

WHITE BALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# GRANDPA

and  
SHORTY



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

STORY	3
CREW	5
CAST	9
CHARACTERS	14
STILLS	19
CREDITS	21
CONTACT	23



A vintage biplane is parked on a runway. In the background, a large hangar with several circular openings is visible. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The word "STORY" is centered in white text.

STORY

My name is Lizzy



I am 7  
years old

This is about Me and Grampa →

#### Logline

A grizzled war vet fights to reconnect with his soldier son and the civilian world, when he gets stuck babysitting his 7 year-old granddaughter for the day.



Aloysius J. Androwski  
Command Sergeant Major, USA, Retired  
1945 Schrage Ave  
Greensburg, PA 15601

1 October 2021

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Summary

"Grandpa and Shorty" is a family-centered military drama that pits 70 year-old Retired Sergeant Major Aloysius "Al" Androwski against his greatest challenge yet: 7 year-old Elizabeth "Lizzy" Androwski, his granddaughter.

Lonely and bitter after the death of his wife and a falling out with his son, who is now a medevac pilot in Afghanistan, Al has become a recluse, unable to connect with the outside world and even with his family.

His daughter-in-law is a nurse at the local VA hospital, and a sudden emergency at work forces her to bring Lizzy to his door, desperate for someone to babysit her.

Through their polar contrasts, Grandpa and Lizzy must survive the day together, while this unlikely duo helps each other understand the American ideals of self-sacrifice and duty.

