

The Admissions

"IN THIS TOWN, PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO JUST KEEP UP WITH THE JONES', THEY WANT TO CRUSH THE JONES' THEN ROAST S'MORES ON THEIR FLAMING CORPSES..."

a mini series

PITCH BY VARNIKA MITHAL



NORA HAWTHORNE AND
HER PALO ALTO FAMILY
OF FOUR HAVE IT ALL,
BUT AS THE **TWISTED**
REALITIES OF THEIR
"PICTURE PERFECT"
SUBURBAN LIVES BEGIN
TO UNRAVEL, THE
FAMILY IS FORCED TO
DO THE
UNIMAGINABLE TO
PROTECT THEIR
COVETED REPUTATIONS.



RUN TIME/ LENGTH OF PROJECT

6 EPISODES— 45-MINUTES
FOR THE FIRST SEASON

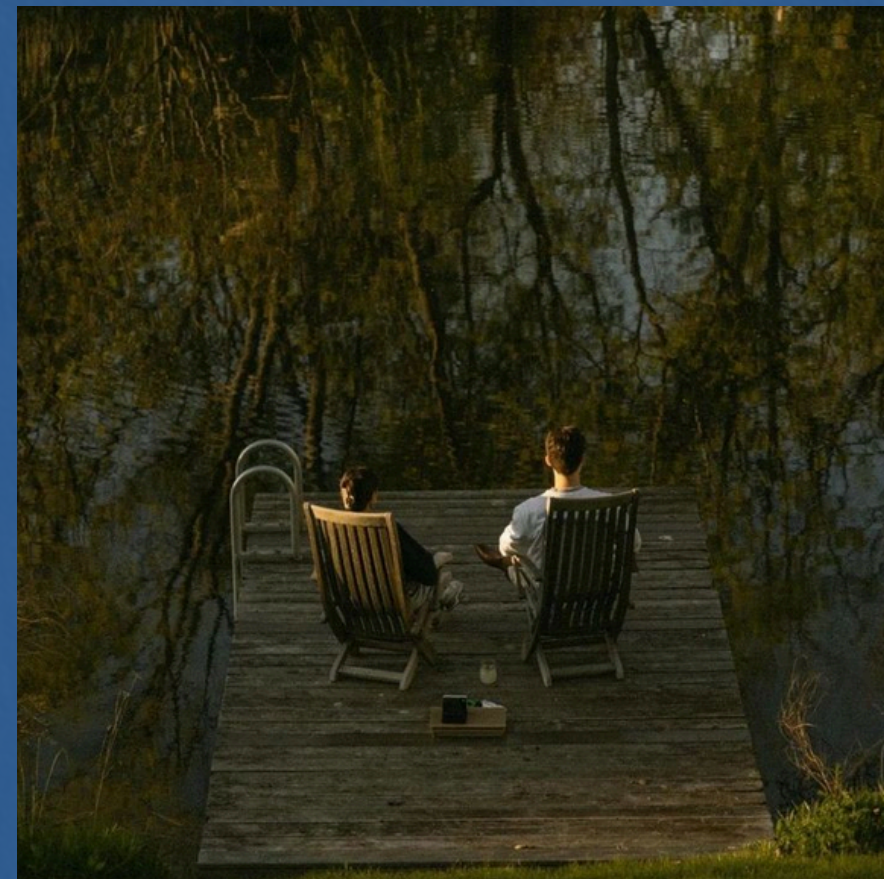
BUDGET: \$150K-\$200K/PER
EPISODE

Logline

Original Source Material



*Dark Satire
Dramedy*



THE NOVEL

MEG **MITCHELL MOORE** IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR KNOWN FOR NOVELS LIKE *VACATIONLAND*, *TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE*, AND *MANSION BEACH*.

HER NOVEL *THE ADMISSIONS* IS RATED **4.5/5 STARS ON AMAZON**, AND 3.7/5 ON GOODREADS, AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY USA TODAY, BUSTLE, AND PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY.

OUR APPROACH

WHILE THE NOVEL WAS WELL-RECEIVED IN THE LITERARY COMMUNITY, IT DIDN'T QUITE ACHIEVE MORE MAINSTREAM ACCESS.

