

CENTERPIECE: US FEATURE



BECKS

DIRS DANIEL POWELL & ELIZABETH ROHRBAUGH 2017 USA 92 MIN

Brooklyn singer-songwriter Becks (Tony winner Lena Hall of *Hedwig* fame) is blue, broken-hearted, and flat broke. After dropping everything to move west for her girlfriend's big career break (on a reality show, naturally) she discovers she's been replaced by a "younger, hotter, LA set of tits."

With only her car, a bag of clothes, and a guitar, Becks retreats to her Midwestern hometown and moves back in with her mom (Academy Award nominee Christine Lahti), a devout Catholic and ex-nun. What could possibly go wrong? The answer, of course, is a hell of a lot, as this down-on-her-luck thirtysomething battles her mother, performs for tips at her ex-boyfriend's local bar, and tries to figure out her post-heartache future. But at least there's the music, and Becks makes beautiful, knowing music—singer-songwriter perfection, throbbing with heartache and soul. And it's the music that ultimately leads her to a new and unexpected connection with a restless housewife (Mena Suvari, *American Beauty*).

A San Francisco native, the Grammy-nominated Hall captivates with just the right combination of wryness and vulnerability. The story of *Becks* may be a familiar one, crawling back from a shattering life-turn, but Hall—and the songwriting power of Alyssa Robins and Steve Salett—makes it unforgettable. — LUCY LAIRD

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