Sincerely,

*Aloysius J. Androwski*

Aloysius J. Androwski  
Command Sergeant Major,  
USA, Retired



CREW



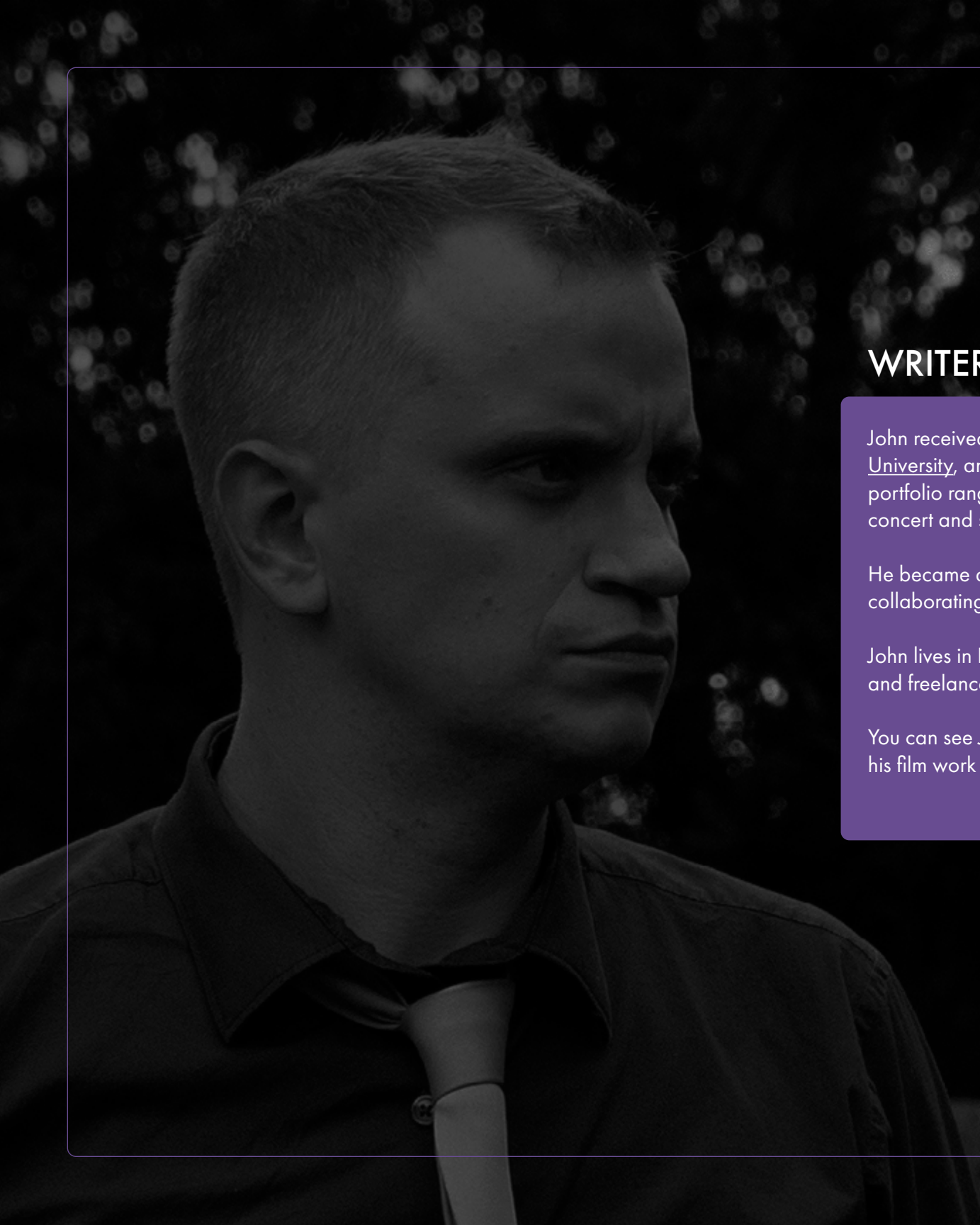
## DIRECTOR - Jeff Balmert

Jeff has spent 17 years working in the film and television production field as a director and producer.

After graduating from Duquesne University, he began working at KDKA-TV. He then received his master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center.

Jeff is also a professional voiceover artist, working with some of the biggest and most well-known clients all across the country.  
[jeffbalmert.com](http://jeffbalmert.com)

Jeff co-founded White Ball Productions, a film production company, in 2015 with his business partner John Rokosz.



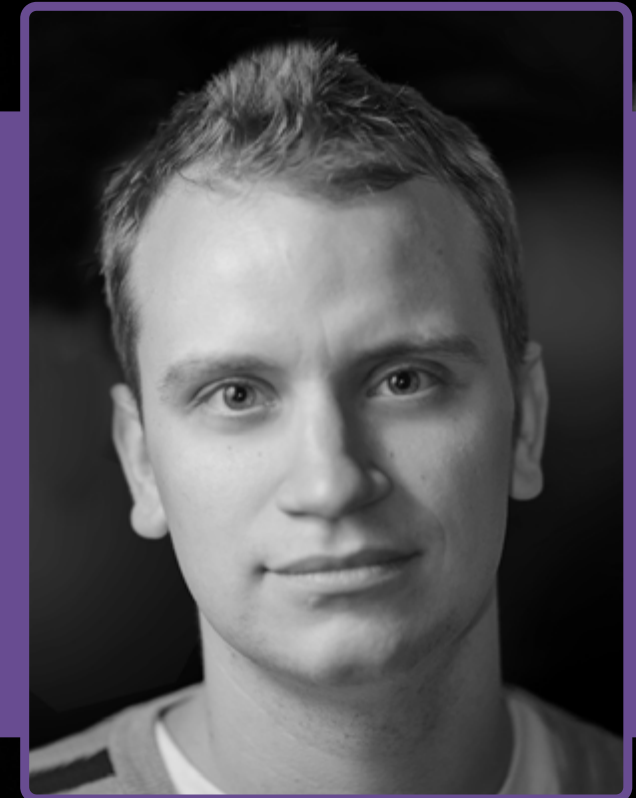
## WRITER - John Rokosz

John received his Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from [Duquesne University](#), and has a lifelong passion for the creative process. His writing portfolio ranges from screenplays, to film and video game soundtracks, to concert and sacred music.

He became a co-founder and owner of White Ball Productions after collaborating on several film projects with his college friend, Jeff Balmert.

John lives in Pittsburgh with his wife and children, and is a choir director and freelance musician when he's not writing.