THUS, WE BELIEVE THE STORY'S MORE "UNKNOWN" STATUS LENDS ITSELF TO A **FRESH AND ORIGINAL ADAPTATION**, LEANING ON THE STORY'S TIMELY THEMES TO BRING IT TO A WIDER AUDIENCE.

WE PLAN TO ADOPT A MORE **ABSURDIST LENS** THAT CATEGORIZES THIS SERIES AS A **DARK COMEDY-DRAMA**.



Reviews

PITCH PROJECT - PART 2 EXPANSION

"THE ADMISSIONS IS A SMART, HILARIOUS, COMPELLING NOVEL ABOUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS, SUBURBAN SCANDALS, AND RISKY SECRETS.

I COULDN'T STOP READING ABOUT THE HAWTHORNES—A PICTURE PERFECT FAMILY WHO WILL 'KEEP UP WITH THE JONESES' UNTIL THEY BURST."

— JENNIFER CLOSE

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF GIRLS IN WHITE DRESSES

"EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I READ A BOOK SO GOOD THAT THE QUALITY OF MY ENTIRE LIFE IMPROVES.

THE ADMISSIONS BY MEG MITCHELL MOORE IS A FUN, FAST-PACED, COMPLETELY ENGROSSING TALE OF A CALIFORNIA FAMILY TRYING TO GET THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER INTO HARVARD.

LET ME RAVE: THIS BOOK IS BRILLIANT AND ENJOYABLE ON EVERY LEVEL. I LOVED IT! IT'S MY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE OF 2015."

— ELIN HILDERBRAND

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF BEAUTIFUL DAY AND THE MATCHMAKER

"WITH HER RAZOR SHARP WIT AND STIRRINGLY KEEN INSIGHTS, MEG MITCHELL MOORE DIGS DEEP INTO THE ZEITGEIST OF A MODERN FAMILY DESPERATE TO KEEP THEIR HEADS ABOVE WATER. ADD IN LONG-HIDDEN SECRETS, CUTTHROAT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, AND REVOLVING PERSPECTIVES AND YOU HAVE AN UNDENIABLY ADDICTIVE READ."

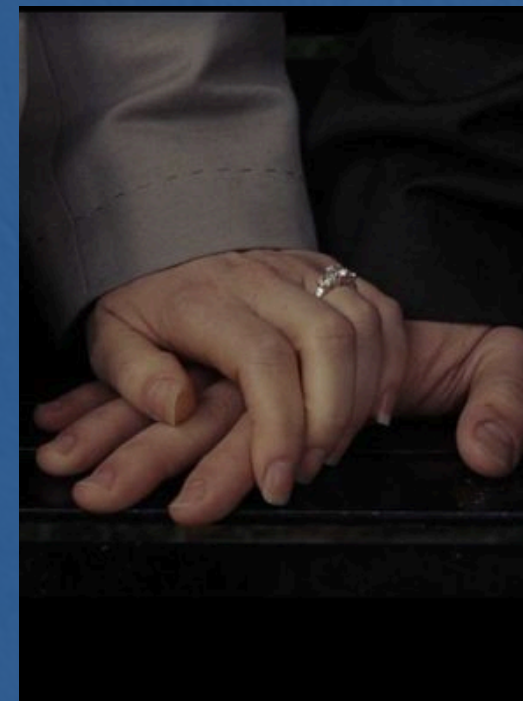
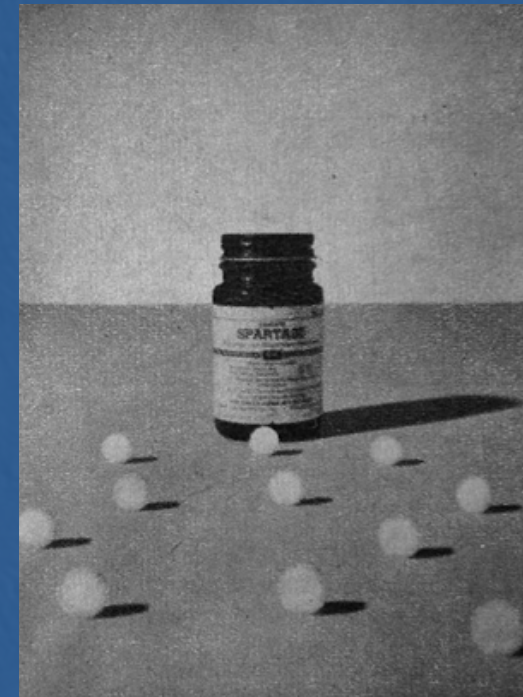
— EMILY LIEBERT

