

# Pre-Production Planning Document (MINI DOC)

## GENERAL INFO

1. **Your Name:** Nix Pendergast
2. **PROJECT:** Mini Documentary/Biography/News Package

## CREATIVE BRIEF

1. What must it be?  
A mock reality show that shows the daily life of American Girl dolls. Think Real Housewives but instead American Girl dolls.
2. Who is it for?  
Anyone who enjoys American Girl dolls, reality television, or just silly things.
3. How long must it be?  
1-5 minutes long
4. What is your objective with the piece?  
Shows a day in the life of the dolls, specifically on the day that they receive a new doll.
5. When is it due?  
The finished video is due by midnight EST on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
6. What is the overall idea?  
The Real Housewives but with American Girl dolls.
7. What is the storyline summary?  
Five American Girl dolls, all living together, are excited to welcome another doll into their family. However, they are a bit confused when it turns out to be an American Boy doll. They want to be accepting of him, but just are not quite sure how.
8. Elevator pitch:  
An episode of a fake reality show following the lives of a total of six American Girl dolls and how they get along together.
9. Tagline:  
The dolls might be pretend, but their problems are REAL
10. Look and feel description (including "pacing"):  
It is supposed to feel fast pace, like an actual reality show. But still silly in nature, as we are focusing on dolls.

# QUESTIONS / NOTES

## SUBJECT:

1. Why did you choose this story?
2. Story ideas:  
I choose this story because I think it will be funny, and the subjects are easy to prop up.

## NARRATION/HOST:

3. Who will lead us through the piece?
4. Narration ideas:  
The dolls will be narrating it themselves...But I will be doing all their voices.

## INTERVIEWS:

1. Who will you interview?
2. Why is this person important to the piece?
3. What questions will you ask?
4. What followup questions might be important?  
Each doll will be interviewed about what they think of the other dolls, what they hope the new doll will be like, and how they receive the new doll. As well as what the new doll thinks of his first day.

## B-Roll:

1. What b-roll visuals will be important to convey the story? Keep in mind you should show what the interviewees are talking about.
2. Any still images or charts or graphics?
3. Is the nat sound of the environment important? If so, be sure to record it properly.
4. B-roll ideas:  
Shots of the dolls doing things together, doing each other's hair, talking with each other,

## MUSIC:

1. What is overall "mood" and "feel" of the piece?
2. Music track ideas:  
Peppy pop music for the intro and outros, playful music for during the thing, dramatic music for drama moments.

## PERMISSIONS:

1. Am I allowed to film here? Do I need permission and/or a permit?
2. Will any people be in my shots? Do I need permission and/or release forms?  
I will be filming in my home, where I have full permission to shoot anywhere I want. My mom will be around, but she won't be in any shots. My dog might also get into some shots, but she can be easily led away.

## GENERAL:

1. What gear do I need to pack and bring with me for the shoot? Film gear, sunscreen, water, etc.
2. How will I transport everything and keep it safe?
3. Are there any potential hazards or complications at this location?  
I will be indoors at home for the most part, where I will have no hazards and should be able to keep my equipment safe. The most dangerous element is my silly dog, who might tip something over, but that's easily fixed.

