

What We Build



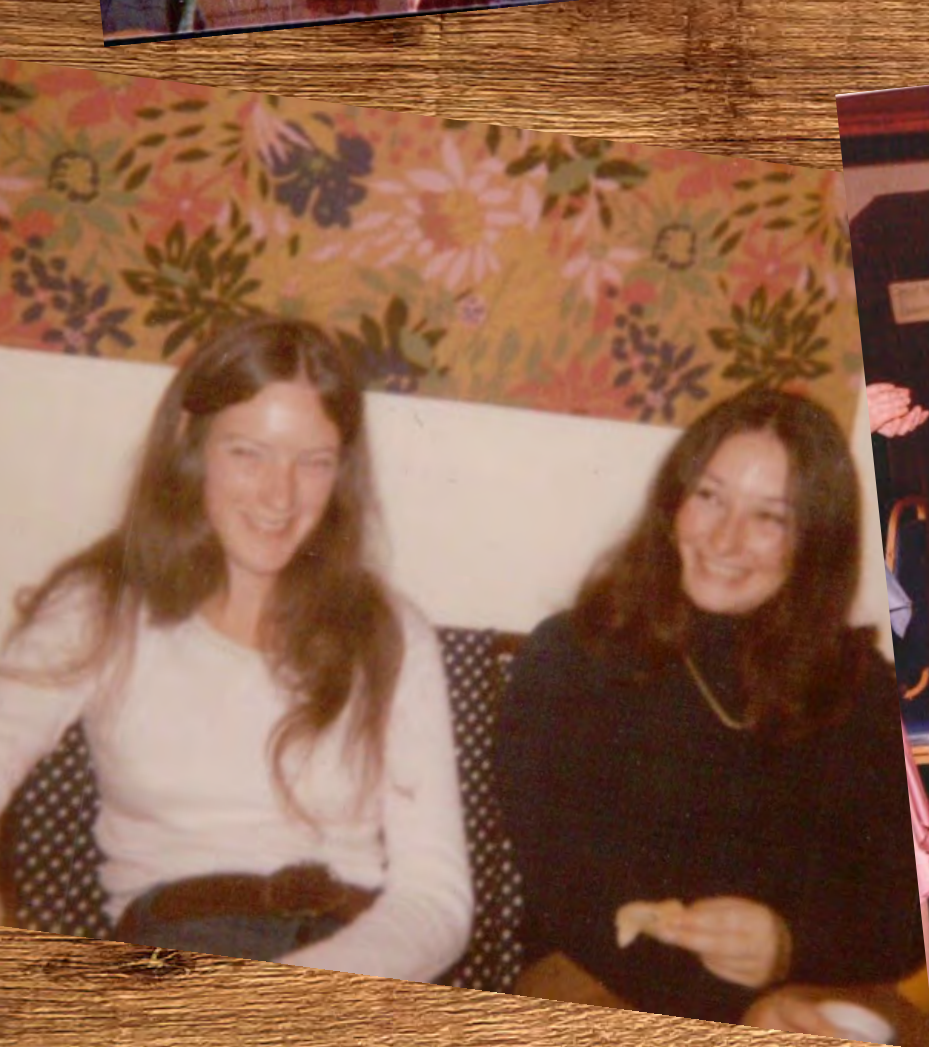
A close-up shot of a hand holding a small, vintage-style photograph. The photograph shows two men standing close together, both wearing dark sunglasses. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored t-shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt. The background of the photo is a plain, light color. The hand holding the photo is in the foreground, with fingers visible, and the background is dark and out of focus.

LOGLINE

On the heels of a breakup, a distant son is propelled on a journey of self discovery when traveling to Italy and retracing his family's roots.



Inspired by
Real Events



THE STORY

What We Build blends the past with the present in this multi-generational family story. Alex keeps his life in New York with his boyfriend separate from his family in New Jersey, but when a betrayal forces him to move back in with his parents, he finds himself lost and restless. As fate would have it, his mother enlists him on a mission to bring back his impulsive sister Sofia from Italy. Alex seizes the opportunity to escape and sets off on an adventure that changes his life forever.

It doesn't take long for Italy- and his sister- to start working their magic on him. As the siblings learn the story of their Egyptian father, Farid, and Italian-American mother, Pat, meeting in Florence forty years prior and the long-distance love letters their parents wrote each other, Alex finds himself opening up and questioning old ideas. But when Dave, their older brother, joins them, and Sofia's current obsession, Fabrizio, returns, Alex struggles with his place in this new dynamic.