AUTHOR OF WHEN WE FALL

Synopsis

IN THIS MINI-SERIES, "THE ADMISSIONS" SATIRIZES THE HAWTHORNES' STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR REPUTATION AS A **PRISTINE, WHITE-PICKET FENCE** CALIFORNIA FAMILY. BUT AS THIS FAMILY STRIVES TO KEEP THEIR PICTURE-PERFECT IMAGE, THE **DARK DEMONS** EACH MEMBER FACES BEGIN TO REVEAL THEMSELVES.

NORA, A COMPETITIVE REALTOR, IS THE VICTIM OF A **SWAT RAID** AFTER ILLEGALLY REMOVING AN ENDANGERED PLANT TO SAVE A HIGH-STAKES SALE. HER HUSBAND GABE, A PARTNER AT AN ADVERTISING AGENCY, IS **BLACKMAILED** BY A NEW INTERN WHO LEARNS OF HIS **STINTS IN REHAB** AND LIES ABOUT ATTENDING HARVARD. THEIR DAUGHTER ANGELA LOOKS LIKE A "SHOE-IN" FOR HER OWN HARVARD ADMISSION, BUT NOT BEFORE AN **ADDERALL ADDICTION** AND RIVALRY WITH HER OVERBEARING COLLEGE COUNSELOR THREATEN HER STATUS. AND THEIR "SPORTY BUT SENSITIVE" SON CECIL MIGHT SEEM LIKE THE ONLY INNOCENT MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, BUT THE TENSION AROUND HIM IS MANIFESTING ITSELF IN **DISTURBING** WAYS. BETWEEN **"NOT-SO-ACCIDENTAL" MURDERS, AFFAIRS, DRUGS**, PTA MEETINGS AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, WILL THE HAWTHORNE FAMILY RECLAIM THEIR WHITE-PICKET IMAGE, OR **CRACK UNDER THE PRESSURE**?



AND HOW WE

FOR NORA, PERFECTION IS A RECIPE. AS THE **"SUPER-MOM"** RAISING TWO CHILDREN AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS, BALANCING THESE PURSUITS IS AN UNDERTAKING THAT CAN MAKE ANYONE CRAZY.

CARRIE COON

- CAN HAVE THE PERFECT "RICH SUBURBAN MOM" LOOK BUT SHE ALSO HAS A VERY POWERFUL, UNSETTLING AURA
- SHE'S SHARP AND HAS CONTROLLED INTENSITY AND HER FACIAL EXPRESSIONS CARRY A LOT OF LAYERS OF EMOTIONS

NORA



AND HOW

GABE IS A FATHER DEDICATED TO JUGGLING HIS CHILDREN'S EXTRACURRICULARS AND A HUSBAND DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN HIS WIFE'S PERFECT FACADE - UNTIL HIS NEW INTERN **THREATENS TO UNEARTH DECADES-LONG LIES.**

SCOOT MCNAIRY

- REALISTIC FOR HBO; AND IS GOOD AT PLAYING ROLES THAT DEMONSTRATE TOXIC FRAGILE MASCULINITY
- HE HAS A VERY RUGGED CORPORATE LOOK. IT IS VERY EASY TO PICTURE HIM IN THE RICH WHITE DAD ROLE.
- CAN TAP INTO CREATING A VERY INTENSE AURA— WHEN NEEDED

GABE



AND HOW

THE ELDEST HAWTHORNE SISTER EMBODIES HER FAMILY'S **RELENTLESS** PURSUIT OF GREATNESS. AMBITIOUS, BRILLIANT, AND WELL-CONNECTED, ANGELA'S HARVARD ADMISSION WILL SURELY BECOME ANOTHER TESTAMENT TO HER **ELITE ABILITIES**. RIGHT?

