



# Senior Film: "Maria"

- **Filming Locations**

- Clark Heart Vascular Center, 139 Raritan Road, Suite 101, Clark, NJ
- 11 Seymour Street, Montclair, NJ 07042
- Fullerton Deck, 10 N Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

- **Filming:** April 10-12, 2026

- **Genre:** Drama

- **Synopsis:**

- Days after her mother dies, Maria Mariani, a 57-year-old Italian single mom works a chaotic shift as a nurse at an urgent care clinic. In addition to dealing with frantic patients and burnt out coworkers, Maria's boss (Dr. Patel), demands she bring him a urine sample. What follows is a wild goose chase, as obstacle after obstacle wears her down. While tending to a scared little boy named Jason, Maria receives a call from her son's school saying John (18) has been suspended for getting into a fight. She finally finds the urine sample in the break room with Stephanie, her mean and negligent co-worker. As she walks to give the sample to Dr. Patel, she accidentally bumps into another nurse and urine spills all over her. Maria has a frustrated and "unprofessional" outburst and Dr. Patel sends her home for the day. Maria drives to John's school to pick him up. He complains that he had to wait to be picked up. This is the final straw for Maria. At home Maria and John have a heated argument and Maria storms out to smoke a cigarette in her car. She finally cries and lets out her bottled emotions, reflecting on how her own mother handled life's stresses. Maria goes inside to cook dinner and try to reconcile with John. The story ends with John not fully forgiving his mother, but with both Maria and John finally seeing each other's struggles.

- **Director's Note:**

- Maria aims to humanize single mothers through showing a realistic spectacle of being in "survival" mode. The stress that Maria faces keeps her nervous system constantly activated, making it hard for her to stay present and be there for her patients, her son, and most importantly herself. This film hopes to provide a window into the motherly struggles that are often ignored by the entertainment industry. It will also show the unfair expectations that have been put on women, and how they are given no choice but to survive and love anyways.
- "Maria" was inspired by my own mother, Maria Scalco, and what I picture her experience was like going through a divorce and being a single mother. My mother and I used to fight a lot when I was John's age, because we were so wrapped up in ourselves that we didn't truly see the stresses weighing on each other. Seeing your mother as a human being that can make mistakes takes time and maturity. I hope to show young adults that their mothers have a lot more going on under the surface.

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