



WHEN WE GROW UP

a modern series about adulthood

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Perhaps we imagined our thirties would be about raising kids in the suburbs. Perhaps we saw ourselves with an Emmy or two. At the very least we expected to have a bathroom with two shower heads. But what happens when things aren't the way we expected?

What if we're still searching for love?

What if our partner doesn't want children?

What if we are still struggling to pay the bills?

What if we can pay the bills but hate our jobs?

What if we are still chasing a dream?

What if Rihanna never releases another album?

Maybe we realize the path we've chosen is no longer right, but we can hear the clock ticking. Changing course at this stage is a legitimate risk, but we must ask: is this the version of ourselves that we are prepared to settle into?

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THIS IS A SHOW FOR
ANYONE WHO THINKS
THAT **ADULTHOOD**
BRINGS MORE
QUESTIONS
THAN ANSWERS





An intimate and progressive short-form drama series following an ensemble cast of six ambitious creatives navigating their thirties in Los Angeles, as they reconcile where they are now with where thought they would be. This is a story of jaded hope, friendship, and the search for radical authenticity.



CLICK [HERE](#) TO WATCH OUR SIZZLE ON VIMEO

The "thirties" look and feel different today than they did in prior generations. Whether out of necessity or as a matter of personal preference, millennials are choosing to forgo conventional metrics of adulthood, like parenting and home-ownership. This trade-off results in unprecedented access and personal freedoms for which there is no clear modern roadmap.



WE ARE LEFT TO FIGURE IT OUT ON OUR OWN...
OR, IF WE'RE LUCKY, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM
OUR FRIENDS.

ANSWERS

SAME



QUESTIONS

DIFFERENT



THE CONCEPT EMERGED FROM THE STILLNESS OF THE PANDEMIC WHEN WE WERE FORCED TO SLOW DOWN AND TAKE STOCK OF OUR LIVES.

We found comfort in knowing that this experience wasn't singular but something we were all going through. This discovery was cathartic and affirming.

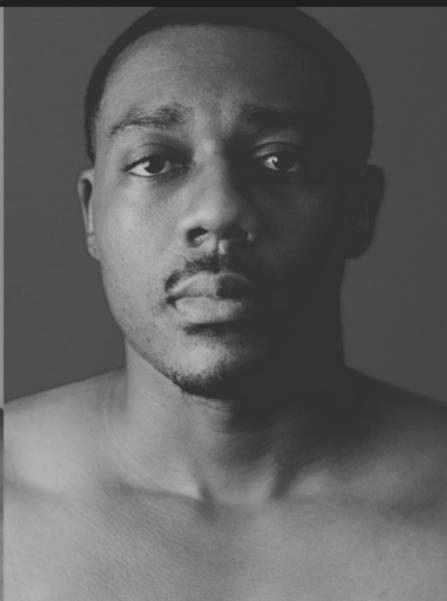
We are a small but mighty team of actors, directors, producers, writers, musicians, cinematographers, and movement artists mostly in our thirties. We put our own challenges, revelations, fears, and truths into this series. We also solicited the personal experiences of our cast in the development of each of their characters. Our collaborative approach is somewhat novel in that we are taking the vulnerability and specificity of actor-creator shows such as Michaela Coel's, 'I May Destroy You' and applying that model to an ensemble show. We intend to connect with audiences in their thirties with the same thought-provoking relevance that shows like 'Euphoria', 'Genera+ion' and 'We Are Who We Are' have done for Gen-Z.

WEERNESS / REJECTION / DREAMS / FAMILY / LOVE / BODY-IMAGE / SHAME
VULNERABILITY / FEAR / RELIGION / DEPRESSION / DISILLUSIONMENT / DOUBT
SEXUALITY / QUEERNESS / GUILT / VULNERABILITY
CONCILIATION / GUILT / FEMININITY
WEERNESS / BODY-IMAGE / DOUBT
VULNERABILITY / DISILLUSIONMENT / ANXIETY
SEXUALITY / VULNERABILITY
RECOGNITION / MISOGYNY
REJECTION / VULNERABILITY
REJECTION / VULNERABILITY

WHEN WE GROW UP centers the queer and BIPOC experience as we explore intersecting themes of sexuality, mental health, professional disillusionment, toxic masculinity, men's vulnerability, body image issues, internalized misogyny and the modern family structure to name a few. Our naturally diverse team brings a fresh take to universal human conditions. As the world hurries to "program" diversity, we are simply sharing our stories the way we experience them in our everyday lives.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HONEST DEPICTIONS ACROSS
A SPECTRUM OF AMERICAN MILLENNIAL LIFE.





