



A FILM BY MOLLY G SAUTER

ALL AMERICAN DINNER

IN SHORT

THE LOGLINE

All American Dinner is a surreal domestic drama about a 1950s housewife who prepares an immaculate meal in hopes of rekindling connection with her distant husband. As he remains indifferent, a chilling radio broadcast mirrors her internal state, and her carefully constructed reality begins to unravel, blurring the line between illusion and truth and exposing the emotional cost of living unseen.



STORY

SCRIPT SYNOPSIS

All American Dinner follows Barbara, a lonely 1950s housewife trying to reconnect with her emotionally absent husband, Bob. She prepares an elaborate roast dinner and transforms herself into the perfect wife in a homemade cellophane dress, hoping to reignite an intimacy that has long faded. Bob barely looks up from the television.

An ominous true-crime radio program about murderous housewives drifts through the home and begins to mirror Barbara's unraveling inner world. As laugh tracks punctuate the silence, the line between performance and reality dissolves, and her yearning to finally be seen takes a disturbing turn.

THE CHARACTERS

KEY CHARACTERS



BARBARA

LEAD CHARACTER

Barbara, a housewife in her 50s, has spent her life trying to embody the perfect woman. Behind her polished exterior lies a deep loneliness shaped by years of emotional neglect. Quietly desperate for connection, she clings to domestic rituals to hold on to meaning. Though soft-spoken, she carries a simmering resentment and a longing to finally be seen.

Played by **Eileen Grubba**, a disability advocate and the lead of this film.



BOB

SUPPORTING CHARACTER

Bob, Barbara's husband, is a man in his late 50s who has settled into routine and emotional distance. Blunt and passive, he takes her devotion for granted and rarely acknowledges her loneliness. Preoccupied with television, food and habit, he embodies a postwar masculinity shaped by expectation. Beneath the sarcasm is a man also trapped, unable to confront the disconnect at the center of their marriage.



LOOK AND FEEL

FILM STYLE

**LYNCH MEETS
LEAVE IT TO BEAVER**

Classic Americana visuals with a twisted edge. The film weaves sitcom sound effects, laugh tracks and surreal imagery to highlight the dark humor of everyday domestic life. Visually it is glossy, nostalgic and unnerving, like a vintage advertisement that has started to rot at the edges.

TONE

FILM TONE

SURREAL

INTIMATE

TENSE

CLAUSTROPHOBIC

MELANCHOLIC

The tone of All American Dinner is surreal, intimate and psychologically tense, rooted in a stylized 1950s domestic realism that gradually begins to fracture. It opens in a controlled, composed world of quiet routines, polished surfaces and carefully maintained appearances. Beneath that stillness, emotional repression and unspoken resentment slowly distort perception. Throughout, the film holds a melancholic, claustrophobic atmosphere, balancing beauty and unease as domestic perfection gives way to inner collapse.





THE CENTERPIECE

THE DRESS

The cellophane dress, custom-designed by costume designer Barbie Ellen, is the striking symbolic centerpiece of the film. Built from layers of translucent Saran wrap over an iridescent underlayer, it shimmers between fragility and artificial glamour. As it catches the light it shifts in tone, at once delicate, suffocating and mesmerizing. Worn inside the surreal world of the film, it mirrors Barbara's emotional state: visibly perfect and quietly unraveling.

WHERE WE SHOOT

THE LOCATION



KITCHEN



DINING ROOM



LIVING ROOM

THE PREMISE

FILM SUMMARY

All American Dinner is a surreal domestic drama about a 1950s housewife who prepares an immaculate meal in the hopes of reigniting connection with her emotionally distant husband. As his indifference deepens, a chilling radio broadcast begins to mirror her inner world and the perfect life she has built quietly unravels, blurring the line between illusion and truth and exposing the emotional cost of a life lived unseen.



MOOD BOARD

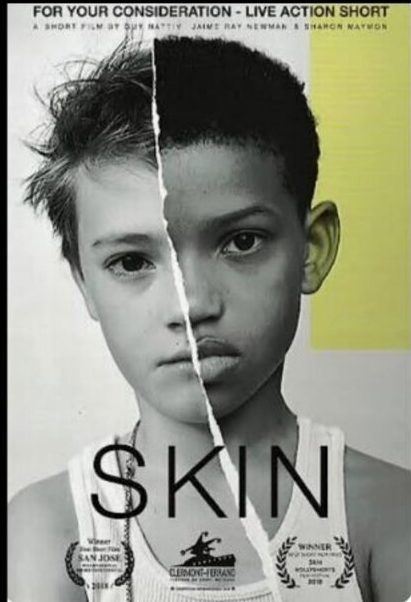
VISUAL REFERENCE

Films whose color, humor and unease shape the look of All American Dinner.



