

THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR WORKSHOP  
MAIN SCENE PREP NOTES

<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Nikila Cole
<b>MAIN SCENE TITLE:</b>	After the Wedding
<b>AS OF DATE:</b>	Jan. 5, 2013
<b>SCENE DESCRIPTION:</b>	
<p>BEN and NATALIE find themselves alone after Natalie's wedding to WALTER. Ben is waiting for his taxi and Walter has gone into town in a snowstorm and has not made his way back. As they talk, Ben learns about the predicament NATALIE has found herself in and the compromises she has made in order to make a future for her future child. They fall into a romantic moment which surprises both of them.</p>	
<b>LOCATION WITHIN THE NARRATIVE:</b> (what happens just <b>before</b> and just <b>after</b> this scene)	
<p>On the outskirts of Winnipeg in the middle of the Great Depression (1938), a raucous Ukrainian wedding has just finished celebrating the marriage of NATALIE (16), a plain girl who is not used to the attention being paid to her to WALTER, (32), an unattractive client of Natalie's parents who have made the firm decision to marry the two.</p> <p>During the wedding the first snow of the season has rolled in, and Walter had wanted to take his new bride off to a hotel downtown. His car hadn't started and the phone lines are down. Though everyone tried to stop him, the drunk groom (showing off) has decided to walk into town to find a taxi and come back to pick up his young bride. Natalie's parents have gone to bed exhausted, and BEN (18) the drummer from the wedding band) is sitting on a sofa with his drums waiting for his taxi to pick him up. The last guest has left and Natalie, still in her wedding dress, waits by the window for Walter to return in his taxi They are surrounded by the mess of the raucous evening (chairs tipped over, spilled drinks, half eaten wedding cake and left over foods. In front of them are many wrapped wedding presents and a basket full of money, a rare sight during these times.</p>	
<b>CHARACTER BIOS</b>	
<b>Character #1 Name:</b>	NATALIE, 16, uneducated Ukrainian girl living on the outskirts of Winnipeg with her parents during the Depression in 1938. She has been seduced by WALTER, a customer of her parents and is pressured into marrying him due to her pregnancy. She is quite plain but has an inner beauty which blossoms during her relationship with BEN.
<b>Character #2 Name:</b>	BEN: 18, a bright young Jewish musician who has had to give up his university education due to his step-father's suicide and the Depression. He is doing a lot of odd jobs to make ends meet including playing with a wedding band.
If applicable <b>Character #3 Name:</b>	(Type description here)

**MOOD and TONE:**

1938 Depression era in a house on the outskirts of Winnipeg. After a wild but poor Ukrainian wedding, the parents have gone to bed, there's a snowstorm swirling outside and the house feels exhausted and quiet.

**LOCATION /SETTING:**

1938 Prairie Farm house Hallway.

**SEASON / WEATHER / TIME OF DAY:**

Night, Winter, first snowstorm of the season outside.

**VISUAL STYLES / IMAGES:**

Both characters are physically exhausted and emotionally open and vulnerable during their late night exchange. Good use of wide shots and C/U's of body language and reactions, especially when things aren't being said. It should feel intimate and old worldly. Muted colours will bring out the meager existence of the time.

**SOUND / MUSIC INSPIRATIONS:**

Wind, Klezmer and Ukrainian music and/or the music of Cat Jahnke: "None of Those Things". Cat has agreed to score the scene and her husband Darren would like to mix it. I said I'd discuss this with you.. <http://www.catjahnke.com/music.html>

**OTHER NOTES (props, wardrobe, special effects, etc.):**

1938 Period hallway bench or couch. Snow swirling outside the window.  
Old fashioned Ukrainian wedding dress from 1930's for NATALIE.  
1930's shirt and pants for BEN.

Drum kit for BEN.

Mess of the wedding in background. Overturned bottles, half-eaten cake, food spilled, chairs turned over..

A Ukrainian cross necklace for NATALIE.

A Star of David necklace for BEN.

A staircase behind them (if possible) which they will talk up at the end of the scene.

**A large vitriola (sp?) or record player or radio of the time fairly prominent in the frame denoting the period.**

Reference notes:

<http://exhibitions.museums.ualberta.ca/ukrnwedding/1940p1.html>

<http://exhibitions.museums.ualberta.ca/ukrnwedding/1970p2.html>

<http://culture.alberta.ca/paa/docs/UkrainianGuide-English.pdf>

<http://www.tsf36.fr/enphonos.htm>