

# Discounted

Life's a Duet

A Short Film by Kristen Chaballa

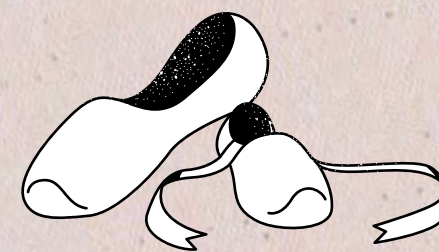
8 Page Script

Written & Produced by:

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## Logline

A recently laid off couple's financial crisis and impending marital collapse jeopardize their young daughter's dance potential



## Brief Description

Recently laid off mother, Sarah Grant, must keep normalcy for her young daughter Madison, who is quickly excelling in ballet. As funds begin to dwindle and her hopes for her daughter steadily rise, she must also face her husband, Jason, whose logistical thinking inhibits their daughter's dreams. Sarah's rash decision making may further Madison's aspirations but at the cost of watching her own life crumble.

# Synopsis

Sarah and Jason Grant, fall on hard times in the wake of an economic recession when they come home to find they both have been laid off. Because of this crisis Sarah and Jason can't seem to agree on how they should continue living their lives, especially when thinking about their young daughter. Madison, a promising and devoted dancer, is kept out of the loop of her parent's unemployment leading to believe nothing is wrong. As a way for their daughter to be kept in the dark the couple decides to attempt to continue living a privileged life, they had become used to, in hope to find work again soon. When this doesn't happen, Jason feels it is right to start cutting extraneous expenses and even considers taking Madison out of dance classes all together in order to put the money towards more important, immediate issues Sarah, not fond of this idea, fights for her daughter to continue her passion.

When Sarah and Jason's arguments become abundant a wedge is driven between them. As their relationship continues to diminish and Sarah's unwavering support for her daughter's future in dance grows, Jason decides it is time to take a break from their relationship, leaving Sarah and Madison in this desperate time of need. This decision did not come without hardships as Sarah continues to make empty promises to Madison and soon realizes what Jason has been talking about the months prior. However, Sarah scrapes up enough money to keep Madison in one dance class a week, ballet. It's here when Sarah realizes another problem. Madison has grown and doesn't fit into her dance clothes that also seem to have been worn out, sending Sarah into another spiral. What may seem like rash decisions now may catapult Madison's potential but at what cost.



\*All photos are stock images

# Inspirations



*Polina* (2016) dir. Valérie Müller & Angelin Preljocaj



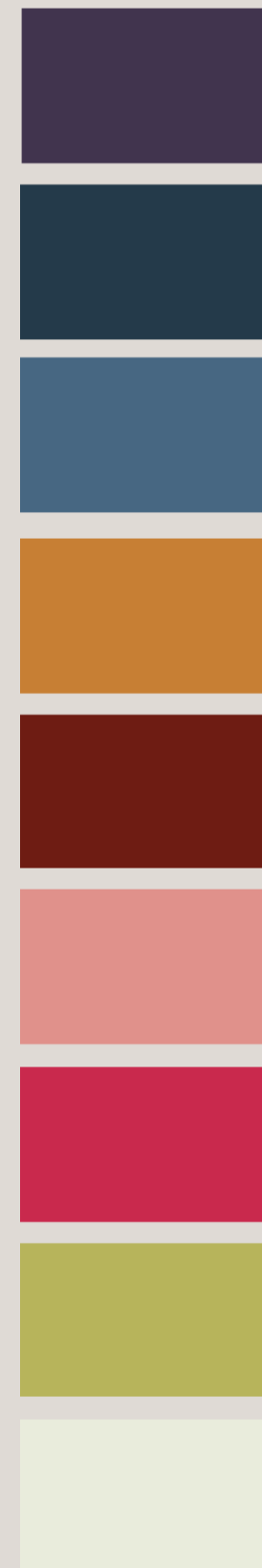
*What Maisie Knew* (2012) dir. Scott McGeehee & David Siegel



*Marriage Story* (2019) dir. Noah Baumbach



*Leap!* (2016) dir. Éric Warin & Eric Summer



# Character Bios

## Sarah Grant

A struggling soon to be single mother who is trying to keep her marriage and sanity afloat while tryin to keep normalcy for her young daughter.

## Madison Grant

A promising young ballerina who is forced to internalize her parent's marital crisis and later express those feelings through ballet.

## Jason Grant

A business minded 30-something who has come to his wits end in the middle of a massive recession that has both him an his wife out of work.

## Writer's Statement



*Kristen Chaballa*

*Discounted* is a story of hardship and family, of loss, aspirations, sacrifices and everything in between. I wanted to explore the world of single parenthood while also revealing the world of art through dance and how one person's decisions can ultimately change the outcome of our lives.

The film has a heavy focus on an important mother daughter relationship that is built out of marital fragmentation in a time of deep financial crisis. It questions the woes of capitalism and touches on the wealth disparity in America in the absence of art.

With eyes into both the adult topics, as well as through the child's eye I hope this film will shed light onto the beauty and pain that comes with divorce, unemployment, and dedication to something you love.

# Filmmaker's Bio

Kristen Chaballa is an emerging producer and writer currently based in Philadelphia. She has written multiple short screenplays as well as developed and produced a short documentary titled "Throw the Distance". Now she is developing a 14 page short and will be working on set of "Bad Maggie" a Temple thesis film. She is also looking to begin work as an assistant producer on a BA/BFA thesis film.



*Marriage Story* (2019)  
dir. Noah Baubachman



*Polina* (2016) dir. Valérie Müller & Angelin Preljocaj

# Stills



*Marriage Story* (2019) dir. Noah Baumbach





# Stills



*Polina* (2016) dir. Valérie Müller & Angelin Preljocaj



# Stills



*After Love* (2016) dir. Joachim Lafosse



# Stills



*On Pointe* (2020) dir. Larissa Bills





*Discounted*



Life's a Duet.

*Seeking*

- Director
- DP
- Editors
- AD
- Cast
- Production Designer
- Wardrobe/Hair/Makeup
- Gaffer
- Grip
- Camera Op
- Sound Designer
- Photographer



**Contact Info**

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