CHRIS

Chris, an aspiring singer-songwriter, left everything behind to make it big in the music industry. Twelve years later, she spends more time DJing and driving for Uber than making music. Without the success she had imagined for herself, she is beginning to feel more and more like a failure. An unexpected friend request suggests that instead of chasing her dreams, she's still running away from her demons. Will she allow unresolved trauma to overshadow her talent? Or will Chris unpack her past to make room for her future?

PLAYED BY
BECCA Q. CO

Becca is everything to us... she also does everything - actor, writer, director, singer, activist, and artist. You may recognize her from 'Cats Kill' (2017), 'Madam Secretary' (2017), or from her work with Gabriela Los Angeles. She is deeply passionate about representation, uplifting and celebrating stories by marginalized voices, and spreading love and laughter. Becca brings fire and authenticity to the role of Chris, who is attempting to find balance in her tumultuous life as an artist.



DERRICK

Funny-man Derrick is a surgeon and pillar of success amongst his peers. He is exceptionally smart and ambitious. He's worked hard, and his efforts have paid off. His family couldn't be more proud that Derrick is able to provide for them and for himself. In secret, he struggles with unaddressed anxiety, career disillusionment, and unrequited feelings for Christine. When Chris offers him a creative outlet, it threatens the carefully constructed facade of his contentment. He finds himself no longer able to keep his emotions hidden away. Will creative expression soften Derrick and provide the lifeline that he needs right now? Or is he too far along his path, with too much at stake, to start indulging in fantasies of a different life.

PLAYED BY

NATE WALKER

Nate is an actor and producer known for 'Affairs of State' (2018), 'Ultrasonic' (2012), and 'S.W.A.T.' (2017). Nate brings laughter and dance wherever he goes. He is passionate about using art as connective tissue to create empathy and understanding across different communities. Nate is excited to subvert expectations and bring depth to the role of Derrick.





BRI

Bri is content in her thirties. She feels confident in who she is and what she is doing. She has made a career as a professional dancer, figured out her work/play balance, and found the love of her life in Gia—all things that she could not have imagined prior to her coming out at the age of 24. Raised in a conservative home in Inglewood, Bri often felt like the black sheep of the family resulting in uncertainty about the kind of life she believed she could have. With her determination and the constant support from childhood best friend Derrick, Bri has exceeded even her own expectations. She now considers a more traditional future... one with children. Now all she needs to do is let Gia in on her plans.

PLAYED BY

SHEOPATRA

Sheopatra, also known as SHEstreet, is a movement artist and director and founder of [THECouncil](#) - An all-female artist collective. She has worked with artists Missy Elliott, Pharrell, Chris Brown, Kehlani, and Kanye West. SHEOPATRA is excited to bring her [real-life relationship with Yoe](#) to the screen in a way that celebrates black love. She is passionate about communication and living authentically and wants to provide a blueprint for others on that journey.



GIA

Gia comes from money. She grew up in Manhattan and attended The School of American Ballet. Out since 15, her queer identity has never been a burden, and her parents nurtured her career as an artist. Gia feels an internal pressure to make the most of her privilege and to have some sort of impact on the world. Following a bad break-up, Gia packed her bags. She traded in her Manhattan life (and coveted troop position) for the soulful inspiration of the Los Angeles street dance scene. Gia discovered a new home in her love for Bri, but when confronted with the idea of children, her ambitious "cut and run" tendencies have the potential to derail everything.

PLAYED BY

YOE APOLINARIO

Yoe is a movement artist and soon-to-be author. After appearing on 'So You Think You Can Dance' she has gone on to work with artists like Taylor Swift, Chris Brown, Usher, Kehlani, Cardi B, Megan thee Stallion to name a few. Yoe's first book entitled *Cafe Con Leche, Coffee With Milk*, which is about her upbringing, racial identity and Blackness in Latino Culture will be published later this year. Yoe is most interested in bringing the every day of lesbian relationships to the screen, rather than the raunchy forbidden affairs that we have seen before. Through *Gia*, she will explore her own fears around raising a family while continuing to pursue her creative dreams.





