

*Pickup Lie* EPK

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT  
TAKES A FEW TRIES.



PICKUP  
LIE

ACTION BRICK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A ROBERT STURDEVANT FILM "PICKUP LIE"  
AMINA ALZOUMA, EMMA GALBRAITH, WITH MAX BROWN AND FINLEY RITER  
ORIGINAL SCORE BY TIMOTHY SHORTELL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ETHAN DULANEY  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ERIN CROON PRODUCTION DESIGN MCKENNA MATUS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ROBERT STURDEVANT



### *Pickup Lie*

A short comedy/drama by Robert Sturdevant  
Writer/Director/Producer: Robert Sturdevant  
Cinematographer: Ethan Dulaney  
Assistant Director: Erin Croom  
Cast: Amina Alzouma, Emma Galbraith, Max Brown, Finley Riter  
10 mins, Exhibition format: Vimeo

### **Contact**

Robert Sturdevant, Writer/Director, (323) 395-9353, [robertbrick24@gmail.com](mailto:robertbrick24@gmail.com)

### **Logline**

After her crush chooses a sorority girl over her, Kris uses time-traveling drugs and hindsight to try to rewrite her romantic fate.

### **Synopsis**

At a college party, Kris, a starry-eyed dreamer, gazes at her crush, James, from afar. Her best friend, Sam, urges her to talk to him. Kris walks over to him, but before she can say much, a sorority girl named Kenna asks James to dance, which he accepts. Kris is distraught after the party, to which Sam offers her some pills to take the edge off. These pills have a special effect on Kris, which take her back to the moment she pursued James. She panics, accidentally hitting her head and snapping back to reality. Noticing her head is hurt, Kris realizes this was not a hallucination but an actual transmission to an alternate timeline, which she can snap out of at any moment she desires. She decides to take more pills so she can relive the moment over and over, each time using various pickup lines. She eventually asks Sam for more pills, but she says that she hasn't been the same since she had them, and walks away. On her last pill, Kris manages to win James over. When Kenna asks him to dance, he turns her away and instead has a long conversation with Kris. James eventually asks her out, but Kris, knowing she has to leave the timeline, turns away. James begs her to stay. She blows up at him, telling him that he never cared about her until she said "some fancy lines." Back in the real world, Kris sees James at a party again, except this time he is dating Kenna. Kenna comes over to mingle with Kris and Sam. In a drunken ramble, Kris accidentally reveals how much she knows about James. Kenna, suspecting James cheated on her, dumps him on the spot. James sits down next to Kris and shoots a pickup line at her, but ultimately she chooses not to pursue him.

### **Director's Statement**

*Pickup Lie* begs the question of how one finds meaningful relationships in a culture that emphasizes superficial flash and the idea of finding the one. In this romantic comedy, after Kris fails to gain her crush's attention at a party, she uses time-traveling drugs to retry the interaction over and over in order to win him over. After finally striking his affection, she quickly realizes that the man she spent so much time chasing was someone she was not even sure she liked. *Pickup Lie* is simultaneously a wish fulfillment for the hopeless romantic and a hopeful stand against the misguided expectations of love that movies have often thrust upon us. In addition to exploring themes of love and lust, my film also aims to defy

stereotypes of the dating scene by showing a world where women must make the first move. My film will challenge Hollywood's echoes of the male gaze by making the female protagonist not only the pursuer but the dominant puppeteer of her own romantic scene.

### **Production Information**

*Pickup Lie* is a student film made possible through the Media Arts & Culture Department at Occidental College and through the Academic Student Project grants, which are funded by the college and generous donors. *Pickup Lie*'s principal photography was conducted over 3 days in November of 2022, with one day of reshoots during the following December. The film was shot in various areas of the Eagle Rock area, including Occidental College's campus.

### **Links**

Film Website

<https://robstur.squarespace.com/pickuplie>

Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dXLCv3TgeQ>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/actionbrickproductions/>

Stills

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gsvV8pMyZSfTR9tb9ht81aQai7Umcm0j?usp=sharing>

Article #1

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uhCBwUM4CLhyik0qsOCEqHbOWivmqBVS/view>

Stills



