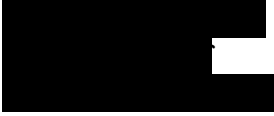


Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:



Title:

- Perdita
- The title of the series, Perdita, means ‘to lose’ or ‘lost’ in Latin. The word Perdita is a symbol of the serious societal topics that this series portrays: depression, addiction, substance abuse, and suicide. In this series, the protagonist Billy experiences a continual battle with depression that begins in high school and then seeps into his college experience. Billy hides his mental illness from the world out of fear of being labeled weak and or feminine. This hidden depression translates into toxic habits and behaviors, which are exacerbated through Billy’s alcohol addiction and him cheating on his girlfriend Samantha. Ultimately, the title Perdita is relevant because Billy loses his girlfriend Samantha when she falls victim to drug overdose. Billy becomes lost and needs to find his way back to mental stability.

Genre:

- Drama
- This series is meant to evoke feelings of fear, sympathy, nostalgia, and remorse. Although this series is somewhat tragic, we purposefully chose to highlight taboo struggles that are quite relevant and relatable for younger individuals in today’s hectic society.

Synopsis:

- Billy, the protagonist, is a 20-year-old college student at Rutgers University. Billy is the ex-boyfriend of Samantha, another 20-year-old female college student at Rutgers. Samantha is considerably the good girl next door, beautiful, kind, and smart. Both Billy and Samantha are sophomore students. Unfortunately, Billy broke Samantha’s heart a year into their relationship when he got drunk and had a one night stand with a different female named Luci Molly. Billy’s mental illness worsens after this event, and his self-perception depreciates as he knows how badly he hurt Samantha. In their first year in college, Samantha’s fourteen-year-old younger brother commits suicide. Samantha tries to fill the void of her brother’s death with alcohol, drugs, sex, and partying, all in hopes of feeling something after she had become so numb. Billy tried to comfort Samantha after the loss of her brother, but always had a secret agenda of winning her back. Eventually, Billy does win Samantha back due to her vulnerable state. Suddenly, Samantha falls victim to drug overdose from taking a Xanax that was laced with fentanyl. It remains undetermined if this was intentional or not. After the loss of Samantha, Billy dedicates his life to fight for those who suffer from mental illness or drug or alcohol abuse.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name:

- Billy Silverstein

Physical:

- Billy Silverstein is a 20-year-old, straight white male, standing about six feet tall with a muscular build. Girls have been attracted to Billy's chiseled American bad boy looks for as long as he can remember. He has golden blonde hair and piercing light brown eyes. His arms are covered in tattoos, each telling a different story. Although Billy does not smile much, he is a generally happy person until he loses Samantha for good. He often wears casual athletic clothing, such as sports jerseys or Nike shorts.

Personality:

- Billy Silverstein grew up in a stable two-parent household and attended high school in New Jersey, where he was an only child, a three-sport athlete, and a successful honors student. Despite Billy's seemingly easy upbringing, he continually suffers from depression, anxiety, and a manic personality disorder. As this mental illness does not affect absolutely every part of his life, it does cause him to be perceived by others as more anxious and closed off. He is both independent and calculated, almost manipulative in getting what he wants. When we meet Billy, he is the worst mental state of his life, he has just lost Samantha to her drug overdose. Both angry at the circumstances and persistent to find out why she died, Billy is passionate and enraged.

Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** Five years earlier, Billy suffered his first mental breakdown that stuck with him for life. As an honor student, he was always surrounded by peers that were older than him. He had a mentor, Jack Brown, who was a junior in high school that he met in one of his advanced placement classes during his freshman year. Jack was Billy's first role model and there was pretty much nothing they did not do together. One day before school, Billy walked to Jack's house so he could drive them to school. When Billy arrived, Jack's mother let him in; she was just leaving for work. He waited ten minutes before venturing up to Jack's room to see what was taking so long. Billy found Jack unconscious next to his toilet with a pill bottle empty on the counter. That was the last time Billy would see Jack.
- **Event 2:** Billy has been in love with Samantha since the first day he saw her. He truly felt like she was the only one for him until he made a mistake that he would not be able to amend. One night however, Samantha decided to not go out and Billy went out with his friends to a frat party. He ended up hooking up with a girl and having a one night stand with a girl he did not even know. He immediately told Samantha who did not want to hear any of his excuses, which sent him further down his path of depression and anxiety. Billy felt worthless and lost in the world without his one true love. Samantha was first person Billy let in since the death of Jack and all his feelings of loneliness slowly creep back in as each day goes on.

- **Event 3:** Billy hears the news of Samantha's brother passing and immediately uses that as a reason to create a line of communication between them. At first she is reluctant because of what he did to her in the past and she cannot afford anymore heartbreaks at this point in her life. Eventually Samantha lets Billy back into her life, but it is short lived. The more time Billy spends with Samantha, the more his mental issues improve. Samantha on the other hand is not doing well dealing with her brother's death. She turned to drugs and alcohol many times throughout the week. One night right before finals week, Billy wakes up from a call from Samantha's mother. She is distraught on the phone and he can barely understand her sobbing words. Samantha died from Xanax that was laced with fentanyl. That was the last straw for Billy, who spiraled into deep depression. The two people he cared about the most were taken away from him when he needed them the most.