You can see John's full bio, resume, and portfolio at [johnrokoz.com](http://johnrokoz.com), and his film work at [whiteballproductions.com](http://whiteballproductions.com).

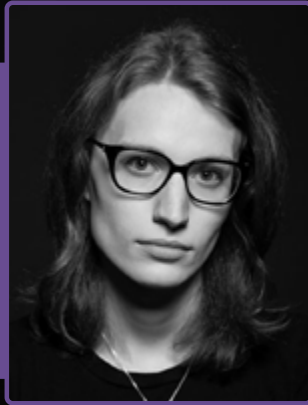




## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Dax Parise

Dax is the President and Executive Producer of [Untitled Content](#), a multi-disciplinary film company based in Pittsburgh with capabilities worldwide.

Employing strategists and designers with experience in all aspects of visual communication, Untitled helps clients tell their stories powerfully, creatively, and thoughtfully. Dax most recently served as the President and Executive Producer of Uppercut Studios. With a career in advertising and video production spanning more than 20 years, his work has been recognized with multiple national and regional advertising awards.



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Ember Cleary

As a passionate storyteller, Ember uses every shot to tell a story unique to its subject. The use of interpretive lighting and framing in her cinematography conveys the story to the viewer. In collaboration with other artists, Ember turns concepts into aesthetically pleasing, story driven finished projects.

Ember is greatly inspired by Renaissance art, film noir, and modern cinema. These inspirations play an important role in her conceptual photography works, which she uses to discuss important issues facing today's society. The goal of her photographs is to impact the audience and give them a better understanding of these issues. [embercleary.com](http://embercleary.com)



## PRODUCER - Katie Mielo

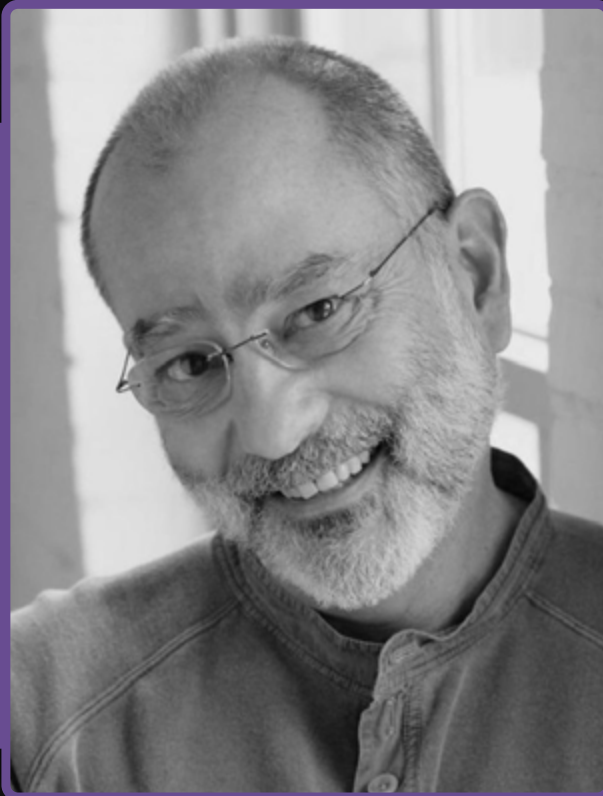
Katie is an assistant producer at [Untitled Content](#).

Working her way up from production assistant, to production coordinator, and finally production secretary for the major motion picture *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*; Katie has gained knowledge and is prepared for the exciting and challenging role of producing.



A purple-tinted photograph of a film set. In the center, a man with glasses and a checkered shirt looks down. To his right, a woman in a plaid shirt and cap gestures with her hand. On the far right, a woman with glasses and large headphones is visible. The background shows studio equipment and a doorway. The word "CAST" is overlaid in white text in the center.

