FESTIVAL DE CANNES

TANGLES



Directed by Leah Nelson

Special Screening

Run time: 102 minutes

Producers: Monarch Media, Point Grey Pictures, Giant Ant Films, LYLAS Pictures
Screenwriters: Leah Nelson, Sarah Leavitt, Trev Renney.
Starring: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Abbi Jacobson, Bryan Cranston, Beanie Feldstein, Seth Rogen, Samira Wiley, Sarah Silverman, Wanda Sykes, Bowen Yang, Pamela Adlon and Fern Grandin.

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Synopsis

Sarah leaves her exciting life as an activist and artist in 90s San Francisco to return to the small, conservative hometown she fled when Alzheimer's begins to erode her mother's vibrant personality. Forced to grow up quickly, she juggles a new relationship, long-held career ambitions, and an eccentric family she literally follows to Mexico and back in a last-ditch effort to make them take the situation seriously. Confronting a disorienting reality she can't control, Sarah must find her footing - learning to accept her mother's decline and the imperfect beauty of her family - in order to become the daughter they need.

Director's Statement

This story came into my life over 10 years ago. I was at an event at the National Film Board of Canada when a producer handed me a graphic novel and said, "You need to do something with this. And you need to meet Sarah." She knew I ran an animation company in Vancouver (Giant Ant), but she didn't know that I was in the midst of losing someone I loved to dementia.

I said I'd give it a read, but I was apprehensive. It should take one sitting to read this comic—it's only 125 pages—and I actually think that's the best way to experience the story. But I was wading through many of the same things Sarah was depicting with her mother's Alzheimer's; it was visceral and relatable. I was afraid to turn the page to learn what was to come with my own loved one, so it took me forever to finish. But when I finally did, I had cried my eyes out—and I also laughed, because the way Sarah expertly shone a light into the darkest corners of grief felt like permission to. It was honest and brave and weird and tender, and it didn't pull any punches about how hard it is to navigate this disease in one's family, or how messy that experience can be.

It was clear to me that it was a dark comedy, and that the graphic novel's expressive, poignant illustrations could be brought to life through animation. I called Teri, who had shoved the book into my hands, and said, "Okay, you were right. Introduce me to Sarah." I optioned the book immediately and went looking for partners.

Aware that a black-and-white, adult animated dark comedy about a devastating disease might be a tough sell, I knew I needed partners with a personal connection to the subject matter. I immediately thought of my fellow Vancouverite Seth Rogen and his wife, Lauren Miller Rogen, who are powerful voices and advocates in the Alzheimer's space—not to mention some of the most prolific producers in Hollywood. As I had hoped, when Lauren

and Seth read the graphic novel, it struck a chord. They understood my vision for adapting it and bringing it to life through hand-drawn animation, and they came on to produce.

Sarah Leavitt and I got busy on the adaptation—a first for both of us—along with our fellow screenwriter, Trev Renney. It was a challenging undertaking to translate the vignettes and memories that make up the comic into a cinematic journey that was propulsive and immersive. I wanted the narrative to grab you, hold you tight, and then place you down gently at the end, having been through some shit with us. With the graphic novel always in reach, and Sarah's lived experience by my side, we embarked on writing the screenplay. I made a commitment to honour the source material and its artwork, as well as this family's story, while allowing us creative freedom to create something new.

With a strong script and dialogue that was authentic, relatable, and funny, we set out to find our Leavitt family and the supporting characters who bring colour and conflict to the story. My intention was to work with voice talent who could help us walk the tightrope between levity and gravity—who could deliver earnest, heartfelt performances while also bringing humor and quirkiness to these flawed but lovable characters.

I love improv and, as a director, I always build time into my schedules to play, because this is where the best, most authentic moments happen. I wanted to work with comedians and performers who were willing and excited to improvise with each other and with me, creating space to depart from the words on the page and achieve the most naturalistic tone in the dialogue.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bryan Cranston, Abbi Jacobson, and Beanie Feldstein were at the top of my blue-sky list to play the Leavitts, with Samira Wiley as the cool and sage Donimo. I never anticipated that they would all enthusiastically say yes to the project—and that we'd then add insanely talented comedic geniuses like Bowen Yang, Wanda Sykes, Sarah Silverman, Pamela Adlon, and Phil Rosenthal to round out the cast. We recorded the talent early in the filmmaking process and, wherever possible, had them together in the booth. Hours of recordings and improvisations were then crafted into a radio play, which we used as our guide to give our hand-drawn characters their beating hearts.

