



WHAT I BARELY HAVE

A Film Treatment · Written by Valentino Summo

Short Film · Drama · ~18 min · Miami, FL



LOGLINE

When an 85-year-old man with Alzheimer's is visited by a young couple posing as family, they set out to uncover the combination to his hidden safe —

but as his fractured memories blur past and present, their con turns into a moral trap that could cost them more than they came to steal.





SYNOPSIS

Act One · The Intrusion

Bob, an 85-year-old widower with Alzheimer's, lives alone, painting a landscape he barely remembers. When a young couple, Tom and Sammy, arrive claiming to be his grandchildren, he lets them in despite his confusion. As they settle in, it's revealed they are impostors, exploiting his condition to find a hidden safe containing a valuable watch.

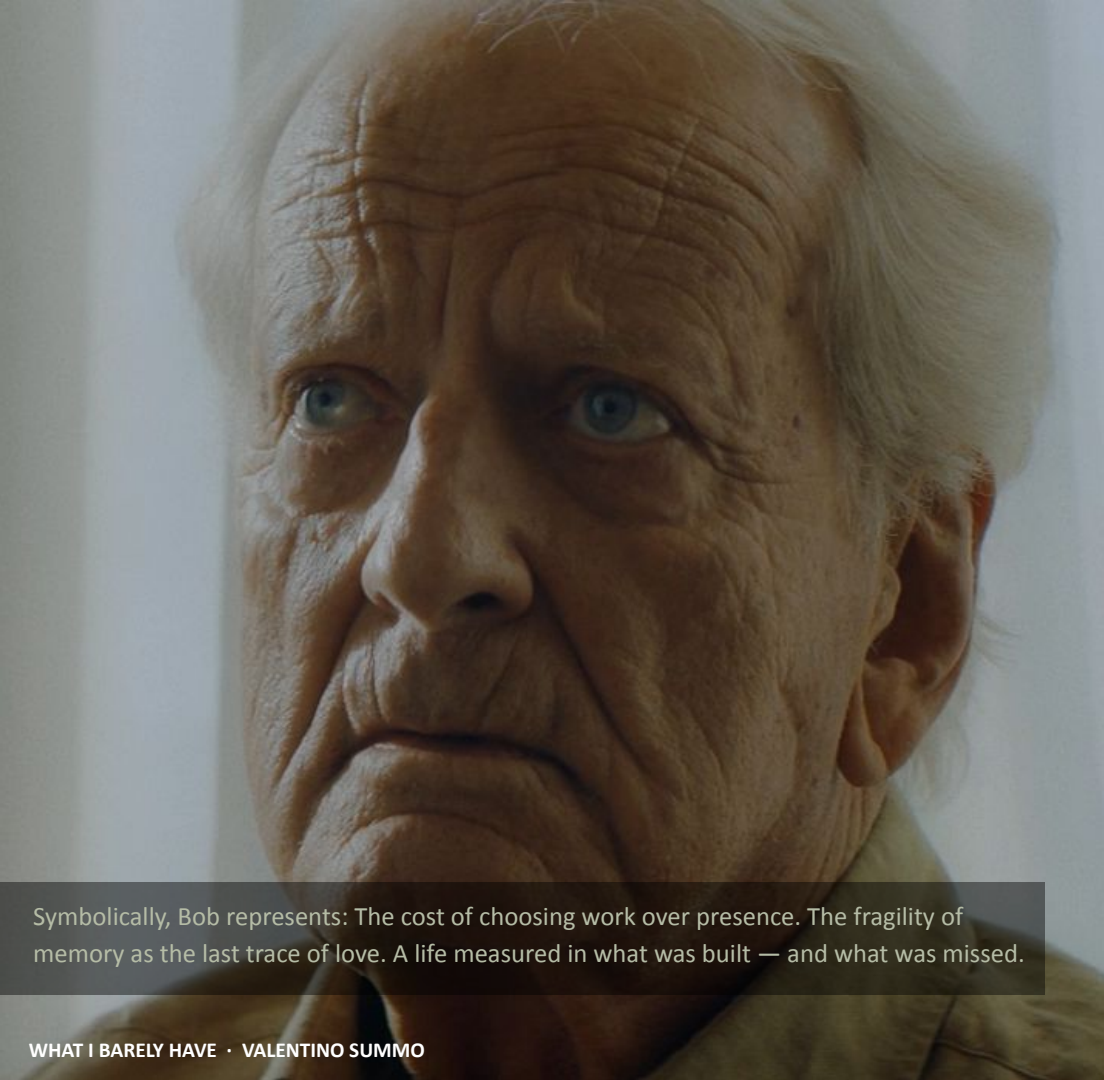
Act Two · The Manipulation

Using photos and fabricated memories, Tom and Sammy repeatedly rebuild Bob's trust as his mind resets. While they search for the safe's combination, Tom begins to hesitate, but Sammy pushes forward. Meanwhile, Bob drifts between confusion and brief emotional clarity, increasingly connecting Sammy to memories of his late wife, Rose.

Act Three · What Remains

A memory of Rose leads Bob to the safe. Mistaking Sammy for someone he once loved, he gives her the watch, expressing regret over a life consumed by work. Confronted by his vulnerability, Sammy breaks. After they leave, Bob's nurse finds subtle traces of their presence—while the watch remains untouched inside the safe, and Bob drifts once again into his fading reality, left only with fragments of love and memory.