# SCRIPT

**Name:** Nix Pendergast

**Title:** The Real American Girl Dolls

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p>(Short intro showing off logo with Ken Burns effect) (titles for each of them)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kanani (queen bee)</li><li>• Kit (voice of reason)</li><li>• Miranda (blank slate)</li><li>• Caroline (resident drunk)</li><li>• Nikki (90s girl)</li><li>• Logan (new doll)</li></ul> <p>Episode title Card: The New Doll</p> <p>Shot of the dolls all standing and sitting around and chatting.</p> <p>Far shot of Kanani in the interview chair.</p> <p>Cut to CU of her in the chair as she continues speaking.</p> <p>Cut to a shot of Caroline in the interview chair.</p> <p>Cut to CU of Kit as speaks.</p> <p>Cut to a shot of Caroline on the radio with a real alcohol bottle as she cries.</p>	<p>(Fade in ambient audio - room noise) (Peppy pop intro music plays)</p> <p>(Intro music fades out with title card)</p> <p>Hear them chatting and giggling together.</p> <p>(VOICE OVER BEGINS) Kanani: Today is an exciting day, today another doll will arrive at the house! This will be the sixth one of us, so we are very excited to welcome her!</p> <p>Hi! I'm Kanani, my name means beautiful one in Hawaiian. I'm a Girl of the Year doll. I was the first doll at this house so I'm sort of the queen bee of the place.</p> <p>Caroline: (slow, vapid, breathy delivery. Kinda like Jennifer Coolidge) I don't get why Kanani still calls herself Girl of the Year, she was girl of the year in 2011. That was...a lifetime ago...</p> <p>Kit: Caroline and her line got Archived, and she hasn't been taking it well.</p> <p>(chorus of "don't cry out loud" plays from the radio as Caroline sobs)</p> <p>(possibly find crying SFX instead of crying myself)</p>

Cut to close CU of Kit in the interview chair again.

Cut to Nikki in the interview chair.

Far shot to CU of Kanani.

CU of Miranda.

A far shot of all the dolls gathering around the wrapped box.

They are all excited to unwrap it, and when they do, they see it is a boy doll.

He waves from inside the box as they all look at each other.

Cut to a far shot, then to a CU of the boy doll in the interview chair as he continues speaking.

Cut to CU of Kanani.

A far shot of Miranda and Logan talking.

Kit:

I'm Kit, Caroline and I are both historical dolls. I'm from the Depression where my family ran a boarding house to help pay our bills. Caroline is from the early 1800s where her family owned a shipyard... There's also Nikki who's from 1990s...

Nikki:

Have you seen the One with the Dozen Lasagnas?

Kanani:

Other than the historical dolls, we also have Miranda who's a Just Like You...since she didn't come with a book or anything, she doesn't really have a personality.

Miranda:

(flat affect) I love to brush and do hair.

Kanani voiceover:

It's been a while since another doll joined us. So, we are all excited to see who it is!  
Excited chattering of the dolls as they unwrap it.

Then they go quiet.

You hear the boy doll say hello.

Logan:

Hi, my name is Logan. I am an American Boy doll. I am the best friend to the 2017 girl of the year.

Kanani:

So, the new doll is... different from what we were expecting, but we still want to welcome him all the same!

Miranda:

(flat affect) Can I do your hair?

Cut to CU on Logan.

Cut to CU on Miranda.

Cut to a farther-out shot to reveal Kit standing there too, with crazy hair.

Cut to Logan in the interview chair.

Cut to far shot of Caroline in Nikki's dress, showing it off to all the other dolls.

Zoom in on Nikki before cutting to her in the interview chair.

Cut to Caroline in the interview chair.

Cut to Kit in the interview chair.

Hand comes in behind her and snaps.

On the snap, suddenly Kit is in her pajamas.

Logan:  
Uhh...my hair is short...I don't think I have enough for you to do anything with.

Miranda:  
(flat affect) You don't need much hair to make it pretty. I do Kit's all the time!

Kit:  
Yeah, she does mine all the time.

Logan:  
The girls are...nice... but there's also a lot of drama.

Caroline:  
Hey everyone! Check out the new dress in my line!

(dramatic sound effect with zoom in)

Nikki:  
OMG! I can't believe that Caroline, like, totally stole my dress! Sooooo not cool of her!

Caroline:  
I don't know why Nikki is so upset about my dress. Everyone else loved it. Yeeaaah.

Kit:  
I don't know why Nikki is so upset about the dress. We're dolls! We all share clothes! We don't even choose what we wear, our clothes suddenly change!

(snap sfx)

Kit:  
See? Now I'm suddenly in my jim-jams. This happens all the time, we have no control over it. It just happens.

Cut to CU of Logan in the interview chair.

White out the screen and show the logo again with Ken Burns Effect.

Logan:

It is definitely an adjustment living here with all the girls, but I do think it is going to go well... I'll find a good place for my Mojo Dojo Casa House.

(Poppy Outro music plays)