WHY THIS STORY WILL TRAVEL

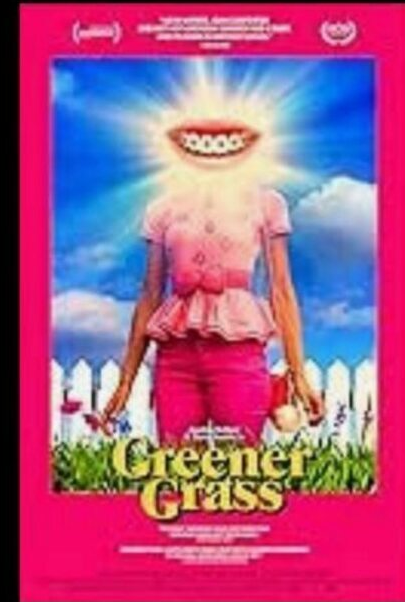
ALL AMERICAN DINNER FUSES THE VISUAL NOSTALGIA OF 1950S AMERICANA WITH DARK COMEDY, PSYCHOLOGICAL TENSION AND SURREAL STORYTELLING, TURNING A FAMILIAR WORLD INTO SOMETHING UNSETTLING, RESONANT AND UNMISTAKABLY CINEMATIC. IT SHARES THE DNA OF THE AWARD-WINNING SHORTS BELOW.



SKIN. Academy Award winner, Best Live-Action Short. A character-driven short that reached the Oscars on a modest budget.



STUTTERER. Academy Award winner, Best Live-Action Short. A deeply personal story that connected with audiences worldwide.



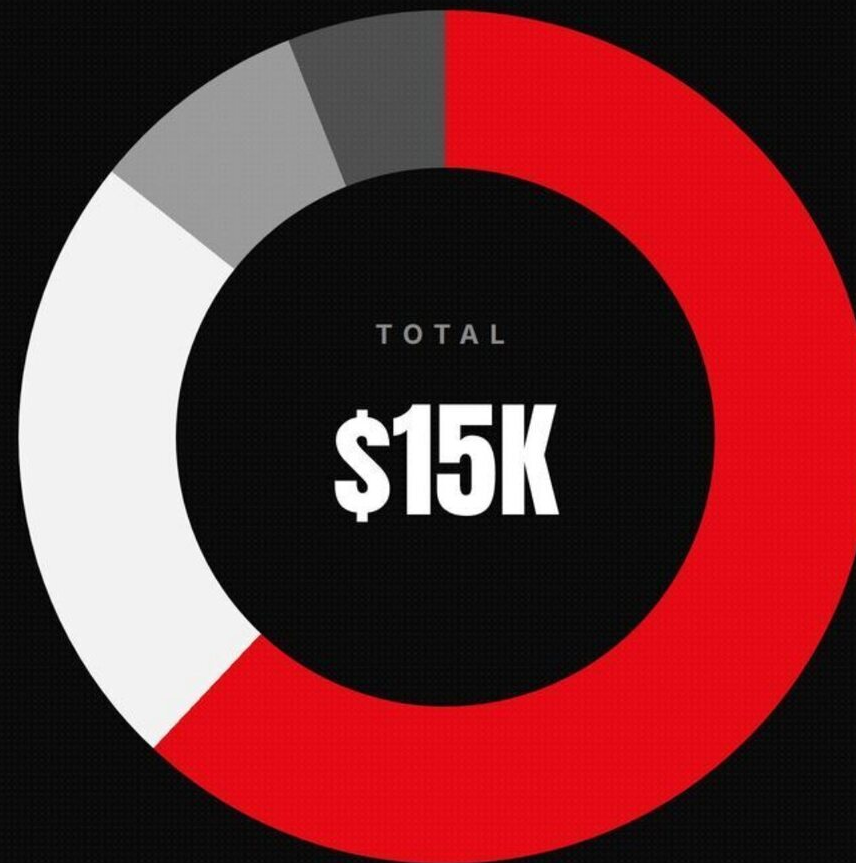
GREENER GRASS. A short expanded into a Sundance feature. Darkly comic suburban satire skewering the pressure to be perfect.

PRODUCTION BUDGET

BUDGET

■ Production	\$9,300	62%
■ Pre-Production	\$3,555	23.7%
■ Post-Production	\$1,245	8.3%
■ Contingency	\$900	6%

TOTAL BUDGET **\$15,000**



THE PATH TO SCREEN

TIMELINE

PRE-PRODUCTION



June to September 2026

PRODUCTION



October 2026

POST-PRODUCTION



November to December 2026

FESTIVALS



December 2026 to 2027

OUR COMMITMENT

ACCESSIBILITY & AUTHENTIC COLLABORATION

All American Dinner is rooted in the belief that authentic storytelling begins with authentic collaboration.

As a disabled filmmaker, I know what it feels like to be overlooked, underestimated or unseen. Barbara's longing to be acknowledged, understood and valued resonates deeply with experiences that many disabled people share. Those emotional truths have informed the way this story is written and directed.

Barbara is portrayed by Eileen, an actress who shares a similar disability and whose lived experience has brought depth, vulnerability and authenticity to the character. Our creative partnership has shaped the film from its earliest stages, making accessibility and inclusion central to the production rather than an afterthought.

Beyond the screen, All American Dinner is committed to employing disabled artists in meaningful creative roles both in front of and behind the camera. By fostering an accessible production environment, we aim to demonstrate that artistic excellence and accessibility are not competing goals. They strengthen one another.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

A WORD FROM THE WRITER

All American Dinner explores the emotional distance inside a marriage shaped by routine and silence. At its core it is about what goes unspoken and how that silence shapes an inner world over time.

As Barbara's isolation deepens, her reality turns increasingly surreal, reflecting the tension between what is performed and what is truly felt. This film lives in the space where love, loneliness and imagination quietly blur.

MOLLY G. SAUTER • WRITER & DIRECTOR

CONTACT US

EMAIL

Allamericandinner@gmail.com

WEBSITE

ALLAMERICANDINNER.COM



THANK YOU!