



# *VINTROSPECTION*

CREATED & WRITTEN BY: LISA NAGY ISAACSON

# LOGLINE

In a dystopian near future without federal regulatory agencies to stop her, a middle-aged housewife uses rogue virtual reality technology to confront her troubled younger self in the 90s. She becomes obsessed with that realm, breaks all the rules, & blurs lines between what's real & complete fabrication of the past, risking her sanity & even her life.

*Russian Doll meets Dark*



# WORLD

A bleak, dystopian near-future  
Cleveland + gritty 1990s NYC  
in all its graffitied, piss-  
soaked, trash-covered glory.

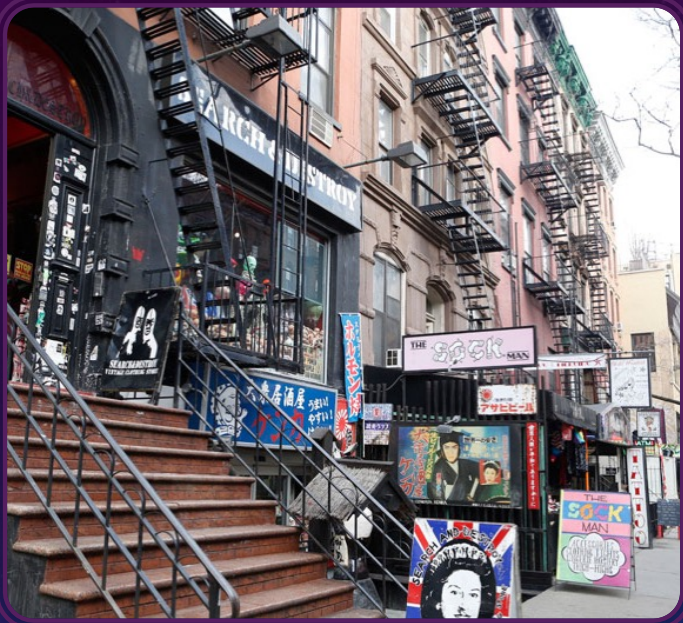


# tone & concept

*Vintrospection* is a 60-minute, serialized, dramedy. The VR sessions have a VHS home video-like quality, set in that laid back, grungy, flannels & Doc Martens era: the nineties. The series addresses abortion, rape, panic disorder & death, among other timely & timeless themes. The sound is unapologetic, ballsy, shouty, edgy – scored by the greatest alt rock & dance music of the time.

Imagine having a chance to go back in time to say to your younger self, “GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER!”

*Vintrospection* introduces its dual protagonists both in the present & the past, where they live, learn, & fight alongside each other. “*Traverse*” refers to the condition of experiencing one’s past through virtual reality.





# OVERVIEW

Lavinia, a 50-something woman with social anxiety, uses experimental VR therapy to revisit her past. The technology is new & dangerous considering the current government has dismantled all regulatory agencies. As Lavinia becomes increasingly obsessed with changing her past decisions & ultimately her current reality, she begins to lose her grip. The two worlds – present & past – intertwine, setting up a dangerous path of psychological thriller elements for the series. Each episode will involve a problem Lavinia & her younger self must work together to solve, even though they seem at eternal odds with one another. All the while, Lavinia must salvage her relationships in the real world with her daughter & husband as they deteriorate more with every VR session she dives into. Viewers will binge the series to find out what really happened between Leo, Alice, & Lavinia? What occurred in Mexico three years before the VR sessions began? Who is Gabe Cohen & what do his letters contain? How will Freddie break from her mother's grasp & make a life of her own?

# LAVINIA

A complex, anxious woman in her 50s struggling with past trauma & social anxiety. She uses Virtual Reality to revisit her younger self, initially as therapy but eventually to change the past & her current reality. Lavinia's journey reveals deep-seated fears about motherhood, speaking, & missed opportunities. She's imprisoned by regret & a desperate desire to alter her life's trajectory no matter the cost.

