truths and contradictions we face as women, daughters and mothers has lit a fire in me to tell stories we seldom see given new perspectives. This is the genesis of "Three Meals" and interrogating the question that always hangs in the air; who are we without our societal roles?

When I talk to my mother now—as a fellow adult—it becomes clearer to us both that we live in two different realities because of the choices she made for me, as well as the choices I've made for myself. Care work - like death - is often intentionally ignored by those that are not directly involved in it, despite knowing that many of us will see it in our lifetimes in some shape or form. As an adolescent, this care work was the source of tension for my mother and I, but as I've settled into my adulthood I've developed a tenderness and melancholy that I know rings true for many daughters.

As a filmmaker, we use visual storytelling to drive at these truths. Using food as a filmic device allows me to showcase an iteration of the first tangible power dynamic we learn as humans; relying on your mother to feed you. In my own career, I've been focused on documentary filmwork for the last near-decade, but my love of narrative film and the opportunity to launch my artistic voice in that realm is an exciting prospect. "Three Meals" came to me very naturally, and while semi-biographical, my aim is to make a film about the universal, shared experience many daughters have in the journey of life.

Credits

PRODUCTION / AD / CAST		
	Writer / Director / EP	Pelin Keskin Liu
	EP / Line Producer	Max Gardner
	Producer	Yuki M Ledbetter
	1st AD	Dana Osburn
	Script Supervisor	Kavita Parekh
Cast	Suzy	Haneen Arafat Murphy
	Yasmin	Julia D'Angelo
Meals	Breakfast	Shakshuka
	Lunch	Sour Meatball Soup
	Dinner	Stuffed Vine Leaves

CAMERA & G&E		
	Director of Photography	Ranya Chen Aloui
	1st AC	Asia Li Jones
	2nd AC	Charley Parker
	Gaffer	Eli Kravetz
	Key Grip	Christopher Mitchel
	Best Boy / Truck Driver	Rodolfo Maxil
SOUND		
	Composer	Freya Berkhout
	Sound Recordist / Boom Op	Tim Perdoch
	Sound Mixer / Designer	TKTK
ART & PRODUCTION DESIGN		
	Production Designer	Molly Longwell
	Set Decorater	Louisa Judge
OTHER		
	Culinary Producer	Kia Damon
POST PRODUCTION		
	Editors	Kenneth Munoz
		Tair Schachar
	Post Producer	Brandee Probasco
	Colorist	TKTK
	VFX Artist	Tarek Saleh
MISC		
	Location Manager / PA	Stefania Orru
	BTS Photographer	Andrew Liu
	PA	Sydney Leffler
	Caterer	The Culinary Curate
	Title Design	Andrew Liu

	Co-Executive Producers	Sarah Vienot
		Jacob & Joel Brandom
		Stephanie Morimoto
		Erdogan Keskin
		Nazli & Huseyin Keskin
		Huseyin Orman
	Film Development	Metropolis Post