

# ARABELLA

DIRECTED BY  
**LUCIA LEDESMA**

PRODUCED BY  
**BLAKE HOWARD**

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY  
**BRANDON POLLARD  
& REA XENITOPOULOS**

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY  
**ALYSSA JONES**

EDITING BY  
**BRANDON POLLARD  
& REA XENITOPOULOS**

# TWISTED FOCUS

Productions Presents...

# ARABELLA

## Table of Contents

Tagline/Logline .....	2
Synopsis .....	3
Locations .....	4,5
Marketing .....	6
Film Festivals .....	7
Visual Inspo .....	8,9
Characters .....	10
Crew .....	11,12
Schedule .....	13
Letter .....	14
Budget .....	15,16
Script .....	17

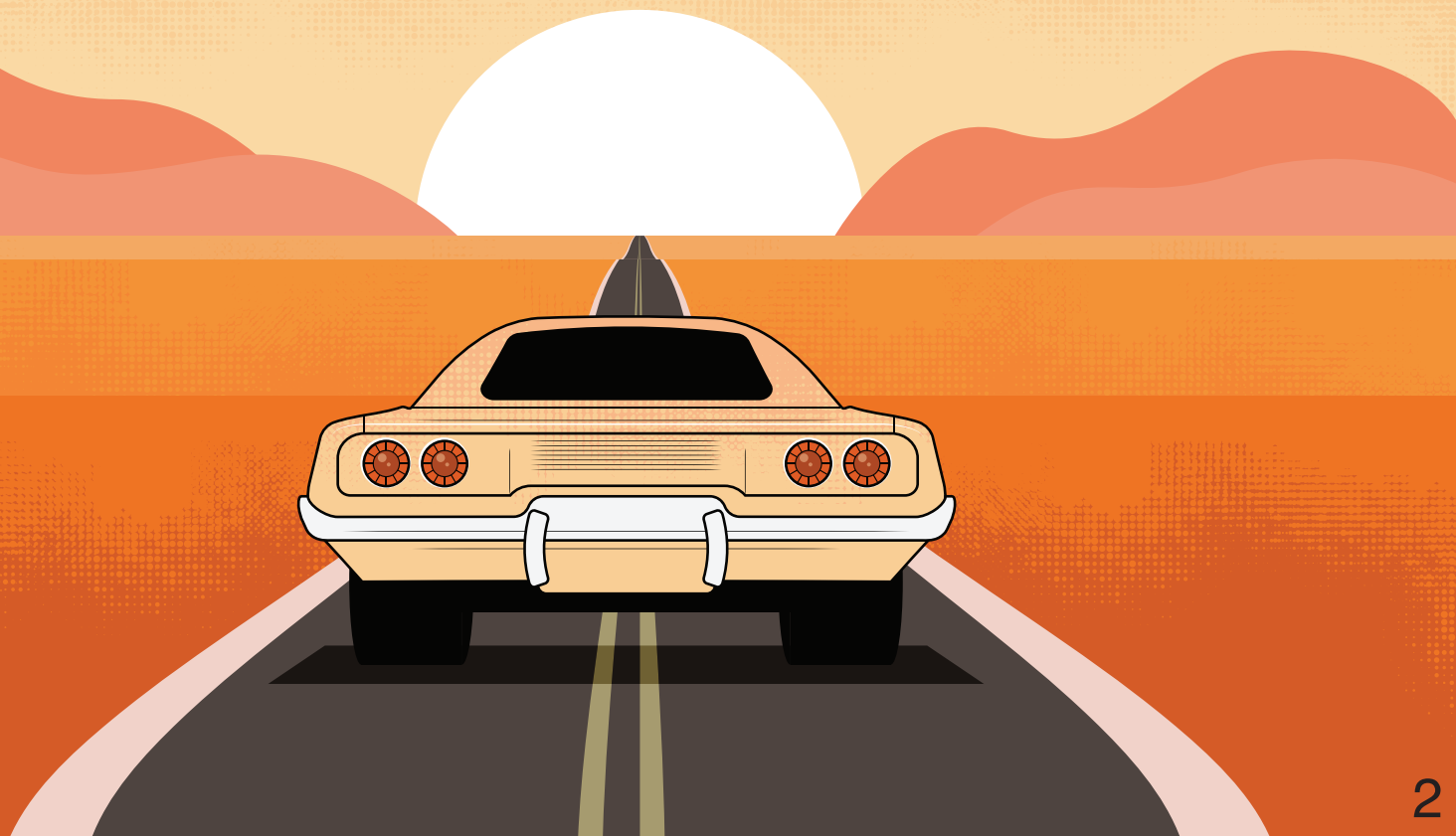
A 560 THESIS FILM

# TAGLINE:

Arabella must confront her future to face her past.

