



SCRIPT BY: MELLINDA HENSLEY STORY BY: MELLINDA HENSLEY & TASH ANN

**“HOLLYWOOD IS A PLACE WHERE
THEY’LL PAY YOU A THOUSAND
DOLLARS FOR A KISS AND FIFTY
CENTS FOR YOUR SOUL”**

-MARILYN MONROE

-MARILYN MONROE

LOGLINE

After her career as a TV writer stalls, Ida Bell starts working as a tour guide for a Haunted Hollywood Tour Company. When her crowds start to dwindle she refuses to fail again and enlists her roommate Milo to stage a haunting.

But when a strange figure, who may or may not be the ghost of Peg Entwistle, starts following her and the popularity of the tour spirals out of control, Ida starts to lose her grip on reality.

GENRE	THRILLER/HORROR
LENGTH	FEATURE
BUDGET	1.5 - 3 MILLION
SHOOT	APPROX 18-25 DAYS
CHARACTERS	1 MAIN, 3 SUPPORTING, 7-10 DAY PLAYERS
LOCATIONS	7 INTERIOR MAIN LOCATIONS 2 EXTERIOR MAIN LOCATIONS

SPECS





WHY THIS MOVIE?

-Horror and thrillers are marketable films in a wide variety of formats, both nationally and internationally.

-It is female led with a female writing and directing team behind it.

-Stories about Hollywood are statistically well received because the people who are inside the business can relate and often the people who cannot relate are eager for any look behind the curtain.

-The themes of lost dreams and blind ambition are ones that are universal and can relate to anyone who has ever tried to achieve something.

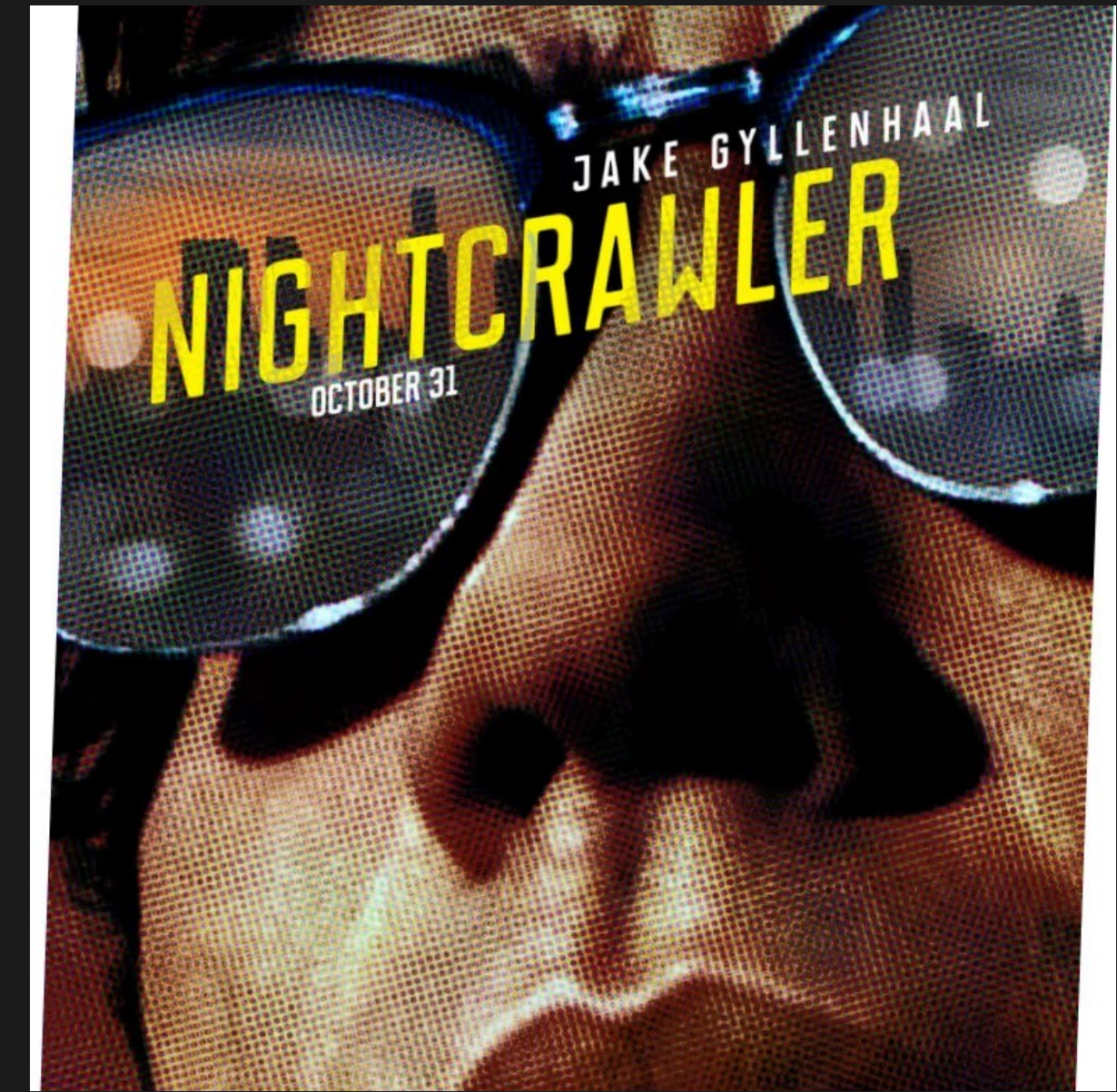
Beyond the profitability statistics, the horror genre allows the filmmakers to engage the audience in meaningful themes surrounding present day issues without being overly preachy. Our story showcases a woman, striving to make it in a male dominated field, while being haunted by the ghostly presence of a woman whose work viability was destroyed because of a divorce. She is driven to madness, far beyond the point of allowing a man to continue controlling her narrative and decides to make sure no one will ever underestimate her again.