CAST



## GRANDPA - Howard Elson

Howard, actually DR. Elson, is a semi-retired pediatric dentist who's been performing professionally on stage, screen, TV and radio for over 50 years. He's had his own sports talk show, award winning sports commentaries on KDKA Radio, and performed his dental show, "Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. Howard Elson," throughout North America and toured his cabaret show throughout the Northeast for Israel Bonds.

Like "Grandpa," he's an Army veteran of the Vietnam War era and still, in his 70's, pitches in Adult Senior baseball leagues and has 7 National Championship rings to prove it. Howard's favorite roles include Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof," Fagin in "Oliver," and Fredrik in "A Little Night Music." He'll be seen as Isador Strauss in the soon to be released feature film, "Unsinkable".

## LIZZY - Tori Flanders

Victoria (Tori) is an active nine year old from Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

She has participated in Shine in the Limelight's Trolls, Winnie the Pooh and Friends, portrayed young Jennifer Honey in Lake Mary Prep's Matilda Jr., and participated in the ensemble for Front and Centre Productions Matilda.

Her portrayal of Lizzy in White Ball Productions recent film 'Grandpa and Shorty' has been her favorite role to date.

During her free time Tori enjoys watching Harry Potter movies and making TikTok videos.





## MOM - Sé Marie Volk

After earning an acting degree in 2011, Sé Marie Volk began her film career as a stunt double for Rachel McAdams and Vinessa Shaw. She then transitioned into acting full-time, leading several feature films to major film festivals, including "Career Opportunities in Organized Crime" (South by Southwest Film Festival 2016) and "Careful Not to Cry" (Toronto International Film Festival 2017).

In 2020, Sé starred in a live Zoom play titled "Water Child", which featured an international cast and was critically praised as the first live Zoom theatre production, and she produced/directed/starred in an original web series titled "A Very Covid Christmas", which won three 2021 Telly Awards. She was also the winner of the 2020 international Glorioso Casting One Minute Monologue Competition. Sé can be seen in the upcoming feature film "Unsinkable" about the aftermath of the Titanic, pending an upcoming theatre release date, as well as the comedy feature film "Movers Ultimate". She also leads the sci-fi short film "Artificial Existence" which is making a 2021-2022 festival run. Sé currently studies with The Markland Studio in Los Angeles.





## DAD - Curtis Caldwell

Curtis Caldwell left his teaching career in pursuit of a creative life. He currently lives in Pittsburgh, PA with his girlfriend (Crystal) and two cats (Challa and Catniss).

Curtis began his acting journey by performing in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as Mercutio. This performance instilled a feeling within him that Curtis continues to chase to this day whether it be on stage or screen. Although he prefers working in front of the camera, Curtis is happy to help in any capacity on a creative endeavor that helps those without a voice share their message to the world.

You can find more content and information about Curtis and his projects at [curtis-caldwell.com](http://curtis-caldwell.com)





