



MIKE FARRELL

the

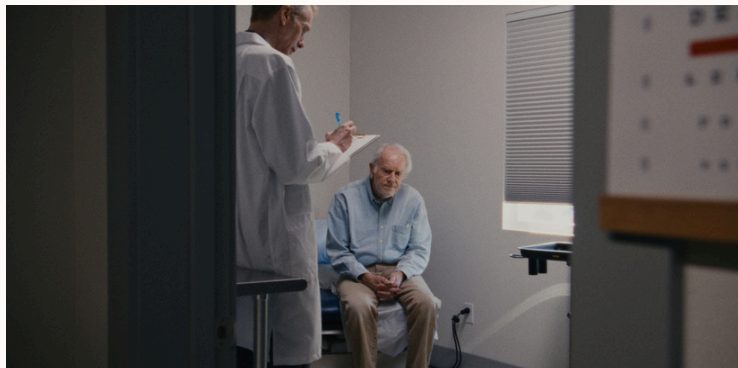
# STRAWBERRY

inspired by a true story



## LOGLINE

After a terminal diagnosis, Herb Kaplan seeks peace with his broken family and the joy he long overlooked. As old wounds heal and new bonds form, he learns to cherish the sweetness in front of him and say goodbye on his own terms.



## SYNOPSIS

When Herb Kaplan is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and told he has only months to live, he decides how he will spend his final moments.

Determined to face his final chapter on his own terms, Herb sets out to mend his fractured relationship with his two estranged sons, who are struggling not only with him but with each other. As Herb tries to reconnect and make peace, he also forms an unexpected friendship with a neighbor across the street who brings unexpected light into his final months.

For the first time, Herb begins to slow down, breathe, and truly see the beauty of the life he still has. But with every step forward, Herb is reminded of the reality he cannot escape. When his story takes a sharp turn, he's faced with a devastating truth: time is running out. Grappling with guilt, pain, and the weight of unfinished history, Herb decides to say goodbye on his own terms.

"The Strawberry" is a tender exploration of family reconciliation, end-of-life courage, and the sweetness we often miss until it's right in front of us.

## PLOT SUMMARY

Herb Kaplan, an 80-year-old widower with a stubborn streak and a tender devotion to the memory of his late wife, learns that he is facing advanced, inoperable cancer. Surrounded by well-intentioned family—his psychologist son Alan, nurse daughter-in-law Mariana, estranged younger son Rick, and beloved grandson Jacob—Herb is pushed toward treatments that promise more time but little quality of life.

Tension intensifies when Herb rejects any treatment, sparking emotional confrontations that expose years of unresolved resentment, guilt, and love by every member of the family. Caught between their desire to keep him alive and their fear of watching him suffer, Alan and Rick struggle in opposite directions.

Herb finds unexpected guidance in Sadie, a neighbor whose stories help him reflect on dignity, mortality, and the right to choose one's own ending. In the midst of this turmoil, small moments become reminders of the sweetness embedded in even the hardest phases of life.

During a family dinner, Jacob shares a koan taught to him by Sadie, a meditative story about a man, a tiger, and a strawberry. The rest of the family brushes it off, but Herb is the only one who understands its quiet wisdom.

With time running short, Herb makes his final decision. After heartfelt moments of reconciliation with his sons, he completes the legal process for physician-assisted death and chooses to leave the world on his own terms, surrounded by the people he loves.

His passing becomes a catalyst for healing: the family gathers to honor him, returning to the koan of the tiger and the strawberry, an allegory for embracing life's fleeting joys even in the face of fear. The Strawberry ultimately tells a deeply human story about autonomy, family, and the courage it takes to savor the sweetness of life while letting go.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Strawberry represents a culmination of many years of collaboration and artistic growth among our thriving independent film scene in the Central Coast of California, featuring a crew exclusively of independent filmmakers and artists from our surrounding area.



Kyle Plummer (left), Carlos Eduardo Plummer (right).

When we began to adapt this screenplay into the film you are about to watch, it was essential to us to maintain that indie spirit and to present the most honest version of the material possible. This project started off as a vehicle to discuss the California End of Life Option Act (EOLOA) and other forms of healthcare in the ever evolving world of End-of-Life Care.

While this aspect is still the driving force behind much of the narrative, based on a true story from the screenwriter's personal experiences with his own father's final days, we identified almost immediately that this was, first and foremost, a story about family.

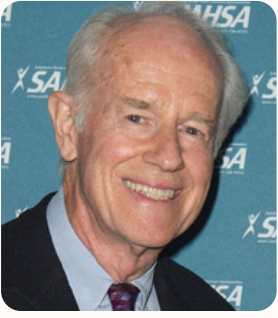
In exploring these themes of family bonds and the emotional fallout that can happen from such a disruptive event, we feel we were able to bring this story to life in a way that respects the material.

