



Eternal Mother

Press Kit



Director's Statement

I've always wanted to tell a story about a mother-daughter relationship.

Shaped by my own experience of living apart from my mother since middle school. As I grew, the intervals between our meetings stretched, and I noticed how, while I changed, my mother seemed to remain the same—frozen in time, holding onto memories of our last encounters. This made me wonder what my growing up truly meant to my mother. While I grappled with the challenges of being a daughter, was she, too, struggling with how to continue being a mother?

To explore these subtle emotions, I employ a sci-fi setting as a vessel for the story—focusing on how Louise, a terminally ill mother placed in a cryogenic preservation, awakens every few years to reconnect with her daughter, Kathy. In this scenario, time and memory truly stop for Louise. Her sacrifice is evident, yet, as with all children, being aware of our mother's sacrifices doesn't necessarily make their relationship easy.

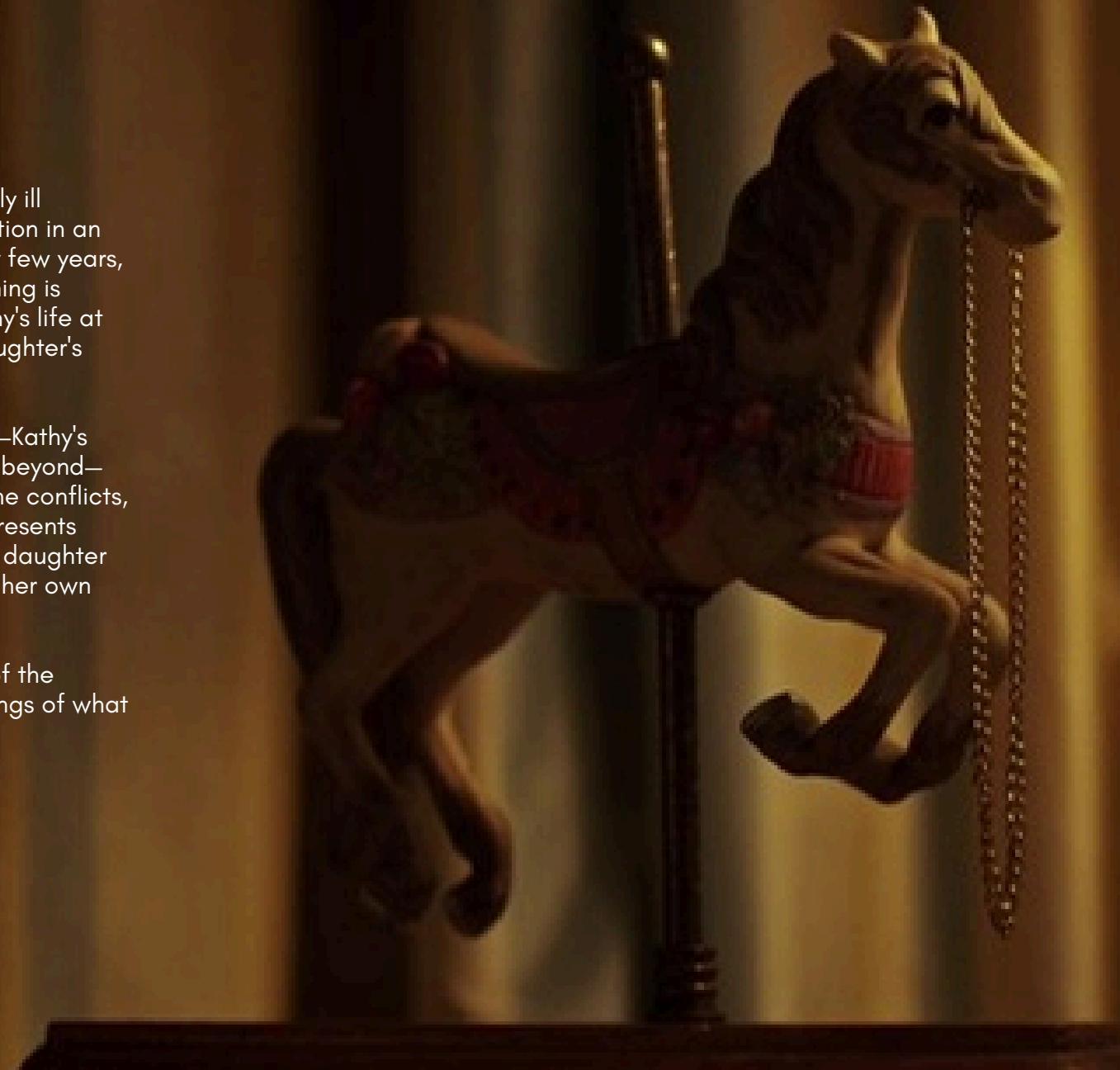
Beneath these sci-fi elements, what I truly want to explore is the essence of the mother-daughter bond: an ever-changing yet resilient relationship. As children grow, a mother must continually adapt to new roles—whether as a supporter, challenger, protector, or in many other forms—because being a mother is, itself, a lifelong journey.

The story follows the journey of Louise, a terminally ill mother, who chooses to enter a cryonic preservation in an attempt to stay in her daughter Kathy's life. Every few years, Louise awakens from cryogenic sleep, but the timing is unpredictable, causing her to step back into Kathy's life at different and often challenging stages of her daughter's development.

As Louise reunites with Kathy at critical moments—Kathy's childhood, teenage years, young adulthood, and beyond—their relationship evolves each time, marked by the conflicts, sacrifice and love. Each unpredictable reunion presents Louise with the challenge of reconnecting with a daughter who has grown in her absence while confronting her own identity shift.

This unique journey delves into the complexities of the mother-daughter bond, exploring the inner workings of what it means to be, or strive to be, a mother.

Story



Director Bio

love

Emily Qiu is a Los Angeles-based female filmmaker and director. She holds an MFA in Directing from Chapman University. With a background in architectural design, her work is shaped by a strong sense of spatial storytelling and visual composition.

She is drawn to intimate narratives that explore subtle human emotions, memory, and complex relationships, and is particularly interested in using science fiction as a narrative vessel—not as spectacle, but as a means to externalize internal states and emotional realities. Her work often navigates the boundary between realism and poetic abstraction.

Film Festival Selection

Film:

- Official Selection, Trieste Science+Fiction Festival (Italy)
- Official Selection, Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest (United States)
- Official Selection, The Poppy Jasper International Film Festival (United States)
- Official Selection, NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (United States)

Screenplay:

- Eternal Mother (Script) – Official Selection, HollyShorts Screenplay Contest (United States)