

# Gossamer

**Tagline:** Every seam tells a story.

**Logline:** Jack, a reclusive agoraphobic man, clings to his crumbling home while inhabiting Shirley, the shimmering feminine persona he has created as both refuge and ideal.

**Short Synopsis:** Living in a body that feels alien to him, Jack's fragile balance between fantasy and reality begins to unravel. When Mary, a compassionate social worker, arrives before the foreclosure of Shirley's home, she becomes the catalyst for Jack's reckoning with the body, the self, and the truth he has fought to escape.

**Tone & Vision:** The film inhabits a fragile and urgent space between glamour and decay, illusion and truth. At its center is the experience of a man caught in profound gender dysmorphia, trapped in a body that feels estranged from his true self. Only in the delicate rituals of becoming Shirley, a glamorous 50s movie star echoing the elegance of Lana Turner and Grace Kelly, does Jack find fleeting freedom. The visual world of the vintage 1970s suburban house becomes a character in the story as well, and is cinematic and raw, yet dreamlike in its use of soft light, fabric, and shadow. It captures the collision of elegance and grit and the pressure of the external world against an unraveling inner one.

**Themes:**

## **Identity & Duality**

Shirley is not another person, but Jack's manifestation of an idealized feminine self. For Jack, the body is a cage, distorted by the weight of gender dysmorphia, and Shirley becomes both escape and survival. She allows him to live as someone he cannot be in the outside world. The film explores how identity can be both mask and lifeline, how the body itself can become an arena of conflict, and how fragile personas hold the power to both save and destroy.

## **Memory & Inheritance**

The gestures, gowns, and rituals of Shirley echo Jack's grandmother, binding her present to the past. Through fabric, posture, and ritual, Jack preserves an inheritance of resilience and beauty. The house itself becomes a museum of memory, an important character in the story, where Shirley's existence is stitched together from remnants of family, tradition, and loss.

## **Survival & Transformation**

At its core, *Gossamer* asks how fragile identities allow us to endure in an unforgiving world. Jack's transformation into Shirley is not escapism but survival, a way of holding on when everything external collapses. Yet the film also confronts what happens when those fragile constructs are threatened, what must be shed, and what remains when fantasy collides with reality.

## **Credits**

Written and Directed by Hamish Sturgeon

Produced by Frederick Keeve / Keeve Productions

Cast: Natalie Mitchell, Angelle Brooks, Hamish Sturgeon