Black Swan



Ingrid Goes West



Nightcrawler

COMPARABLES

Click photos for box office info

A close-up profile of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair. She is looking towards the left. The background is dark with out-of-focus lights in shades of blue, orange, and white, creating a bokeh effect. The text 'THE STORY' is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

THE STORY

After a tumultuous divorce from a prominent producer, Ida is fired from her job as a head writer on a popular daytime soap. She got the job before meeting her now ex, working for the last 5 years climbing the ranks from flower delivery girl with a fortunate delivery for a top TV executive Andy Dupree, to his assistant, to finally a writer on his show. Regardless of her earned position at the show, Andy and the other execs aren't willing to risk pissing off the ex-husband.

Lost and unsure of what to do next, she finds solace in a drunken night with her best friend and now roommate Milo, at the end of which they end up unwittingly joining a haunted Hollywood tour group. It's intriguing to Ida, something different (and the guide lets it slip that they get to keep tips). An idea sparks in her - she could do something like this, right?

She starts doing as much research as she can, visiting old Hollywood haunts and digging into the town's grisly history. But after a hike to the Hollywood Sign, she gets a feeling she can't quite shake, and soon she begins to see the apparition of a young woman in her home - this is Peg.

She begins giving haunted tours of her own, but she's not gaining any steam so she and Milo make a plan. He will stage a hanging in the window of the First National Bank Building, an abandoned property in the heart of Hollywood at a moment when her tour can believe they are seeing a ghostly murder. It's wildly successful, garnering her views online, interviews on talk shows, and access to the world she was just kicked out of.

Once the stunt begins to garner major attention in show business, Ida feels the pressure to keep up appearances, and Milo is pushed to continue performing the stunt. Not to mention that Ida still sees the apparition following her, or is she just letting herself give into the tour a little too much?

One night, Andy joins the tour and mentions that he thinks they could parlay it into a series. He knows that things before...didn't work out, but she should think of this as her second chance. He tells her he needs her story rights and she can write him a pilot and send it his way and he'll work on getting it pitched. It'll be just like old times. Excited, Ida feels like this could finally be it - her way back in.

She and Milo have a night on the town, intended to celebrate their successes, but Milo confesses to her he doesn't know how much longer he can be a part of this scam. A drunken Ida, devastated by this news, creates a scene in the restaurant, where Andy just happens to also be dining

Back home, Ida is desperate to change Milo's mind. Friend or not, another man is not going to stand in her way again. In a passionate moment of rage, Ida goes into a rage blackout and when she comes to, Milo is dead. She's in shock. How could she have done such a thing, or was she being controlled by something else, perhaps Peg?

At a crossroads, Ida knows that if she reveals his death, she will be forced to lose any possibility of success that the tour has afforded her. Thanking Milo for his sacrifice, she leaves him to rot in his colorful closet. As she tries to push closer to a career she's always dreamed of and finish the pilot, her sanity begins to slip further and further out of her control. The apparitions are more frequent now and combined with the guilt over Milo, it's beginning to be hard to tell what is real and what isn't. But she finishes the pilot, hands over her rights and sends both to Andy. It's too late though, Given her embarrassing performance the night of Milo's death, no one in the industry is willing to work with her any longer. They will of course take the rights to her story, which is getting juicier each insane move she makes.