KATHRYN NEWTON

- ACTED IN "THE SOCIETY" AND HAS DEMONSTRATED TALENT IN PSYCHOLOGICAL PROJECTS
- SHE IS REALLY GOOD AT "CRASHING OUT" IN AN UNHINGED, TEENAGER KIND OF WAY
- SHE EXCELS AT TRANSFORMING HER CHARACTER FROM SWEET TO DRASTICALLY UNSETTLING

ANGELA



AND HOW

SANDWICHED BETWEEN HIS DEMANDING FAMILY MEMBERS, 12-YEAR-OLD CECIL EMBODIES THE TRUE **BLACK SHEEP**: ALIENATED AND OFTEN FORGOTTEN. THOUGH WITH HIS PARENTS' EYES AVERTED, TIMID CECIL FINDS HIMSELF IN A **TWISTED DISTURBING MESS** OF HIS OWN.

JACOBI JUPE

- THE ACTOR IS ACTUALLY 12 YEARS OLD SO FITS THE ROLE PERFECTLY
- WE WANT TO EVOKE THE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE THAT WOULD COME WITH THE CONTRADICTION OF JACOBI'S SWEET BABY FACE AND THE DETACHED DEMENOUR OF HIS CHARACTER
- HE WAS IN HAMNET AND DID A PHENOMENAL JOB EMBODYING HIS CHARACTER

CECIL



Episodes



EPISODE 1: THE PILOT

HOMECOMING NIGHT SHOULD BE A CELEBRATION, BUT FOR THE HAWTHORNES, IT'S A **NIGHTMARE IN SLOW MOTION**. SWAT TEAMS CRASH THE DANCE, STUDENTS ARE SCREAMING, AND THE FAMILY'S **PRISTINE FACADE SHATTERS BEFORE THEIR EYES**.

MOTHER, FATHER, AND DAUGHTER COLLIDE IN CHAOS — NORA HIDES BITES ON HER HAND, ANGELA RUNS IN TEARS TOWARD HER COLLEGE COUNSELOR, EYES BLAZING WITH **DANGEROUS INTENT**. GABE ARRIVES, AFFAIR ALMOST EXPOSED, TOO LATE TO STOP THE SPIRAL. BETWEEN FRANTIC TEXTS FROM **MISSING SON** CECIL AND WHISPERS OF **BLACKMAIL**, THE SERIES PLUNGES STRAIGHT INTO **ABSURDIST MAYHEM** — INTRODUCING A FAMILY WHERE AMBITION, OBSESSION, AND DARK SECRETS GUARANTEE THAT **NO ONE LEAVES UNSCATHED**.

Episodes



EPISODE 2: “ANGELA”

VALEDICTORIAN ANGELA HAWTHORNE IS THE **EMBODIMENT OF CONTROL AND AMBITION** — HAIR PERFECTLY IN PLACE, GRADES IMMACULATE, EVERY EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOUNTED FOR. AS HARVARD APPLICATION SEASON APPROACHES, SHE PUSHES HERSELF TO **EXTREMES**: NEGOTIATING WITH HER MANIPULATIVE COLLEGE COUNSELOR, DODGING PEERS WHO THREATEN HER TOP SPOT, AND **RESISTING THE TEMPTATION OF ADDERALL**. BUT WHEN SHE WALKS IN ON HER FATHER’S AFFAIR MOMENTS BEFORE HER CRITICAL HARVARD INTERVIEW, **THE WORLD SHE METICULOUSLY BUILT CRUMBLES**. THE RESULTING MELTDOWN TURNS A POISED “GOLDEN GIRL” INTO A **COMBUSTIBLE MIX OF RAGE, PANIC, AND DESPERATE SCHEMING**, SETTING THE TONE FOR A SERIES WHERE AMBITION AND FAMILY LOYALTY ARE FORCED TO BE AT ODDS.

