

PLAIN FOLKS

PRESS KIT

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FILM SYNOPSIS

Saaliha has finally escaped. She's left her stifling community of overachieving, understimulated immigrant kids behind to attend the party school of her dreams and get cross-faded with "normal" Americans.

So what if the clothes, food, and memories she brought from home keep disappearing? Who cares if this party house is giving **THE OTHERS** (2001)? Saaliha and her new best friends she just met are going to have the time of their lives tonight.

Or die trying.



TECHNICAL SPECS

GENRE	Horror Comedy
RUN TIME	13 Mins
COUNTRY	USA
LANGUAGE	ENG
ASPECT RATIO	16:9
SHOOTING FORMAT	Digital
LOCATIONS	Los Angeles, CA
YEAR	2025





DIRECTED AND CO-WRITTEN BY **FATIMA LIAQAT**

BIO

Fatima Liaquat is a disabled, Pakistani-Utahn writer/director who arrived in the U.S. as an asylee at age 13. A 2021 CAPE New Writers Fellow and 2024 Sundance Episodic Lab Fellow, she has also worked as a writer-producer for BuzzFeed Video.

Fatima has developed projects with Hillman Grad and Unicorn Island, and pitched shows to HBO, Disney, and more. She has a special affinity for the horror genre. To this day, she and her three best friends throw slumber parties and do triple features of the scary and weird.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have regrettably been the only brown person and/or queer at many a festive occasion in her hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cornered into bizarre, sinister conversations by drunken, inexplicably aggrieved normies with no personal boundaries or personal hygiene.

Plain Folks is an exploration of the isolation and terror of being alone in a full room, and the ever-present violence of conformity.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Alexa Rocero

PRODUCER

Alexa Rocero is a producer born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, currently based in Los Angeles.

Recent produced works of hers include the short film OUT FOR DELIVERY (Sundance & SXSW 2025), a short film reimagination of The Prince and The Pauper for Warner Bros' + HBO Max's "Reframed: Next Gen Narratives" series, as well as TURN AWAY, a horror short sponsored by the Latino Film Institution. She was also on the production team of the feature film DIDI (Sundance 2024).



Kyle Kubo

CO-WRITER

Kyle Kubo is a writer, performer, and comedian from Wasia. A 2021 CAPE New Writers Fellow and 2024 Sundance Episodic Lab Fellow, he has also worked as a writer-producer for BuzzFeed Video.

Kyle has developed projects with Hillman Grad and Unicorn Island, and pitched shows to HBO, Disney, and more. Previous successfully funded projects include Mrs. Penivalla's 1996 kindergarten class giftwrap sale, which was awarded a limousine ride to Chevys Fresh Mex.



Mike Maliwanag

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Maliwanag (pronounced MAH-lee-WAH-nahg) is a Filipino American cinematographer based in Los Angeles. His work has premiered at Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, Outfest, and other festivals across the world. Mike's purpose is to shoot films for underrepresented communities.

When not shooting he likes to travel and eat food from different parts of the world. He is currently obsessed with okonomiyaki from Hiroshima, Japan.



Linda Dahlem

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Linda is a Luxembourg-born filmmaker and visual artist based in Los Angeles. With an M.F.A. in directing from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and a B.A. in Visual & Motion design from BTK Berlin, she brings a strong visual and narrative sensibility to her work as a production designer, Local 44 decorator, and director.

Her work has been featured at major film festivals including Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, and the Burbank International Film Festival.

A cinematic scene in a dimly lit club. On the left, a woman with curly hair in a white tank top and gold chain necklace looks towards the center. In the middle, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a leopard-print top and gold jewelry, has her hand on her head. On the right, a woman with dark hair in a black top and black necklace looks towards the center. A large, ornate disco ball hangs from the ceiling, reflecting light. The background is dark and textured.

CAST



TARA RAANI

Tara Raani is a queer writer, model, and actor based in New York City. She is best known for her role as Zaara Ali on the television sitcom, *Grown-ish*. Tara's background is in sketch comedy and improv. She got her start in school theater and went on to executive produce and anchor the Wellesley College satire news show "The Boobtube."

As a runway model, she has walked for Burberry, Gucci, Balmain, Coperni, and more. Vogue named Tara one of the Spring 2024 season's breakout models to watch. Tara has been featured in Vogue, Vogue Italia, Teen Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Paper Mag, and others.

Tara also has 400,000 followers on TikTok, where she makes short films. Tara is a Wellesley College graduate, with a degree in computer science and film.



COLETTE MCDERMOTT

Colette McDermott is an actress living between Los Angeles and New York. She began her acting training with the Meisner technique at the Neighborhood Playhouse, while receiving a degree in Art History and Visual Arts at Barnard College of Columbia University. From there she studied in London at BADA, as well as with renowned coaches such as Larry Moss, Sheila Gray and Tony Greco.

Her screen credits include Ryan Murphy's *Hollywood*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, and *Mustang*, a film she both wrote and starred in, with several new projects currently in development.



NICOLE RAINTEAU

Nicole Rainteau is a British actress currently living in Los Angeles. She trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama while living in London, and studied Drama & Theatre and English Literature at McGill University in Montreal.

While she is currently focusing on acting for film, she has an extensive background in theatre, dance, and music.



JAIME NAVARRO

Jaime Navarro is an actress based in Los Angeles, CA. She is best known for her appearances in Transparent (2014) and All Souls (2023).



THANK YOU!



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