

Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:

- Korsunska, Anna
- Kukshinov, Eugene
- Palmieri, Stephanie

Title:

- *Orphan Black*
- The title of the series reflects a few specific ideas in the series. In this series, the main characters are clones, only becoming aware of this in their adult lives. Sarah and Helena, two main characters, are orphaned and distributed to church and state separately as children, causing dire consequences for both. The word orphan becomes more poignant as the women fight for their lives and for the new found family they have in each other. The color black reflects the overall dark tone and mood of the series.

Genre:

- Drama
- This series is meant to disturb, confuse, and enlighten. There are no intended funny scenes, rather, we focus on the conflicts in the characters lives and on how they attempt to resolve those conflicts.

Synopsis:

- Sarah, the protagonist, is a 26-year-old woman with a semi-estranged 8-year-old child, Kira, a step-brother, Felix, and a step-mother, Mrs. S. The story takes place in present day Canada, where Sarah and Felix grew up with Mrs. S. Sarah is a rebellious type who has made bad decisions all her life. We meet Sarah one night when she is heading back to Mrs. S's house to visit her daughter. At the train station, she witnesses the suicide of a woman who looks exactly like her. In another moment of bad judgment, Sarah steals the woman's purse and plots to steal her identity and money. However, as Sarah digs deeper, she begins to piece together the mystery of this look alike and discovers a scientific cabal that has produced an untold number of clones who are secretly monitored by people in their lives. Because Mrs. S. kept Sarah off the map, Sarah has inadvertently avoided this system, making her a coveted missing link for researchers. Sarah teams up with several other clones who must all sacrifice their livelihoods, their jobs, and their families in order to fight for their freedom and work to end the genetic production and testing of human clones.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name:

- Sarah Manning

Physical:

- Sarah Manning is a 26 year old, white woman with an average build and height. Though she grew up in Canada, she has a British accent. She is darkly beautiful, with long, unkempt wavy brown hair, dark smoldering eyes, and a smile that serves more as a warning than a sign of happiness. She doesn't wear much makeup, but when she does, she favors a smokey eye look that matches her dark personality. She often wears dark black combat boots, tight jeans, and a black leather jacket lined with a hooded sweatshirt that she has a habit of pulling down over her face.

Personality:

- Sarah was orphaned at a young age and spent time in foster care; this experience left her jaded and rebellious. Though Mrs. S. did a great job of loving and caring for Sarah and Felix, Sarah developed a complicated love, hate relationship with her. Sarah is stubborn, always convinced her way is the right way and that other people are weak and stupid. She has been a notoriously bad parent; though she loves Kira genuinely, she is irresponsible and leaves Kira for many months at a time. When we meet Sarah, she has just escaped a relationship with a drug dealer boyfriend and is trying to make amends with Mrs. S. and Kira.

Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** As a child, Sarah had to fend for herself in foster care. She cycled through a series of bad homes equipped with kids who had learned to savagely protect themselves and foster parents who did the bare minimum. When first taken in by Mrs. S., Sarah resented her, at first ignoring her outright, then fighting with her at every turn. As Sarah became a teenager, the fighting didn't stop, though Sarah came to understand that she and Mrs. S were cut from the same cloth – stubborn, willful, eager to throw a punch, and fiercely protective.
- **Event 2:** One of the most significant events in Sarah's life is the birth of her daughter. When Sarah realized she was pregnant, she initially considered having an abortion. She knew that she was ill-equipped to have her, but ultimately felt a pull toward having her. In some ways, Sarah's decision to have the baby was born out of her own stubbornness and desire to be right, as well as out of a duel spite for Mrs. S and a desire to prove her worth to Mrs. S.
- **Event 3:** In the year before Sarah returned to reclaim the now 8-year-old Kira, she continued a life long part of drugs and alcohol, bad men, and small time conning. Over this year, Sarah consistently dulled her melancholy over a wasted life with substances, though by the end of the year, she grew tired of the lifestyle and yearned for a change. Though she wouldn't admit this desire, she acted on it, leaving her erratic drug dealing boyfriend without a goodbye.

Current Situation:

- As the series begins, Sarah is lost, looking to escape her complicated past and hoping to make amends with her daughter. When she returns, she finds a reluctant Mrs. S., a shy but eager daughter, and more conflict than she can handle. When she attempts to take over the life of the woman from the train, she realizes she has the opportunity to make a big score by cleaning out a sizable bank account. She uses photographs and videos of the woman, Beth, and works to embody her enough to withdrawal the money. Things get complicated as Beth's boyfriend returns home and as Sarah realizes that Beth is a suspended detective. As the ruse continues, Sarah comes to find that she and Beth are clones and that there are at least 4 others in existence.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Don Drapper: *Mad Men*
- We selected Don Drapper as an inspiration for our character for a number of reasons. One of Don's qualities that was so compelling in the series is the way he commands the room. He brings a brash confidence into every conversation and every room he enters, whether he is prepared for a meeting or not. He has the kind of willful stubbornness that we wanted our character to embody. Like Don, our character makes a lot of mistakes and bad decisions, but also like Don, she manages to always land on her feet. We also loved that Don had his own style and he owned it. We wanted Sarah to have a clear style, one that was unlike any of the other clones, and one that felt true to her. While Don is a sharp suit man, Sarah is punk rock – but both are effortless. We also found inspiration in Don in his relationships with women and with his children. Like Don, we wanted Sarah to be a bit of a bed hopper. Don is self-serving in most ways, as is Sarah. We also loved the relationship the show makes between Don and his kids – he loves them, but he doesn't understand them nor does he take the time to really get to know him. We wanted that type of relationship to play out with Sarah and her daughter, leaving room for Sarah to grow into that relationship over time.