My approach to the visual treatment was inspired by the way a single panel in the comic could make you understand viscerally what the protagonist, Sarah, was feeling. I made the decision to exist solely inside the psyche and memories of our lead—never being without her, and ensuring that we are always experiencing the scene from her perspective. I didn't want to tell what happened, but rather what it felt like for her.

We crafted a world both grounded in reality and wildly unhinged, offering a window *not* into the mind of the Alzheimer's sufferer, but into that of our fiercely loving, imaginative, neurotic, and beautifully flawed protagonist. Visually, I wanted to retain the grittiness of a hand-drawn comic while building out a world that was rich and cinematic. Working with the most talented designers, animators, editors, and sound designers, we all embraced the mantra "keep Tangles weird" and committed to serving the story first. Choosing stark black and white—with small whispers of colour only when Sarah's emotions overspill—was an easy decision and one that was right up the alley of our Art Director, Manddy Wyckens. It allowed us to focus on giving every shot a rich cinematic treatment and to delve deep into Sarah's anxieties and fears using the limitless medium of animation.

Music played a large role in grounding us in Sarah's life in the late '90s and early 2000s, and we chose songs that felt authentic to her experience and the era. The score was equally important in immersing us emotionally in her mind, and I was fortunate to work with the incomparable Dan Romer. Dan who deftly wove a score that was subtle and gentle when needed, and that drove the knife deeper when the story called for it.

At its heart, this film is about the creative ways we learn to cope and realize what's truly important. It was handmade by talented humans who poured their hearts into it, and I hope that it moves you, holds you, and sets you down gently.

Sincerely,
Leah

Writer's Statement

When Leah proposed buying the film rights to Tangles, I was surprised and delighted. We'd been working on another project together, so I already knew that she was a talented director and writer, and fantastic to work with. I was also a big fan of Giant Ant's animation work. We've now been working together since 2014 and it's been a great collaborative experience with so many exciting developments along the way, from the partnership with Lylas and Point Grey to finding a dream cast to connecting with Monarch.

It's always seemed to me that Leah has an intuitive, personal connection to my family's story. Her own grandmother had Alzheimer's, but also it was more than that. A few years after we started working together, Leah had a vivid dream about meeting my mother and promising to do a good job telling our story. And the more we worked together, the more

she could write in what felt like my voice. Tangles the film is not Tangles the book, though I think they share the same heart. Throughout the script-writing process with Leah and our third co-writer Trev Renney, even though we were all very different people, I felt like together we made one cohesive writing force. At this point, we can't even remember who wrote which lines.

Of course, it's still mind-boggling to know that the film is premiering at Cannes. I honestly am still trying to wrap my head around it. What an honor!-Watching the film for the first time was unexpectedly intense. I was totally emotionally involved and often caught off guard in the best way. I can't believe what the team has created. I also got to be there when my dad watched Tangles for the first time. It was really emotional; we both cried a lot. He's so happy with the film, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with my sister and aunt soon. [That's my mom's sister Debbie; my aunt Sukey is no longer living.]

I feel like people will wonder what my mother would have thought of the film, and that's a tough question! I've always wondered how she would have felt about the book. Of course, she loved me and supported my work. And she always said she wanted to speak openly about her experience with Alzheimer's. But she was also quite private. I suspect she'd have mixed feelings. What a thrill that my mom is voiced by Julia Louis-Dreyfus. I think Julia captured my mom's spirit so well – her toughness and quirkiness, and her grief and fear when she became ill. I know my mom would appreciate this deeply.

My partner Donimo is a much bigger part of the film than she was in the book, and that's bittersweet. Donimo died in 2020, and though she read a near-final version of the script, she never got to know that she'd be played by Samira Wiley, whom she'd always admired. I wish she could have seen how strong and hot she is in the film, and how queer the film is overall. I'm really proud of that.

About the Cast & Creatives

Leah Nelson is a commercial director, and co-founder of Giant Ant, a multiple Emmy award-winning animation studio based in Vancouver, Canada. She has a degree in film from Emily Carr University, is a twin-mom and an open water swimmer. *Tangles* is Leah's first feature film and first screenplay.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus' comedic versatility and tremendous skill has made her one of Hollywood's most sought-after actors and producers, expertly shaping a career full of memorable roles.