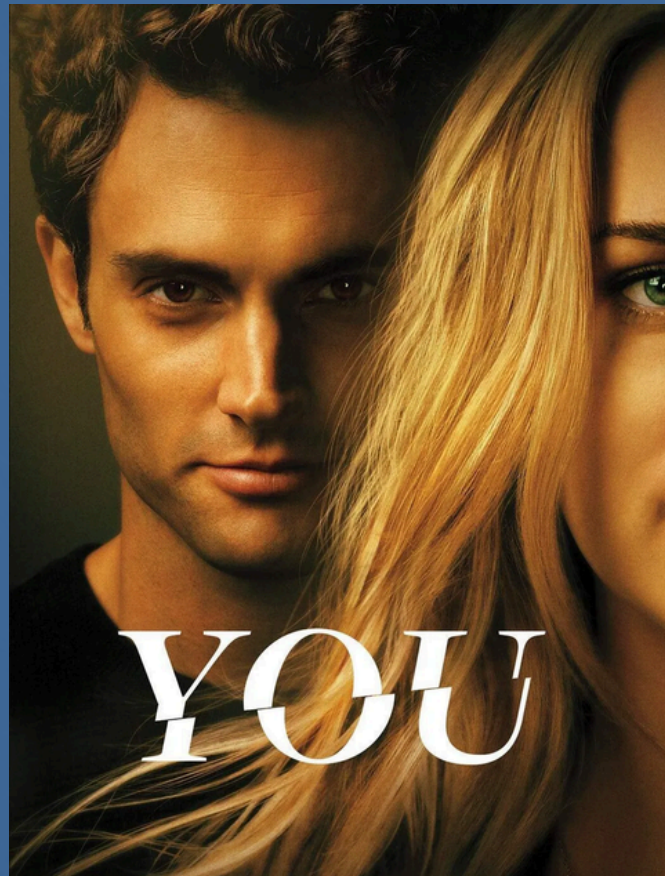
Episodes



EPISODE 3: "GABE"

GABE HAWTHORNE'S CAREFULLY CURATED LIFE — **SUCCESSFUL, COMPOSED, ADMIRABLE** — IS UNRAVELING. HIS AMBITIOUS INTERN KNOWS EVERY SECRET: HE **NEVER ACTUALLY ATTENDED HARVARD**, HE HAS A **REHAB PAST**, AND SHE HOLDS LEVERAGE OVER BOTH HIS CAREER AND HIS DAUGHTER'S FUTURE. AS **BLACKMAIL, EROTIC TENSION, AND WORKPLACE POLITICS COLLIDE**, GABE STRUGGLES TO MAINTAIN CONTROL, ONLY TO BE JOLTED BY A RARE MOMENT OF VULNERABILITY WITH HIS WIFE. WHEN **ANGELA WALKS IN ON THE AFFAIR**, FATHER AND DAUGHTER ARE FORCED TO CONFRONT NOT JUST BETRAYAL, BUT THE **FRAGILITY OF THE FAMILY'S ENTIRE MORAL FACADE**. THIS EPISODE DEEPENS THE SERIES' DARKLY COMEDIC TENSION, SHOWING THAT IN THE HAWTHORNE WORLD, **NO SECRET STAYS BURIED AND NO ONE IS TRULY INNOCENT**.