With all her career hopes dashed again, and no hope of keeping up the tour charade, something finally snaps within Ida. She gives herself fully over to the presence of Peg that's been haunting her and spends a wild, horrifying night. The next day, she decides that no one will ever disrespect her again. But is Ida really in control anymore or is the apparition which we now know to be Peg the one behind the wheel for Ida's final act of defiance?



THE HISTORY

The myth of Peg Entwistle is that of a bratty actress who was mad she didn't get a part and killed herself.

The truth of Peg is much more complex.

She was a successful Broadway actress. Not long after marrying fellow actor Robert Keith, she came to find out he already had another family, most notably a son she had never heard of before. The lies sullied the relationship and within a matter of years she found herself a divorcee.

In the 1920's, this in itself was as good as being dead. No one on Broadway would hire Peg, and so she made her way to Hollywood to find a career in the pictures. She was depressed, hopeless and angry that life had gone this way. Especially considering her ex husband's career didn't seem to suffer.

Being on film was never her dream, it was her punishment, and even that wouldn't go well. She acted in one film, was largely edited out then subsequently dropped from her studio contract.

It was at this point that she climbed to the top of the H and jumped to her death.

Our story aims to use the spirit of Peg to examine the universality of the themes around her cautionary tale.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white dress and red lipstick, is shown in profile, looking upwards with an expression of awe or interest. She is in a theater, with other people visible in the background. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. The text "THE TEAM" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

THE TEAM



DIRECTOR | TASH ANN

Tash has been working as a director/writer/producer on short content since 2013. She worked from 2020-2022 at Icon Media, a short content company owned by Jay Shetty. At Icon Media she created over 40 pieces of short content in 2 years, with over a million views.

In 2023 she joined Born Ready Films, a commercial film production company as a director and producer. She is currently working there creating videos for clients like TMobile, Weight Watchers and Transformer Tables. In 2022 her web series pilot Abstraction had its festival run, racking up 22 best Web Series awards and one Best Director award.

For full work samples, awards, resume and reel please visit her website



WWW.TASHANN.COM

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I love Hollywood. I love the history, I love the professions, I love the personalities. I love silent film up through present day movies. This movie is my love letter to Hollywood. It's also a cautionary tale about this business and it's relationship to women. From Mary Pickford to Michelle Yeoh, I find women in Hollywood fascinating. To be a woman anywhere, at any point in history is difficult but there is something especially difficult about being a woman in Hollywood. Luckily for those of us who have been able to witness the meteoric rise of some amazingly talented artists both behind and in front of the camera, the pressure of being a female in the industry often creates diamonds.

Sometimes though, like we see in our story both with Peg Entwistle's lore and in Ida's world, the pressure of Hollywood and the pressure of being a career woman can crack a person. As a woman who is working every day to make a career in the entertainment industry, I know the feeling of pressure to measure up, the feeling of constantly racing time to be successful in a world where women seem to carry an expiration date. I know how every chance can feel like the one and only chance, and the need for perfection.

This story is deeply personal for me. The story of Peg is deeply personal to me. Ida could be me or any one of my counterparts behind the camera. We live in a world where opportunities are not given as freely as I have seen them given to men with equal or lesser experience and talent levels. We must work harder, we must try harder and push and push and hope that we come out diamonds instead of being crushed under the pressure.

This story is for Ida and for Peg. This story is for me and for its writer Mellinda. It is for all the women who push ourselves so hard just to earn a seat at the table. That is the only objective for Ida, and of course for Peg. Peg of course was a real person, whose story is simplified into the lore of a woman who couldn't handle rejection and "gave up too early". But she was complex, she was mistreated, underused and under valued by a burgeoning business that was riddled with scandal from its first moments.

I am so excited to tell a story about a complicated, ambitious woman and her path to making a name for herself in Hollywood, no matter the cost. These characters, this story, this city.. it all has my heart and I can't wait to put all of it into this film.

WRITER | MELINDA HENSLEY

Mellinda Hensley is a writer from a town in Indiana you've probably never heard of. Starting as an assistant on daytime's #1 show, *The Young and the Restless*, she became an associate head writer by the age of 28 (and still tells people at cocktail parties that she switched babies for a living). In 2020, she received a WGA Award, Emmy nomination, and several angry tweets for her work in daytime. In case of emergency, she can be used as a flotation device.

