

THE
HOLLYWOOD
COMPLEX

1 x 52 or 1 x 84 HD



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Every year, thousands of children flock to Hollywood from across the United States and beyond, dreaming of stardom—or at least a big break during “pilot season,” the traditional three-month casting window for new television shows. Many stay at the Oakwood, a temporary housing complex that has been catering to show business kids for more than twenty years.

Shot in a cinema verité style, *The Hollywood Complex* follows a half-dozen Oakwood families as they navigate tremendous financial, professional, and personal obstacles in search of fame and fortune. In most cases, mother and child have traveled alone to Hollywood, spending months or years without the rest of the family.

Families can easily run through many thousands of dollars each month, paying for rent, for headshots, for private coaching, for classes, and the list goes on and on. Compounding this financial pressure is the intense competition each child faces to rise above the crowd of thousands to get noticed. The path to success is littered with broken marriages, neurotic stage moms, and financial ruin.

Yet for a small handful of resilient kids, stardom awaits. Among the luminaries who got their start at the Oakwood are Hilary Duff, Jennifer Love Hewitt, and Kirsten Dunst. *The Hollywood Complex* chronicles daily life during pilot season at the Oakwood and beyond. Among those profiled in the film are Shanna (12), Megan (11), Savannah (7), Ashley (11), James (14), Ryan (7), Joey (12), and Julia (10).

In addition to profiling their experiences during pilot season, *The Hollywood Complex* also features one year-later follow-up visits with the families filmed. Some of these children are achieving real success. Savannah, for instance, landed a starring role in an upcoming network television movie. After a string of television appearances, Joey and his family have moved out of the Oakwood and are now preparing to permanently relocate from Ohio to Hollywood.

However, for every Savannah and Joey, there are hundreds of kids who never get close. Many of the children featured in *The Hollywood Complex* have returned home, giving up their dreams in exchange for the normalcy of junior high school, soccer practice, and a reunited family.

And then there are those who simply refuse to give up. After five years at the Oakwood, thirteen-year-old Megan and her mom are still struggling to move her career forward. In one six-month period, Megan landed only one audition (she didn't get the role). Recently, she and her mom have connected with a music producer who is cultivating her new image as a singer; one of their first moves was to change Megan's name to Presley Ca\$h.

By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *The Hollywood Complex* illuminates the world of child acting and shows the determination—and delusion—behind the dream.

credits

Directors: Dan Sturman & Dylan Nelson

Producers: Dylan Nelson, Dan Sturman & Julie Janata

Photo Credit: Dan Sturman

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