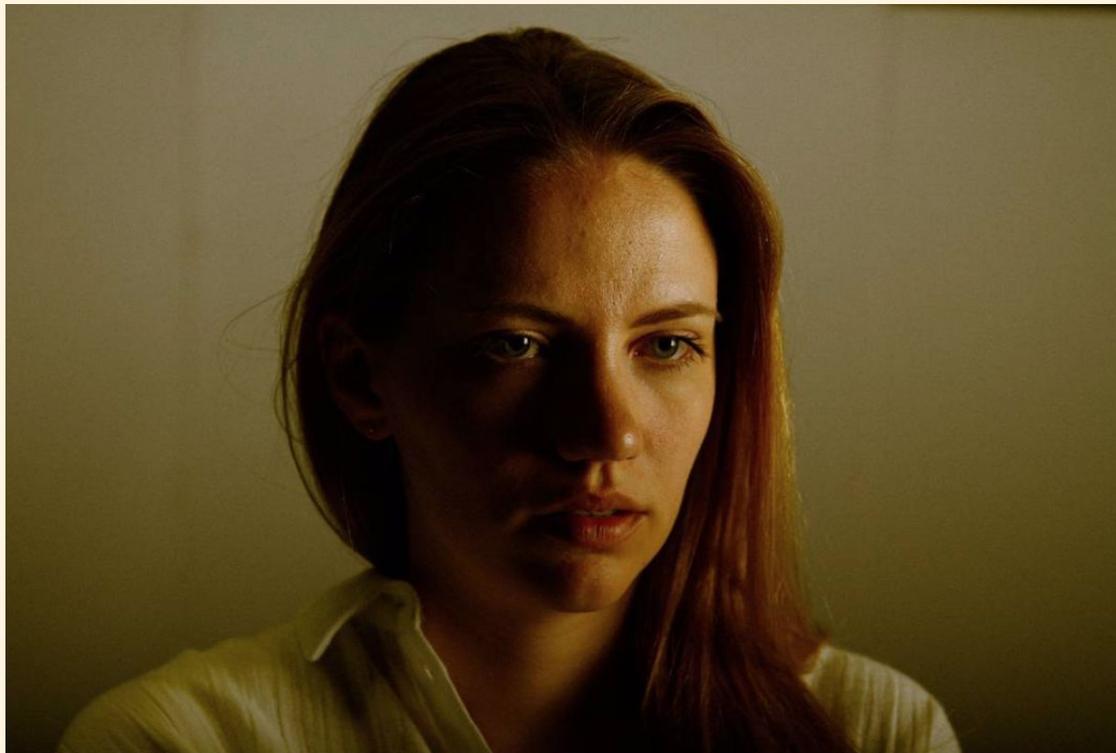


# OPAL



A female teenage boxer tries to fill her idolised and abusive fathers space in the family, after his sudden passing.

# THE BEGINNING

Soft string music plays slowly.

A soft light floods through the bedroom window. A stout, middle aged man is standing facing towards the window, a lit cigarette in his mouth. His torso is old, scattered in faint scars but still in good physical shape. Hard muscles shape and ripple in his back as he ties boxing bandages around his knuckles.

His daughter Opal walks in the room and smacks her face against his back, using him as leaning post. Much like someone would lie on their bed after a long day. He doesn't flinch, continuing with his tying.

Opal has her hair tied back, sweat trickling down her forehead. She wipes the sweat, revealing she is wearing boxing gloves. The soft light enhances her rosy cheeks, soft features, slim frame and dependant demeanor, giving her a childlike appearance. She catches her breath, inhaling the smoke from her father's cigarette, spluttering slightly, he doesn't seem to notice or care.



# Opal's Story

Every person, female or not, feels the need to protect their family. Growing up in an abusive home, Opal believes her aggressive tactics will help her grieving brother and mother.

Dreams of becoming a boxer, Opal idolises her father who is an ex pro. Not only does she love the craft but she also thrives off the affection she gains from him when performing.





The film will have minimal dialogue and be told mainly through action. Mirroring how many families communicate in reality. Discussions around certain subjects can be tough, which can lead to rebuttles and judgements within in the home.

To show the inner turmoil Opal is feeling throughout the scenes there will be a strongly composed music playing throughout the film.

The scenes where Opal is watching her father, the music will be calm and slow.

When the family are fighting or her father is ill, there will be strong dissonant string notes. Showing her fear, uncertainty and sometimes unsafety.

When she is trying to fulfill the space of her father we will also use strong, aggressive notes. This will be to portray what Opal is trying to achieve within the family dynamic.





# The Family

The father's domineering patriarchal hold in the home causes a divide within the family.

Throughout the piece we are introduced to the four family members. Opal, her father, her mother Sharon and brother Sean.

Sean is more timid than Opal. He doesn't want to box which leads the father to taunt him. Mealy encouraging him to fight.

This pushes Sean to be closer to his mother, who is the more quiet and empathetic parent in the household. Yet her insecurities lead her to worry about 'keeping up appearances'.

When her father passes, Opal feels isolated from Sharon and Sean. Instead of working to rebuilt this gap, she feels she has to fulfil the role of her father to keep the familiar family dynamic.





