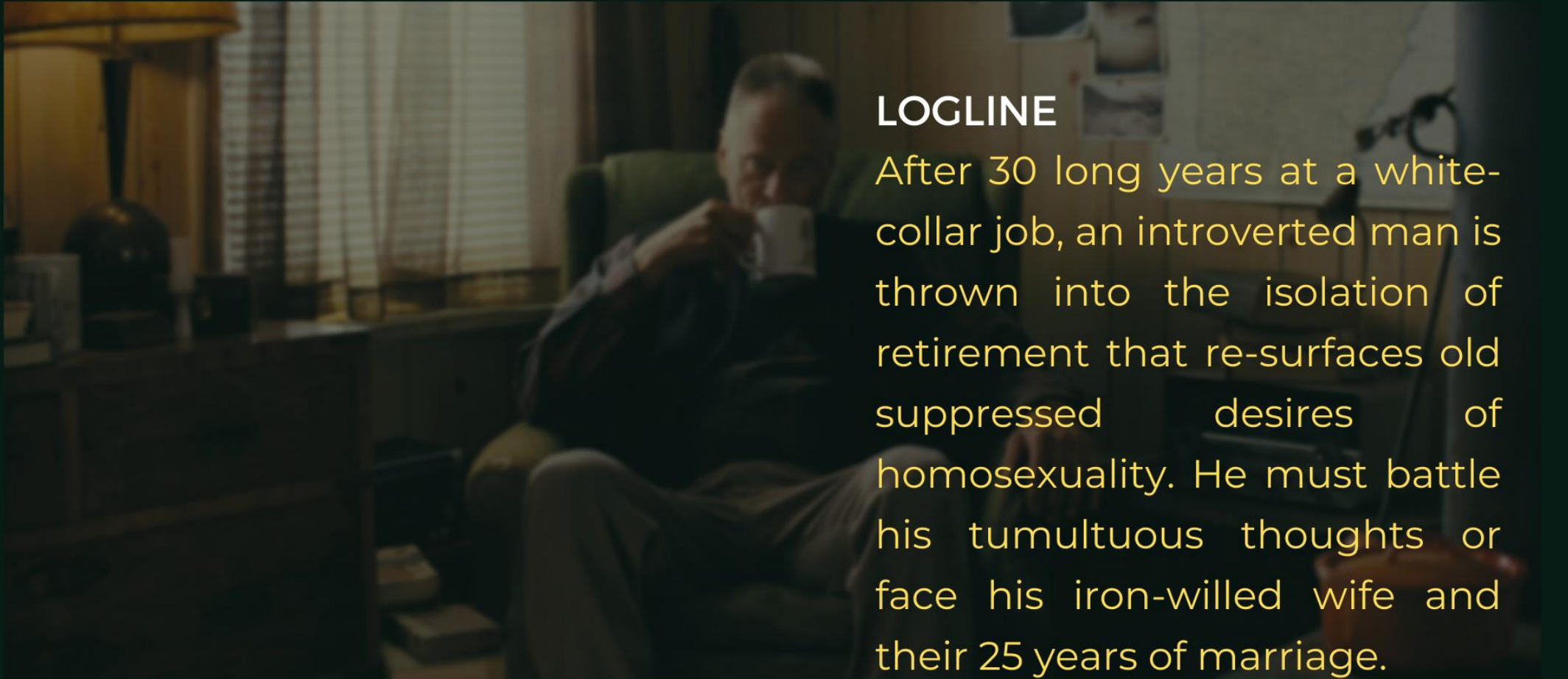




*Happy Retirement
Mr Pickering!*

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY KESHAV SHREE



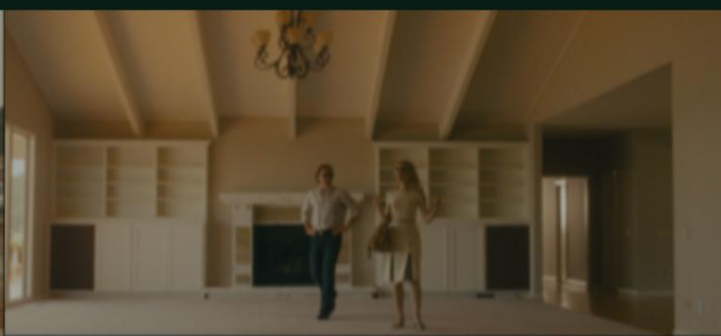
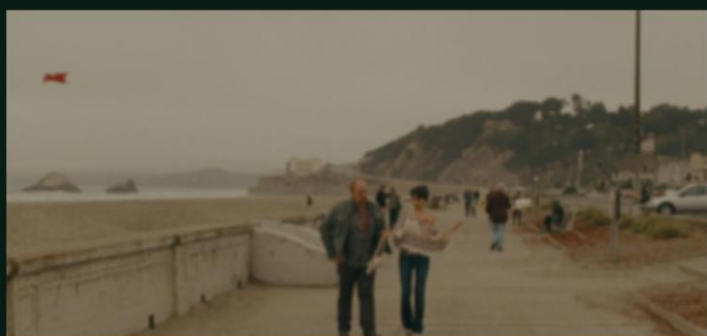
LOGLINE

After 30 long years at a white-collar job, an introverted man is thrown into the isolation of retirement that re-surfaces old suppressed desires of homosexuality. He must battle his tumultuous thoughts or face his iron-willed wife and their 25 years of marriage.

Happy Retirement Mr Pickering! is a story about self-acceptance and internal turmoil that comes with living in the closet and it's inevitable struggle in the isolation of retirement.

Retirement is a life-event often neglected in mainstream media but forms one of the biggest causes of depression and suicide in the elderly with some studies showing up to a 20% rise in suicide due to retirement. This story is inspired by my father's retirement, who found himself battling depression and feeling "worthless" in a life devoid of a routine he'd cultivated over years.

This film celebrates the LGBTQ+ diaspora and highlights a sect of this community that struggles most with conservative viewpoints - especially since many of them have spent their whole lives fabricating a life that matches society's standards.



In this story Freddy is a personification of breaking this barrier and finally embracing what he has wanted for himself all his life. However, this comes at a cost and takes everything in him to pursue his desire - ultimately, taking his life.

Movies that inspire me include those depicting mid-life crises and coming of age such as American Beauty, Far from Heaven, Beginners and Lost in Translation. Freddie narrates the film with a witty humour that brings light comedy to this otherwise dark thriller/drama.