Louis-Dreyfus starred in and served as executive producer for HBO's hit series *Veep*, which wrapped after seven critically-acclaimed seasons. She earned worldwide acclaim for portraying Elaine Benes in the hit NBC series *Seinfeld* and as Christine Campbell in the CBS hit comedy *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. Between all shows combined, Louis-Dreyfus has received eleven Emmys with twenty-six nominations. In 2017, she broke records for the most Emmys won by a single performer and the most consecutive wins for a single role through her performance in *Veep*.

Notably recognized for her groundbreaking impact, Louis-Dreyfus received the 2021 National Medal of Arts from the White House for her trailblazing influence on women in comedy and American culture. Her accomplishments span various awards such as a Golden Globe, Critics' Choice, and Screen Actors Guild awards.

Beyond her television successes, Louis-Dreyfus starred in A24's *You Hurt My Feelings*, the "mother-daughter fairytale" *Tuesday* alongside Lola Petticrew from the same studio. Louis-Dreyfus also made her return as Valentina in the critically acclaimed Marvel film, *Thunderbolts* alongside Florence Pugh, David Harbour, and Sebastian Stan. She is also the host of hit podcast, "Wiser Than Me," where Louis-Dreyfus sits down with iconic older women who share their wisdom that only comes with age.

Abbi Jacobson is a writer, director, producer, and actor. She served as the co-creator and co-star of the hit television series, "*Broad City*," on Comedy Central, as well as the critically acclaimed Amazon series, "*A League of Their Own*." She is a New York Times Bestselling author of the collection of personal essays, "I Might Regret This," as well as her illustrated book, "Carry This Book." Abbi can be heard voicing Bean in Netflix's animated series "*Disenchantment*," Katie Mitchell in the Oscar-nominated Netflix animated film, "*The Mitchell's vs The Machines*," and Shira Swooper in Netflix's "*Long Story Short*." Most recently she can be seen in season 3 of HBO's, "*The Comeback,*" and will be in MCC theater's production of Jonathan Spector's new play, "*Birthright*" this Summer.

Seth Rogen - is a multi-award-winning actor, writer, producer, director, entrepreneur and philanthropist whose film and television projects have had a profound impact on popular culture and global box office.
Most recently, Rogen took on multiple roles for the Apple TV+ comedy series THE STUDIO, produced by Point Grey Pictures—serving as star, writer, director and producer. The series received widespread critical acclaim and became one of the most celebrated television series of the year, earning 23 Emmy Awards nominations and winning 13, including Outstanding Comedy Series and Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series for Rogen. The series also earned Golden Globe Awards for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy

and Best Actor for Rogen, a Directors Guild of America Award, a Producers Guild of America Award, Critics' Choice Awards for Best Comedy Series and Best Actor, a Television Critics Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Comedy, and was named a Top 10 AFI TV Program of the Year. Amid its first season, the series was renewed for a second season, currently in production.

On the film side, Rogen will next star in THE INVITE, directed by and co-starring Olivia Wilde, alongside Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton. The film premiered at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival to strong reviews and a standing ovation. The sharp relationship comedy—following two couples whose dinner party spirals into an emotionally revealing and chaotic evening—sparked a competitive bidding war before being acquired by A24 for more than $12 million, with a theatrical release set for June 26, 2026. He will also soon star in the feature film BABIES, written and directed by Lauren Miller Rogen and co-starring Anna Kendrick.

As an actor, Rogen recently starred in Lionsgate's GOOD FORTUNE opposite Keanu Reeves and Aziz Ansari. Additional credits include voicing 'Pumbaa' in Disney's MUFASA: THE LION KING, directed by Barry Jenkins; the Apple TV+ comedy series PLATONIC, which has been renewed for a third season; the animated blockbuster THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE; DUMB MONEY for Sony and Black Bear Pictures.

Rogen received an Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie for PAM & TOMMY, and starred in Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical Oscar-nominated film THE FABELMANS, which earned seven Academy Award nominations, five Golden Globe nominations, two Screen Actors Guild Award nominations and eleven Critics Choice Award nominations. Additional acting credits include AN AMERICAN PICKLE, GOOD BOYS, Jon Favreau's remake of Disney's THE LION KING and Lionsgate's LONG SHOT, which won the Audience Award at SXSW.