ALI

Usually bright and optimistic, Ali seems to be spiraling. As a working actress aging out of young Hollywood, she was thrilled to have finally landed a leading role in a major studio film until she was suddenly re-cast before shooting was to begin. This rejection hit hard. To take back control of her life, she begins a reimagining of herself and her marriage to Frank. A bold haircut, cigarettes, and sexual exploration offer Ali an opportunity to shake things up. Her friends don't know if they should be worried or inspired. How far is Ali willing to go on this journey of self-discovery, and at what cost?

PLAYED BY
TERI WYBLE

Teri is a dancer, actress, and magical fairy. She brings a wealth of experience to the team, having appeared on AMC's 'The Walking Dead' (2014) and USA's 'The Sinner' as well as in films like 'The Hunt' (2020), 'Reminiscence' (2021), 'Terminator Genisys' (2015), & 'Lost Bayou' (2019) to name a few. Teri's journey to reclaim her body and sexuality has been an inspiration to us. She has been generous and brave in sharing her struggles with finding her own sense of purpose in her thirties within the entertainment industry.



FRANK

If it was up to his parents, Frank would be a quarterback in the NFL, and he'd live on their block along with his wife and kids. But instead, he ran away with his high school girlfriend to pursue their creative dreams in LA. Frank always considered himself progressive but somewhere along the way he went into autopilot and stopped growing. On the surface, Frank's life is very copacetic. He has a successful career, a loving wife, and a fancy new apartment. But when Ali begins to spiral, he starts to see how fragile his glasshouse really is. Frank must face the man in the mirror, and ask himself "What do I want in this life?". This sets him on a journey to redefine his sexuality, spirituality, masculinity, and purpose.

PLAYED BY

JEREMY BATISTE

Jeremy is a musician and an actor, seen on 'L.A.'s Finest' (2019), 'How to Get Away with Murder' (2014), and in the film 'A Brother's Honor' (2019). Jeremy sees this project as an opportunity to show men's vulnerability and give others permission to be multifaceted, emotional, and complicated beings.



ELLI

GUEST STARRING SAM ASGHARI

Sam is an actor, model, and fitness icon who moved to the United States from Iran at the age of 12. Most recently he has been seen on HBO Max's 'Hacks' and has a recurring role on Showtime's 'Black Monday' and BET's 'The Family Business.' He is also in the feature film 'Can You Keep a Secret'.



SKYY

GUEST STARRING AMIYAH SCOTT

Amiyah is an actress, model, author, and LGBTQ advocate, best known for her role as Cotton on Lee Daniel's 'Star' on Fox. With this role, Amiyah broke history as the first transgender actress to play a transgender character on a major network television series. She was recently seen as a guest judge on the HBOMax show, 'Legendary'



CREATIVE

SUNRUCONTOUR

Our series consists of 14 short-form episodes averaging 10-20 minutes each. The story is told chronologically and divides time between our six character's journeys. Every episode features its own contained idea while pushing forward the arcs of each character.

This setup breaks us free from the conventional three-act structure per episode allowing us to dive deeper into the character's development as it relates to the theme. We are able to use the freedom of short-form episodes to punctuate and highlight the milestones, both large and small, and the lessons learned in the day-to-day lives of our characters. Think of the original short-form versions of 'High Maintenance' or 'Flatbush Misdemeanors' in terms of the format. This is an ensemble piece. There is no lead. The perspective of the show is from the viewpoint of the audience. The audience will have their own arc and dynamic with each character, allowing viewers to judge a character in one episode only to empathize with them in the next.



SEASON ONE

1 Six friends: Ali, Chris, Frank, Gia, Bri, and Derrick, prepare to celebrate a milestone in one of their careers.

2 The MDMA-fueled party results in an evening of unexpected vulnerability, confessions, and revelations that set each of them on their own journey of self actualization.

3 Triggered by her responsibilities, Chris begins to spiral. She decides to create a new album that's more vulnerable than anything she has made before.

4 Bri and Gia take a romantic getaway. The rose-colored glasses quickly disappear as they realize they are on different pages about the future.



5 The girls talk babies, threesomes, and boys at the beach, while Frank and Derrick struggle to open up to each other.

6 Gia seeks refuge amongst her parents, her friends, and an old flame in New York City. Her best friend Skyy gives her much needed guidance.

7 Ali and Frank put their money where their mouth is and go on a date with a unicorn.

8 After Derrick has a panic attack at work, he must decide if he is ready to get the help that he needs.

9 Chris has a collaborative session with Derrick which tests the limits of their relationship.

10 At dance rehearsal Bri and Gia are unable to put their differences aside and find themselves putting it all on the line.



