

STAR CHILD



WRITTEN by JANE PAUL-GETS
DIRECTED by ALEX MILL

Lookbook

STORY

Eight years after the long-awaited birth of her only child, a mid-life mother must make the toughest choice -- love or life?

LOGLINE

GENRE | philosophical sci-fi

RUNTIME | 20 minutes

LOCATION | London

SHOOT | 5 days



Cara wakes up in a nightmare. She's about to give birth to a precious baby boy. But there are complications. She's losing consciousness. Is he gonna make it? Is she?

CARA

Middle-aged Cara, had a long and winding road to becoming a mother.

8 years after the traumatic hospital birth of her son, she is having increasingly more frequent nightmares of the birth.

She is trying to keep her spirits up by ignoring the surreal and unsettling disintegration of her world around her.



fin

Cara's gifted child, Fin, has a very special influence on reality.

Through his unbound imagination, this 8 year old child created a separate reality for Cara to experience the motherhood she'd been longing for because Cara never survived childbirth.

Taking on a responsibility beyond his age, Fin is now trying his best to protect Cara's crumbling world.

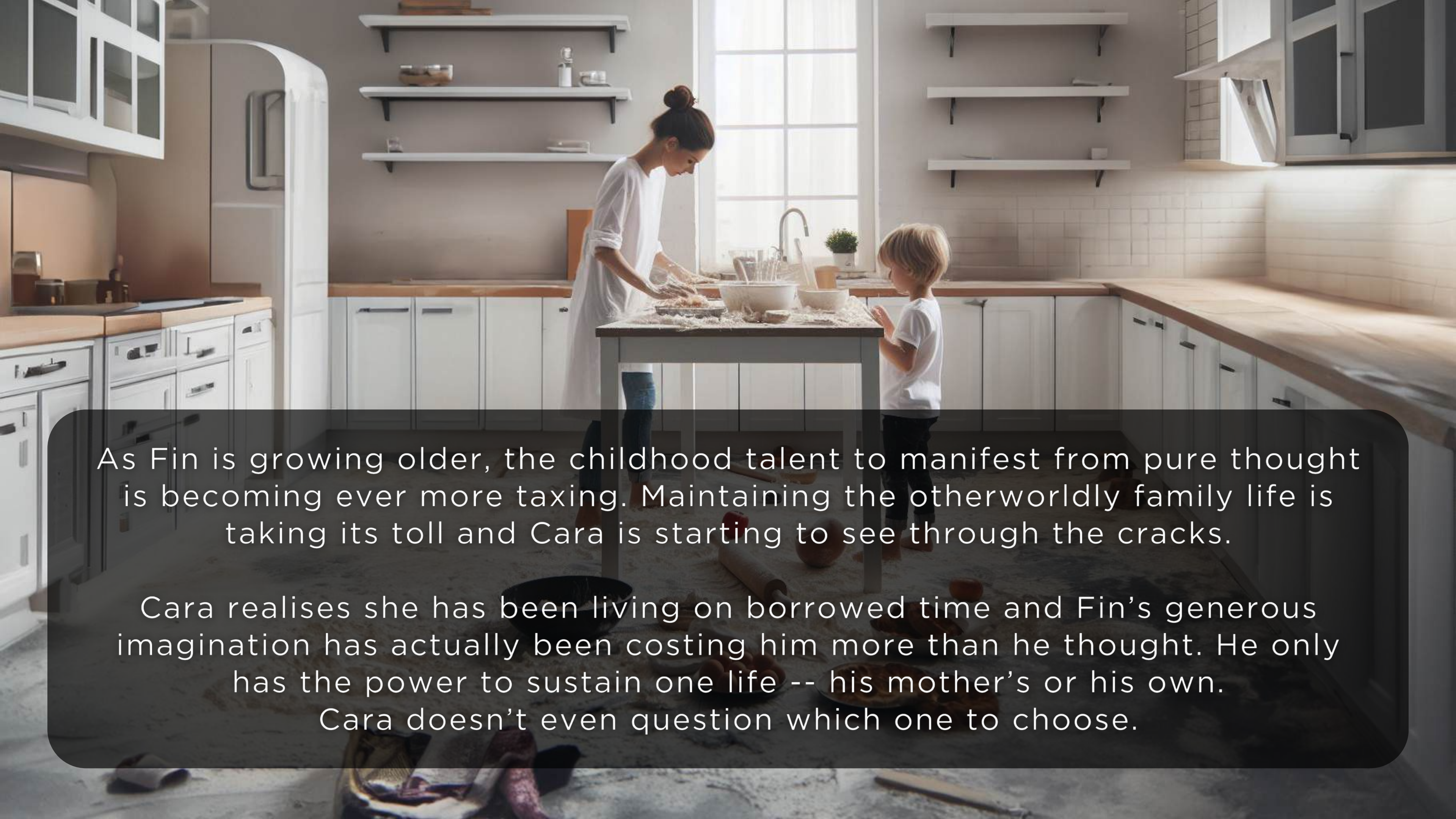
Cara's loyal husband Martin, has been supporting Fin all these years. Martin as an adult cannot exist in more than one reality.

While he knows what Fin has created he cannot experience it or be with Cara as the strain would be too much for Fin.

