

A SHORT FILM

DAY LABOR

A FATHER'S DIGNITY. A SON'S SACRIFICE.



DAY LABOR

LOGLINE

When an aging day laborer is quietly deemed no longer fit for work, his teenage son secretly sacrifices his own wages to preserve his father's dignity — carrying a burden that slowly begins to consume him.

SYNOPSIS

Each morning before dawn, Carlos and his father Hector wait outside home improvement stores hoping for day labor.

When a ranch owner hires them for a week's work, Hector is relieved to finally have additional income for his family. But by the second day, both Carlos and the rancher begin to notice what Hector refuses to acknowledge: age and years of physical labor are finally catching up with him.

When the rancher informs Carlos that his father can no longer continue the job, Carlos must decide how far he is willing to go to protect his father's dignity.



Day Labor explores the moment children begin protecting their parents — often before either is ready to admit it.

THEMES



FAMILY



DIGNITY



WORK



SACRIFICE



AGING



RESPONSIBILITY

DAY LABOR

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Day Labor began with an image: a son recognizing something his father refuses to acknowledge — that years of physical labor are beginning to catch up with him.

The film is not intended as a political statement or an examination of immigration policy. At its center, it is a story about dignity, masculinity, aging, and love expressed through sacrifice rather than words.

I am interested in ordinary people carrying invisible burdens and the subtle shifts that occur within families over time. The moment children begin protecting parents often arrives quietly, without discussion or permission.

Visually, *Day Labor* will rely on naturalistic performances, authentic locations, and close observation of routine: preparing food before dawn, waiting for work, counting money at the kitchen table.

Rather than emphasizing dramatic confrontation, the film seeks emotional weight through restraint — allowing small actions and repeated rituals to accumulate meaning.

Ultimately, *Day Labor* asks:

What happens when a child realizes a parent can no longer carry what they once could?



*I am drawn to stories that live in the quiet spaces between words —
where love is shown through what we carry for each other,
and through what we choose not to say.*

VISUAL REFERENCES



NATURALISM



OBSERVATION



WORKING-CLASS
REALISM



PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN
STORYTELLING



PRODUCTION PLAN

Day Labor is a contained short film designed to tell an intimate, character-driven story with authenticity and emotional truth. Our approach prioritizes performance, real environments, and careful storytelling over scale.

SHOOT PLAN

ESTIMATED SHOOT
4–5 DAYS

LEAN & FOCUSED CREW

Small, experienced crew allowing flexibility, efficiency, and the ability to stay out of the way of the story.

CASTING APPROACH

We will cast talented actors who embody the lived experience of working-class families with depth, dignity, and nuance.

PRIMARY LOCATIONS

- Low-income apartment complex
- Home improvement parking lot
- Ranch / agricultural site
- Truck interiors
- Industrial / urban area

OUR APPROACH

With a lean production model, we can invest in what matters most—authentic locations, strong performances, and immersive sound—ensuring the story lands with honesty and impact.

MAXIMUM IMPACT

A focused plan ensures every dollar is on screen, creating the highest possible impact for this intimate father—son story.

AUTHENTICITY FIRST

We will shoot in real locations, use natural light whenever possible, and embrace textures, sounds, and details that reflect the world of the characters.

PRODUCTION TIMELINE



WHY THIS PLAN WORKS



INTIMATE STORY

A small-scale approach allows us to focus our resources where it matters most—on the characters and story.



REAL ENVIRONMENTS

Shooting in real locations brings texture, truth, and a sense of place that cannot be built on a set.



WORKING-CLASS REALISM

Our plan honors the world we're telling—grounded, respectful, and true to the lives at the heart of the film.

“ *Day Labor* explores labor, dignity, and family through an intimate father—son story grounded in working-class realism. ”

THE FILMMAKERS

Day Labor is a deeply personal project brought to life through a shared commitment to authentic storytelling, collaboration, and community.



JENNIFER JUELICH – WRITER/DIRECTOR

Jennifer Juelich is an independent filmmaker based in Northern California whose work focuses on intimate, character-driven stories exploring family, memory, identity, and human connection.



NJ BROWN – PRODUCER/ CREATIVE COLLABORATOR

NJ Brown is an independent filmmaker, founder of ActSeven, and an award-winning actor, writer, director, and producer. His work spans film, television, commercial, improv, and voice-over performance. Passionate about storytelling and collaboration, NJ is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for other creatives both in front of and behind the camera.