11 Ali considers surgery. Confrontation and accusations fly as she and Frank find themselves more and more at odds.

12 Frank's new creative project offers unintended positive consequences for him and Derrick.

13 Ready or not, the group arrives at the marina for Gia's 30th birthday with more emotional baggage than one sail boat can hold.

14 Eli, a charming and enigmatic boat captain, shakes things up for everyone as a huge secret is revealed, an unexpected hook-up occurs, and a relationship decides to sink or swim.

NO ONE

WHEN WE GROW UP

LOOKS LIKE

- BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR
- A BIGGER SPLASH
- GOD'S OWN COUNTRY
- GUAVA ISLAND

FEELS LIKE

- WE ARE WHO WE ARE
- NORMAL PEOPLE
- ATLANTA
- I MAY DESTROY YOU





RADICAL AUTHENTICITY REQUIRES RADICAL CREATIVITY

Nothing about the creation of this series has been conventional—from our philosophy of collaboration to the development of characters who reflect the actors portraying them. It has been a radical and affirming experience that informs how we want to show up as artists in our careers. WHEN WE GROW UP is a testament to the value of networking across. We gathered our friends and combined their talents in pursuit of art that reflected each of us. This series breaks open the medium to celebrate varied art forms. Dance, music, and photography are integral to the fabric of our story, and therefore our team consists of dancers, musicians, and photographers. There's so much power in collaboration—enough power to bridge the gaps left by the lack of a studio or Hollywood production company.





MICHAEL LANDRY
CO-CREATOR/DIRECTOR

Michael is an emerging filmmaker with over six years of experience in Hollywood. His credits include NBC's 'Will & Grace', 'Keanu' (2016), 'Why Him?' (2016), and as a producer on season one of the podcast, 'In Bed With Nick and Megan'. His award-winning debut short film, 'Nice to Meet You' (2020), is based on actual events surrounding his coming out and subsequent divorce at age 33. Michael truly understands the importance of giving yourself permission to rethink your life in your thirties and looks forward to creating a show that does the same for others. His vulnerability, emotional intelligence, and creative voice are sure to make this series something special.



BRANDON HAYNES
CO-CREATOR

Brandon is a urologic surgeon by day and a passionate writer, creator and producer by night. The specialized skills and work ethic that brought him success as a physician are also responsible for his drive in the pursuit of storytelling. His credits include the award winning short 'Nice to Meet You' (2020) and 'Beginner's Guide to Gardening' (2020). In keeping with his zest for authentic representation in film and television, Brandon will bring his own unique perspective on juggling a medical career with the desire to explore creative paths to the character of Derrick.



MADELINE MACK
CO-CREATOR/DIRECTOR

A writer, director, producer & avid self-help book reader. Madeline is also a Ryan Murphy HALF mentee and member of the FUTURE OF FILM IS FEMALE. She is known for 'Six Pack', (2018) 'Hot Water' (2018) 'Sweet Heart' (2020) and her award-winning pilot Small Fry. Madeline believes that an artist must start off with delusional ambition followed by brutal self-examination every step of the way. She breathes this belief into the fabric of this story and these characters. Having felt like she has been at least six versions of herself thus far, she is excited to bring every version of herself to this series.



ALVARO VALENTE
CREATIVE PRODUCER

An Italian-Belgian producer based in LA. His producing work has been showcased and awarded in more than 400 festivals worldwide. Some of his credits include the 8 Golden Bull Winner 'Across the Sea' (2014), the Sundance Award Winner 'Night Comes On' (2018), the Bolivian Oscar Submission 'Tu Me Manques' (2020) and he is currently in post production on 'Promises' starring Jean Reno and Kelly Reilly and the documentary 'Bonnie'. Alvaro's work has been characterized by story focusing on historically underrepresented communities, his passion and sensitivity for such themes and human stories is what drew him to this series. .



TIM BARNESLEY
CREATIVE PRODUCER

Tim Barnsley is an award-winning cameraman from Sydney, Australia, whose artistic energy can be seen throughout his work. Whether it be lighting large scale drama productions or capturing intimate documentaries, Tim offers passion and skill to all of his artistic endeavors. His passion for Cinematography lies in creating arresting visuals in support of dramatic narratives. Tim brings this passion along with his experience, knowledge, and attention to detail to the table. He looks forward to crafting a visually arresting world in which our story will unfold as well as framing out cast in vulnerable and authentic ways.



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THANK YOU.

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