


WRITER & DIRECTOR: GABRIEL LOPEZ

PRODUCER: MILENA MONTERO

# BEST KEPT SHUT

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey knit sweater, is seen from behind, looking into a dark wooden cabinet. The cabinet is open, revealing a small round clock and some books on the shelves. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm light source from a wall sconce on the left. The walls are decorated with several framed pictures and circular decorative plates. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and quiet.

A young woman discovers a hidden,  
locked door in the house where her  
father has gone missing.



Every house has its secrets



**Annalisa Baker**, daughter of acclaimed author **Francisco Baker**, investigates his disappearance by moving into his secluded Victorian manor with her husband and author, **John Gregg Elliot**. As they grapple with the investigation and clues left behind by Francisco, Annalisa discovers a hidden, locked door.

Annalisa becomes intrigued by the door, sensing a correlation between its appearance and her father's disappearance. John dismisses her notion, instead focusing on his pressing work as a writer. The next day, Annalisa discovers a message left behind by her father revealing details on the mysterious door. When Annalisa hears an unearthly sound coming from it, she attempts to break it open. John aggressively intervenes, and tensions between the two reach a boiling point before **Ralph Morris**, Francisco's publisher, arrives.

Ralph arrives to claim and sell his unfinished manuscript under the guise of helping Annalisa find her father. As he departs, John intercepts him to reveal his secret knowledge of Francisco's whereabouts. Meanwhile, Annalisa discovers through her father's message that the house is an entity that empowers whoever feeds it through the door. John sacrifices Ralph to the house, as he did Francisco.

Confronted with the truth, Annalisa defends herself against John in the garage and gains the upper hand, leaving him to die. Annalisa emerges from the darkness as a transformed woman, forever tied to the house and its enigmatic door, just like her father.



RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN PRESENTS



# BEST KEPT SHUT

RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN PRESENTS "BEST KEPT SHUT" A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY GABRIEL LOPEZ PRODUCED BY MILENA MONTERO  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALMENDRA KOVAC AKAEL PRODUCTION DESIGNER PARKER MCGLOTHLIN EDITED BY XIANG LI SOUND DESIGN BY GABRIEL LOPEZ

## Genre

Psychological horror, thriller

## Project type

Student short film

## Runtime

12 minutes, 10 seconds

## Completion Date

April 2024

## Country of Origin

United States

## Language

English

## Subtitles

English, Spanish

## Shooting Format

Digital

## Aspect Ratio

1.85:1

## Writer

Gabriel Lopez

## Director

Gabriel Lopez

## Producer

Milena Montero

## Director of Photography

Almendra Kovac

## Production Designer

Parker McGlothlin

## Editor

Xiang Li

## Sound Designer

Gabriel Lopez

## Composer

Brandon Wade

## Socials

[linktr.ee/bestkeptshut](https://linktr.ee/bestkeptshut)

## Writer & Director



GABRIEL LOPEZ | [www.gabriellopez.com](http://www.gabriellopez.com)

A screenwriter and director born and raised in South Florida. His upbringing as a Hispanic-American has brought him a unique blend of perspectives to put into his work, which blends genres to explore personal and universal themes. He graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design in May 2024 with a BFA in Film and a minor in Creative Writing. He has received several accolades for his work, including the 2023 Sarasota Film Society Scholarship and the 2024 Excellence in Experiential Learning Scholarship. He seeks to engage and spark conversation through his work while entertaining in different genres.

## Producer



MILENA MONTERO | [www.milenamontero.com](http://www.milenamontero.com)

Argentine film director, producer, and cinematographer. With a diverse background in commercials, short films, and documentaries, she is passionate about creating content at the intersection of art and activism. Born and raised in Buenos Aires, she attended school in China and is now completing her education in the United States. These rich cultural experiences have been instrumental in cultivating her deep appreciation for the power of storytelling to bridge divides, foster understanding, and bring new perspectives to light. Currently based in Miami, Florida, Milena recently graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film.