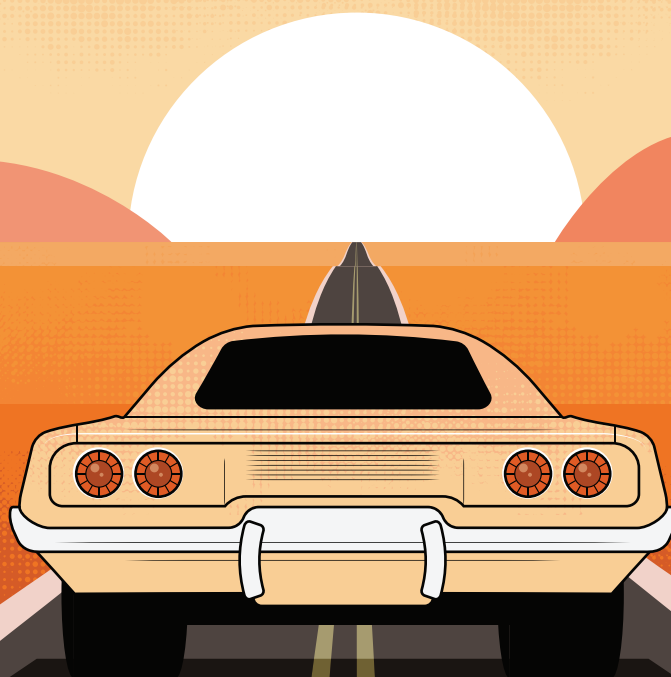
# LOGLINE:

A woman grappling with survivor's guilt after a tragic house fire meets an enigmatic stranger who holds the key to turning her life around.



# SYNOPSIS:

Arabella is a troubled former writer working a dead-end job as a motel maid. She has struggled with survivor's guilt since narrowly escaping a house fire that killed her beloved fiancé a few years prior. Arabella confesses her complex feelings to Emerson, a compassionate but enigmatic woman she meets while working. Emerson seems uncannily familiar, even possessing an identical scar to one Arabella got while escaping the fire. Their conversation inspires Arabella to confront her demons, and she expresses her feelings in a posthumous love letter to her fiancé. She also finds the courage to leave her abusive partner. As she drives away to freedom, it is revealed that Emerson is a manifestation of Arabella's subconscious – a projection of her future self. Arabella realizes that she has come to her own rescue.