BOB — The Man Time Left Behind

An 85-year-old retired pilot and widower living alone in South Florida. His dementia erases names and faces — but never his love for Rose.

Each night, he paints the same cabin — a place he can't fully remember, but can't let go of.

In rare moments of clarity, what remains isn't information — it's feeling.

A love he knows was real. And a regret he can't fully name.

He is what Tom and Sammy will become if they don't change course.

Symbolically, Bob represents: The cost of choosing work over presence. The fragility of memory as the last trace of love. A life measured in what was built — and what was missed.

SAMMY — *The Con Artist*

22. Clever, ambitious, emotionally guarded. She has learned that sentiment is a weakness — until it isn't.

She moves through the world with control, always calculating, always ahead.

Connection is something she performs, not something she allows.

But when Bob places his late wife's watch on her wrist and calls her by another name, something shifts.

For the first time, she is not seen for what she takes — but for what she could be.

And it breaks her.

*She walks in to take something.
She leaves having given something back.*

She leaves the watch behind. That is her arch.

[INSERT STILL — SAMMY]



Symbolically, Sammy represents: Ambition without direction.
The fear of stillness. A person not yet shaped by loss

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TOM — *The Accomplice*

23. Sammy's boyfriend. He agreed to this because she asked him to — and because he wanted the freedom he believed money would buy.