Comparison Projects



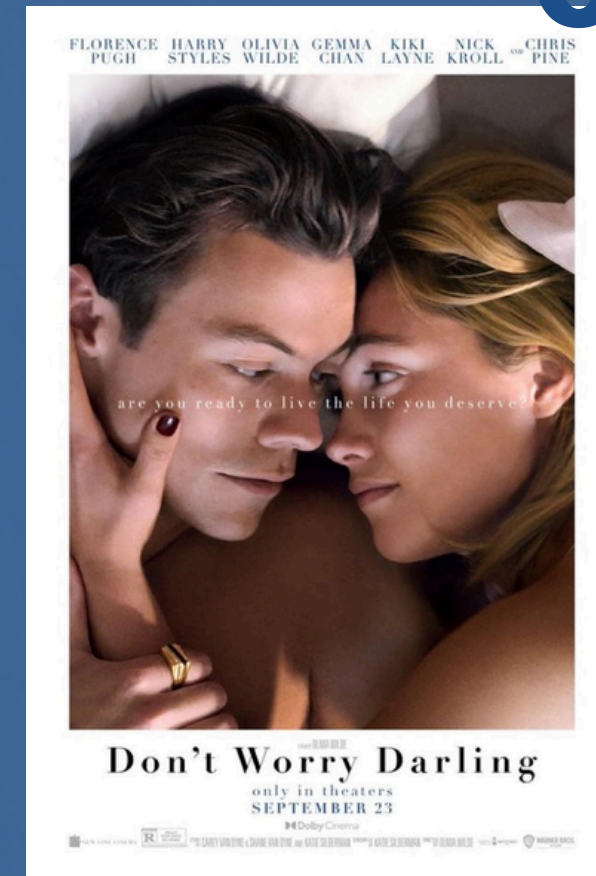
YOU

GRIPPING | OBSESSIVE | INTENSE
PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER & SATIRICAL
DARK COMEDY



THE POLITICIAN

ACIDIC | CAMPY | SURREAL | SATIRICAL
DARK COMEDY-DRAMA
& SATIRE



DON'T WORRY DARLING

IMMERSIVE | OPPULENT | SURREAL
PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER,
DYSTOPIAN, & MYSTERY



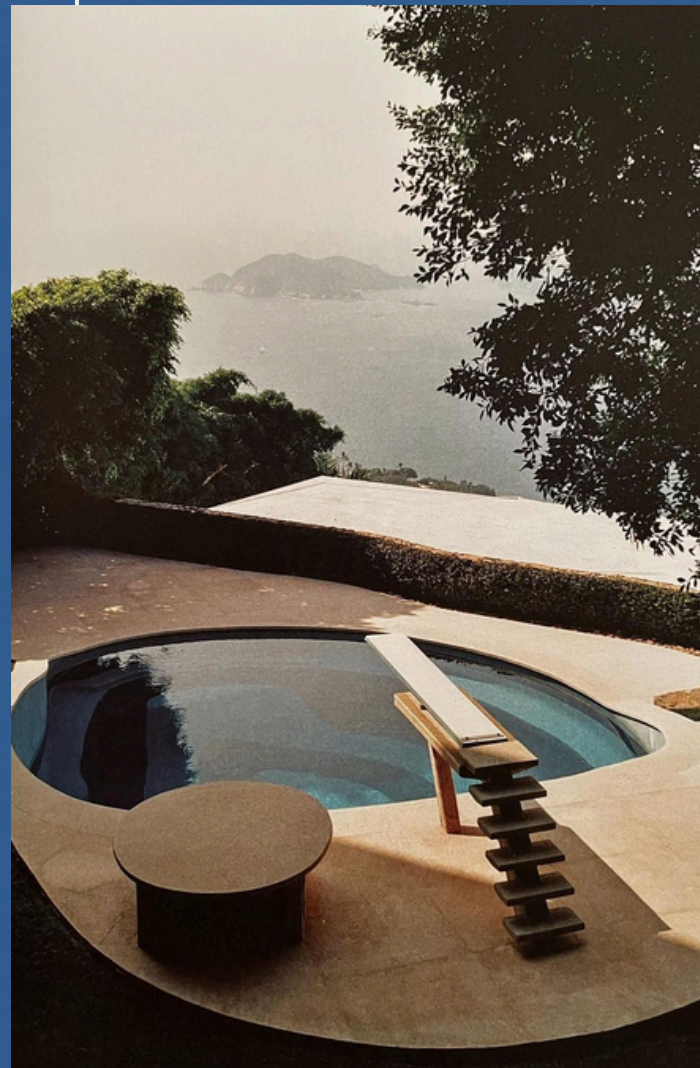
THE HOUSEMAID

UNHINGED | TWISTY | STYLISH |
PSYCHOLOGICAL/ EROTIC/ GOTHIC
THRILLER

THE ADMISSIONS SITS AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE **BINGEABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL TENSION** OF *YOU*, THE **STYLIZED AMBITION SATIRE** OF *THE POLITICIAN*, THE **AESTHETICIZED DOMESTIC ILLUSION** OF *DON'T WORRY DARLING*, AND THE NOVEL-TO-SCREEN THRILLER PIPELINE OF *THE HOUSEMAID*. THE SUCCESS OF THESE SHOWS PROVES THERE IS A STRONG MARKET FOR **GLOSSY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY CHARGED** STORIES THAT **EXPLORE THE ROT BENEATH PRIVILEGE**.

