



Plaster

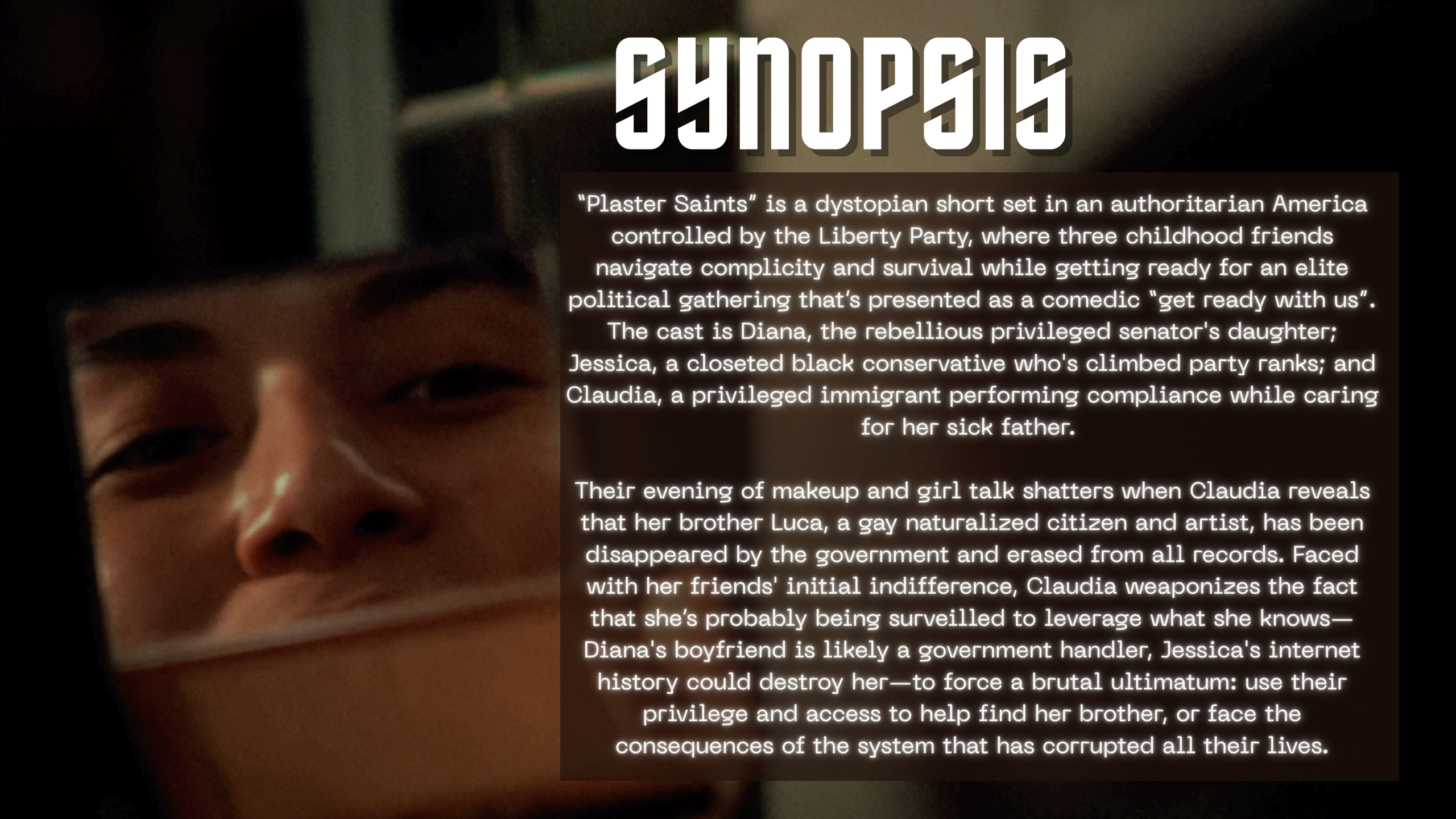
Saints

Directed by Carolina Caruso



In a dystopian America ruled by the Liberty Party, three childhood besties get ready for a gala under the watch of the state's surveillance cameras.