As our feature film debut, we are proud to showcase The Strawberry for your consideration. Thank you.

- Carlos Eduardo Plummer
- Kyle Plummer



## LEAD CAST BIOS



### **MIKE FARRELL** as HERB KAPLAN

Regular role on Days of Our Lives (1965), M\*A\*S\*H (1972). When M\*A\*S\*H (1972) went off the air, he resisted series TV for many years until he was offered Providence (1999). In the meantime, he formed his own production company, which made the Robin Williams vehicle, Patch Adams (1998), based on Mike's own acquaintance with the doctor.



### **DOUG JONES** as DR. JOHNSON

Has appeared in over 25 films and numerous television series. His most notable work includes Hellboy (2004), Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008), Pan's Labyrinth (2006), The Shape of Water (2017), the Emmy-nominated Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode "Hush," and Hocus Pocus (1993).



### **SUANNE SPOKE** as SADIE

Multi-award-winning actor and producer with over 150 credits in stage, television, and film, including Whiplash (2014), War of the Worlds (2005), The Thing About Pam (2022), and Wild Prairie Rose (2022). She also teaches acting at CalArts and has served as a consultant for UCLA Extension.



### **JOSH GARRETT** as ALAN

Primarily known for athletic-focused commercials, now making his debut in a narrative project. His breathtaking performance had Mike Farrell wondering how this could possibly be his first film.



### **IVETTE LI-SANCHEZ** as MARIANA

Multi-talented actress and producer with credits in television, film, and commercials. Her notable acting roles include appearances in The Hunger Games, Constantine, Perpetual Grace, Ltd., Greenleaf, and Homicide Hunter.



### **ABE LINCOLN** as RICK

Known for his emotionally honest, grounded performances across film, television, and theater. Star in the vertical series That Makes Two of Us and is a regular presence on Central Coast stages, with multiple productions at Congregation House Theatre.



### **MATEO RAY** as JACOB

Award-winning young actor with credits in FX/Hulu's Dave, 9-1-1, Mayans M.C., Magic for Humans, The Divisible, and The Purple Night. He has also appeared in national commercials for the NBA MLK Day and Walmart. A two-time Young Artist Academy Award winner (2022, 2024).



**JULIAN MERCADO AVILA | PRODUCER**

Julian Mercado Avila graduated from Woodbury University with a BFA in Creative Producing in 2023. Over the past six years, he has founded and grown Slabtown Studios, producing both commercial and narrative films. Known not only as an award-winning producer, director, and cinematographer, but also for brand development and marketing.

He is best known for Hidden Creek (2025), a multi-award-winning feature that completed a successful festival circuit and limited theatrical run. Slated for TVOD November 28<sup>th</sup> and AVOD January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Julian is currently producing, The Strawberry, starring Mike Farrell (M\*A\*S\*H) and featuring Doug Jones (Pan's Labyrinth, The Shape of Water), the film is in post-production and is slated to begin its festival run February 2026.



**DARIEN JEWEL | PRODUCER**

An award-winning producer and director, Darien Jewel has been working on a variety of projects across the West Coast. Over the past few years, he has provided logistical and creative assistance on the documentary Reservation Redemption and the feature films including The GOAT (2022) and Mendocino (2026), along with a series of podcasts including Moving Past Murder and Badass Babes of Entertainment.

Known for his ability to guide stories from concept to screen, Darien's work blends sharp production instincts with a filmmaker's eye for authenticity and emotional truth. He's helped build Slabtown Studios with Julian Mercado Avila, where they've produced and directed the multi-award-winning feature film Hidden Creek (2025) and producing The Strawberry (2026).

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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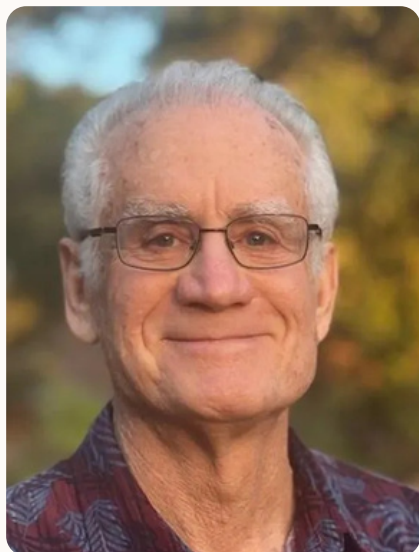


**KYLE & CARLOS PLUMMER | DIRECTORS & POST**

An award-winning independent filmmaking duo based on California's Central Coast. Brothers Kyle and Carlos Plummer have produced multiple projects locally and contributed to numerous feature films in a variety of roles across departments. Both hold Digital Film degrees from Utah Tech University and founded SuperImage LTD, the post-production company that lead post for Hidden Creek (2025).