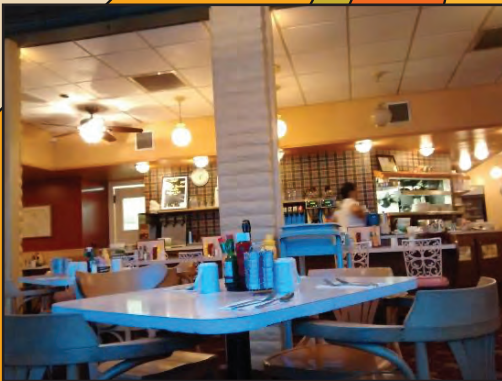
# LOCATIONS



**Location 1: Borrego Springs - 3166 Club Circle East**



**Location 2: Hacienda del Sol Motel (location tbd)**



**Location 3: Kendall's Diner (location tbd)**

# LOCATIONS

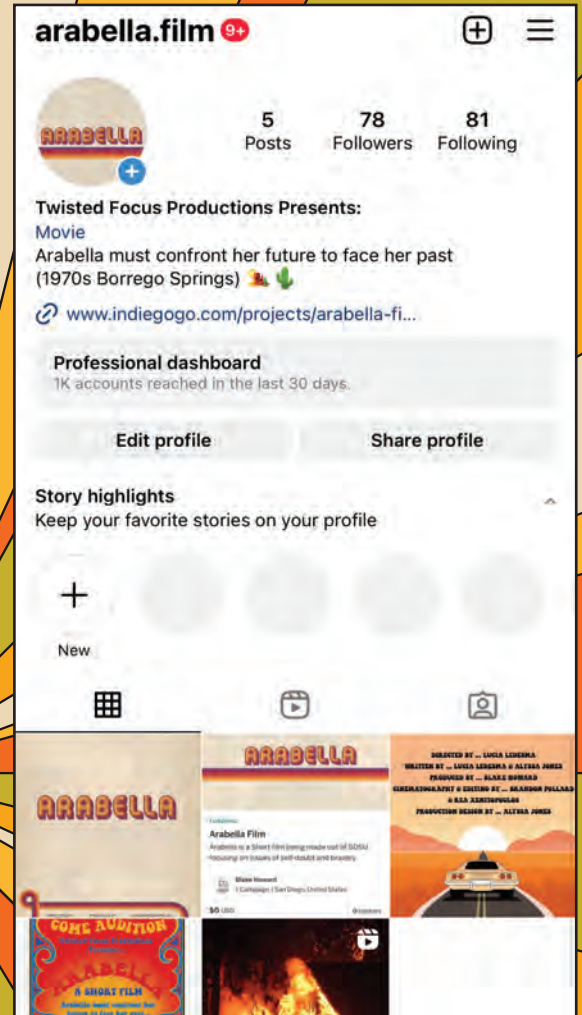
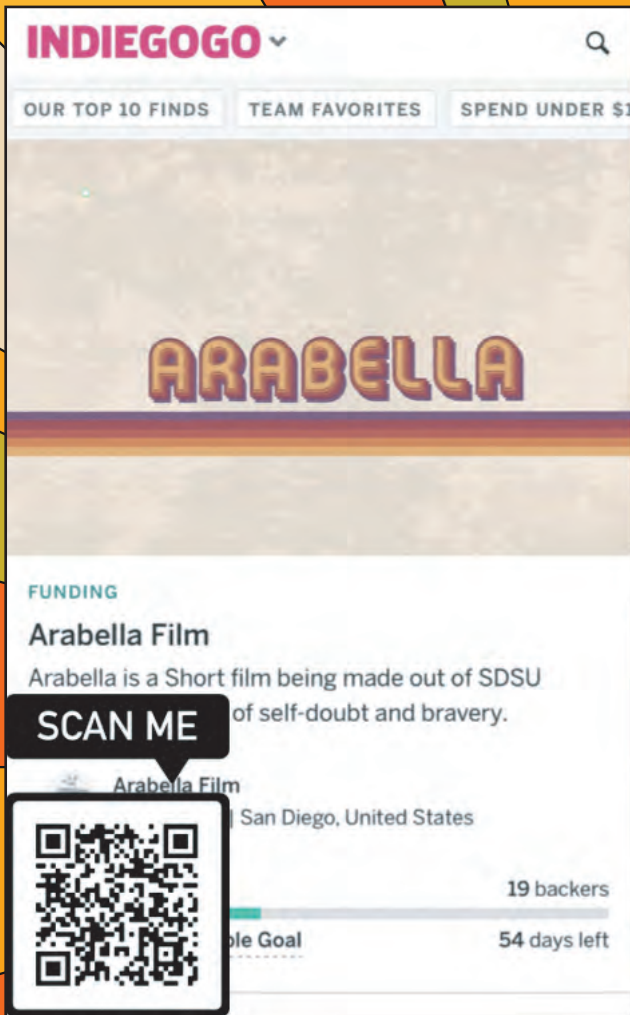