Current Situation:

- As the film begins, we see Billy passed out with a bottle of tequila next to him. It was his favorite drink since the passing of Samantha, because it did not take him long to get drunk. Since her death, Billy has secluded himself from the world more than ever. He attends counseling every other week, even though it was recommended that he comes in much more than that. He's been blaming himself for his loved ones' deaths because he thinks he could have done more to help them during their times alive. Every night, unless he was drunk, Billy has pictures of Samantha running through his mind until tears would come to his eyes. He vowed that he would find out who was responsible for Samantha's death and make that person pay for hurting her and himself.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Don Draper: *Mad Men*
- Billy and Don Draper have many similar characteristics. Both have pasts they are trying to cope with, and both do not take the best routes to solve their problems. Billy mirrors Don Draper's characteristics in his use of dramatic lines, angry wordings, and his overall mysterious manner. Billy's past is divulged right away, versus Don Draper's past which is slowly shown throughout his series. Additionally, both men are unable to commit to relationships and use substances to avoid feeling their feelings. Billy will find peace just like Don does, but he will start working towards it earlier than Don does in *Mad Men*. Billy and Don have the same sort of procedural goal of figuring out how to control themselves and the other people around them. Billy's control issues originate from his feeling of loss, but nonetheless both have power issues.

Character Inspiration 2

- The Joker: *Dark Knight*
- The Joker and Billy both have a troubled past, but Billy is not nearly as insane as the Joker outwardly is. Billy mirrors the Joker in that they both have set back stories that serve as their moral compass and characterize the person they are in the present film or show. Both men have gone off the rails due to internal and external variables. Billy is going to be very intelligent and calculated just like the Joker is. Billy will also be able to put together mastermind level of plots just like the Joker does against Batman. Similarly to the Joker, Billy will eventually realize the error of his ways, but at first he will be a force to be reckoned with. We like to think of the Joker as a character that Billy mirrors because as a group, we have sympathy for the Joker's misunderstood ways. Although Billy can act evil, deep down it is coming from a place of hurt and insecurity just like the Joker's evil does.

Character Inspiration 3

- Charlie: *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*
- Charlie Kelly and Billy Silverstein have more in common than one would think. Both men use unhealthy coping mechanisms to push off their emotions and problems, rather than solving their qualms head on. Both men also suffer from mental delusions. Charlie works at a bar in Philadelphia so alcohol is his scapegoat, as it is for Billy as well. It was said by the show's creator, that as a character writer, Charlie was his outlet for all the feelings he could never express as an adolescent boy. Charlie makes viewers feel young again. We think that younger viewers of *Perdita* can connect to or relate to Billy and his struggles the same way viewers of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* can see themselves within Charlie.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: Extreme Close Up – 30 seconds

- When introducing Billy, we wanted to emphasize that he had just woken up from a drunken night. Slowly panning up the stairs, you can see only his feet and then his body in an uncomfortable position. His body posture shows that the sleep that he had the night before was not voluntary. In addition to his posture, we placed the bottle of tequila next to him so it was evident that he was drinking the night before. The empty handle of alcohol insinuates that he was drinking heavily, rather than a partially filled fifth. Following this camera angle, we shot a close up of his eyes struggling to open to give the audience the impression that he was groggy and not well rested, or even hungover and confused. The use of the extreme close up was intentional. We wanted to portray all of these elements clearly, so that you could view Billy's disheveled state and recognize that he might be in danger or conflict.

Technique 2: Light and Dark: A contrast between light and dark - 40 seconds

- At the beginning of the trailer, flashbacks of Billy and Samantha are filmed in a dark black and white vignette. Because viewers will find out that Samantha has passed away, we wanted those scenes to be dramatic, nostalgic, and sad. Later in the trailer, sections are more colorful and lighter. This was done to elicit an action-movie feel from the audience. We wanted suspense, fear, and interest in Billy's current situation and what goal he is trying to accomplish. We even increased the saturation of the film so that it seemed livelier. At the end when Billy shoots the drug dealer, we made it darker again to represent death and mourning.

Technique 3: Over the Shoulder Shot - 20 seconds

- During the semester, we learned that certain camera angles and film techniques can elicit different perceptions from consumers depending on how the scene is shot. We used the technique of over the shoulder shot to emphasize to viewers what Billy's point of view was during the trailer. Both confident and dangerous, Billy moves quickly and we felt that over the shoulder shooting would make the film the most interesting and dramatic for viewers to consume. We wanted viewers to feel as though they were moving right with Billy. We even filmed from his perspective when he creepily opened up the door to enter the room with the enemy drug dealer. The tone of the film was dramatic, and because Billy and the drug dealer had an emotional conversation during their encounter, we heightened this emotion with the over the shoulder shot. Additionally, despite Billy's troubles we always want the audience to recognize and empathize with Billy being the protagonist. Giving them a view from Billy's point of view with the over the shoulder shot, emphasized the protagonist idea for the audience.