As a producer through his production company, Point Grey Pictures, which he started with Evan Goldberg and James Weaver, Rogen's credits include the recent special event installment of THE MUPPET SHOW for Disney+, produced by and starring Rogen, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the original series and featuring special guest Sabrina Carpenter. Upcoming, he will produce an untitled romantic comedy movie for Amazon MGM Studios starring Cameron Diaz and Stephen Merchant as well as TANGLES, based on Sarah Levitt's acclaimed 2010 graphic novel/memoir Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother and Me which is being adapted into an animated feature produced by Monarch Media, Point Grey Pictures, Lylas Pictures and Giant Ant with Leah Nelson of Giant Ant directing. Other credits include Hulu's Emmy-winning series PAM & TOMMY; Amazon's hit series THE BOYS and its Emmy-nominated spinoff GEN V; Amazon's animated superhero series INVINCIBLE; the Paramount animated film TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM and Paramount+ series TALES OF THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES; Amazon's SAUSAGE PARTY: FOODTOPIA, in which he also starred, now in its second season; Lionsgate's JOY RIDE; and A24's THE DISASTER ARTIST, which received an Academy Award nomination for Adapted Screenplay. Additional producing credits include Columbia Pictures' THIS IS THE END and SAUSAGE PARTY, Universal Pictures' NEIGHBORS, NEIGHBORS 2: SORORITY RISING

and BLOCKERS, Columbia Pictures' THE INTERVIEW and THE NIGHT BEFORE, AMC's PREACHER, Hulu's FUTURE MAN, Showtime's BLACK MONDAY and Amazon's MIDDLE WEST. Rogen is also a best-selling author with his debut book YEARBOOK, a collection of comedic and personal essays published by Penguin Random House. In 2019, he collaborated with Evan Goldberg and Michael Mohr to launch HOUSEPLANT, a lifestyle company born out of contemporary cannabis culture offering thoughtfully designed products for the home and everyday use. In 2012, Rogen and his wife Lauren Miller Rogen founded HFC, a national nonprofit organization providing care for families contending with Alzheimer's.

Samira Wiley recently starred in the Donmar Warehouse theatre production "Intimate Apparel" and the Sky Atlantic series "Atomic." Wiley is best known for her role as Moira on Hulu's prestige drama "The Handmaid's Tale," a role that earned her an Emmy win, four Emmy nominations, an NAACP Image Award nomination, and four SAG Award nominations. In 2022, Wiley headlined the acclaimed "Blues for an Alabama Sky" at the National Theatre in London. She is also well known for her SAG Award-winning performance as inmate Poussey on "Orange Is the New Black." Samira's past film credits include "Breaking News in Yuba County," "Detroit," "Social Animals," "37," "Nerve," "Rob The Mob," "Being Flynn," "The Sitter," and "Vault." Additional television credits include HBO's "Equal," Netflix's "Love, Death and Robots," a starring role on "Ryan Hansen Solves Crimes on TV," and recurring roles on "You're the Worst" and "Unforgettable." Wiley also starred in the Off-Broadway play "Daphne's Dive," multiple productions with Moliere in the Park in Brooklyn, and the Theatre of War's production of "Antigone in Ferguson," in addition to co-producing the Broadway play "Thoughts of a Colored Man." Wiley is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

Sarah Leavitt is a cartoonist, writer and professor. Her first book was the graphic memoir Tangles: A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me (2010). A feature-length animation based on Tangles premieres at Cannes in May 2026. Sarah is also the author of the award-winning historical fiction comic Agnes, Murderess (2019). Her most recent book is Something, Not Nothing: A Story of Grief and Love (2024), which was nominated for an Eisner Award and a Lambda Literary Award. It's a collection of short comics about grief and loss that she drew in the first two years after the death of her partner, Donimo. Sarah is an associate professor in the School of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where she has developed and taught undergraduate and graduate comics classes since 2012.

Lauren Miller Rogen and **Jennifer W. Ray** founded LYLAS Pictures after producing the indie comedy FOR A GOOD TIME, CALL.. with the goal of making honest, female forward comedies for a wide audience. LYLAS just wrapped post-production on the dramedy feature BABIES starring Anna Kendrick, Seth Rogen, and Issa Rae, which Lauren wrote and directed for Monarch Media and AGC. LYLAS is honored to bring the adult animated dramedy TANGLES, starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Abbi Jacobson and Bryan Cranston, to Cannes and Annecy Official Selections this year. LYLAS also previously produced the Netflix original film LIKE FATHER starring Kristen Bell and Kelsey Grammer, which Lauren wrote and

directed, and is currently developing the horror comedy BE MINE with Project X/Radio Silence for MRC and the steamy sports romance RACING HEARTS for Paramount TV, based on the book by Ann Adams.