AUDIENCES ARE DRAWN TO MORALLY COMPROMISED CHARACTERS, ELITE INSTITUTIONS, AND THE **COLLAPSE OF CAREFULLY CURATED LIVES**. *THE ADMISSIONS* FITS SQUARELY IN THIS PROVEN LANE — BUT DIFFERENTIATES ITSELF THROUGH ITS ENSEMBLE FAMILY LENS AND SHARP SATIRE OF THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. IT'S PRESTIGE, BINGEABLE, CULTURALLY TIMELY, AND BUILT FOR CONVERSATION — A SMART, COMMERCIALY VIABLE RISK WITH CLEAR AUDIENCE PRECEDENT.

Potential Reception



CLICHÉ OR NICHE?

THIS SHOW IS NOT ABOUT JUST ADMISSIONS — IT'S ABOUT IDENTITY, STATUS, AND REPUTATION. ADMISSIONS IS THE PRESSURE COOKER, NOT THE PREMISE. THE THEMES ARE UNIVERSAL AND EVERGREEN.

SIMILAR TO EXISTING MEDIA, SPECIFICALLY PRESTIGE SATIRES?

WHILE IT LIVES IN A PROVEN TONAL SPACE, ITS ENSEMBLE FAMILY IMPLOSION STRUCTURE AND ABSURDIST EDGE DIFFERENTIATE IT. THE FOCUS ON SYSTEMIC, GENERATIONAL AMBITION GIVES IT A FRESH NARRATIVE ENGINE.

CLEAR (EMOTIONAL) ANCHOR?

WHILE THE SERIES IS BITING AND ABSURD, ITS CORE IS DEEPLY HUMAN: A FAMILY TERRIFIED OF LOSING RELEVANCE, STATUS, AND EACH OTHER. THERE IS EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY — ADDICTION, INSECURITY, PARENTAL FEAR, MARITAL FRACTURE. WE AREN'T JUST WATCHING A TAKEDOWN OF PRIVILEGE; WE'RE WATCHING PEOPLE UNRAVEL UNDER PRESSURE. THAT EMOTIONAL GROUNDING TRANSFORMS THE PROJECT FROM CLEVER COMMENTARY INTO COMPULSIVE, CHARACTER-DRIVEN TELEVISION.

