



HEAD CASE

A GEORGIA SAMPSON FILM

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



LOGLINE

Ivy is forced to face her most existential fear since nearly dying: a dinner with her family.

SYNOPSIS

After a head injury leaves Ivy nearly dead, she is forced to leave her life in New York and move back into her childhood home where she is confronted with a hallucination: the ghost of her childhood dog.

“Head Case” is a coming-of-age movie mixed with surreal family drama. It merges existential questions with the unanswered fears.

GEORGIA SAMPSON

WRITER & DIRECTOR

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CAST

Lindsay Elston as Ivy Mack
Wendi Bazar as Melissa Mack
Emiliana Govani as Anne Mack
Jeremy Urann as Mikey
Karen Leigh Sharp as Dee
Bradley Fischer as Jay
Danika Butler as Nat

Title: Head Case

Genre: Drama

Country: United States

Production Year: 2025

Language: English

Duration: 16:33

Aspect Ratio: 1.66:1

Frame Rate: 24 fps

Shooting Format: ARRI Alexa Mini 4k

Exhibition Format: 2k DCP, 4k DCP,
2k ProRes, 4k ProRes

Sound: Stereo





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I will start by admitting that “Head Case” is not your average short film. The script was longer than average; it has a dog as a supporting actor, and the lead consistently breaks the fourth wall.

“Head Case” is not the average short film, but that is because the story behind it is not average either.

When I was twenty-three, I nearly died. The events that followed when I returned home to live with my family were confusing to say the least. I was an adult living in childhood home. I overheard drama with friends and family, unresolved generational disputes that I would never get a final act of because everyone was too damn stubborn.

My mom and I came to exchange stories like gossip: family secrets turned into funny anecdotes, tragic losses turned into shrugs, and tales about our friends and neighbors often reflected back to me as the unaddressed mental health issues that stayed locked behind each and every Midwestern home.

When I finally had a moment to reflect months later, I realized that I had been running away from the sad confused feeling long before my accident. I was mourning the life I had before the injury while grappling with the idea that I was never going to be able to outrun the things that I had not examined in my own house. All of this against the backdrop of my childhood bedroom.

“Head Case” is about what happens when one traumatic event uncovers a minefield of generational trauma and what we do when confronted with the ghosts that are left behind. It is a psychological family drama that digs into the main character's mental health and all that has informed it.

When I shared it with my team, I found that everyone had a line to connect them to the project. My executive producer and director of photography, both from Atlanta, felt connected to the grandmother character and the way she craved perfection. My first AC, who was raised in Boston, said that he knew the uncle “too well.” Even my old boss in Manhattan, who demanded an early screener, felt that she had met the younger sister character once or twice before.

Since then, I've received many positive reactions from programmers and crowds. With every watch and reaction, the message of the film comes back to me: “Whether anyone can see it or not, it takes a village to create trauma and a village to process it.”

So, yes, “Head Case” is not an average short film. But, the reaction that we've gotten from it has been above average, more than I intended when I set out to make it. And I'm honored to be associated with that.

Georgia Sampson
WRITER & DIRECTOR

KEY CREW BIOS

GEORGIA SAMPSON WRITER & DIRECTOR

Georgia Sampson is a writer, director, and producer. She received her BA from the University of Iowa where she did undergraduate classes in the Writer's Workshop. Her current body of work spans commercials, music videos, and short films. She is always looking for new material. She usually finds the most inspiration from the women in her life.

KIANNA MAYNARD PRODUCER

Kianna Maynard is a Los Angeles-based producer from Savannah, GA. After earning her Bachelor's degree from Emerson College, she honed her craft in the fast-paced world of production, where she combines her creativity with a meticulous attention to detail. Passionate about maximizing every opportunity from page to screen, Kianna is dedicated to creating compelling narratives that resonate deeply with audiences.

REGAN HILL PRODUCER

Regan is a producer, actress and filmmaker from Iowa, based in Los Angeles, CA. She made her directorial debut with 'The Grief Project.' Dedicated to crafting compelling narratives that inspire and provoke thought, she's produced various forms of media over the years, including an upcoming anthology.

OTHER KEY CREW

JULIA ROBERTS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

SUSAN STONE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

HOD BIOS

JACOB DUGGER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jake Dugger is a cinematographer based in Los Angeles by way of Atlanta.

For the past 10 years his credits have included narrative series, shorts, music videos and commercials. No matter the genre, he is most excited to bring his passion for honest and expressive visual storytelling to each project.

TAYLOR VENEGAS PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Taylor Venegas is a Los Angeles-based set designer whose work is shaped by a lifelong connection to nature, storytelling, and interactive environments. She graduated with a Bachelors in Theatre and Entertainment Arts, from Northern Michigan University where she specialized in set design. Her practice spans commercial campaigns, editorial productions, music projects, and narrative films. She focuses on developing environments that feel intentional and atmospheric.