## Borrego Springs Federal Land/Campsite



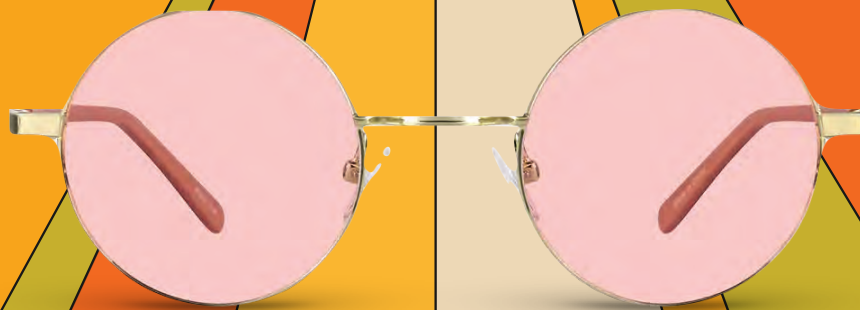
## Landscapes

# MARKETING



**An Instagram where we post weekly updates about the movie.**

**An indiegogo that we set up for people to donate**



**Glasses that we give out to those attending the film festival.**

# FILM FESTIVALS

**Borrego Springs Film Festival**

**Women's San Diego Film Festival**

**LA Short Film Festival**

**LA Sci-Fi Film Festival**

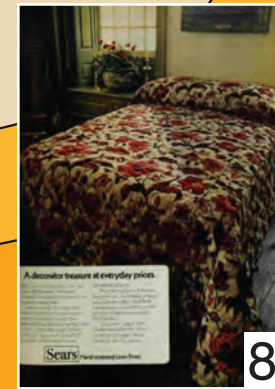
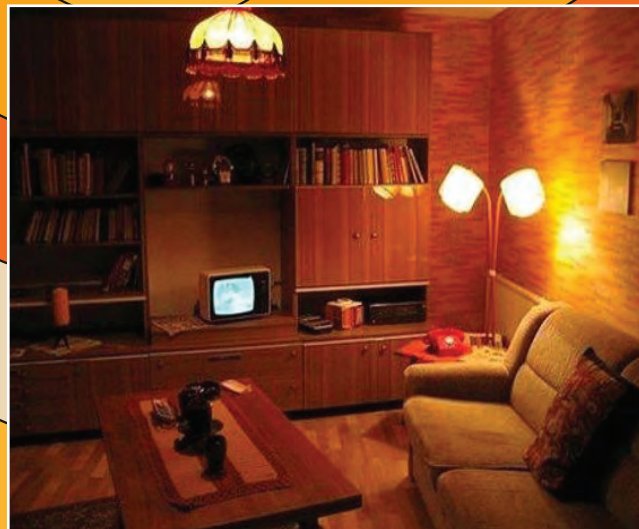
**San Diego International Film Festival**



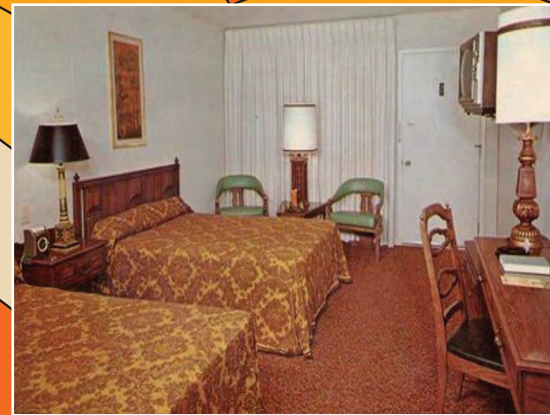


# VISUAL INSPO: Arabella's House

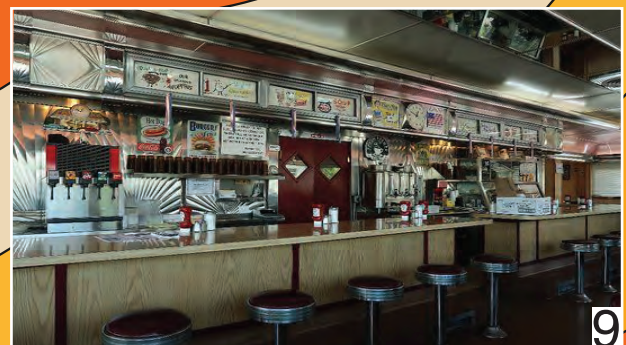
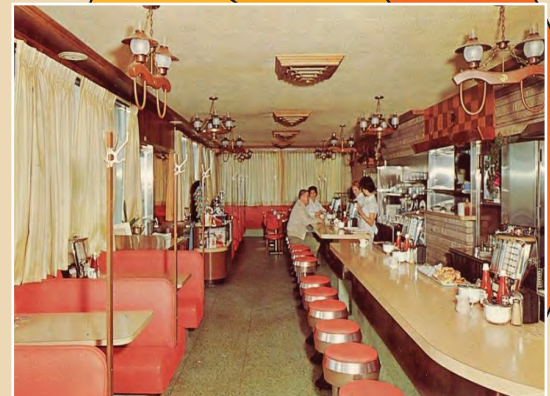
Bedroom, Livingroom, Kitchen, Bathroom