I would like to cast a gay older gentleman for Freddy. For Isabelle, I'd like to cast a strong older lady. Being of Indian heritage myself, I'd like to keep my cast as diverse as possible and I'd like to have at least 2 leads of black or ethnic minority.





DIRECTOR'S VISION

I want the audience to observe how retirement can be a monumental life- event and how suppression of your true self can, and will lead to unprecedented effects.

I'd like the audience to live through Freddie's internal turmoil and make their own decision of whether he is a good or a bad person.

A man in a white bathrobe stands in a bathroom, looking down. The background shows a patterned wall and a window with light blue curtains. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft glow from a lamp on the left.

Freddie

An introverted man with a witty outlook on his life, who has worked his whole life to fit in and be "normal" - working a 9 to 5 job, marrying a woman in his 20s and paying off a 3-bedroom house mortgage.

On the outside Freddie is a cog in the wheel of life, but on the inside, is very familiar with his homosexuality. With retirement, he feels a natural release and wishes to live his truth. Will he open up and face his fears, or will he suppress them like he has done all his life?



Isabelle

An iron-willed woman and life-long companion to Freddie. She is a pillar to the marriage and the reason Freddie wishes to suppress his true self for so long - to make it work!

Isabelle actively upholds society's conservative values and will do anything to make sure the Pickering's are held to a high standard.