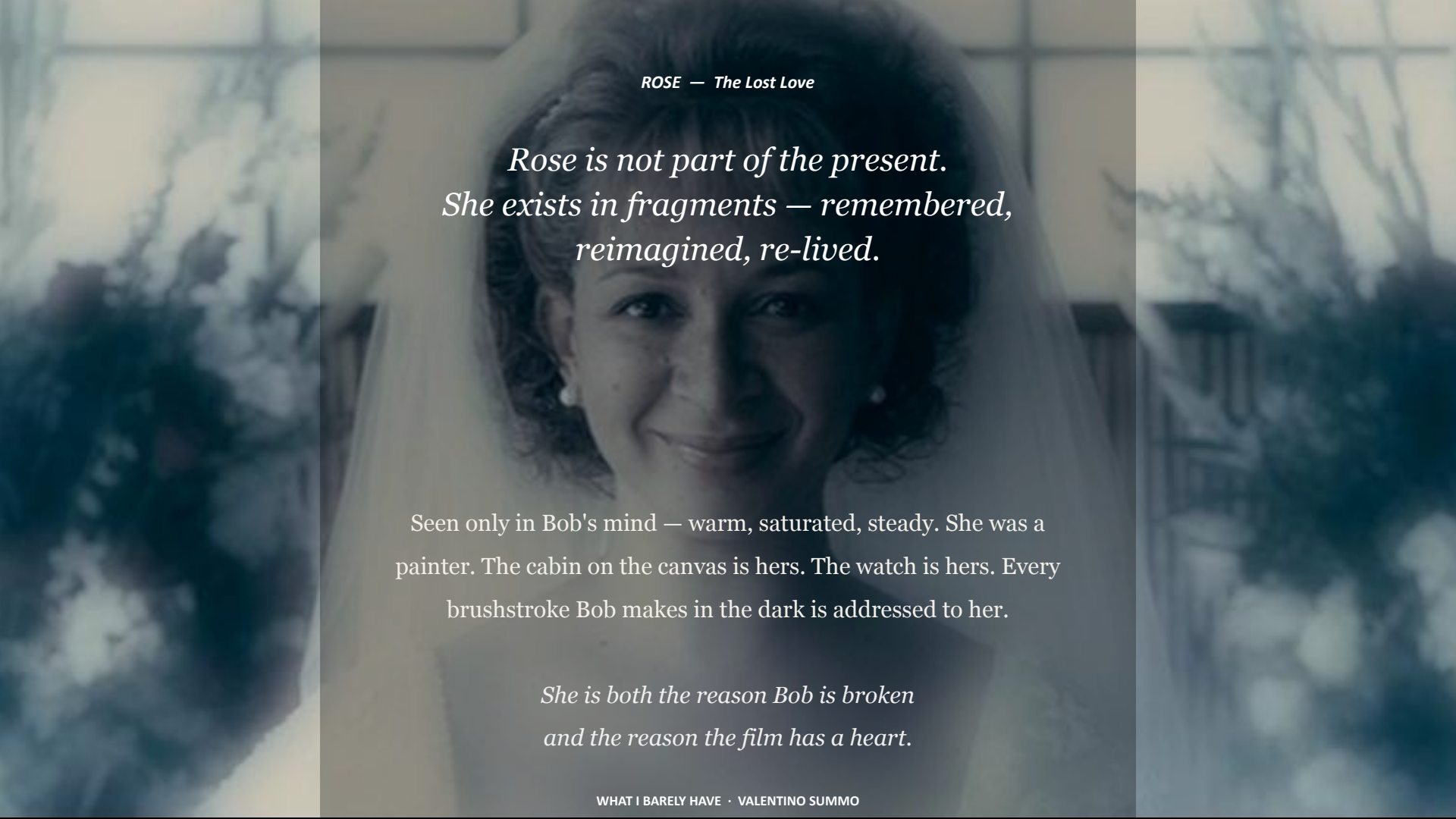
But beneath it all, he doesn't feel like he's enough — not for the life he wants, and not for her.

So he follows her lead, convinced that if he can provide more, he can be more.

The more time he spends with Bob, the less he can justify what they're doing. Guilt arrives like a slow fever. He is the audience inside the film.

He doesn't stop her. That is his character.

Symbolically, Tom represents: The moment before a person becomes who they are. The silence behind every moral compromise. The need to feel enough.



ROSE — The Lost Love

*Rose is not part of the present.
She exists in fragments — remembered,
reimagined, re-lived.*

Seen only in Bob's mind — warm, saturated, steady. She was a painter. The cabin on the canvas is hers. The watch is hers. Every brushstroke Bob makes in the dark is addressed to her.

*She is both the reason Bob is broken
and the reason the film has a heart.*

***The Father* - (2020, dir. Florian Zeller)**

A subjective portrayal of dementia that places the audience inside a fractured reality.
Reference for emotional intimacy and point of view.