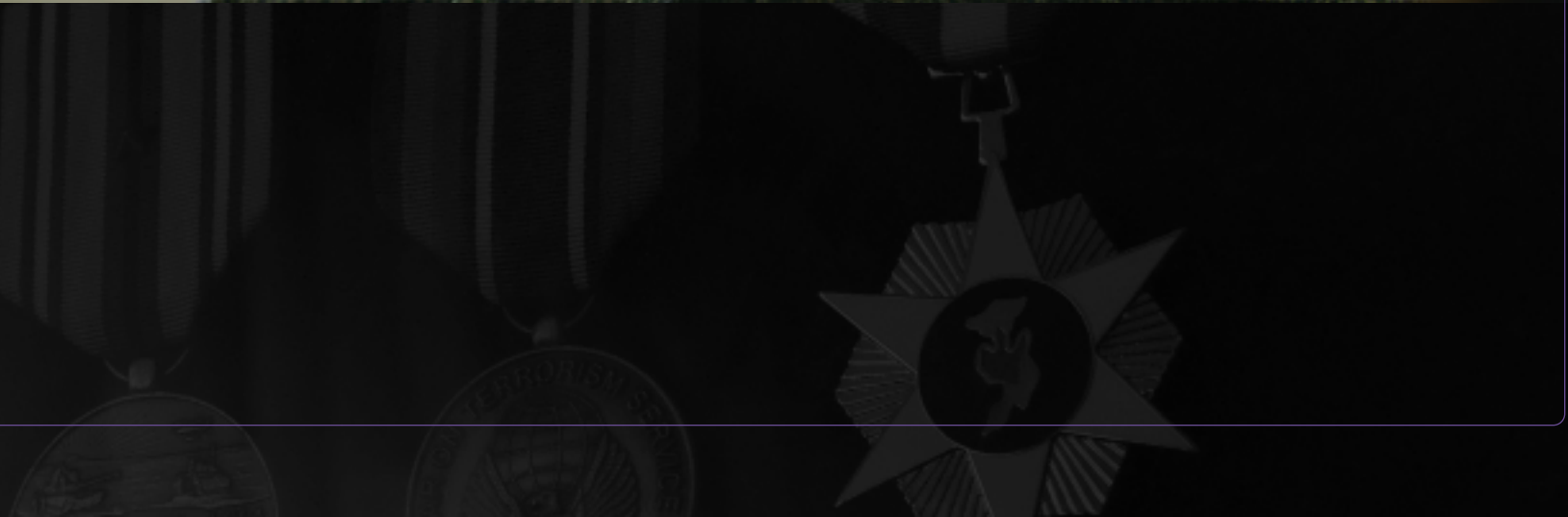


**AL ANDROWSKI**  
**'GRANDPA'**

Grizzled and grumpy. Boots on the ground, no nonsense, strong-willed; cannot show weakness or fault. He is loyal, and wants to protect the defenseless. Extraordinary military knowledge, but not necessarily "book smart."

Lonely because of his wife's death, guilty because of his son's estrangement, bitter because of the time he missed while serving.

Warrior archetype; he must always have a mission.