Jay Grandin is a double Emmy Award winning creative director and co-founder of Giant Ant, an animation studio in Vancouver, Canada. In 2022 Giant Ant was acquired by BUCK, a global design-led creative company, where Jay now serves as Chief Brand Officer.

Teresa Toews is an Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer. She has been crafting creative content with Giant Ant for over 16 years, where she now acts as Managing Director.

Vicky Patel is a producer, philanthropist, and a co-founder and principal of Monarch Media.

At Monarch, Patel has served as executive producer on the hit Netflix feature musical A Week Away and its spin-off series, A Week Away: The Series, for the Angel Studios platform. Her producing credits also include the drama series Testament; the Richard Linklater comedy Hit Man; Sony's holiday release Journey to Bethlehem; and the military thriller Valiant One. She is currently in post-production on the comedy Babies, the animated feature Tangles, the country music–driven feature Something Here, and the documentary series 1300 Miles to Broadway, featuring Kristin Chenoweth and Kenny Ortega.
Beyond film and television, Patel is a principal in Nashville-based record label Wavy Records, which she co-owns with the band Anthem Lights.

A dedicated philanthropist, Patel is an active supporter of brain science research and Alzheimer's advocacy through her ongoing work with the Alzheimer's Association. She was honored with the Association's Jerome H. Stone Philanthropy Award in recognition of her leadership and impact. Her advocacy is deeply personal, following the loss of her father in 2015 after a 13-year battle with the disease.

CREDITS

Director	Leah Nelson
Screenplay by	Leah Nelson, Sarah Leavitt, Trev Renney
Based on the graphic memoir Tangles: A story about Alzheimer's, My Mother and Me by	Sarah Leavitt

In Loving Memory of	Donimo
Produced by	Vicky Patel
	Steve Barnett
	Alan Powell
	Seth Rogen
	Evan Goldberg
	James Weaver
	Alex McAtee
	Lauren Miller Rogen
	Jennifer W. Ray
	Jay Grandin
	Teresa Toews
	Leah Nelson
	Ross Murray
	Julia Louis-Dreyfus
Co-Produced by	Madeline Blair
	Sophie Høegh
	Graham Peterson
	Bert V. Royal
Music by	Dan Romer

CAST

Midge	Julia Louis-Dreyfus
Sarah	Abbi Jacobson
Rob	Bryan Cranston

Hannah	Beanie Feldstein
Zach	Seth Rogen
Donimo	Samira Wiley
Debbie	Pamela Adlon
Sukey	Sarah Silverman
Dale	Bowen Yang
Paula	Wanda Sykes
Rabbi	Phil Rosenthal
Gregory	Adam Shapiro
Agent Nelson	Pat Finn
Flight Attendant	Sugar Lyn Beard
Young Sarah	Fern Grandin

CREW

Associate Producer	George Allen
Production Manager	Rosanne Horychun
Music Supervisors	Lindsay Wolfington and Gabe Hilfer
Head of Story	Sherann Johnson
Lead Storyboard Artist	Sean McCarron
Script Supervisor	Annie Chang
Art Director	Manddy Wyckens
Edited by	David Avery
Head of Character Design	Kenny Park
Lead Character Designer	Lucy Feng
Sarah's Art & Surreal Art Direction	Rafael Mayani

Surreal Animation Lead	Sitji Chou
Surreal Visuals Producer	Kaely Blanche-Endicott
Background Layout Supervisor	Jesse Schilperoort
Background Colour Supervisor	Anna Rudichenko
Animation Director	Eric Bofa Nfon
Lead Animation Supervisor	Esther Cheung
Animation Supervisors	Cindy Shaw Yie Tong
	Tasha Chang
Posing Supervisor	Jen Adams
Clean Up Supervisor	Andre Marcus Barnwell
Lead SpotKey/Revisions Artist	Renee Y Liang
FX Supervisor	Rodney Meunier
Digital Ink and Paint Supervisor	Tiago Belo Ramos
Compositing Supervisor	Diego Maclean
Audio Director	Ryland Haggis