Character Inspiration 2

- Rosa Diaz: *Brooklyn 99*
- We selected Rosa Diaz as an inspiration for our character because of her personality and demeanor. Rosa is a strong, empowered woman who doesn't allow people to walk all over her or diminish her. We wanted to create a character that had that same kind of personality. We knew this kind of personality would be important for Sarah given her background as an orphan, as someone who felt abandoned and discarded. She grew up needing to protect herself and to keep people at arm's length. Rosa was a great personality inspiration for Sarah because although she does have the capacity for love, she also has a deep need to protect herself. We also took inspiration from Rosa's style, taking the leather jacket/boots look and adopting it to Sarah as a punk rock style. The style is key to both characters personalities and the way others perceive them.

Character Inspiration 3

- Mary Richards: *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*
- We selected Mary Richards as an inspiration for our character because of her fierce independence. Although we wanted to craft Sarah as a character that bounced around from man to man, we also wanted it to be clear, especially in this kind of behavior, that she did not need a man to survive. She is a survivor, much like Mary. When Mary left her long time boyfriend, she did so because she needed more, she wanted more for herself. Although Sarah is caught up in bad decision-making, she also has a deep desire for more – to do something more for herself. Although Mary and Sarah are different in many ways, they are fundamentally the same in their independence and in their desire for adventure and something beyond what society prescribes. We also took inspiration from

Mary because of her friendship with Rhoda, a friendship that was strong and loving. As her story continues, Sarah will come to rely on and love her clone sisters.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: Extreme Close Up – 33 seconds

- When introducing Sarah, we wanted to emphasize her complex emotional state. An extreme close up is designed to feature a character's eyes and eyebrows, both of which are expressive. This type of shot puts emphasis on the eyes, marking them as a window to the soul and emphasizing the idea that the character is in emotional turmoil. We chose to use this shot at the end of the trailer and to have Sarah staring directly back out at the viewer to leave viewers with an eerie invitation and threat from Sarah to join her on her journey. We also wanted to force viewers to look Sarah in the eyes, to feel her frustration, her confusion, her anger, her anxiety, and her fierceness.

Technique 2: Deliberate Choice of Music – 20-33seconds

- We chose to use this song, (song title and artist), because of its slow but steady build in tempo and intensity. The song crescendos, pumping with a quick, hard beat just as we cut to the extreme close up of Sarah's eyes. When the song starts, we feature Sarah in conflict. We wanted that conflict to come to its own crescendo as we zoom in on Sarah's eyes. We also chose this techno-style song to help set the mood and tone of the series as fast paced and complex. We wanted viewers to get a bit of a punk rock vibe from Sarah and to understand her complexity.

Technique 3: Focus on a Background Shot – 0-10 seconds

- We chose to shoot at night at the train station. There is an eeriness and coldness about the train cars and the lights that matches the death Sarah witnesses in the introduction and her callousness as she steals Beth's bag. This background also references Sarah's transient nature and her willingness to cut and run when things get tough. We also wanted viewers to associate her with steel and grit as well as power. We use a panning shot to introduce this background, then pull the focus to Sarah as we finish the pan on her. This type of shot allowed us to highlight the connection between Sarah and this space.

Section 5: Contributions List (if applicable)

- Korsunskaja, Anna
 - Attended all group meetings
 - Created the storyboard for the video
 - Produced a script for each scene
 - Shot 70% of the scenes
 - Wrote section 1 and 2
 - Found the song for the second half of the trailer
 - Produced the initial song and cut it together with the second song
 - Provided costumes for several scenes

- Kukshinov, Eugene
 - Attended all group meetings
 - Contacted and hired actors from The Klein School
 - Organized costume choices and provided what actors did not have
 - Organized a run through for the actors prior to filming day
 - Shot 30% of the scenes
 - Wrote section 3
 - Did final edits on the full trailer
 - Provided actor makeup and did all character hair styles

- Palmieri, Stephanie
 - Attended all group meetings
 - Organized all 6 group meetings via email
 - Produced agenda for group meetings and ran the meetings
 - Organized all written assignment materials and submitted on Canvas
 - Wrote section 4 and did final edits on all sections
 - Directed the trailer and organized location shots
 - Edited the full video