

december 2025

a short film by portia lundie

DANCERS WANTED

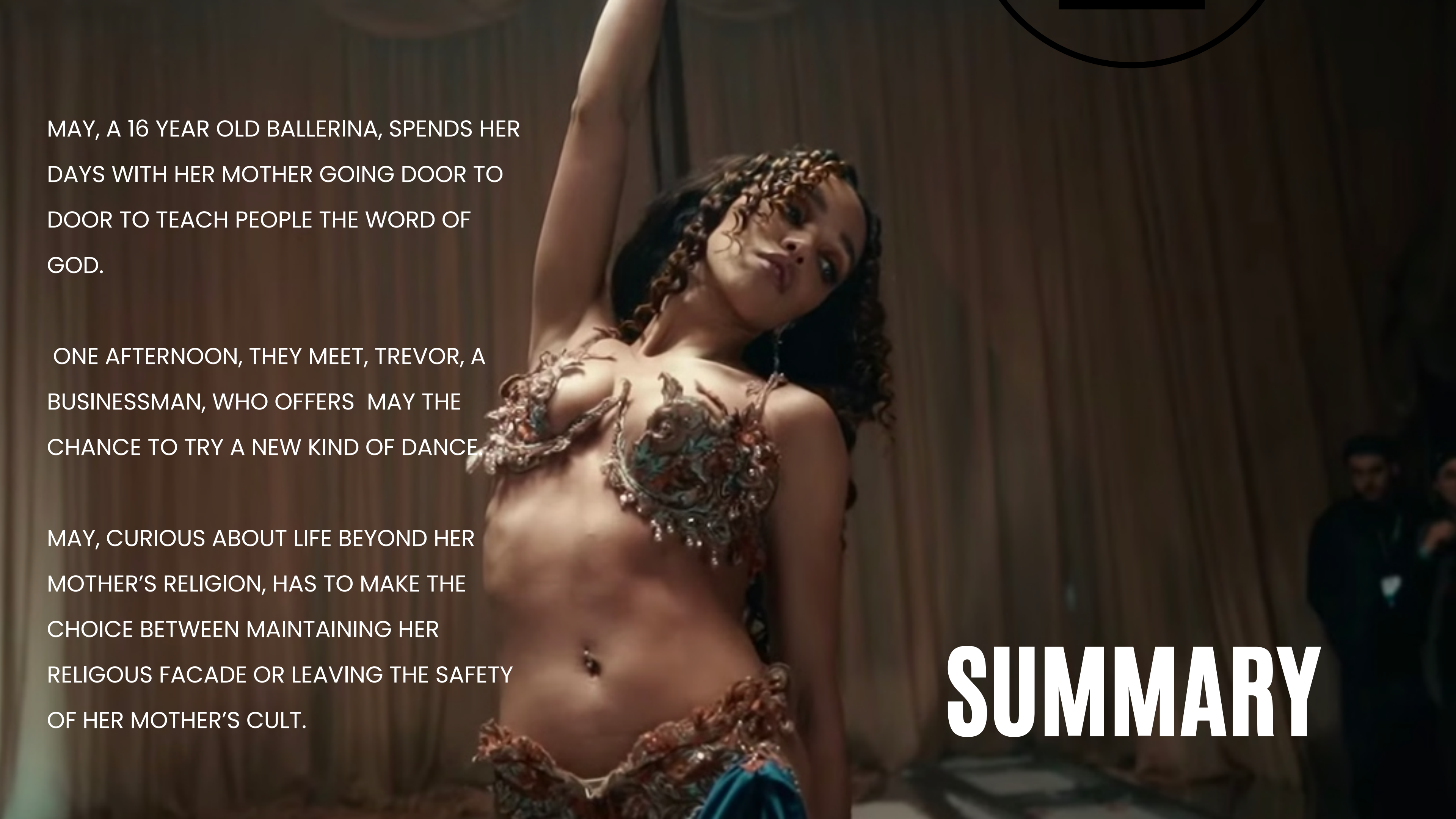
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A FILM BY PORTIA LUNDIE

LOG LINE +

A TEENAGE BALLERINA'S SECRETS ARE
REVEALED DURING A MEETING WITH A
POTENTIAL RECRUIT TO HER MOTHER'S
RELIGIOUS CULT.



MAY, A 16 YEAR OLD BALLERINA, SPENDS HER DAYS WITH HER MOTHER GOING DOOR TO DOOR TO TEACH PEOPLE THE WORD OF GOD.

ONE AFTERNOON, THEY MEET, TREVOR, A BUSINESSMAN, WHO OFFERS MAY THE CHANCE TO TRY A NEW KIND OF DANCE

MAY, CURIOUS ABOUT LIFE BEYOND HER MOTHER'S RELIGION, HAS TO MAKE THE CHOICE BETWEEN MAINTAINING HER RELIGIOUS FACADE OR LEAVING THE SAFETY OF HER MOTHER'S CULT.

SUMMARY

DANCERS WANTED IS A STORY ABOUT
DUAL IDENTITY. IT'S ABOUT MY OWN
EXPERIENCE GROWING UP IN NEW YORK
CITY ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL AFTER A
NIGHT OF CLUBBING IN DOWNTOWN
MANHATTAN.