As the night goes on, the one who's been quietly sweeping for bugs finally reveals why: her brother is missing and she'll do anything to get him back.



SYNOPSIS

"Plaster Saints" is a dystopian short set in an authoritarian America controlled by the Liberty Party, where three childhood friends navigate complicity and survival while getting ready for an elite political gathering that's presented as a comedic "get ready with us".

The cast is Diana, the rebellious privileged senator's daughter; Jessica, a closeted black conservative who's climbed party ranks; and Claudia, a privileged immigrant performing compliance while caring for her sick father.

Their evening of makeup and girl talk shatters when Claudia reveals that her brother Luca, a gay naturalized citizen and artist, has been disappeared by the government and erased from all records. Faced with her friends' initial indifference, Claudia weaponizes the fact that she's probably being surveilled to leverage what she knows—Diana's boyfriend is likely a government handler, Jessica's internet history could destroy her—to force a brutal ultimatum: use their privilege and access to help find her brother, or face the consequences of the system that has corrupted all their lives.

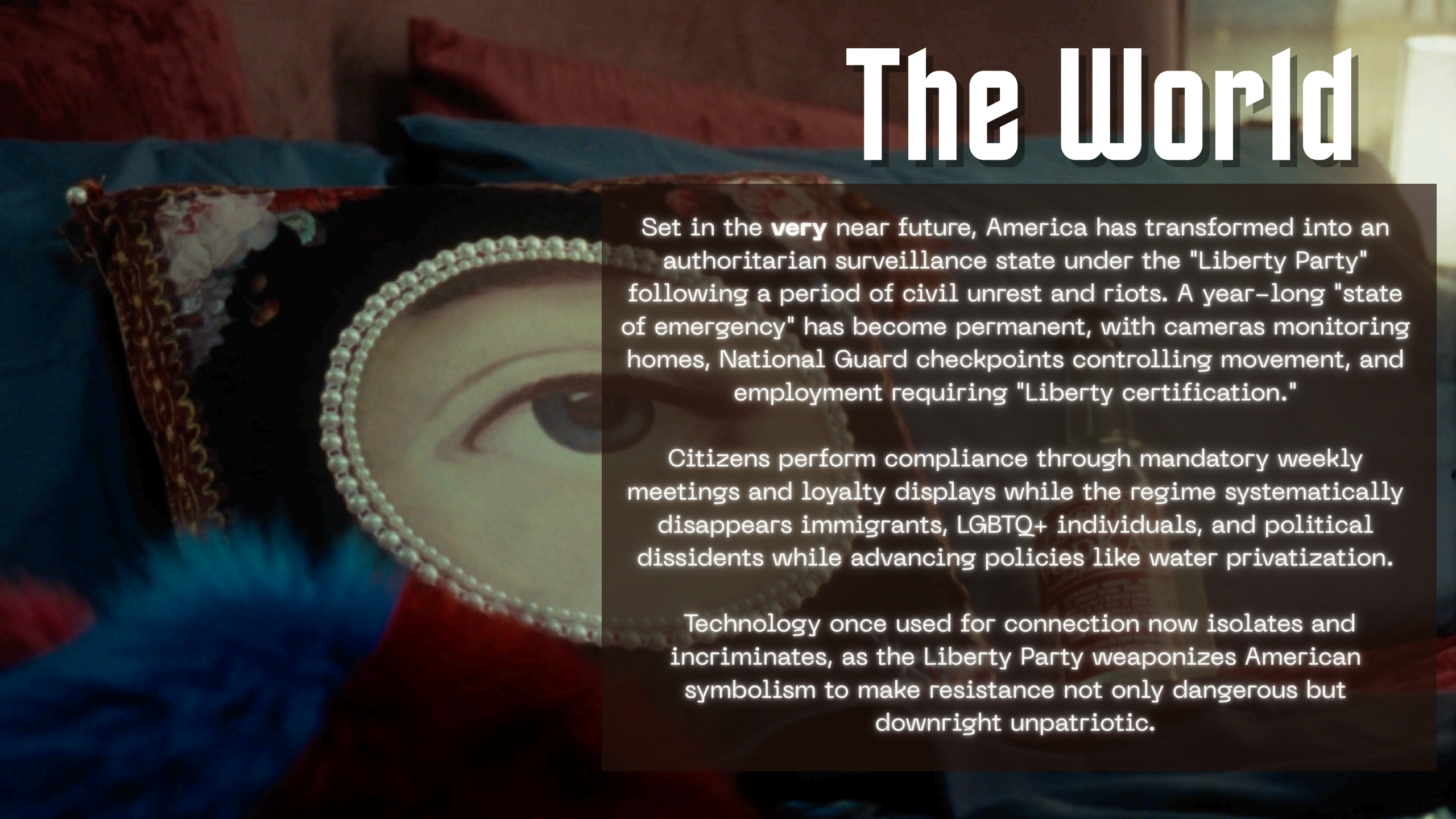
Director's Statement

"Plaster Saints" stems from my lived experiences with authoritarianism. Spending summers in Cuba with European citizenship, I witnessed the privilege I was afforded due to my passport that the rest of my family did not have. During those summers, I saw firsthand how surveillance becomes normalized. My family genuinely feared the walls could talk. I've had family members detained for their political beliefs, lost family members over political arguments, and even my uncle was denied the ability to go to college after a neighbor caught him listening to American music in his own bedroom. The paranoia was constant and justified, even in the 2000s.

The banality of authoritarianism resonates deeply with me, seeing how people still fall in love, celebrate birthdays, and live life under dictatorship. I wanted to explore what that normalization looks like as America rapidly transforms, with freedoms restricted, immigrants targeted, and dissent criminalized.