Project's Appeal

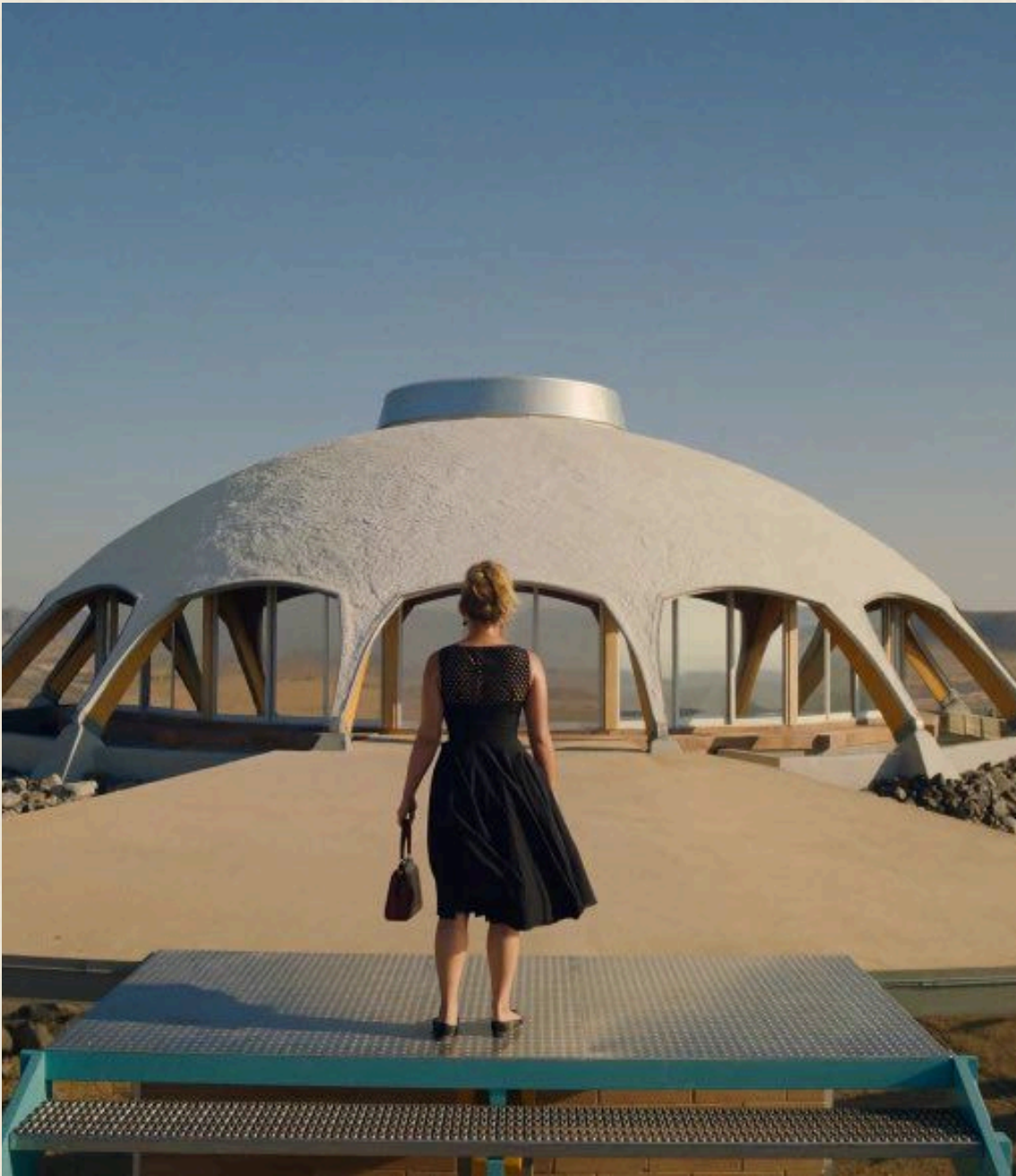
GIVEN HBO'S INCREDIBLY STRONG LEGACY FOR SUCH SATIRES LIKE THE *WHITE LOTUS*, *BARRY*, *THE REGIME*, AND *MOUNTAINHEAD*, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS SERIES WILL **FIT BEAUTIFULLY INTO THE STUDIO'S UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT SLATE.** ITS BOLD CHARACTERS, SLIGHTLY ABSURDIST SATIRICAL ELEMENTS, STRONG WORLD-BUILDING, AND HILARIOUS COMMENTARY ON CLASS AND WEALTH ARE ALL TENETS OF HBO'S TELEVISION CULTURE. IT ALSO TAPS INTO TIMELY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT **AMBITION AND SELF-WORTH, "COMING-OF-AGE" AT EVERY AGE, AND THE OBSESSION WITH IMAGE AND REPUTATION IN OUR MODERN-DAY WORLD.**

"WHAT'S A LITTLE DECEIT, INFIDELITY AND MURDER? NO ONE SAID THE AMERICAN DREAM WAS EASY. WHATEVER IT TAKES, RIGHT?"

AUDIENCE AND DEMOGRPAHIC

- 18-34 STREAMING AUDIENCE (DRAWN TO DARK SATIRE AND PRESTIGE DRAMA)
- 35-54 ADULT VIEWERS (PARENTS NAVIGATING AMBITION, STATUS, AND FAMILY PRESSURE)
- STRONG CROSS-GENDER APPEAL





Thank you

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO VIEW THIS PRESENTATION.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION, AND ARE
EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING TOGETHER.

*We Look Forward to
Seeing You in Sunny
California!*



CONTACT: [THEADMISSIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:theadmissions@gmail.com)