On Hidden Creek, Kyle worked as 1st Assistant Camera while also handling editing and color grading. Carlos served as production sound mixer, sound designer, and re-recording mixer. They collaborate with Slabtown Studios again directing and leading post on their next feature film, The Strawberry.

## INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY...



### STEVE BRODY, PH.D. | WRITER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

A clinical psychologist and writer based in Cambria, California, and past president of the Division of Media Psychology of the American Psychological Association. He spent twenty years as a network television reporter, contributing psychology features to CBS News and NBC News, and has appeared on Oprah multiple times. He is the co-author of *Renew Your Marriage at Midlife* (Putnam, 1999) and the spiritual suspense novel *The New Commandments* (Champion Press, 2004), and has co-created a television sitcom with Universal Pictures, along with a television news magazine and a reality TV show. Steve applied his psychology expertise to his first screenplay, *Hidden Creek* (2025), which was praised by the Alzheimer's Association for its accuracy. His upcoming film, *The Strawberry*, draws from his personal experience as the true story of his father's passing.

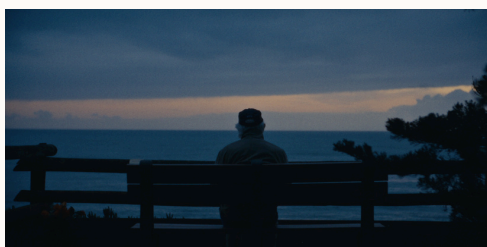
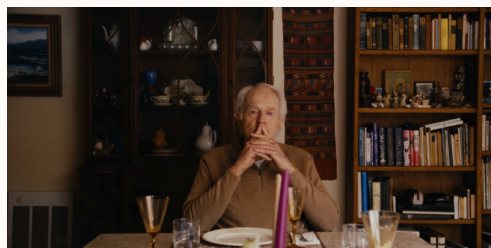
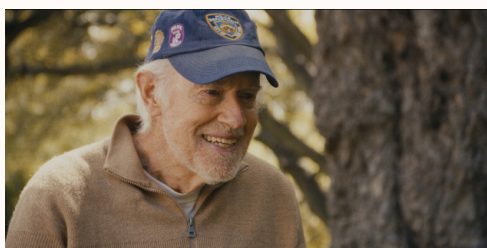
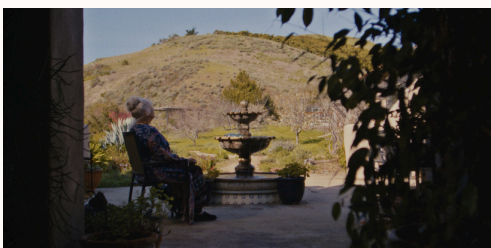
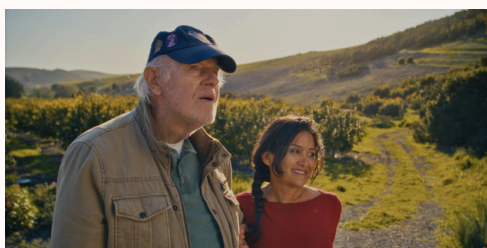
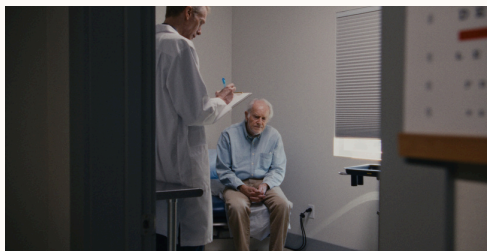
## BASED ON THE PASSING OF WALTER HERBERT BRODY.

Steve intentionally gave many of the characters the middle names of the real people who inspired them. His own full name, Steve Allan Brody, is where the character Allan gets his name. The location of Allan's home in the script is also Steve's actual home, the same place where Walter spent his final days. You can see the parallels in the behind-the-scenes photos and the film stills.

It was a surreal experience for the cast and crew, and especially for Steve, who watched Mike Farrell portray his father, an actor Walter admired.



# STILLS



## KEY ART



### FESTIVAL POSTER

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES DOCUMENTARY

During production, filmmaker Nick Conocenti captured a wide range of behind-the-scenes footage, including candid moments and in-depth interviews with the full cast and key crew. This includes Steve Brody, who reflects on the story of his father, and Mike Farrell, who shares a very personal experience involving a close friend with a similar journey.