Actor Comp: Renée Zellweger



# VINNY

Vinny is Lavinia's 20-something-self. Social phobia & low self-esteem undermine her fierce resolve to make something of her life. When she finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, she decides the only choice is to terminate. Pinging from one dilemma to another, Vinny has no idea she *can* take control of her life, let alone *how* to – when she becomes an unwitting participant in her older self's VR sessions.

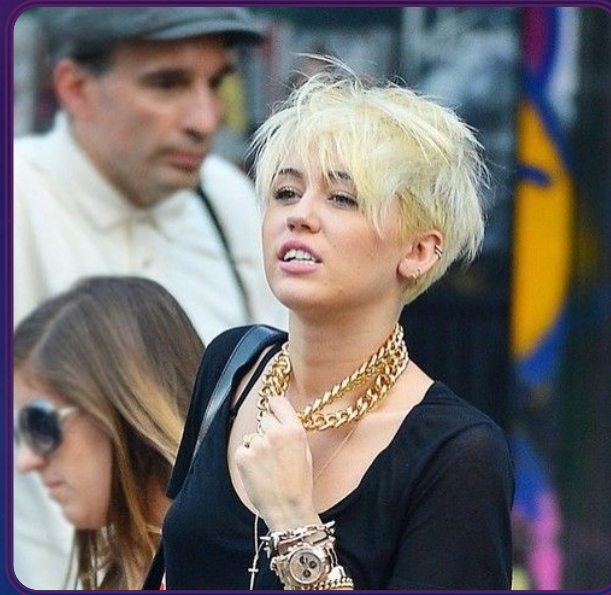
Actor Comp: Ella Purnell



# FREDDIE

Lavinia's 29-year-old daughter, Winifred, “Freddie,” is a confident restaurant worker aspiring to attend culinary school. She’s protective of her mother yet yearns to pursue her own dreams. In an attempt to detach from her mother’s overbearing hold on her, she encourages Lavinia to use VR therapy. She soon regrets it when its potential danger becomes clear. She’s a loyal friend to Rod – who helps her uncover her mother’s secrets.

Actor Comp: Miley Cyrus





# LEO

Both Vinny's boyfriend & "the one who got away" for Lavinia, Leo appears as a passionate young man in his 20s in VR & a more settled 50-something in the present. Leo is charismatic & devoted with little direction in life. On a fateful trip to Florida for spring break in the 90s, Leo is arrested – altering the course of his & Vinny's life forever.

Actor Comp: Nick Robinson (90s Leo)

The role of Present Day Leo will be played by [Dominic Mafham](#)



# ROD

Freddie's BFF from work, Rod is a Chef, always up for any adventure. He's the kind of friend we all hope to have during a crisis, though Rod's overactive romantic life can often get in the way of his making good decisions. When Rod offers to use VR to try & help Freddie save her mother, the lines between what's imagined & what's real threaten his very existence.