After a blowout fight, a family emergency brings the siblings back home, where long standing issues are finally addressed. They all struggle to forgive and rebuild, and Alex realizes the ultimate choice is to love.



Pat-"The Matriarch"



Farid-"The Immigrant"



Dave-"The Golden Boy"



Sofia-"The Wild Child"



Alex-"The Distant Son"



Giulia-"The Ex-Pat"



Travis-"The Boyfriend"

LOCATIONS

ITALY



NEW YORK



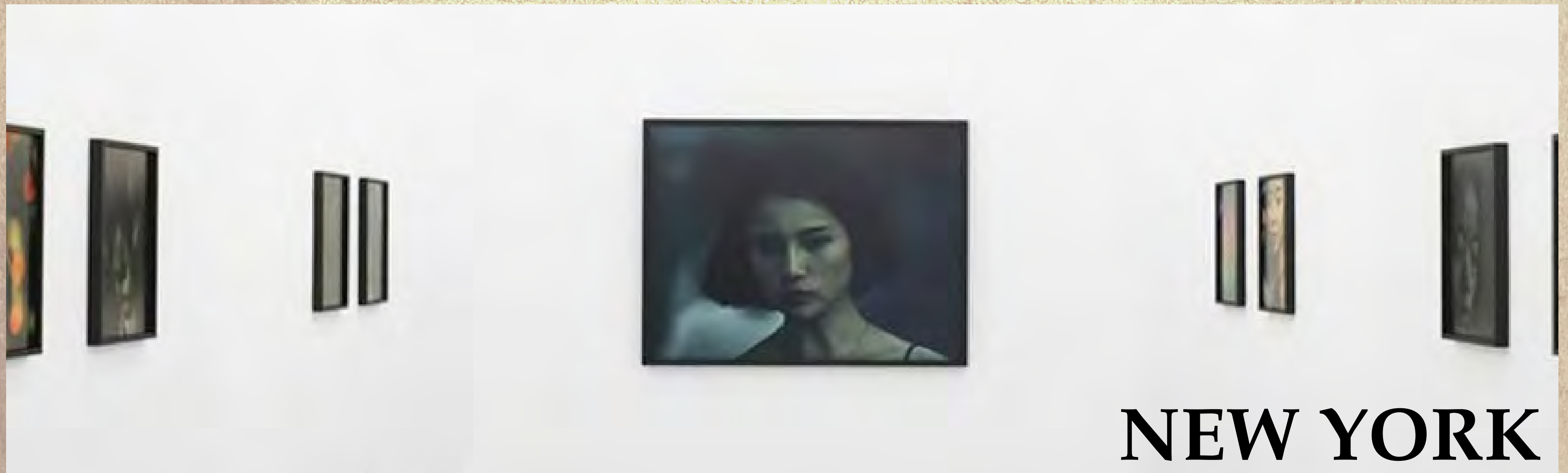
NEW JERSEY





ITALY





NEW YORK



NEW JERSEY

Artist's Statement and Bio:

Peter Sabri (co-writer)



From as early as I can remember, I grew up with the story of how my parents met. It would always be accompanied with someone saying, “it sounds like a movie” which always struck me because our lives felt so ordinary. One of three children, we were raised by hard working parents, in a middle-income household in suburban NJ. There was a lot of love, but it certainly wasn’t the fairytale their courtship seemed to be. I wanted to tell their history while framing it with a contemporary story of the family they built together. With over twenty years of friendship, and a rich history of collaboration Sue-Kate was the perfect partner in this. She knew the voices of these characters as well as I did, and we shared a shorthand that often left us finishing each others sentences.