THIS STORY IS ABOUT THE MOMENT WHEN
TWO WORLDS ARE FORCED TO COLLIDE
WITH EACH OTHER.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



LOCATION 1

MAY AND MS. JACKSON LIVE IN
YONKERS, BUT MAY ATTENDS A
PRESTIGIOUS DANCE SCHOOL
IN THE CITY, WHICH GIVES HER
A CHANCE TO EXPLORE A LIFE
OUTSIDE OF HER MOTHER'S
REACH.

A woman in a red outfit is performing a pole dance on a stage in a nightclub. The stage is illuminated with colorful lights, and the background is decorated with hanging lights. The ceiling features a circular light fixture with orange and red lights. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, sitting at tables and watching the performance. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and energetic.

LOCATION 2

May's ballet skills are
tested on a new stage

COLOR PALETTE

SUBTLE, NATURAL & EARTHY TONES, HIGH SUBJECTIVITY.
WE SEE THE WORLD(S) THROUGH MAY'S EYES AT ALL TIMES



MS. JACKSON

A DEVOUT WOMAN TORN BETWEEN
HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER
DAUGHTER AND HER RELIGIOUS
DOCTRINE

A close-up, profile shot of a young woman with dark skin and her hair styled in small braids. She is looking off-camera to the left with a thoughtful expression. The background is a warm, out-of-focus interior space.

MAY

A 16 YEAR OLD BALLERINA WHO REBELS QUIETLY
BY LIVING A LIFESTYLE HER MOTHER WOULD
NEVER APPROVE OF. UNTIL NOW, MAY HAS
SUCCESSFULLY STRADDLED BETWEEN WORLDS,
BUT A MEETING WITH TREVOR, A CLUB OWNER,
MIGHT FORCE HER TO CHOOSE ONE
PERMANENTLY

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark brown suit jacket over a patterned shirt, stands in a dimly lit club. He is holding a white cup in his right hand, which has a ring on the ring finger. The background shows a bar with shelves of bottles, a television screen, and several round tables with red tablecloths and lit candles. The overall atmosphere is warm and intimate.

TREVOR

A BENEVOLENT OWNER OF A
GENTLEMAN'S CLUB THAT OFFERS
MAY A LIFE OUTSIDE HER MOTHER'S
CONTROL.

PROJECT SUMMARY

PRE-PRODUCTION: OCTOBER 23RD – NOVEMBER 25TH

SHOOTING DATES: DECEMBER 2ND – DECEMBER 6TH, 2025

SHOOTING LOCATION: YONKERS, NY

WRITER / DIRECTOR: PORTIA LUNDIE

PRODUCER: ANSHOOL PRADHAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: BEN BONWITT-MARSH

FORMAT: ARRI ALEXA mini DIGITAL

BUDGET: \$ 8,000

A close-up portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling and looking slightly to the side. She has a nose ring and is wearing a striped shirt. The background is a warm, textured wall.

WRITER /DIRECTOR

PORTIA LUNDIE, THE WRITER/DIRECTOR IS CURRENTLY AN MFA CANDIDATE AT NYU TISCH. SHE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN NEW YORK CITY BY HER JAMAICAN-BRITISH FAMILY AND HER GUYANESE FAMILY LIVES IN SILVERSPRING, MD

PORTIA TRAINED AS A DANCER FROM THE AGE OF 3 AT DANCE ACADEMIES IN THE BRONX, HARLEM, AND MIDTOWN WHILE ATTENDING AN ALL-GIRL'S SCHOOL ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE. HER EXPERIENCES IN THE CITY INSPIRED HER TO WRITE STORIES SINCE SHE GOT HER FIRST LAPTOP AT THE AGE OF 10 AND WATCHED FILMS ABOUT TRI-STATE YOUTH BY HARMONY KORINE & KEVIN SMITH.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

BEN BONWITT MARSH IS A NEW YORK BASED CINEMATOGRAPHER. HE IS CURRENTLY IN HIS SENIOR YEAR AT NYU TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS STUDYING FILM AND TV PRODUCTION.

BEN HAS EXPERIENCE SHOOTING STUDENT SHORTS, INDEPENDENT SHORTS AND COMMERCIAL WORK FOR A WIDE RANGE OF CLIENTAL.

AFTER SPENDING THE SUMMER SHADOWING ON SEASON 3 OF HOUSE OF THE DRAGON (WHERE PORTIA AND BEN FIRST MET!) BEN HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A FRIEND OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA OPERATORS



PRODUCER

ANSHOOL PRADHAN IS A THIRD YEAR MFA CANDIDATE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, STUDYING CREATIVE WRITING AND FILM DIRECTING. HIS FILM INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE RANGES FROM TECHNICAL (SPECIAL EFFECTS) ROLES ON BLOCKBUSTER HOLLYWOOD FILMS, TO DIRECTING INDIE SHORTS ACROSS THREE COUNTRIES, TO PRODUCING COLUMBIA MFA/MA STUDENT SHORT FILMS WITH CAST+ CREW TOTALS OF OVER 20 PEOPLE.

THANK YOU