Actor Comp: Justin Simien



LAVINIA is a 50-something woman living in a near future dystopian Cleveland with her husband OSCAR & their 29-year-old daughter, Winifred "FREDDIE." After Freddie encourages her to, Lavinia uses virtual reality (VR) technology called "traverse" to treat social anxiety & glossophobia (fear of speaking). The story alternates between that setting & 1990s NYC, where Lavinia visits her younger self, VINNY, through VR. Vinny lives with her boyfriend LEO, with whom she shares a passionate but turbulent relationship. In VR, Vinny flees her job as a receptionist due to glossophobia & discovers she's pregnant, a fact she hides from Leo. Meanwhile, something about Leo's upcoming trip to Florida with friends, including ALICE, is particularly troublesome to present-day Lavinia, who becomes increasingly obsessed with changing the past. The current government has dissolved all regulatory/safety agencies, but the tech company behind the VR program advises users to only observe memories, not interact in them or fabricate scenarios. Sessions are limited to 15 minutes twice weekly. Since Lavinia is using VR as treatment for her disability, a social worker requires Freddie act as her "safety sponsor," signing off on each session. However, Lavinia starts to break these rules, rents a secret apartment to conduct unauthorized VR sessions, & lies to Freddie about returning the goggles to the social worker. Gradually, Vinny begins to see & hear present-day Lavinia in the VR world – something that shouldn't be possible – & worse, Lavinia begins to interact with Vinny in present day, even when she isn't wearing the goggles. Lavinia is driven to go back – time & again to prevent Leo's arrest for drug trafficking, his eventual marriage to Alice, & most significantly, to stop Vinny's abortion – which Lavinia insists cannot take place because her daughter – present day Freddie – must be born, of course. Meanwhile Freddie becomes suspicious of her mother's behavior & with her friend ROD's help, she discovers Lavinia's secret apartment & evidence that her mother is involved in drug dealing with her longtime friend, WEINER. When Freddie & Rod go on a drug drop in Lavinia's place, they're shocked to find their loathed coworker, KENNETH, as the pickup person. The dangers of traverse become increasingly severe as the social worker & newscasts warn of users falling into comas from overuse. Further, doctors discover that removing the VR safety pin + excessive fabrication of memories, causes users to experience psychotic breaks. Despite this, Lavinia steals a black-market "removal key" from an electronics store to bypass the VR safety pin. The episode ends with Lavinia & Vinny on a virtual plane to Florida, off to "get rid of Alice," & stop Leo. Lavinia's memories of the past increasingly conflict with Vinny's reality – & Vinny suggests if they really wanted to change anything, they'd need to return to Mexico, three years earlier.

# SEASON 1

Episode 1: Lavinia becomes obsessed with visiting the past to the point of endangering her physical & mental wellbeing. Freddie discovers her mother's lies & secrets.

Episode 2: Vinny & Lavinia search for Leo & Alice on spring break. Freddie gives her mother an ultimatum. Kenneth bribes Freddie with revealing their affair.

Episode 3: Vinny hits the job search. Lavinia tries to mend her relationship with her daughter & salvage her drug income. Present day Leo pursues Lavinia.

Episode 4: Oscar experiments with VR & threatens to leave Lavinia. Sinnamon runs for city council. Lavinia is harassed by the owner of the removal key & recruits Leo for help.

Episode 5: Vinny meets Matthew, a software developer. Lavinia's past & present blur dangerously. Sinnamon has a stalker.

Episode 6: Vinny presses Lavinia to return to Mexico with her. Gabe Cohen looks Lavinia up in the present. Matthew works on a solution to the coma-causing glitch.

Episode 7: "Traverse" & VR therapy are outlawed by the federal government driving Lavinia to extremes. Freddie's thriving in culinary school when an emergency calls her home.

Episode 8: The truth about Freddie's father is revealed. Flashbacks to Mexico raise more questions than provide answers. Lavinia must choose between changing her past or saving her future.



# LISA NAGY ISAACSON

Born & raised in Cleveland, Ohio Lisa now lives in New York City with her husband Saul, & their 3 cats. Lisa's pilot episode of the 60-minute dramedy, Vintrospection, made "2nd Rounder" in Austin Film Festival's screenplay competition 2023 among other accolades. Lisa's also written two features, two additional 60-minute dramedies, & a short film, with more in the works. She's published two works: the short story "A Date with my Brother" (McFadden Women's Group); & the article "B-W Professors Jamming with Bluegrass Sound" (Berea News Sun). Lisa earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (minor in English w/concentration in writing) from Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, & a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International & Public Affairs. This one-time Executive Assistant to former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Paul Volcker, now works as Special Assistant to the President/CEO of Breaking Ground, NY's largest provider of permanent supportive housing. Lisa's dream is to tell her story so other glossophobes won't feel like freaks.

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