



MOTH

a film by Claire Barnett

LOGLINE

When the hospital elevator breaks down, a woman must labor alone, giving birth with only her fears and matriarchs of her life to assist her.



Director's Statement

I've lived in Arkansas my whole life, and have experienced firsthand the expectations of southern women. Seeing my sister become a mother was beautiful, but has also brought on a sort of quarter-life crisis. In the past year and a half, I've been picking apart the notions I've learned my whole life. What it means to be a woman, a caretaker, and a person. This movie is a fever dream of all my fears and anxieties about motherhood. In it, I explore my own relationships with the mothers in my life, as well as my deep-seeded beliefs about myself and motherhood, and the relationship between the two.



Claire Barnett



THE STORY

Eve is a woman raised by women raised by women raised by women. She is expected to follow the cycle - to be a wife and a mother. Nothing more, nothing less. Deep in her psyche, she's equated herself to the Luna moth, a moth born without a mouth, lives only a few days, and whose one mission is reproduction. As much as she's tried to break the cycle, an unexpected pregnancy puts her back on the path many have paved for her. She gets to the hospital just in time, and gets on the elevator only to have it stop on the way up. As she labors alone, she is visited by three key mothers in her life: her sister, her mother, and her grandmother.

The Reason for Moth

Moth is about the countless southern women who are born to give birth, stuck in the cycle they dare not interrupt. This is a topic not often talked about in today's society, because as the world becomes more and more progressive, it seems like the southern women live in a shadow, overlooked and stuck in the past. To shed light on the subject is to begin to unravel the system. I think this story needs to be told because it rarely is, and there are so many women that would feel understood by this story.





EVE

Eve comes from a long line of mothers, all dedicated to the task and losing themselves in the process. She's worked hard to make sure she doesn't continue the cycle, doing everything differently than her family. Then she unexpectedly got pregnant. She feels stuck, worried she will lose herself as those who have gone before her.



GRACE

Eve's sister Grace is younger than Eve, she's very proud of the fact that she had a baby first, just ten months before Eve. This is the first time she feels superior to her sister, and she wants her to think she has it all figured out. Grace is experiencing postpartum depression, but is trying to hide it from herself and others.

MOTHER

Eve's mother is just that. A mother. She's a good one, everything a Southern woman would hope to be. The picture of grace and charm. It's only her children that know what's happening behind closed doors.





GRANDMOTHER

Eve's grandmother is gone. Stuck in her memories, reliving stories from her childhood, mulling over what could have been. She regrets what she did with her life, telling stories of could-have-beens and should-have-beens Eve's whole childhood.

Theme

Comparative Films: *Jeanne d'ielman*, *at land*, *eraserhead*, *the stepford wives*, *mildred pierce*, *persona*



Tone



Music Choice



Ballerina - Yahezkel Raz

LOCATIONS

