

A man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He is standing in a modern office environment with a grid pattern on the ceiling and a fluorescent light fixture visible. The overall tone is professional and serious.

# *Sammy Issues*

**CRIME DRAMA / PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER**  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY VALERIE DENISE JONES / CO-WRITTEN BY DERRICK MUHAMMAD

# SYNOPSIS

A charismatic but deeply conflicted man invites the audience into his world, promising humor but unraveling something far darker beneath the surface. Struggling with unresolved trauma tied to his mother, he experiences violent fantasies whenever emotional tension rises—fantasies he insists are only in his mind.

Under the guidance of a psychiatrist who prescribes medication and immersive VR therapy, he begins reenacting his impulses in a controlled, virtual space—robbing homes, chasing control, and escaping consequences. But as the lines between imagination and reality begin to blur, so does the truth behind a string of real burglaries spreading across the city.

What he doesn't know is that his psychiatrist is not there to heal him—but to expose him.

As sessions turn into silent interrogations and fantasies feel increasingly real, a chilling question emerges: is he confessing to crimes he committed... or crimes he only believes he did?

And when the truth is finally revealed, it changes everything we thought we knew about him.

# THEMES

THE UNRELIABLE  
NATURE OF MEMORY

GUILT AND SELF-DECEPTION

THE INTERSECTION OF  
TECHNOLOGY AND TRUTH

THE HAUNTING  
CONSEQUENCES OF  
UNRESOLVED TRAUMA

# TONE

**Mommy Issues** carries a psychological, unsettling tone layered with dark, understated humor, unfolding like a quiet confession that slowly turns into something far more disturbing. The story draws the audience in with charm and wit, only to shift into discomfort as reality and imagination begin to blur, creating a constant sense of unease. Beneath its moments of levity lies a deeper tension—one that questions identity, truth, and control—while therapy sessions feel less like healing and more like interrogation. As the narrative progresses, the tone tightens, moving from intriguing and slightly offbeat to tense and disorienting, leaving the audience unsure of what is real and what is imagined, until the truth lands with unsettling clarity.



*Emmy Issues*

# CONCEPT OVERVIEW

A CHARISMATIC PATIENT BLURS FANTASY AND REALITY THROUGH VR THERAPY, UNAWARE HIS CONFESSIONS ARE BUILDING A CASE AGAINST HIM.

**Mommy Issues** is a vertical, experimental psychological short that blends slow-burning tension with dark, unsettling humor, exploring the fragile line between fantasy and reality through the mind of a man shaped by unresolved maternal trauma. Designed for a mobile-first, immersive experience, the film leans into intimacy and unease, using confessional storytelling, distorted perception, and controlled environments to pull the audience into a shifting psychological landscape where truth is unstable and identity is constantly in question. As humor gives way to tension, the story unfolds as both a character study and a quiet unraveling—leaving the audience to question not only what is real, but who he truly is.

# KEY CHARACTERS

# ROCKY

Rocky (Protagonist) - Charismatic, funny, and emotionally unpredictable, Rocky masks deep-rooted trauma tied to his mother with humor and charm. He invites the audience into his world like it's all a joke—but beneath that surface is a man losing control of what's real and what isn't.





# DR. LESLIE

Dr. Leslie (Psychiatrist)

Calm, intelligent, and quietly observant, Dr. Leslie presents as a trusted guide through Rocky's psychological struggles. But beneath the professional demeanor is a hidden agenda, turning each session into something far more calculated than therapy.

# DETECTIVE

Sharp, intuitive, and always one step ahead... until she's not. She's been tracking a pattern of burglaries and starts to suspect something deeper when the details don't add up.



# STORY BREAKDOWN



# SETTING

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A modern urban city—grounded, intimate, and quietly suffocating—serves as the backdrop, where ordinary life carries an undercurrent of tension. The story unfolds within controlled interior spaces—Dr. Leslie’s office, Rocky’s dim apartment, and immersive VR environments—that feel contained yet increasingly unstable. As Rocky’s mind begins to fracture, the boundaries between these spaces blur, turning a familiar world into a psychological landscape where control is an illusion and reality is no longer fixed.

# INCITING INCIDENT

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Rocky undergoes his first VR therapy session with Dr. Leslie, vividly acting out a burglary meant to stay in his imagination—only to later discover that the exact crime has occurred in the real world.





# RISING ACTION

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After discovering that his VR session mirrors a real burglary, Rocky tries to dismiss it, but the similarities continue. Each new session becomes more intense and disturbingly familiar, while details begin bleeding into his real life. As more crimes surface, Rocky grows paranoid, unsure if he's responsible or being manipulated, while Dr. Leslie subtly pushes him deeper into the therapy, blurring the line between treatment and interrogation.

# CLIMAX

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Rocky is forced to confront the truth during a final therapy session, where it's revealed that his VR experiences were not just simulations—but part of a calculated setup by Dr. Leslie to extract real confessions tied to the burglaries.





# CONCLUSION

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With Dr. Leslie's true intentions exposed, Rocky's world settles into an uneasy silence. The chaos is gone—but so is certainty. Pieces of the truth have surfaced, yet nothing feels fully resolved. Rocky is left in a controlled environment, no longer sure if he is a victim of manipulation or the architect of his own actions.

The outside world continues as normal, but for Rocky, reality remains fractured. The therapy sessions may be over, but their impact lingers—raising one final, haunting question:

Was he ever in control... or was he being shaped all along?