# The Motel



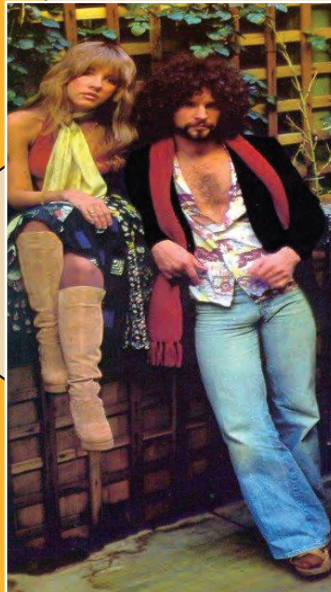
# The Diner



# Arabella

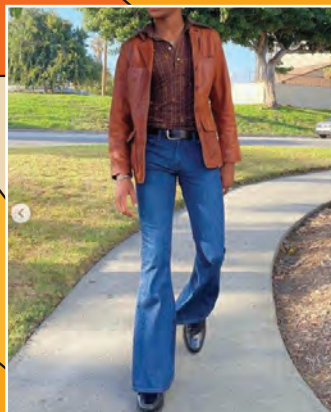
24 years old

Lost, Reserved, Out of Place, Timid



# Simon

Loving, Handsome, Sweet,  
Love of Arabella's Life



# Characters

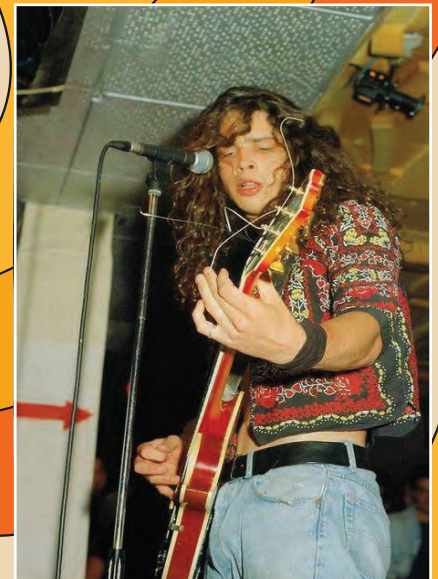
# Emerson

Late 50's  
Wise, Confident,  
Mysterious,  
Witty



# Rafe

Manipulative,  
Repulsive,  
Slimy,  
Arrogant



# MEET THE CREW



Lucia's passion for screenwriting and directing has led her to work on a full-length feature film and several short films. She has won the Montclair Film Festival four times (Emerging Filmmakers competition), and had a film selected for the Queen's World Film Festival. She made a documentary about the off-grid community in Slab City that went viral on YouTube, and her documentary about the SDSU Aztec logo, "Not Our Culture," won the emerging filmmakers' competition at the SDSU film festival. Lucia has had three of her screenplays made into shorts at SDSU and is especially excited about the next one. Writing is her greatest passion, but she is thrilled to be directing her passion project.

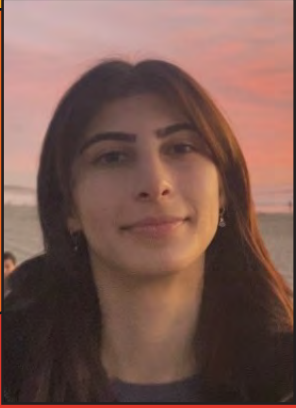


Alyssa Jones is an aspiring Production Designer, currently studying at San Diego State University. Alyssa originally came to SDSU hoping to study history but changed her mind as she knew that her calling was elsewhere. Even though Alyssa never thought she would end up learning the art of making television and film, she has made tremendous strides in the area of design. Through her studies, she has discovered a love for drafting and designing sets. She has learned two useful drafting and modeling programs (Sketchup and Vectorworks) and uses these tools on a daily basis. Her love of history still prevails, always pushing her to design time-period productions. Her goal is to bring worlds to life and she believes that the only true way to do so is to do through thorough research. Alyssa would not have the skills she has today if it weren't for the professors of the TFM program. As she graduates this spring from the Television, Film, and New Media program, she has plans to move to LA and get straight to work. Her key works at SDSU include *Its a Match*, *A Magical Night*, *Mismatched Socks*, and *Seamus*, along with helping out on countless other student films. She is excited this semester as she will be designing four short films, one including a studio set that will be built in the Campus's studio.