She is represented by Citizen Skull Management and is currently in the process of pitching around several feature films and TV shows.





CAST



IDA

Ida is in her late 30's. She was recently fired from her TV writing job, but isn't willing to give up on her dreams. She is ambitious above all else and will stop at literally nothing to make her mark on Hollywood, even when haunted by the ghostly manifestation of one of Tinsletown's first casualties.

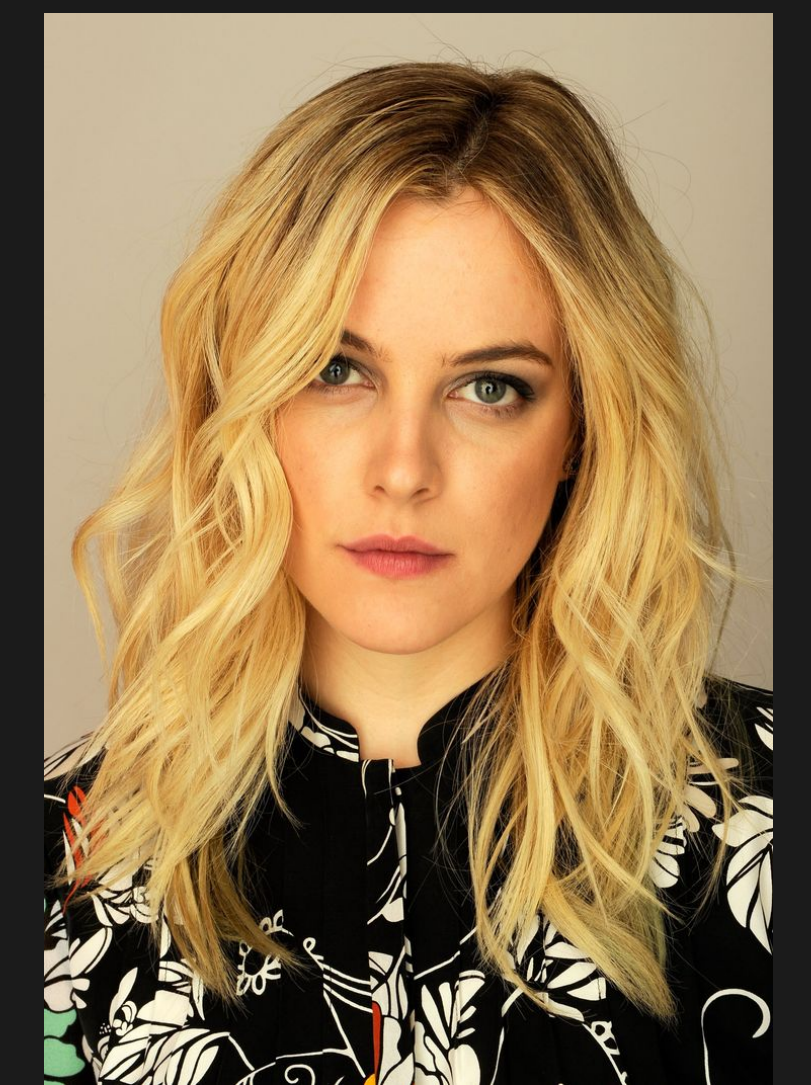
CAST COMPARABLES:



Aubrey Plaza



Juno Temple



Riley Keogh

PEG

(GHOSTLY APPARITION)

Peg will be cast specifically to find someone who looks authentic to the real person and who has the stunt/physical capabilities that will be required of this apparition.



