

A SHORT FILM

DAY LABOR

A SON MUST CARRY
WHAT HIS FATHER
NO LONGER CAN.

A moving father-son story about work, dignity,
and the sacrifices we make for family.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
JENNIFER JUELICH



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

Hector and his seventeen-year-old son Carlos gather before dawn each morning with other immigrant workers hoping to be chosen for day labor.

When a ranch owner hires them for several days of work, Hector is relieved to finally provide steady income for his family. But as the brutal labor continues, Carlos sees what his father refuses to acknowledge: age and exhaustion are catching up.

After the ranch owner decides Hector will not be asked back, Carlos quietly strikes a deal — both will continue working, but only Hector will be paid.

As Hector proudly believes he has secured work for his family, Carlos begins secretly searching for jobs at night to replace the wages he surrendered, pushing himself toward exhaustion.

When missing money leads Hector to believe his son has betrayed the family, the truth emerges.



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

VISUAL APPROACH

Day Labor will be shot with an observational style emphasizing natural light, restrained performances, and authentic working-class environments.

The camera remains close to routine and repetition — waiting, preparing food, driving, labor — allowing emotional weight to accumulate gradually.



NATURALISM



OBSERVATION



WORKING-CLASS REALISM



RESTRAINT



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

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.

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.

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. ”

DAY LABOR

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Jennifer Juelich is a Northern California-based filmmaker and screenwriter whose work focuses on intimate, character-driven stories exploring memory, identity, and emotional interior lives. She writes, directs, and edits her own films with an emphasis on restrained performances and emotionally grounded storytelling.

More work, past projects, and screenings:

www.jenniferjuelich.com

PROJECT STATUS

Day Labor

Narrative Short Film

Currently in Development

Seeking Production Support

ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$20,000 – \$25,000

ESTIMATED SHOOT

4 – 5 DAYS

Location: Based in Northern California

Format: Digital | Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1 | Color

SEEKING



FUNDING SUPPORT

To bring this story to life with the production value and authenticity it deserves.



PRODUCING SUPPORT

We welcome producing partners who share the vision and can help bring the project across the finish line.



LOCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Real locations are essential to the grounded, authentic world of *Day Labor*.



IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Equipment, services, and expertise that help keep the budget focused on storytelling.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Connecting with organizations that support workers, families, and local communities.

CONTACT

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“ Seeking partners to bring *Day Labor* into production. ”