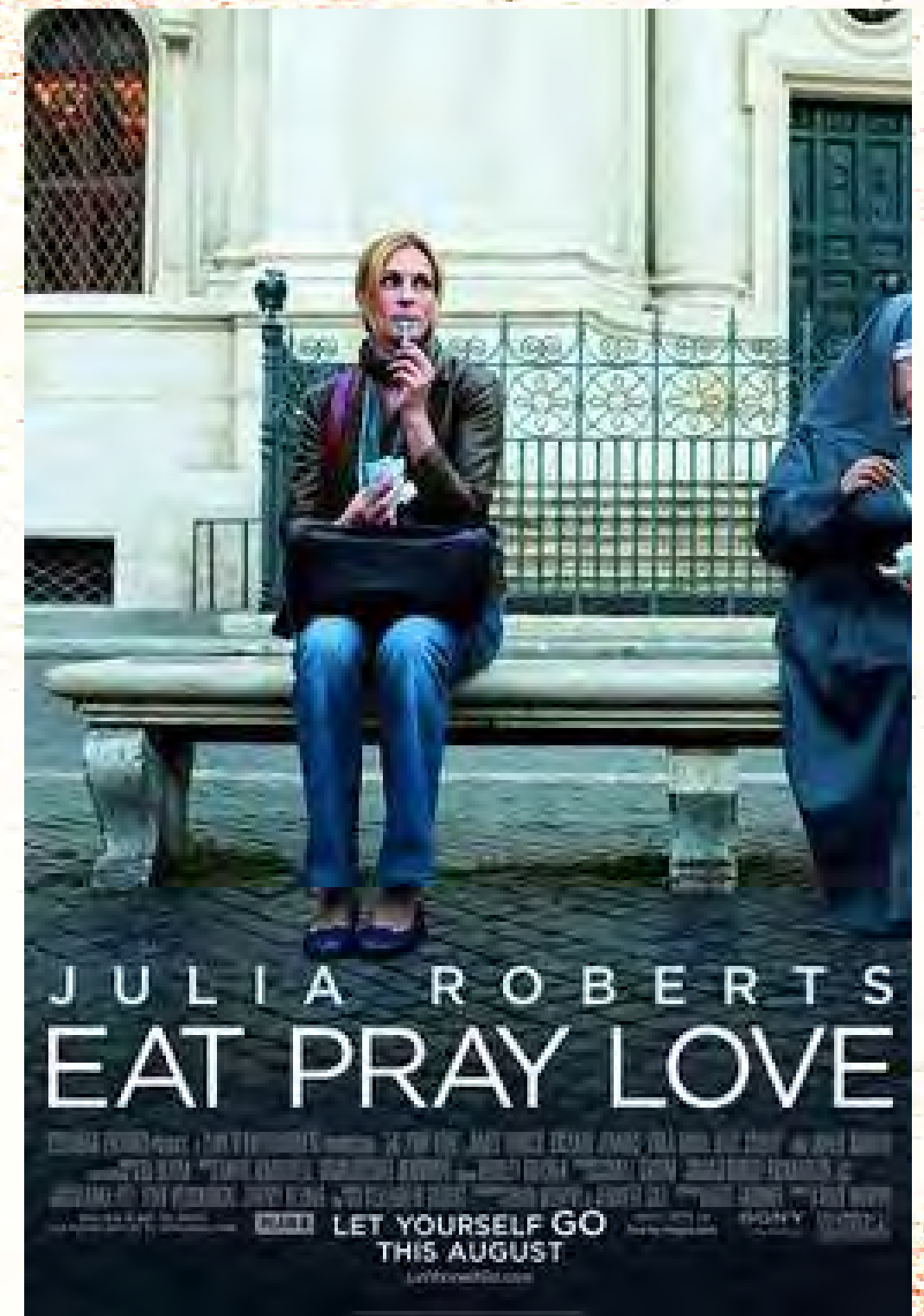
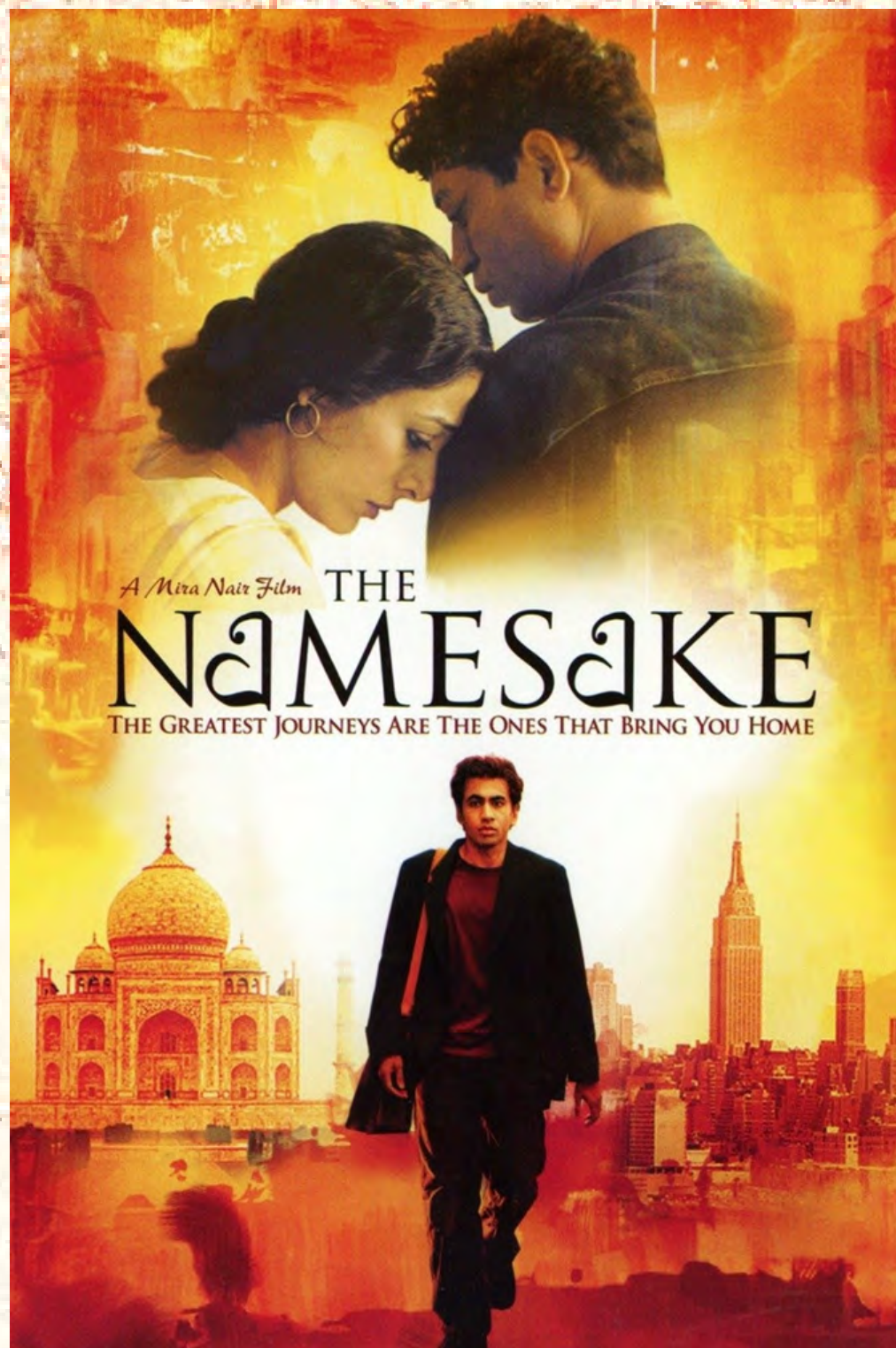
Peter Sabri started in NY in theater where he graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Among his many credits there he had the incredible fortune of reviving the two hander *Visiting Mr.Green* starring opposite legendary actor Eli Wallach. Since moving to LA he's continued to work in theater while branching out more into film and television (*Warnings, Live By Night, Grey's Anatomy*). His writing began with his one man piece *Sounds of Silence* premiering at ARULA's inaugural performance post 2016 election featured in the L.A. Times. He most recently co-wrote, produced, and starred in the short *Early Retirement* which serves as a calling card for this feature *What We Build*.