***Memento* (2000, dir. Christopher Nolan)**

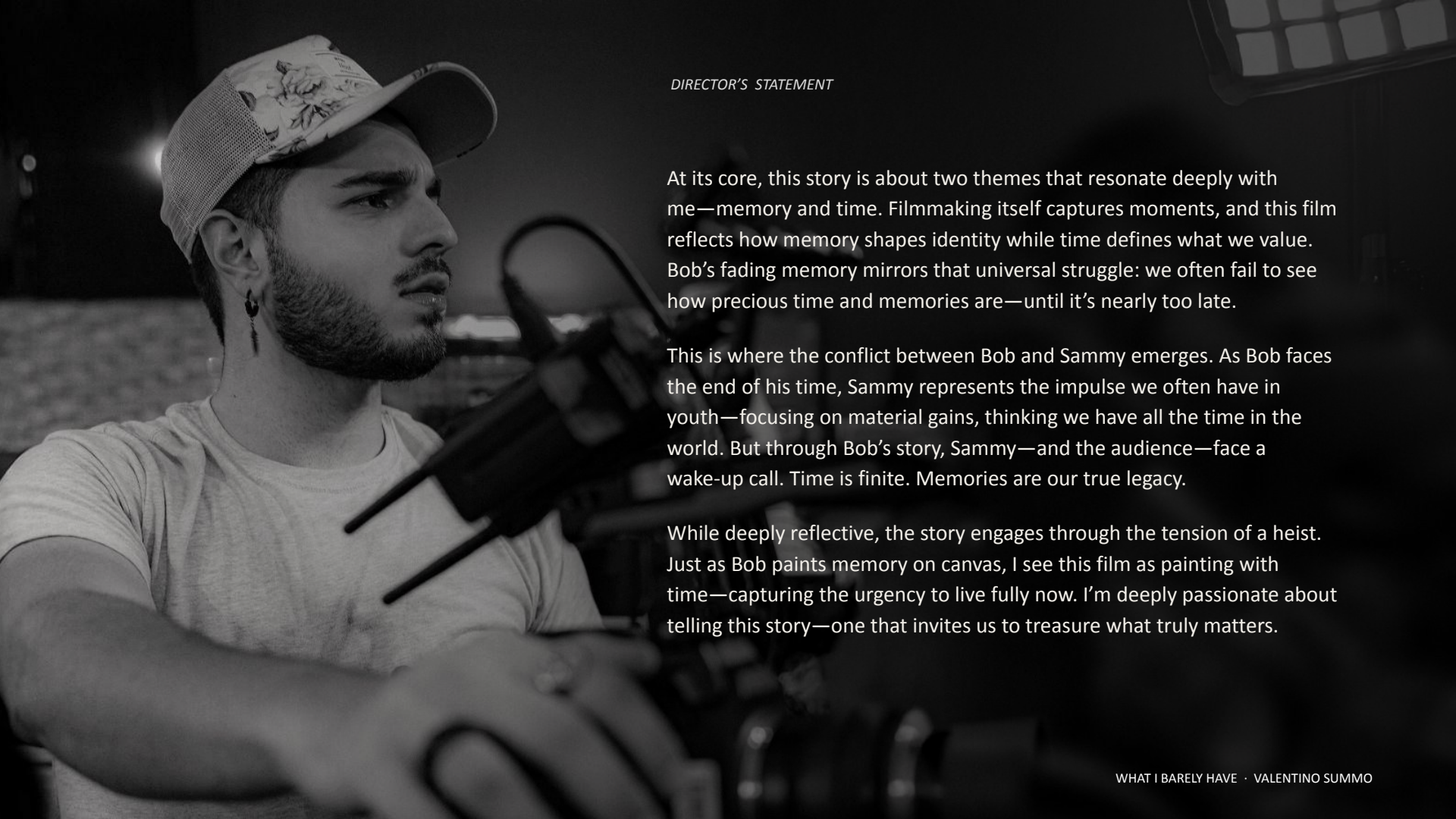
A narrative built around memory loss, where structure reflects perception.
Reference for storytelling through memory and time.

***Amour* (2012, dir. Michael Haneke)**

A narrative built around memory loss, where structure reflects perception.
Reference for storytelling through memory and time.

***The Notebook* (2004, dir. Nick Cassavetes)**

A love story shaped by memory and its loss over time.
Reference for emotional connection and thematic resonance.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

At its core, this story is about two themes that resonate deeply with me—memory and time. Filmmaking itself captures moments, and this film reflects how memory shapes identity while time defines what we value. Bob's fading memory mirrors that universal struggle: we often fail to see how precious time and memories are—until it's nearly too late.