# The Visuals

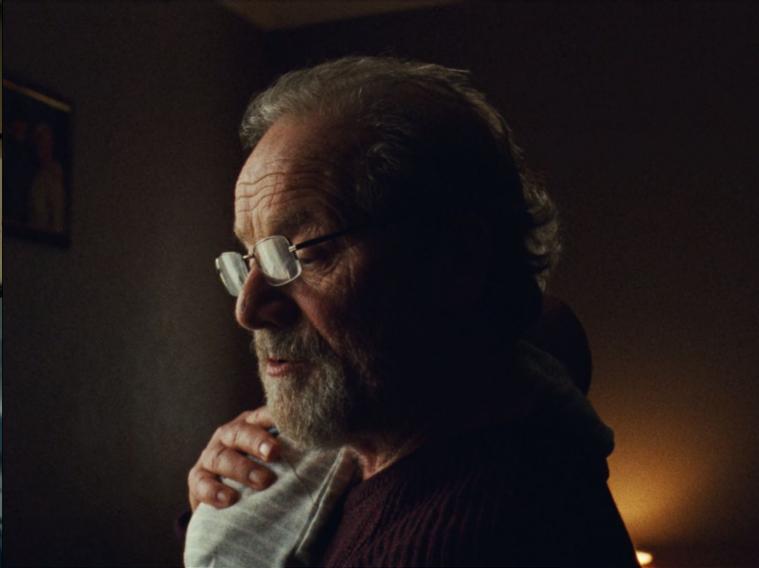
Through lighting and cinematography we will portray Opal's point of view.

Opal will start off frontal light and youthful looking. Then over time she will become back light, giving her a darker and menacing presence.

It is only until the last scene, where she is reminded of her age and status, that she returns to the innocent looking girl again.

Her father will begin light and framed almost saint like. Light halos covering him partly, allowing shadow to show his darker side. When the father gets ill he will be covered in light to show his exposure and feeling of vulnerability.







# The Characters

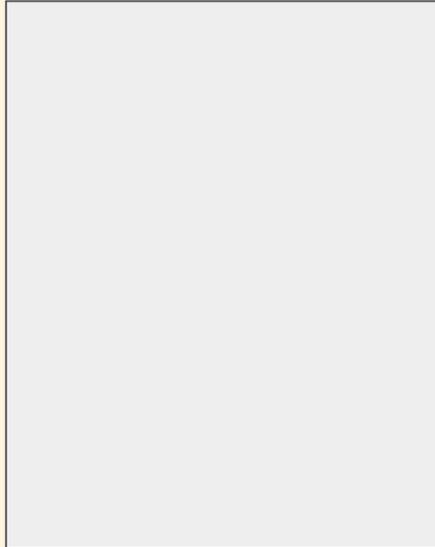
Opal - TBC

Age: 17

Opal is a quiet, dedicated young woman. The singular time she gets from her father when training is more than enough endorsement.

At the beginning she believes her true goal is to become a boxer, but later on discovers what she really wants is a stable role model.

She wants to distance herself from her brother and mother, thinking that they are different to her father and self. She thinks her mother only cares about appearances and neither of them really cared about the father when he was alive. So why are they pretending to now?



The Father - Duncan Airlie James

<https://www.duncanairliejames.com/achievements/>

Having lived his glory days, the father is looking for someone in the family to follow in his footsteps. He used to be able to walk into any pub and everyone would know his name, now he feels he doesn't even get the respect he deserves from his own family.

He will always think of himself as man, before a father. He began his relationship with his children when he could teach them things he was interested in.



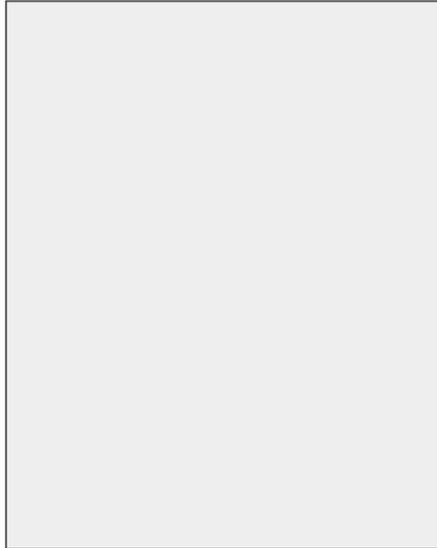
Sean - TBC

Age: 19

Sean is trying to wait out his time in the family home. Although his mother and him are close, he does not spend much time with his sister or father, and does not want to.

He is smart, astute and also wants to stay out of trouble.

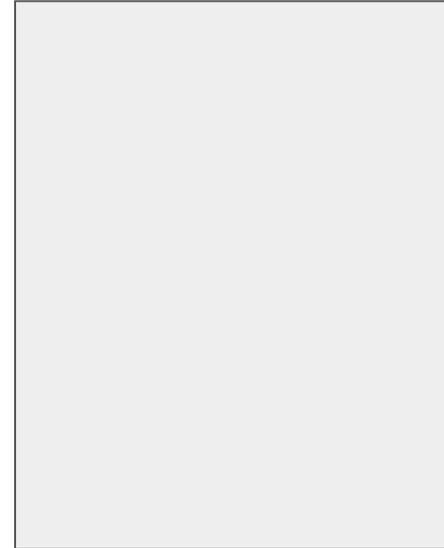
He is not jealous of the time that Opal gets to spend with the father, but does wish he had more of a relationship with Opal. To have a kinship over the difficult family home they are both growing up in.



Sharon - TBC

Sharon is a dedicated mother, wanting the best for her children but her insecurities lead her to worry what others may think of her family.

Growing up with very little she strongly believes that it is important to portray a strong household, no matter how much she has to lie to herself and anyone else.



Filming will commence 13-15th of September in Perth,  
Perthshire.