Martin has always known at some point they would have to say their final goodbyes.



MARTIN



As Fin is growing older, the childhood talent to manifest from pure thought is becoming ever more taxing. Maintaining the otherworldly family life is taking its toll and Cara is starting to see through the cracks.

Cara realises she has been living on borrowed time and Fin's generous imagination has actually been costing him more than he thought. He only has the power to sustain one life -- his mother's or his own.

Cara doesn't even question which one to choose.

JANE PAUL-GETS



CARA

Our fearless writer, creator and co-producer has poured her heart into this personal story, ready to portray Cara's journey with a nuanced and captivating range.

Recent screen credits

Black Cake (opposite Mia Isaac) for Hulu

The Killing Kind (opposite Emma Appleton) for
Paramount Plus

Sweet Brother directed by Layke Anderson

Theatre credits

Hecuba (**Women of Troy**)

Lady Macbeth (**Macbeth**)

Ariel (**The Tempest**)

AYRTON ENGLISH



FIN

Ayrton is a bright young actor, ready to take on the world. His natural talent and nuanced emotional intelligence makes him the perfect candidate to play the challenging character of Fin.

Recent screen credits

Sex Education Season 4 (Netflix)

Ladies First (Netflix)

Theatre credits

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, UK Tour

Love Never Dies, China Tour

DANIEL DE BOURG



MARTIN

Daniel is the classic 'triple threat', talented at dancing, singing and acting. Formerly a soloist with the Rambert Ballet and a top five artist in the UK Singles chart.

Recent screen credits

Fountain Of Youth (directed by Guy Ritchie)

Atlanta (Disney+)

COBRA opposite Robert Carlyle (Sky TV)

Memory opposite Liam Neeson and Guy Pearce

Theatre credits

Kassim in the West End production of **Aladdin**

ABIOLA OOGUNBIYI

PSYCHOLOGIST

Abiola made her West End debut as Ali in **Mamma Mia! the musical**, and spent a year in the West End production of **The Book of Mormon**.

She was long-listed for an Offie Award for Best Actress in *Girls* by Theresa Ikoko.

Recent screen credits

Seasons 2 & 3 of **Jamestown**
(Sky One / Carnival)

A Boy Called Christmas (Sky Cinema / Netflix)

Deadline (Channel 5)

STYLES



Cinematic magical realism
through otherworldly practical effects.

STYLE

Filming is set to be in a house with a large garden, gradually transforming both spaces to reflect Cara's crumbling home life.

Combining surrealist production design, striking lighting effects, laser projection and project mapping, with stylised camerawork and editing, we're opting for in-camera practical effects, rather than overly relying on VFX, to give the film a tangible, living character.



DIRECTOR | ALEX MILL

Inspired by her background in youth theatre production, photography, mental health, and intimacy, Alex likes to transform physical environments to dive into complex, abstract inner worlds.

Alex has been a 1st AD in London since 2013, working with companies like Warner Brothers, Universal Studios, Disney, Paramount+, Aardman, Blink, Adidas, Apple, on a variety of features, TV shows and adverts.

She's directed several shorts, gradually making a career transition into full-time directing, developing her first feature.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6550157/>

DOP | RICK JOAQUIM

Award-winning DoP who had his work showcased at major festivals, like Sundance (2021), Cannes (2022), Aesthetica (2022), winning "Best Cinematography" at The British Short Film Awards 2022 & 2025, and "Best Achievement in Cinematography in a Documentary" at the South African Film & Television Awards 2022.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7116332/>

"Rick paints with light. Frames with subtext. Creatively collaborates to tell a better story. He's also the nicest dude and the fastest to make a scene striking with a single light. A must-have for a magical realism film."



PRODUCTION DESIGNER | LOTUS CHOFFEL

Lotus has an extensive background in theatre design and the performing arts. Her conceptual approach, following the rules of Japanese minimalism and radical symbolism are providing an exciting ground for the film's visual universe.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm13562889/>

COMPOSER | GILES LAMB

Giles is a composer with a genuine passion for creating music that touches the heart and relaxes the mind, partly due to his studies of neuroscience and music psychology at Glasgow University. With over 25 years spent in the music industry, his accolades include the Cannes Golden Lion (2011), Music and Sound Award (2012), Bessie Awards Gold (2013), and Children's BAFTA (2016).

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1506362/>

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Jane's subtle and delicate personal story spoke to me on a very intimate level, not only evoking the magical realism I've always been chasing, but also portraying a tender relationship between mother and child, which I personally never had.

STAR CHILD is a layered, surrealistic journey into a woman's psyche who's ignoring the crumbling makebelieve of the idyllic family life she never had, which I can very much relate to.

Such an intricate film deserves nuanced storytelling and reality-defying visuals, to fully immerse us in a gifted child's imaginative realm. Mixing tangible set pieces and projected visions, my aim is to transport Cara and the audience into a life we've never seen but always wished we had experienced.



FUTURE



On a visceral level, STAR CHILD is the personification of women's fear of dying at childbirth and grieving the loss of a family dream never lived.

The film is planned to be a proof of concept for a short-form anthology series on the theme of parenthood to showcase the underrepresented challenges of our most important relations.



THANK YOU!

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