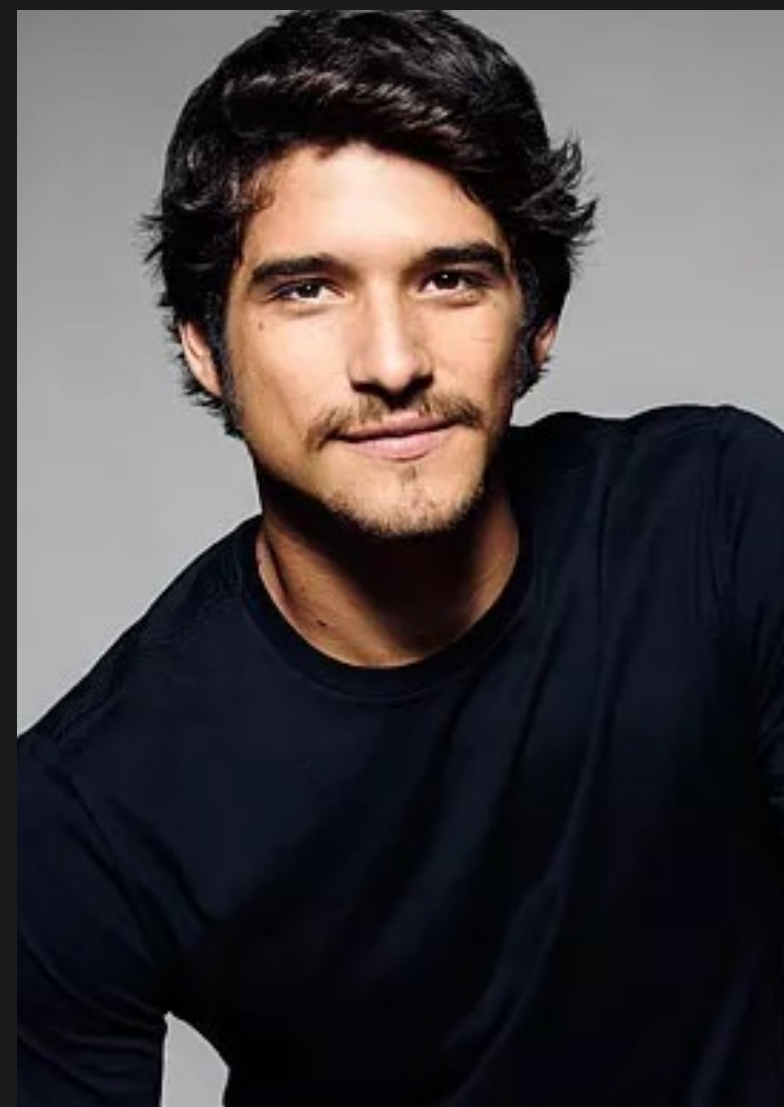


MILO

Milo has been a loyal friend and roommate since film school. He works as a costume designer and performer for a local bar's drag show. His enigmatic personality charms everyone around him and as a result he's used to making his own rules in life.

Ida moves in with him after a messy divorce, and while he wants to support his friend, his patience does begin to wear thin when Ida refuses to understand that he has his own life too.

CAST COMPARABLES:



