




B L O O M



SYNOPSIS



Bloom is a fictional drama that follows the past and present life of Kate, a mother of two children, Katie and Brent, and her poodle, Storm. Stirred by the desire to flee her small town Indiana life, this ambling Midwest tale begins with Kate in her late-sixties, on the eve of an impromptu vacation to her son's house in Missouri. However, this road trip quickly snowballs into an adventure across America. Driven by memories from her past, we come to learn how Kate once broke free from her hometown and toured with a band on the road. Unfortunately, this dream came to an abrupt end leaving her right back in the stagnant, small town life she so desperately yearned to escape from. With her children's inadvertent guidance, Kate's attempt to fulfill her pursuit for independence is met face to face with her life's deepest regret.



REVIEWS

“*Bloom* is an impressive debut of director Mark Totte. An emotional journey serviced by the brilliant talent of actress Kate Braun, a beautiful array of supporting characters, the gentle but haunting score, on point cinematography, and the gift of a director that allows these elements to breathe. What a welcome relief to know that young filmmakers like Totte are trusting and brave enough to allow these impressive elements to *Bloom*.”

- David Anspaugh, *Hoosiers* (1986), *Rudy* (1993)

“★★★★ - *Bloom* is a beautiful movement of sight and sound, with the cinematography by Jon Corum and music by Darby Cicci setting a tone that's moody and downbeat, but also filled with moments of peace and pure happiness.”

- Christopher Lloyd, FilmYap

“*Bloom* doesn't go for easy sentimentality in the way some micro-indies often do, and it's all the better for it.”

- Ben Sears, The Movie State



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Upon graduating from college and entering the industry in Los Angeles at 22 years old, I quickly found myself thrown in the deep end. After three years living in Los Angeles, I called it quits. My plan was to hit the reset button and pursue a new career back home in Michigan. Before moving home, however, I planned to make a pit stop at my old college town in Bloomington, IN and enjoy a southern Indiana summer before embarking on my new path. On my third day in Bloomington, the unexplainable happened. I ran into a dear friend and elder of mine, a local to Bloomington, and a powerfully spirited soul. She was 68-yr old Kate Braun. Kate had acted in several of my student films and we became close while I was in school.

On that third night in Bloomington, we had a lengthy conversation about how dreams come and go, and for the first time I got to know the real Kate Braun. Kate has this demeanor about her, this uncanny ability to connect with any person who crosses her path, young and old. Whimsical, spitfired, and wise.

It's hard to put into words what happened next. *Bloom* took off in that conversation - a story that paralleled elements of my own searching, heartbreak and feelings of failure with fragments of her long, beautiful and battered life. I touched down in Bloomington in May, and by early August I was on the road with Kate, her dog, and our crew to make *Bloom* a reality.

Everything serendipitously fell into place that summer. It took luck, the work of so many of my dearest friends, and simply put - Kate. Somehow we pulled off a production that would span from Indiana to Nevada and back; immediately followed by an intense shoot in Indiana to capture the B story on 16mm film. It was an absolute whirlwind.

We said to ourselves at the time, "no matter what happens it's going to be a beautiful disaster".

Truth is, I didn't really have a script. I just had a one-page outline of beats. The entire production was operating on pure feeling. Most of the core team knew and adored Kate from their time at Indiana University so it was comfortable that way. We flew by the seat of our pants, but we did so in a way where we pushed each other to the best of our abilities. A week before we started production, The DP and I quickly decided upon a look for the film and we made sure that for each location/day we had an ample amount of time to capture at least 14 shots. We planned the shoot in a way that we could shoot chronologically. That was the structure. That was it.

The rush and intensity of the shoot left me mostly on my own with 3 G-drives and a lot of unpaid editing ahead. So I took my time, and edited as my life and paid work allowed. The film stalled in 2020 due to the pandemic. And then, with the same flavor of luck from our shooting days, I got the boost I needed. In 2022 I connected with Darby Cicci, another of Kate's young friends and former member of The Antlers, who agreed to score the film.

This film has been one of the most profound and difficult undertakings I have ever placed upon myself, taking nearly a third of my life to complete. I'm grateful to have gotten it to this point and be able to release it into the world. And I am grateful to Kate Braun, and her family, for their willingness and patience to be a part of the film.



CAST & CREW

CAST

KATE BRAUN	KATE
CHLOE CAEMMERER	YOUNG KATE
ANDREW WIND	THE DRUMMER
DAVID WEIRHAKE	DAVID
STORM	STORM
BRADY ADAMS	YOUNG BRENT
ELEANOR COOK	YOUNG KATIE
TREY McCURLEY	BRENT'S VOICE
SHELLEY DENNIS	KATIE'S VOICE
CHARLIE TEMPLE	THE MAVERICK
RYAN MURNANE	BRYAN
BEAR D'ANGELO	BRADY
CHARLIE SACKS	CHAZ
BEN MONTICUE	JEFFY LUBE MANAGER

CREW

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY	MARK TOTTE
PRODUCED BY	MARK TOTTE
	LEO FARBMAN
	RUSSELL McGEE
	MATT KAYE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	EMILY SOLT McGEE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	LEO FARBMAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	JON CORUM
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	MITCH PARKS
EDITED BY	MARK TOTTE
ORIGINAL SCORE BY	DARBY CICCİ
SOUND DESIGNER	THOMAS OUZIEL, m.p.s.e
ART DIRECTOR	SAHAR PASTEL-DANESHGAR



TECHNICAL



TITLE BLOOM

LANGUAGE ENGLISH

YEAR 2023

LOCATION USA

RUNNING TIME 73 MINUTES

PRINT DCP

SOUND 5.1

FORMAT 2:39