Susan-Kate Heaney (co-writer)



I've known Pete since sophomore year of college. He is a dear friend and collaborator, and I love each and every member of his family... which is why I was so thrilled to bring this story, inspired by them all, to life. We do not have enough films with LGBTQIA protagonists, full stop. I am thrilled to be telling this story about different cultures, identities, sexualities, wounds and experiences, and ultimately, how love can transcend it all.

Susan-Kate Heaney is a writer, actress and producer, and a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, currently living in Los Angeles. Most recently, the short *Buster, Baby* that she wrote (and directed/starred in) won the Best Short Short Jury Award at the Cannes Short Film Festival. She has created numerous one-woman shows, including *Mop-oholic* (the true story of her mop collection) and *Facebook with Mom* (the true and harrowing story of teaching her mom Facebook), performed at various theaters including Fringe, UCB, Second City, and the VS Theater. She is the co-creator of web-series *SK & J*, about writing partners who are complete opposites trying to break into Hollywood (just sold to Created by Women), *Gay Camp* (NY Fringe Festival Award Winner) and *The Openers* (Best Comedy, Broad Humor Film Festival). She hosts a podcast called *The Quirks* and writes for LadySpike magazine.

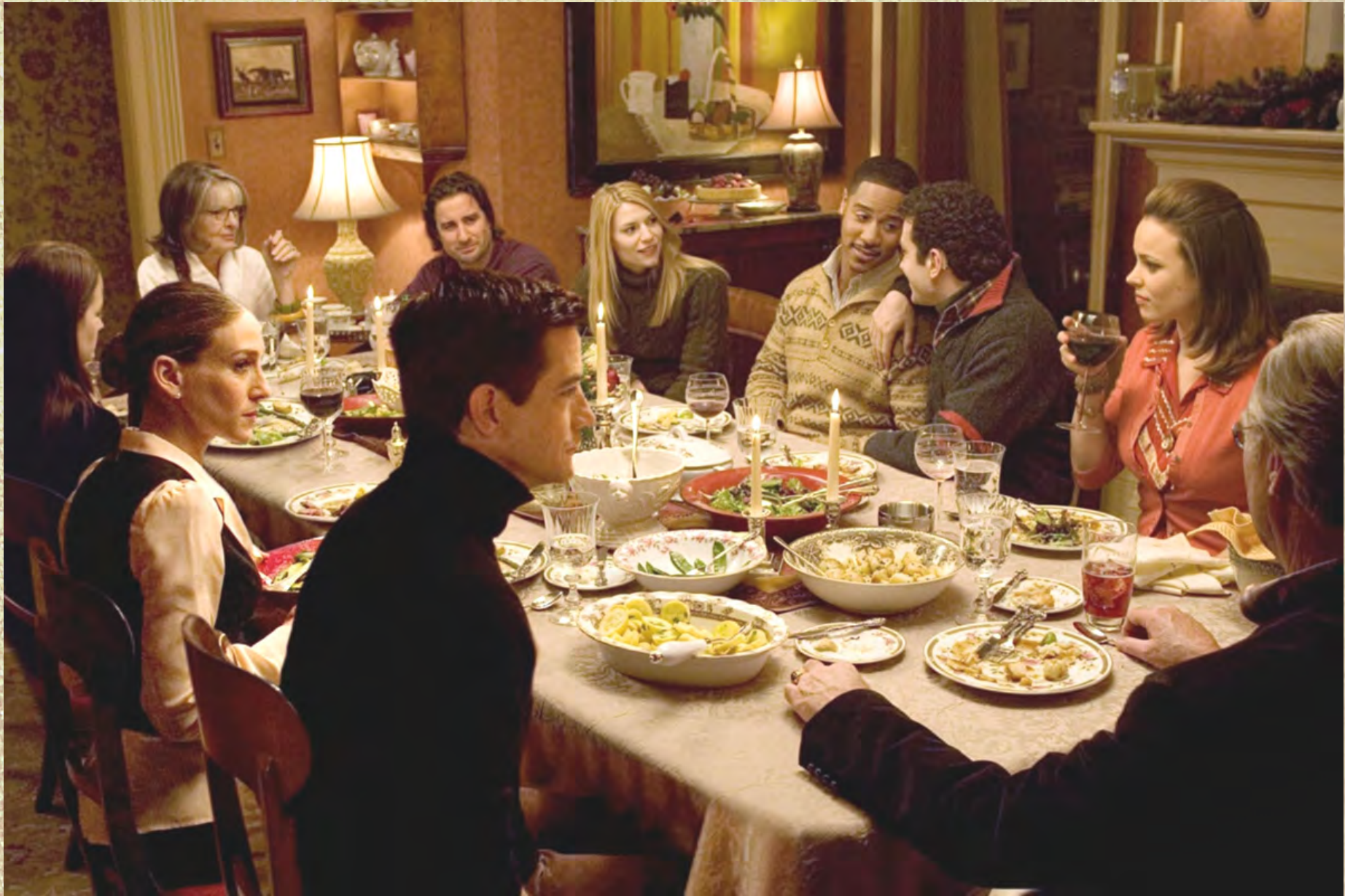


COMPS

A coming of age story by way of a journey centered around family and identity



Visual References



THE SHORT

Early Retirement was shot as a proof of concept for the feature. Starring **Adrienne Barbeau**, it tells the story of a 30-something year old man who moves in with his parents who live in a 55+ adult community, on the heels of a breakup with his boyfriend.



Click the photo to watch the trailer



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