



# JULIE BABY

VLADA ROSLYAKOVA

BETTY JO AUSTIN

RILEY COOPER

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **EMILY GROOMS**. STARRING **VLADA ROSLYAKOVA RILEY COOPER** AND **BETTY JO AUSTIN**. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **CARLOS ESTRADA**. PRODUCED BY **SINEAD KEIRANS** AND **TIM CHANG**. A FILM BY **EMILY GROOMS**.



*Title of Film:* JULIE BABY

*Country of Production:* USA

*Date of Completion:* October 2023

*Shooting Format:* Alexa Mini, ARRI Raw, 3.4K

*Screening Format:* DCP and ProRes available

*Ratio:* 1.85:1

*Sound:* Surround Digital 5.1 Theatrical

*Duration:* **17:00 minutes**

*Genre:* Drama, Coming-of-age, Family Drama

*Language:* English

*One liner:* A short film about the first time a little girl gets called a whore.

*Log line:* When a little girl gets called a whore for the first time, she discovers her place in the world as a female but also her power to define herself and defend others.

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# ONE LINER

A short film about the first time a little girl gets called a *whore*.

# LOG LINE

When a little girl gets called a whore for the first time, she discovers her place in the world as a woman - but also her power to define herself and defend others.

# SYNOPSIS

Mother-daughter-sister relationships are front and center in this story about what it means to be a woman in the world and the complicated ways we try to protect the ones we love.

When all she wants is to be the center of attention on her birthday, 7-year-old JULIE learns instead a lesson on what it means to be a woman in the world and discovers her power to define herself and defend others. On a hot September day, Julie tags along after school to the bodega with her sister and gets caught in a domestic fight between a man and a woman. When the man calls the woman a *whore* and drags her out by her hair, Julie tries to save her but fails and loses her Birthday Girl crown in the struggle. Upon returning home, she discovers her mother just got broken up with and is drunk now, her sister is leaving that night, and there's no chance her family is going roller skating for her birthday anymore. Dead set on being celebrated, Julie is left to play all of the cards in her hand to get herself a birthday. When a tender, playful exchange between sisters turns sour and Laura calls Julie a whore, Julie finally learns what the word means. She tries the word on for size alone playing dress up in the mirror and re-enacts the scene from the bodega upon herself.

As tensions between her mom and sister come to a head, Julie is again caught in the middle but this time with a powerful newfound understanding of herself she uses in service of others.

In the style of Andrea Arnold's *WASP* and *FISH TANK*, *JULIE BABY* is a naturalist coming-of-age drama set in a lower class urban landscape filmed in Austin, TX.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

JULIE BABY is about the first time a little girl gets called a *whore*, the literal meaning of the word, the way it is used and passed down, and the complicated ways mothers, daughters and sisters try to protect and care for one another. When I tell women about the idea of the film, many of them recall for me the first time they were called a whore. Often it is by their mothers, often when they were girls, never in a literal sense. It is used to make girls scared, to make them dress differently or act differently, to keep them safe, to inflict harm. It is said in English, Russian, Urdu, Spanish, and countless other languages with a single, specific meaning but used in myriad ways.

JULIE BABY is also about the sticky, constant love of family that is built on sacrifice and forgiveness as much as it is on friendship and intimacy. In the end, Julie makes a courageous if imperfect sacrifice to save her sister from abuse. Then, she ultimately redeems the abuser, too, her mother, through a final act of forgiveness. A true heroine, JULIE BABY transcends herself to lead the family from behind.



## MAIN CAST



**Vlada Roslyakova** is an elite model turned actor from Siberia, Russia. Vlada has graced the covers of *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire* and *Allure* and was named one of the top 30 models of the 2000s by *Vogue France*. Since turning her attention to acting, Vlada trained with Susan Batson and at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Vlada is based in NYC.

In her dramatic debut, Vlada plays OLGA, an immigrant and single mother struggling to provide for herself and her two young daughters while also dealing with her own addiction to alcohol.



**Riley Cooper** is a rising star based in Atlanta, GA. Her previous credits include Showtime's *George & Tammy* where she appeared opposite Michael Shannon and Jessica Chastain as their daughter as well as CBS's *The Equalizer* starring Queen Latifah.

Riley delivers a powerful punch as LAURA, Julie's world-wise older sister and embattled teen stealing and fighting for a place in the world.



**Betty Jo Austin** leads the film as JULIE, a sparkly, fiery, bratty, and brave little girl who discovers her place in the world as a female - and then her power to not only define herself but also defend others. Aged 7, Betty took her first principal role as JULIE by storm with a sense of humor, forcefulness and charisma that shines on set and on screen.

Betty is a Texas native based just outside of Austin in Dripping Springs.


# FILMMAKER BIOS

**Writer/Director - Emily Grooms** is an emerging filmmaker with a focus on performance direction and female-centric stories. She began her career in film and television editing docuseries and later returned to graduate school to focus on writing and directing scripted work. Since earning her MFA in Film Production from the University of Texas at Austin as a Jesse H. Jones Fellow, Emily moved to Los Angeles to pursue casting and directing scripted film and television. Her latest film, *Just You Joe*, which she directed for Reed Street Films is in post-production.

**Producer - Sinéad Keirans** is a producer, editor and filmmaker based in New York, NY. She creates content for clients across the United States. Past credits include Todd Haynes' *Carol*, *Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero*, *Simply Ming*, and *Rare: Creatures of the Photo Ark*.

**Cinematographer - Carlos Estrada** is a Mexican-American cinematographer and filmmaker based in Austin, TX. He is a 2022 ASC Heritage Award nominee for his work as the cinematographer on *El Fantasma*. His work has been featured at EnergaCAMERIMAGE, PBS, Palm Springs, New Orleans and Film Shortage.





**FESTIVALS & AWARDS**

**TACOMA FILM FESTIVAL 2023**

**PENDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

**POST ALLEY FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

**HILL COUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

*Best Student Film*

**TOKYO INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

**NEVADA WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

**THE VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

# SELECTED CREDITS

FULL CREDITS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

## WRITER/DIRECTOR

Emily Grooms

## PRODUCERS

Sinéad Keirans

Hao-Wei Timothy Chang

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Tori McCarthy

Camille Morales-Zayas

## CINEMATOGRAPHER

Carlos Estrada

## EDITOR

Emily Grooms

## SOUND DESIGN & MIX

Morgan Honaker

## COLORIST

Dan Stuyck

## FEATURING

Vlada Roslyakova

Riley Cooper

Betty Jo Austin

Eason Campbell

Vivian Mei King

Ranferi Salguero

Stephanie Henry

Kori Michelle

Vivian Atencio