Tyler Posey



Diego Calva

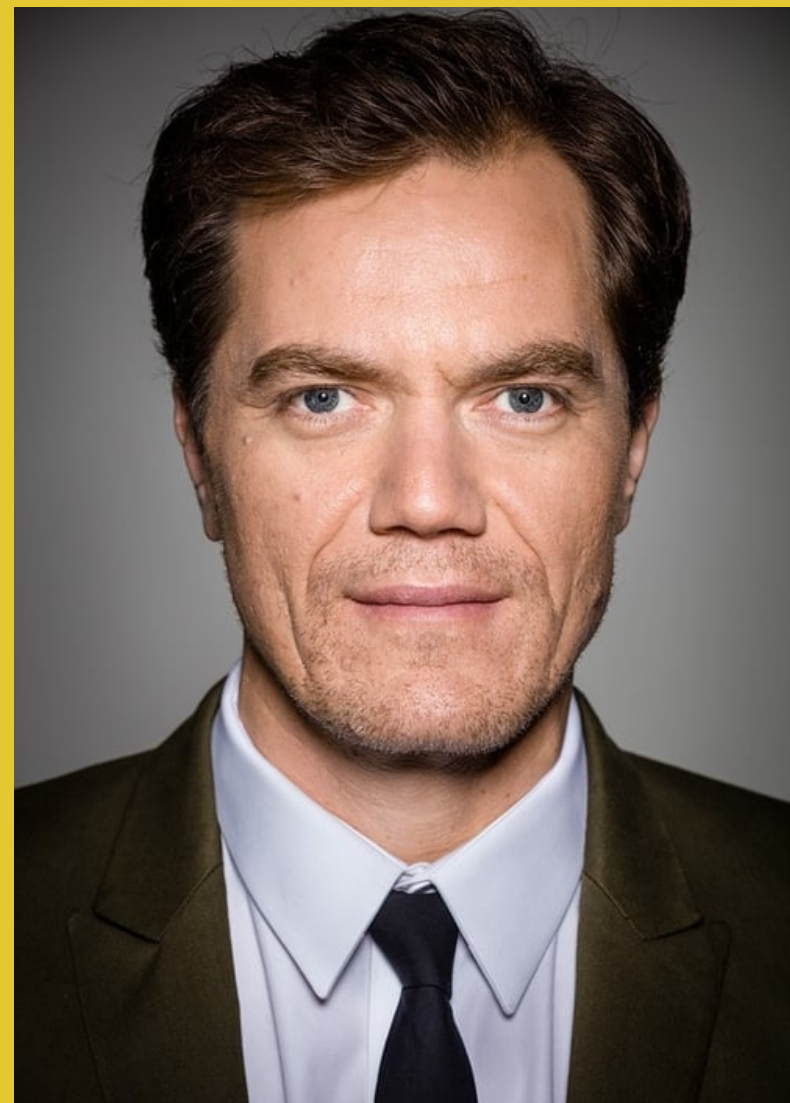


Gabriel Chavarria

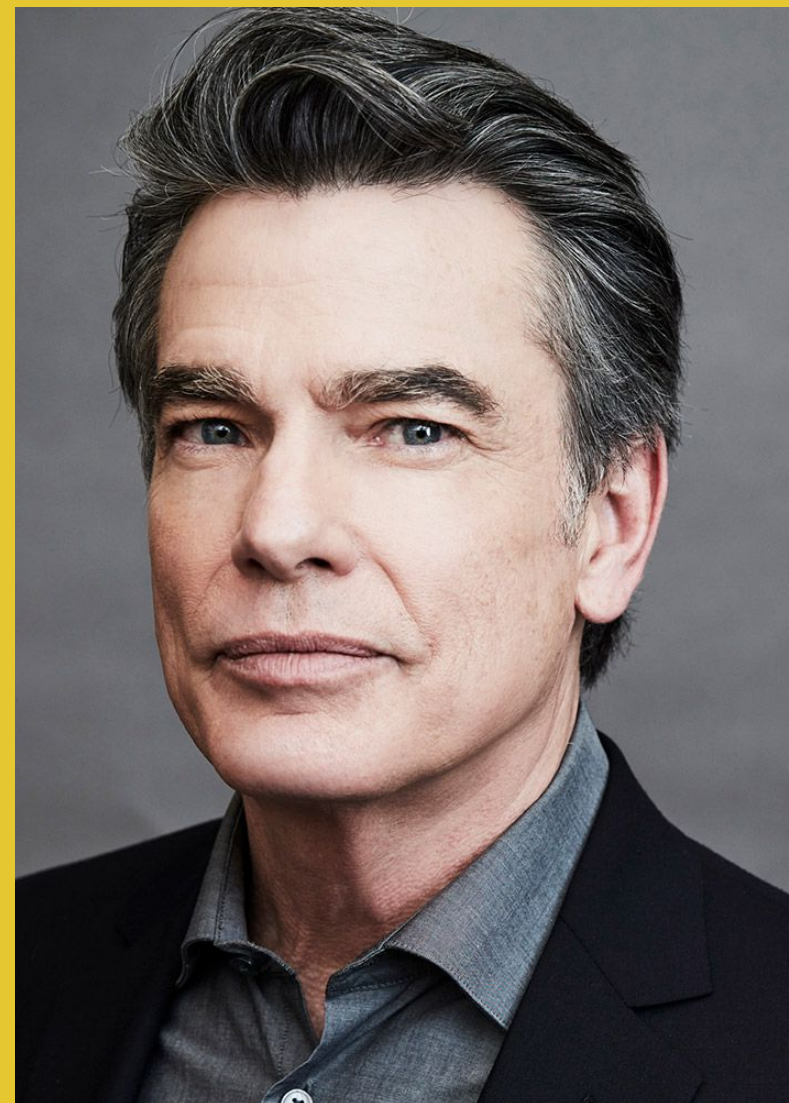
ANDY

Andy has been Ida's boss, seen by her as a mentor, for over a decade. He has a facade of kindness, but deep down he is all ambition, willing to continue pushing those around him down to stay ahead. He sees himself as a hero who tries to offer Ida a lifeline after her firing.

CAST COMPARABLES:



Michael Shannon



Peter Gallagher



Nathan Lane



A dark, blue-toned hallway with a person's silhouette walking away in the distance. The hallway is narrow and has a bright light source at the far end, creating a strong silhouette of the person. The walls are dark and reflective, and the floor is also dark. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and somewhat eerie.

APPARITIONS





MOOD BOARD







THANK
YOU

TASHANN.CA@GMAIL.COM