This is where the conflict between Bob and Sammy emerges. As Bob faces the end of his time, Sammy represents the impulse we often have in youth—focusing on material gains, thinking we have all the time in the world. But through Bob's story, Sammy—and the audience—face a wake-up call. Time is finite. Memories are our true legacy.

While deeply reflective, the story engages through the tension of a heist. Just as Bob paints memory on canvas, I see this film as painting with time—capturing the urgency to live fully now. I'm deeply passionate about telling this story—one that invites us to treasure what truly matters.



VISUAL STYLE

Camera

Mostly static. Close when Bob is lucid. Unsettled — barely — when he isn't. We never over-signal his confusion.

Light

Interiors: golden, warm, lamplight. Exterior world: desaturated, slightly cold. Memory scenes: a different film — warmer, steadier, deeper.

Texture

Oil paint as a visual motif. Transitions carry the texture of canvas — each scene another unfinished brushstroke.

Sound

Diegetic mostly. Music plays when the CD player is on. It stops when Bob's clarity does. Silence is not absence — it's his interior.

THEMES

Memory & Identity

What survives when the mind fails? Bob's dementia strips names and faces — but his love for Rose is the last thing standing.

Time & Regret

"I have money, but I don't have you." A life measured in the wrong currency.

Greed vs. Grace

Two young people discover that what an old man barely has is worth infinitely more than anything locked in his safe.

Unexpected Redemption

A quiet heist story that becomes a moral reckoning. No chase. No gunshot. Just a watch and a memory of Rose.



FESTIVAL STRATEGY

Tier 1 — World Premiere

Sundance Shorts · Tribeca · SXSW Shorts

Jan – Mar 2027

Tier 2 — International

Palm Springs ShortFest · Clermont-Ferrand · Toronto

Spring – Summer 2027

Tier 3 — Regional

Miami Film Festival · Florida Film Festival · Sarasota

Year-round

Oscar® Qualifying

5+ qualifying wins targeting Academy eligibility

Ongoing

DISTRIBUTION PATHWAY

01 Festival Circuit

12–18 month global run.

02 Streaming

MUBI · Criterion Channel · Shorts TV

03 Awards

BAFTA Short · Independent Spirit

04 Calling Card

Proof-of-concept for debut feature.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Social — BTS Campaign

Instagram & TikTok during the July shoot. Focus on the painting process, pill dispenser, and key dialogue fragments. Documenting the craft — not selling the film. Expanded into interviews, conversations, and podcast-style content with cast and crew to deepen the film's narrative and themes.

Impact & Partnerships

Collaboration with Alzheimer's organizations to expand reach and raise awareness.

The film becomes a narrative piece and a conversation driver around memory, identity, and aging.

Festival & Industry Strategy

Focused festival run in drama and arthouse circuits. Leveraging industry connections for introductions to managers, agents, and producers.

Supported by targeted outreach and execution through Valentino's agency.

Content & Brand Ecosystem

Director and producer Valentino Summo owns a digital marketing agency and has an existing online presence.

The film lives within a broader content ecosystem — building audience and engagement before, during, and after release. The goal is not just promotion, but audience-building around the film's themes.

Press Kit & EPK

Director's statement + screener. Targeting festival programmers, film journalists, and acquisition teams.

Distribution Strategy

Post-festival platform strategy targeting streaming platforms and curated digital releases.

Social Media & Talent Activations

Actor-led content including short-form videos, interviews, and BTS moments.

Designed to expand reach, humanize the film, and connect audiences beyond the screen.

PRODUCTION TIMELINE





FORMAT

Digital 4K

SHOOT

3–5 days

CREW

~15 people

LOCATION

1 house

BUDGET

Development & Pre-Production	\$1,200
Cast & Crew (3–5 shoot days)	\$13,500
Camera & Lighting Equipment	\$4,600
Art Direction & Props	\$2,600
Locations & Permits	\$800
Catering & Transportation	\$1,660
Post (Edit / Color / Sound)	\$2,500
Music & Clearances	\$500
Festival Submissions & DCP	\$700
Contingency	\$800
Total	\$28,860



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“That's all I barely have now.”

— *Bob*

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WhatIBarelyHave.AttomoStudio.com