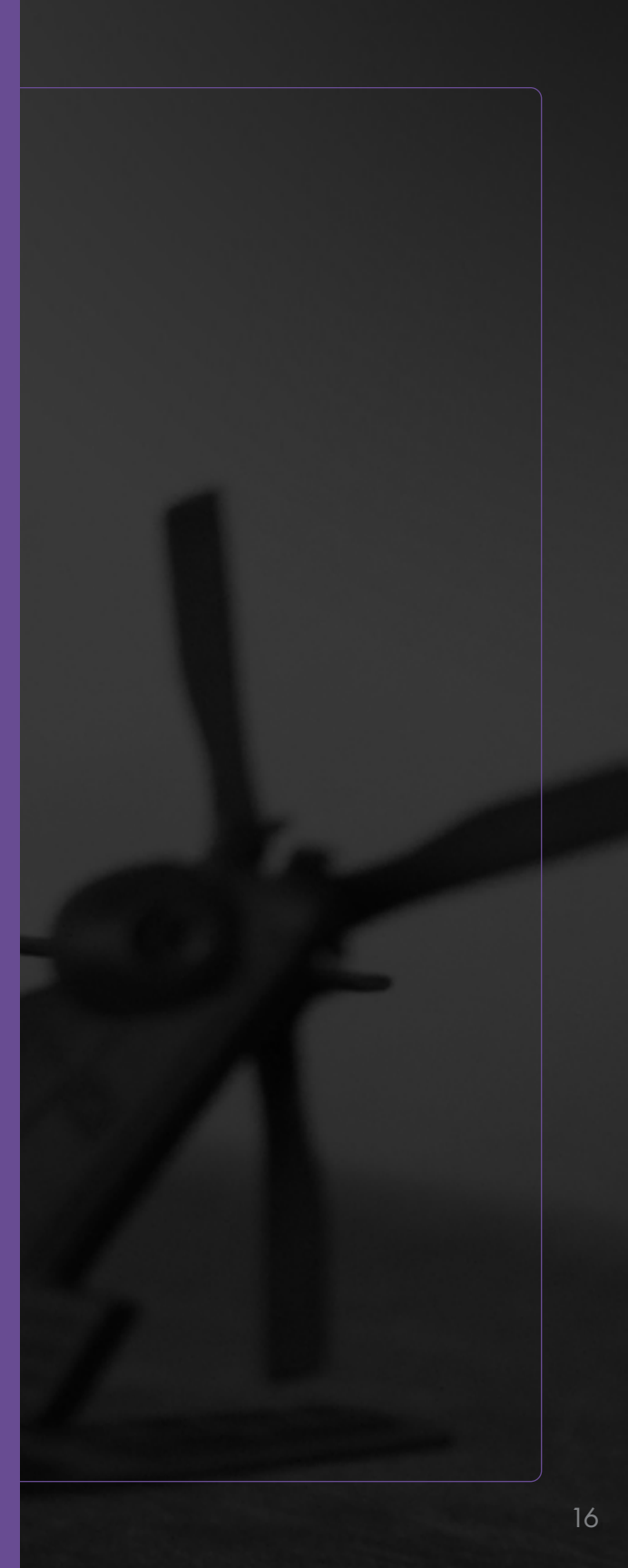


**LIZZY ANDROWSKI**  
**'SHORTY'**

Cute and vivacious. A good girl who wants to please, but very candid and energetic, which can make her hard to handle.

Loves her mom, idolizes her dad, apprehensive about Grandpa. Scared because of Grandpa's grumpiness, cheated because of dad's absence, bitter because of her own helplessness. Her favorite toy is a helicopter that her dad gave her "to guard while he's away."

Explorer archetype; she wants to understand, and wants to be a big girl.





## **THERESA ANDROWSKI** **'MOM'**

Gorgeous and tough. Military wife, a registered nurse, and a hell of a mother. Strong conviction and moral character, takes care of her house and daughter while her husband is away.

Expertly rides the line between strength and nurturing; enjoys a close, loving relationship with Lizzy.

Caregiver archetype; wants to support everyone, and do it without help.

**JOE ANDROWSKI**  
**'DAD'**

Courageous and loving. Army medevac helicopter pilot in Afghanistan. Driven by duty and serving those in need, following in the footsteps of his father.

Grandpa's warnings to stay home with his family resulted in a rift between them, which is still unresolved. He is a skilled pilot, a strong warrior, but a softy for his wife and daughter.

Explorer archetype; he wants to do the right thing.









Directed By JEFF BALMERT  
Written By JOHN ROKOSZ  
Executive Producer DAX PARISE  
Produced By KATIE MIELO  
Grandpa HOWARD ELSON  
Lizzy TORI FLANDERS  
Mom SÉ MARIE VOLK  
Dad CURTIS CALDWELL  
Luke CHASE OBERHAUS  
Zoey LAYLA PRITT  
Johnny MARK HENNE  
Kids CHARLIE CLARK  
JAMES CLARK  
ELLIS CLARK  
ALEXA MATERKOWSKI  
Neighbor TONY MATERKOWSKI  
Director Of Photography EMBER CLEARY  
Production Manager SARA LIBERTO  
Editor CHRIS CICHRA  
Music By JOHN ROKOSZ  
Costume Designers JENNIFER SCHLIEPER  
COURTNEY GUMPF  
Casting By WHITE BALL PRODUCTIONS  
Steadicam Operator CHRIS CICHRA  
1st Ac CHRIS PETRICKO  
CHRIS CICHRA  
LUKE KEIBLER  
SEAN BRENNAN  
Sound Mixer HANNAH HOFFMAN  
Gaffers RYAN KROBOTH  
JIM MCCLAIN  
Key Grip SAM OWOC  
SARAH GABANY  
Military Advisor CHRIS MIKULA  
Digital Artists RYAN WITT  
KEVIN HEIN  
Marketing ANA BALMERT  
Military Props ZACH HULL  
Location Managers BRAD HEIN  
MARY HEIN

CONTACT



[film@whiteballproductions.com](mailto:film@whiteballproductions.com)

[grandpaandshorty.com](http://grandpaandshorty.com)