Rather than create another futuristic dystopia, I wanted something uncomfortably recognizable that examines how the personal is political. "Plaster Saints" explores how authoritarianism corrupts relationships and friendships when people are forced to choose between loyalty and survival. It's about the small compromises that enable large-scale oppression, how power corrupts even intimate spaces, and the impossible choices people face when the system demands complicity. The story asks: when survival is at stake, what happens to love, friendship, and solidarity?

The World



Set in the **very** near future, America has transformed into an authoritarian surveillance state under the "Liberty Party" following a period of civil unrest and riots. A year-long "state of emergency" has become permanent, with cameras monitoring homes, National Guard checkpoints controlling movement, and employment requiring "Liberty certification."

Citizens perform compliance through mandatory weekly meetings and loyalty displays while the regime systematically disappears immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and political dissidents while advancing policies like water privatization.

Technology once used for connection now isolates and incriminates, as the Liberty Party weaponizes American symbolism to make resistance not only dangerous but downright unpatriotic.



The Girls



CLAUDIA

With her brother missing, she's the only one who realizes they're all boiling frogs in the government's Le Creuset.

That's why if there's a fence, she's sitting on it. You can call her Pontius Pilate, she calls herself careful.

She can't afford not to be.

DIANA

The revolution will not be televised
and her senator father is making sure
of that.

She's fighting tooth and nail against
him – at least until her black card
access gets threatened.

Shiv Roy if she were a boy crazy grad
student that grew up on 2014 Tumblr.





JESSICA

Her bootstraps were made for walking
– she's a believer of the system.

She followed the rules and got a big
promotion, whatever happened to her
old boss is just not an issue. Just like
the pro-regime work she's doing.

Just like her closeted sexuality.

A sculpture of a figure, possibly a saint, constructed from several white security cameras. The cameras are arranged to form the head, torso, and limbs of the figure. The figure is set against a dark, textured background.

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