BATEMAN LEWIS EDITOR

Bateman Lewis is an editor based in Los Angeles. He graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a BFA in Filmmaking. After a decade of editing, his passion for the craft still comes from the puzzle of creating the best version of any project. He has edited a variety of music videos, documentaries, and short films all while bringing the same enthusiasm and creative thinking to each new venture.



CAST BIOS



LINDSAY ELSTON
IVY

Lindsay Elston is an actress and writer whose credits include High Potential, NCIS: New Orleans, and several independent films. A Minnesota native, she blends warmth with a sharp comedic edge and a love of layered, offbeat characters.

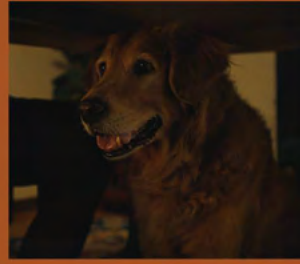
Drawn to stories that balance humor with heart, Lindsay brings authenticity and spark to both grounded drama and unexpected comedy.



WENDI BAZAR
MELISSA

Wendi began her acting career as a member of a professional short form improv group; from there, she traveled the country on the dinner theatre circuit, appearing in musicals like Mame and Funny Girl.

On top of being a mother, a special education teacher, and a nail tech, Wendi has voiced hundreds of broadcast and industrial projects ranging from training modules for the National Institutes of Health to international video game hero characters.



FINN BODEY
DOC

Finn Bodey is a canine actor whose career began as a puppy in a spot for Bubbles. Since then, he's appeared alongside Blake Shelton in a campaign for Lands' End, in an M&M's Super Bowl commercial, and so much more. Finn's most meaningful roles, however, are off-camera. As an airport therapy dog at LAX and a HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis comfort dog.



EMILIANA "MIA" GAVONI
ANNE

Mia Gavoni is an actress and a stuntwoman who is known for her appearance in "Freakier Friday" among many other independent film specializes in ground pounding, film fighting, fire burns, wires, and horse related stunts.



JEREMY URANN
MIKEY

Jeremy Urann is a LA based actor from Washington. Catch him on Netflix's "Forever" starring alongside Taye Diggs and Meagan Good, in original comedy short "Workout," or in dozens of national commercial campaigns.



DANIKA BUTLER
NAT

Danika is an actor, dancer, and teaching artist based in Los Angeles. In addition to her performance career at Disneyland, Danika has various theater and television credits. She is also getting her Bachelor's in Performing Arts through the LEAP program at Saint Mary's College of California.



BRADLEY FISHER
JAY

Bradley is a stage, film, and television actor known for his roles in "Westworld," "1923," and "Beau Is Afraid." He began his work in Dublin working with directors like Jim Sheridan, Alan Simpson, Diedre O'Connell and Bill Kenwright, in shows ranging from William's "Night Of The Iguana" to "Jesus Christ Superstar" to the original rock opera "Switchblade".



KAREN LEIGH SHARP
DEE

Karen's stage debut, at the age of 6, was the role of an emotionally unstable queen, where she accidentally became hooked on the acting drug. While building her stage credits, Karen enrolled in acting classes with Darryl Hickman, who keenly dubbed her a "tragic-clown." Karen has her third indie feature film role shooting this February in North Carolina.



KEY CREW

WRITTEN BY
Georgia Sampson

DIRECTED BY
Georgia Sampson

PRODUCED BY Kianna Maynard
Regan Hill
& Georgia Sampson

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY
Julia Roberts
Susan Stone, Paige Sampson
& Michael Sampson

CAST

IVY Lindsay Elston
MELISSA Wendi Bazar
ANNE Emīlana "Mia" Gavoni
DOC Finn Bodey
MIKEY Jeremy Urann
NAT Danika Butler
JAY Bradley Fisher
DEE Karen Leigh Sharp

CREW

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Jacob Dugger
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY Emerson Duggan
EDITOR Bateman Lewis
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Taylor Venegas
ART DIRECTOR Sophia Bailey
SOUND DESIGN Mason Parker
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY Eva Mattioli
COSTUME DESIGNER Keely Ventress &
Sophie Nenn
CASTING BY Julia Linger

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Natalia Montgomery
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR Anna Scanlon

B CAMERA OPERATOR Harrison Bliss
& Emerson Duggan

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA Max Riley
SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA Ali Arminio
& Francesca DiMarzio

SOUND RECORDIST Mason Parker
BOOM OPERATOR Leo Shrader

GAFFER Joe Kosty
GRIP Andy Reynoso
BEST BOYS Nick Luna
& Mayur Patankar

VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST
Joe Linford

COLORIST
Brian Charles

HAIR & MAKEUP Capri Jasmine
& Es Nestor
ART DEPARTMENT PREP
Sophie Cobarrubia

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Ashleigh Stubbs
Gabby Lamm
Jeff Leu

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Georgia Sampson

TRAILER
Bateman Lewis &
Georgia Sampson

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Rubbertape,



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