# Annalisa

Mandy Mills

## Protagonist

A determined woman who leaves no stone unturned when looking for her missing father.

# John

Jordan Woods-Robinson



## **Antagonist**

A workaholic author hiding a dark secret from his wife for the wellbeing of their relationship.

**Ralph**  
Jim Edwards

**Supporting**

John's publisher who only wants to help Annalisa if it benefits his company.

# Francisco (Voice)

Kasper Michaels

## Supporting

A wise, acclaimed author who, after his disappearance, warns his daughter Annalisa about the supernatural home.

**MISSING PERSON**  
A CRY FOR HELP FOR OUR RELATIVE AND FRIEND

**FRANCISCO BAKER**  
Age: 73 Years Old  
Weight: 180 LBS  
Height: 6.1 FEET

Last seen on  
September 24, 2023  
by his publisher  
Ralph Morris.

CALL OR TEXT WITH ANY INFORMATION  
**404-555-0124**

We are a small but mighty, 100% independent, student-run crew.



**Writer & Director** - Gabriel Lopez

**Producer** - Milena Montero

**Annalisa** - Mandy Mills

**John** - Jordan Woods-Robinson

**Ralph** - Jim Edwards

**Francisco (Voice)** - Kasper Michaels

**First Assistant Director** - Carly Jones

**Second Assistant Director** - Michaela Cowan

**Second Second Assistant Director** - Elise Woodard

**Script Supervisor** - Sam Russel

**Director of Photography** - Almendra Kovac

**First Assistant Camera** - Xiang Li

**Second Assistant Camera** - Riley Moore

**Digital Imaging Technician** - Delaney Mann

**Still Photographer** - Celi Mitidieri

**Production Designer** - Parker McGlothlin

**Art Director** - Violet DiCara

**Carpenter** - Ari Leonardi

**Hair and Make-Up** - Ali Weinberg

**Set Dresser** - Bella Shaffer

**Set Dresser** - Claire