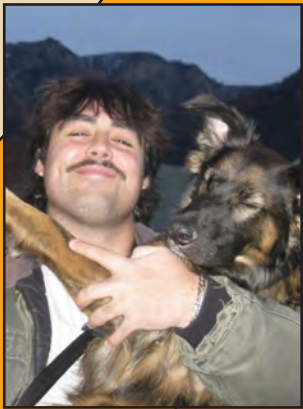


Blake Howard is the Producer for *Arabella*. He has worked on multiple projects as a Producer including the short film *Your Last Call*, which he won Best Producing for at the Emerging Film Festival at SDSU. He has also been a part of multiple documentaries and short films that show off his excellence as a producer. When working on films there is nothing more than Howard wants than to make a piece that stands out. This means he is willing to grind out results with locations, actors, and a reasonable budget. He strives for excellence and organization during a project. He wants to create a community within the group and make sure that everyone gets the most out of the film and pushes to get the most out of all those involved.

# MEET THE CREW



Rea Xenitopoulos has been working in film for over 3 years. She is now finishing her film degree with an emphasis in cinematography. Her work has been showcased in several film festivals. She aspires to make documentary films which dive deep into environmental and social issues. She is excited to be a part of this team and create a meaningful film!



Brandon Pollard likes to be able to show off who he is and his personality through the lens of a camera. He strongly believes on artistic creativity, supporting unconventional and non-traditional ways to frame, capture, and produce films. He is heavily influenced by music and older films, especially from the 1970s. He enjoys listening to songs that he feel replicate the vibe to the film, like music from The Doors, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. With this film he wants to create something that will leave a lasting impression in the viewers minds, something that will make our film stand out against the traditional short film. He wants to get experimental with how this is filmed, from the framing to the lighting to the camera movements. As the DP he is excited to be in the desert, mimicking the look of 1970s styles and putting together a really great story. He wants to make this piece recognizable from the very first shot, and have everything filmed with a specific theme. He is excited to work with the amazing crew we have, and can't wait to make this film come to life!!

# SCHEDULE

January 30th		Pitch day
January 31st	February 14th	Casting call/find actors, draft script, find locations, secure Airbnb, set up indiegogo, Instagram launch
February 14th	February 21st	Backstage ad, secure motel/diner, callbacks, rent equipment, start storyboarding beginning scenes, secure budget,
February 22nd		Wally pitch day
February 23rd	March 3rd	Last crew call, casting, finish storyboarding, shotlist, visit locations, visit Airbnb
March 3rd	March 16th	Blocking, rehearsals, finalizing production design/props & costumes
March 17th	March 19th	Shooting days in Borrego Springs
March 19th	March 24th	Blocking, rehearsals
March 25th	March 26th	Shooting days in San Diego
March 27th	April 3rd	Rough cut
April 3th	April 10th	Picture lock
April 10th	April 17th	Finalizing the edit: color correcting, sound design, adding the score, etc.
April 17th	April 24th	Finalizing the edit: color correcting, sound design, adding the score, etc.
April 24th	April 30th	Finish touches for screening
May 1st		Screen final films and submit to film festival with bts and stills

# LETTER OF INTENT

Dear Wally and Contest Judges,

Are you ready to go back in time? If you are, then we are pleased to present our film, Arabella, a psychological drama exploring the pain and struggle of self-doubt and what it takes to build yourself back up after trauma. The film takes us through the stages of grief and illustrates how self-destruction can manifest. The world can be a tough place and this film is a reminder that you have the power to decide what kind of life you want to live. I'm sure that throughout your life, there have been moments where you wish you had an older and wiser version of yourself to guide you through hardships. Our protagonist, Arabella, suffers through a tragic event that leads her spiraling into self-pity and self-loathing. She punishes herself for what she has done in her past.

If our group receives this grant, we plan to use it for production design and locations. We have to travel back to the 70s, which means locating props and set decorations from an earlier era. You may ask why the 70s? Well, we wanted to be able to play with the idea of time travel and not have a character from our future. We also used the 1970's as a setting for a difficult story that is "groovy" and retro, yet gritty. And, just why not! We will also put the money towards the film festivals because we think it is important that the world learns about Arabella and the struggle she is dealing with because we believe that this film can change someone's life and help them realize that they can dig themselves out of a rut, now matter how difficult.

Thank you for your consideration and time,  
Twisted Focus Productions