The footage is currently being shaped into a featurette for the film, but with roughly fifteen shoot days and dozens of powerful interviews, it has the potential to be expanded into a full standalone documentary. Beyond supporting the film's release, the material offers an educational look at the filmmaking process and the deeply personal reasons that drew everyone to this project.



### KEY STILL

## TECH SPECS

**RUNTIME:**  
90 minutes

**ASPECT RATIO:**  
16:9

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**RATING:**  
Not Rated, PG

**SOUND MIX:**  
3.1



Doug Jones (left), Julian Mercado Avila (center), Nick Conocenti (right).

# FULL CREDITS

## PRODUCERS

JULIAN MERCADO AVILA  
DARIEN JEWEL

## DIRECTORS

KYLE PLUMMER  
CARLOS EDUARDO PLUMMER

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

STEVE BRODY PHD  
MIKE FARRELL  
PATSY & DON LAUGHLIN  
CHRISTOPHER & SARA GARCIA  
LILIANA & JEFF PLUMMER  
JOHN & RENEE LINN  
ABE & KELLY LINCOLN  
JIM & JAN BAHRINGER  
SHELLEY FABARES

## UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER

AVERY PIZUTO

## FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

TALHA HUSSAINI

## CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)  
HERB - MIKE FARRELL  
DR. JOHNSON - DOUG JONES  
ALAN - JOSH GARRETT  
MARIANA - IVETTE LI-SANCHEZ  
RICK - ABE LINCOLN  
JACOB - MATEO RAY  
SADIE JOHNSON - SUANNE SPOKE  
DR. YOUNG - DAVID TRAJAN  
RUSSELL JOHNSON - MATTHEW MAYNARD  
REGINA - CATHY BRODY  
WITNESS - CHRIS LANDGREEN  
BETH - ANGELINA BARBIERI

## CREW

### CAMERA / GRIP & ELECTRIC

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - ALEX RABAN  
1ST AC - KEVIN JUDGE

GAFFER / KEY GRIP - ANDRES QUINTERO  
BEST BOY - JACOB MATTHEWS

### SOUND

SOUND MIXER - CARSON WOESTE  
SOUND UTILITY - BEN VASION

### BOOM OPERATORS

SOPHIA WANG  
RILEY MOLLER

### ART / HAIR & MAKEUP

MAKEUP ARTIST - JOSELIN ESPARZA  
PRODUCTION DESIGN - JENNY GOSNELL  
SET DECORATION / ART ASSISTANT - ALEX ZAVALA

### SET TEACHERS

CHASE NORDMAN  
JEFFREY SCOTT NUTTALL

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

MORGAN CHILDERS  
SEAN TUCK  
SILVIA MCCLURE  
NINA RUHLAND  
CAITLIN MCCORMACK  
SAMMY MERCADO AVILA

## ADDITIONAL WRITING

ELLIOT PETERS

## DOCUMENTARY FILMING

NICK CONOCENTI

## STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS

SEAN HURD  
MCKENNA KASELMAN  
LILLIANA MONTERO PLUMMER

## POST-PRODUCTION

EDITORIAL - CARLOS PLUMMER - KYLE PLUMMER  
SOUND DESIGNER & RE-RECORDING MIXER - CARLOS PLUMMER  
COLORIST - KYLE PLUMMER  
VISUAL EFFECTS - KYLE PLUMMER

## MUSIC

SCORE COMPOSED BY BROOK MUNRO

THIS STOP FEELS RIGHT TO ME  
WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY MORGAN CHILDERS  
PRODUCED BY MORGAN CHILDERS AND BROOK MUNRO  
LICENSE COURTESY OF MORGAN CHILDERS

CATERING PROVIDED BY BABY BEAR BISCUITS  
HEAD CHEF - NORWOOD PRYOR

ACCOUNTANT - KENT Y. LAI

## SPECIAL THANKS

MARK ECKERT  
ALLISON HAYWARD  
MARY HOLSINGER  
JEFFERY EKLUND  
JASON KAISER  
SETH FORRESTER  
RICK DENMAN  
DANIEL SOLLINGER  
NACHO & OFFELIA RAMIREZ  
DAN HARTZELL  
ED ARRIGONI  
COAST UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GEORGE AND BETH KENDALL OF DOS PASOS RANCH  
COASTAL PINES MEDICAL GROUP  
MARK AND CHRIS LANDGREEN  
FOGS END  
GLORIA FISCALINI  
TOM & MICHELE KENNEDY

**STAY CONNECTED**

**SLABTOWN**  
S T U D I O S

**SUPERIMAGE, LTD.**

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