SERIES - S PRD

# PRODUCTION PLAN

*The Echoes of Silence*

## Pre-Production

6-8 Weeks

- Script Finalization & AI Production Development
- Digital Character & Performance Creation
- Virtual Environment & World Building
- AI-Driven Visual & Sound Design
- Post-Production & Final Assembly (Digital Pipeline)

## Post-Production

4-5 Weeks

- Editing & Digital Assembly
- AI-Enhanced Sound Design & Mixing
- Visual Effects & AI Pipeline
- Test Screenings and Final Revisions

## Digital Performance Capture & Direction

6-8 Days

- Character performances are developed and refined through AI, with creative direction shaping emotion, pacing, and delivery without live actors.

## Distribution & Marketing

2-3 Months

- Film Festival Submissions
- Marketing Campaigns
- Premieres and Release



*The Concept*

# TARGET AUDIENCE

**Mommy Issues** is a vertical psychological short designed for audiences drawn to character-driven thrillers that explore identity, trauma, and perception. It appeals to viewers who appreciate layered storytelling, unreliable narrators, and narratives that blur the line between reality and imagination. Targeting adults 18–45, the film resonates with those engaged in modern conversations around mental health, relationships, and emotional accountability, as well as audiences seeking thought-provoking, suspenseful content with a subtle edge of dark humor. Its vertical, digital-first format aligns with a new generation of viewers who consume immersive, visually driven storytelling across mobile and streaming platforms.

ENJOYS SLOW-BURN,  
TENSION-FILLED NARRATIVES  
THAT FOCUS ON  
PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH AND  
CHARACTER-DRIVEN STORIES.

18-45 (WITH A FOCUS ON 25-  
40 YEARS OLD)

ENJOYS ENGAGING WITH  
COMPLEX, THOUGHT-  
PROVOKING NARRATIVES THAT  
REQUIRE MENTAL  
ENGAGEMENT, OFFERING  
TWISTS AND MYSTERIES THAT  
KEEP THEM GUESSING.

VIEWERS WHO ENJOY  
ATMOSPHERE, TENSION, AND  
INTRICATE PLOTTING THAN BY  
TRADITIONAL ACTION

SERIES - S PRD

# MARKETING & COMPETITIVE EDGE

# MARKETING

**Mommy Issues** stands out as a bold, vertical psychological short that merges dark humor with unsettling realism, offering a fresh take on trauma, identity, and perception in the digital age. Its AI-driven production approach removes traditional limitations while delivering a controlled, visually cohesive cinematic experience.

Through a confessional tone and unreliable narrator, the film creates an immersive, character-driven experience that resonates with modern audiences drawn to layered, thought-provoking thrillers. Blending psychological tension with themes of mental health and technology, it speaks directly to a generation navigating identity in an increasingly mediated world.

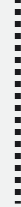
With its contained setting and digital-first execution, *Mommy Issues* is highly adaptable for festival programming—particularly within innovation and emerging technology categories—positioning it as both a compelling narrative and a forward-thinking, competitive project.

# THE PLAN



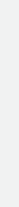
## Film Festival Submission

**Curated Festival Approach** – Submitting to festivals that support exclusive premieres and strong media engagement, maximizing exposure and organic audience growth.



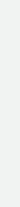
## Teaser Trailer

**Currently Streaming** – A teaser trailer is available, offering a glimpse into the film’s mysterious world, driven by mood, tension, and psychological intrigue.



## Press Kit

**Currently in Motion** – A full press kit is available, supported by strategic outreach to leading film blogs, independent film platforms, and genre-specific media to drive timely press engagement and awareness.



## Social Media

Actively creating buzz-worthy stories that fuel engagement, shares, mentions, and influencer visibility.



# STRATEGY

We are driving a high-impact campaign focused on maximum exposure, industry acknowledgment, and funding—leveraging strategic festival positioning, targeted press outreach, and sustained audience momentum to elevate the project at every level. By prioritizing premiere-focused festivals, cultivating media visibility, and activating digital engagement, we are building a strong, recognizable presence that attracts both audiences and industry stakeholders. This approach is designed not only to generate immediate buzz, but to create lasting impact, positioning the project for continued growth, expanded opportunities, and meaningful financial support.

# COMPETITIVE EDGE

This vertical film delivers a premium psychological thriller experience driven by sound, memory, and perception—setting it apart from conventional narratives. Its atmosphere-first approach, layered complexity, and non-linear storytelling are designed to engage both mainstream and niche audiences, maximizing discoverability and long-term value.

Built on a digitally driven production model, the project reduces overhead while maintaining high cinematic quality, creating a scalable path for expansion into episodic or serialized formats. Positioned for festival traction, streaming distribution, and cross-platform visibility, the film offers a forward-thinking, cost-efficient opportunity with strong potential for return on investment.

# BUDGET

THE BUDGET REMAINS FLEXIBLE AT THIS STAGE, REFLECTING THE PROJECT'S POSITIONING AS A PROOF OF CONCEPT. INVESTMENT WILL BE STRATEGICALLY DIRECTED TOWARD ACHIEVING STRONG PRODUCTION VALUE, FESTIVAL VISIBILITY, AND AUDIENCE TRACTION, WITH SCALABILITY BUILT INTO THE MODEL TO SUPPORT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANDED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

# INVESTMENT

THE INVESTMENT APPROACH IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT'S EARLY-STAGE POSITIONING AS A PROOF OF CONCEPT.

A FLEXIBLE, MULTI-SOURCE STRATEGY IS BEING CONSIDERED, WITH A FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING THE MOST EFFECTIVE PATHWAYS TO SUPPORT PRODUCTION, FESTIVAL EXPOSURE, AND FUTURE GROWTH.

THE GOAL IS TO BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION THAT MINIMIZES RISK WHILE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED FUNDING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND LONG-TERM SCALABILITY.



*Thank You!*