Simmons

**Gaffer** - Alejanda Cintrón Rivera

**Best Electric** - Andrew Lamm

**Electrician** - Beau Agrawal

**Electrician** - Claire Simmons

**Key Grip/Dolly Grip** - Stanley Crenshaw

**Key Grip** - Evan Nelson

**Best Grip** - Alex Wilson

**Grip** - Caleb Ard

**Grip** - Rodrigo Perez

**Grip Truck** - Sena Kwasi Amengor

**Editor** - Xiang Li

**Colorist** - CJ Julian

**Post Services** - Away Team

**Original Score** - Brandon Wade

**Production Assistants**

Abby Ronek

Alex Alfaro

Daniel Pacheco

David Reed

Kamela Flottemesch

Lar Ruiz de Velasco Alzaga

Lia McAnulty

Toni Chahwan

**Sound Designer** - Gabriel Lopez

**Sound Mixer** - Luis Antonio Godoy

**Boom Operator** - Danny Connolly

**Foley Artist** - Riley Cullather

**Graphic Designers**

David Scheele

Emma Stoecklein

**Motion Designer** - Elizabeth Ditzler

**Faculty & Staff Advisors**

Patrick G. Alexander

Matt Gissing

Sena Kwasi Amengor

Sheryl Haler

Nick Palladino

Troy Logan

Bradley Battersby

Mark Parry

Damon Maulucci

Kaylene Taylor

Derek Faust

**Shot on Location at**

Lily Ingram Doll House 2002

Ringling College Studio Labs Stage B



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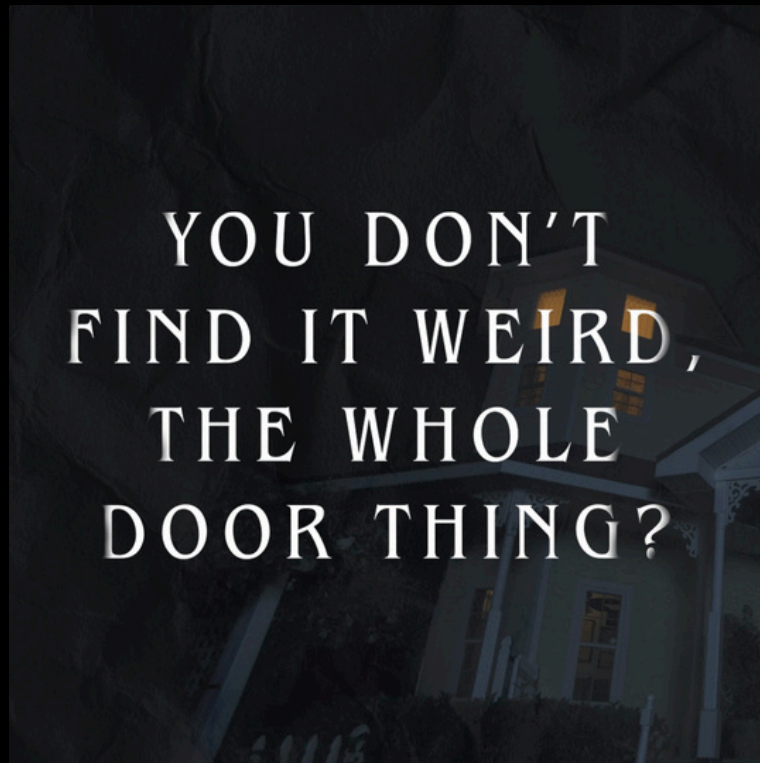
Jim Edwards as  
**RALPH**



Sunday | April 21 | 2 to 5 PM  
**COMING  
SOON**  
Sarasota Opera House



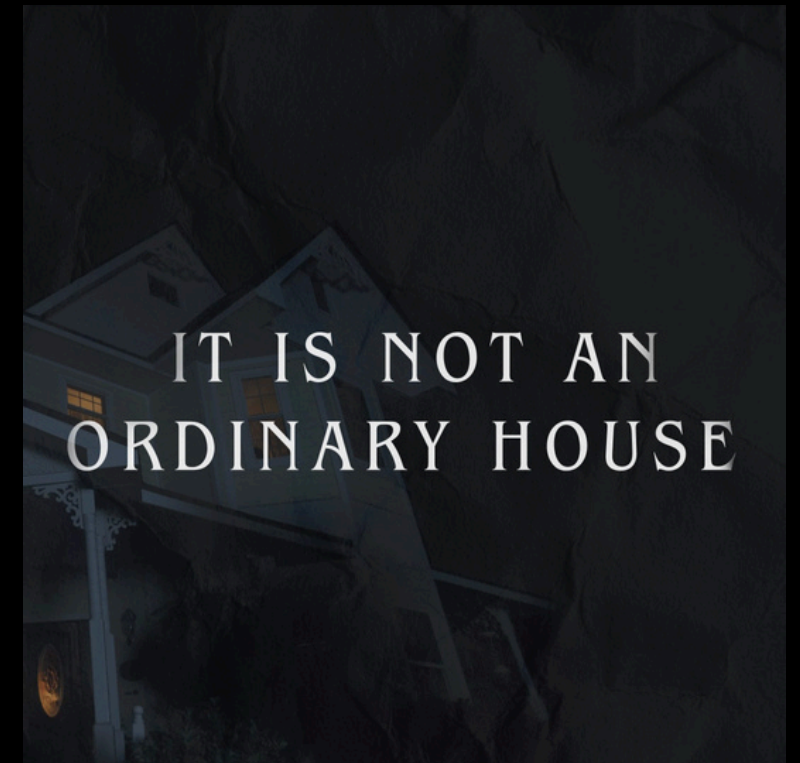
Jordan Woods-Robinson as  
**JOHN**



YOU DON'T  
FIND IT WEIRD,  
THE WHOLE  
DOOR THING?



Mandy Mills as  
**ANNALISA**



IT IS NOT AN  
ORDINARY HOUSE



# Contact

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[milenamonterofilm@gmail.com](mailto:milenamonterofilm@gmail.com)

Social Media

