



Are We Just Flowers?

A film by Eugene Rocco Utley

10 min / U.S.A. / Color / 2026 / English

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Skylan Kimbrell

Keaton Smith

Riley Pittman

Are We Just Flowers?

written and directed by Eugene Rocco Utley

AN EXCELETTO PRODUCTION A EUGENE ROCCO UTLEY FILM SKYLAN KIMBRELL KEATON SMITH "ARE WE JUST FLOWERS?"
MUSIC BY TO BE DETERMINED DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTIN KNIPPER PRODUCTION DESIGNER YASMIN JAYE EDITED BY EUGENE ROCCO UTLEY CASTING DIRECTOR ASHLEY CRANE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EUGENE ROCCO UTLEY AND JACKIE KNIPPER PRODUCED BY ASHLEY CRANE YASMIN JAYE AND EUGENE ROCCO UTLEY

Logline

A poem about a flower going through an existential crisis.



Synopsis

A flower - just beginning to bloom - sees an older flower next to it whithering. It begins to not only grieve the older flower, but also question its own mortality and reason for growth. However, the more it grows, the more it starts to see the way that the older flower, despite its decay, takes care of it. Eventually the older flower dies, and a new seed takes its place. And the flower, now old and withering, begins to care for the new seed - realizing that its aging is just part of a cycle of life in which we must wilt to make room for others to bloom.



As the poem concludes, we realize that the poem is being read by Anna - a young mother - at the funeral of her own mother. As the story progresses, we see the similarities between the poem and her reality, and eventually, we end on her reconnecting with her daughter and learning the same lesson that the flower in her poem learned.

Meet the Director

Eugene Rocco Utley

Eugene Rocco Utley is an award-winning filmmaker from Murrells Inlet, SC. Ever since graduating from Clemson University, where he studied World Cinema and Media Writing, he has produced a tonally mosaic filmography of bold, character-driven stories, each delivering compelling yet challenging stories that aim to narrow the gap between art and entertainment.

He is best known for *A.B.* (2023), a short comedy mockumentary dedicated to artists' mental health, and *Behind Closed Doors* (2025), a coming-of-age thriller that embodies the anxieties and loneliness felt in today's younger generations.



Director's Statement



I believe that art is an inherently sympathetic medium. Despite nearly all films technically being from a third-person perspective, we so easily put ourselves in the shoes of the protagonists. So can a film have the power to put a viewer into the minds of a flower?

Are We Just Flowers? not only puts that question to the test, but it also looks to answer that titular question. If our life cycles not so different from flowers, then are we just flowers? To me, yes... but no. What makes us different from a flower is what birthed this concept in the first place. The ability that us humans have to look at something - whether another person or even something inanimate - and find some way to put ourselves in their shoes (or, in this case, soil). We learn to love even that love won't be reciprocated, and we learn to live even though that won't save us from dying. Even if we are just flowers, that's just what we do.

Cast Bios



Skylan Kimbrell - Anna

Skylan is an actress based in upstate SC. She is a graduate from Converse College where she earned her BA in Theatre before shortly transitioning into film. She's worked on short films, features, and projects that have appeared on Lifetime, Oxygen, and more.



Keaton Smith - Sophia *(Anna's daughter)*

Keaton is a developing young actress making her on-screen debut with *Are We Just Flowers?*. Her previous credits include theater performances with Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina and Spartanburg Youth Theatre in South Carolina where she most recently played the role of Lucy Pevensie in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.



Riley Pittman - Young Anna

Riley Pittman is a young emerging performer with a passion for musical theatre. She has appeared in several stage productions, including Madison in *School of Rock* with Spartanburg Little Theatre. Beyond the stage, she has modeled and appeared in several commercials, and makes her narrative screen acting debut with this film.



Candace Boroos - Beatrice *(Anna's mother)*

Candace has primarily worked in theatre and has been seen on stage in roles such as Penelope in *You Can't Take It with You* and M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*.

Cast & Crew

Pre-Production

Eugene Rocco Utley.....Executive Producer
Jackie Knipper.....Executive Producer
Ashley Crane.....Producer
Yasmin Jaye.....Producer
Ashley Crane.....Casting Director

Cast

Skylan Kimbrell.....Anna
Keaton Smith.....Sophia
Riley Pittman.....Young Anna
Candace Boroos.....Beatrice

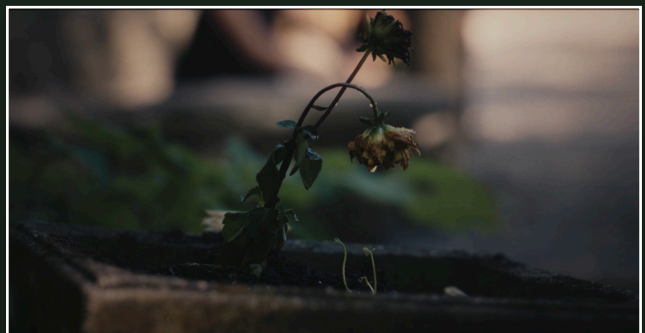
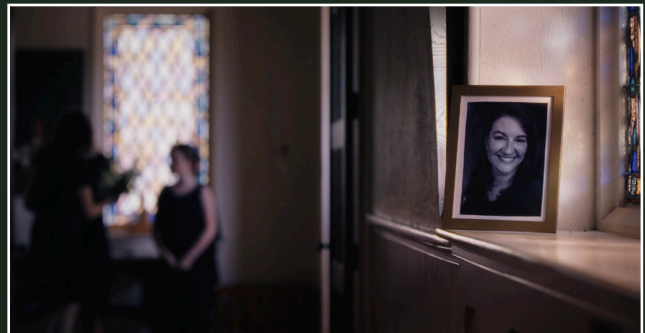
Production Crew

Eugene Rocco Utley.....Director
Ashley Crane.....Unit Production Manager
Justin Knipper.....Director of Photography
Rhodes Farrell.....Camera Operator
Dorian Andrade.....1st Assistant Camera
Jaemen Richards.....2nd Assistant Camera
Erik Olsen.....Gaffer
Chad Goss.....Key Grip
Yasmin Jaye.....Production Designer
Jaemen Richards.....Art Director
Kris Alexander.....Set Dresser
Sandy Miller.....Florist
Rhodes Farrell.....Production Sound Recordist
Michael Leach.....BTS Photographer

Post-Production Crew

Eugene Rocco Utley.....Editor
Dorian Andrade.....Colorist
Shea Ellerbrock.....Sound Designer
Eugene Rocco Utley.....Composer

Film Stills



BTS Photos



Links & Other Materials

Trailer Link:

[Are We Just Flowers - Official Trailer](#)

Website Link:

[Are We Just Flowers? - Exceletto.com](#)

Contact:

Eugene Rocco Utley

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Contact for any inquiries regarding Are We Just Flowers (2026), or for additional film stills, links, or filmmaker/actor interviews.

