

A Scene 3 Production

# Alice ~ Heart

life imitates heart.



SCENE 3 PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS ALICE-HEART

IN ASSOCIATION WITH CLAIRVOYANT CHANNA THOMAS J. GOSSE LINDA MACERA AND KEN SOGABE STARRING LISSA CARANDANG-SWEENEY TONY MCCALL

WITH ADAM MCALONIE KELSEY O'KEEFE GABRIEL W. ELMORE AND LAUREN SERAFICA WILL BRICCA MUSIC BY ANTHONY GRACEFFO AND ODDY KNOCKY

COSTUME DESIGNER LISSA CARANDANG-SWEENEY PRODUCTION DESIGN BY MEGHAN CAVANAUGH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATT CONNELLY EDITED BY ADAM MCALONIE

PRODUCED BY ZACH RINEER ALFRED GIANCARLI LISSA CARANDANG-SWEENEY AND TONY MCCALL STORY BY LISSA CARANDANG-SWEENEY AND MIKE MACERA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MIKE MACERA



Set in black-and-white Philadelphia, an aimless college senior navigates shallow artists, genuine friendships, and homework.

Alice-Heart is an aimless college student residing in Philadelphia. She aspires to be a famous writer but drops out of school in her last semester of senior year on a whim. Immediately cut off from her disappointed Filipino mother and dumped by her studious boyfriend, she finds that she has to pay bills on her own for the first time. Distraught, she takes solace in her neighbor Tony, a self-sufficient freelance photographer. Tony encourages her to pursue her passions and hold onto her friendships. With this in mind, Alice-Heart navigates the beginnings of adulthood and combats “adult baby” allegations along the way.



## **Film Information**

Original Title : Alice-Heart

Genres : Comedy, Drama

Country of Origin : USA

City of Origin : Philadelphia, PA

Runtime : 93 Minutes

Production Budget : \$20,000

## **Trailer**

[vimeo.com/1042368765](https://vimeo.com/1042368765)

## **Technical Specs**

Screening Material : h.264 File

Sound : 5.1 Surround Mix

Shooting Format : Digital, BRAW 6k

Aspect Ratio : 1.66:1

Speed : 24 fps

Film Color : Black & White

Language : English (with English subtitles)

## **Website / Socials**

[www.aliceheartfilm.com](http://www.aliceheartfilm.com)

Instagram : [@aliceheartfilm](https://www.instagram.com/aliceheartfilm)

Facebook : [facebook.com/AliceHeartFilm](https://www.facebook.com/AliceHeartFilm)

IMDb : [imdb.com/title/tt33054174](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt33054174)



## Film Festival Selections

Slamdance Film Festival

Los Angeles, CA, USA - February 21 & 23, 2025

Athens International Film and Video Festival

Athens, OH, USA - April 10 & 12, 2025

Mammoth Lakes Film Festival

Mammoth Lakes, CA, USA - April 23, 2025

Brooklyn Film Festival

Brooklyn, NY, USA - June 8, 2025

## Awards and Nominations

Slamdance 2025 Outstanding Acting Award - *Winner*

Slamdance 2025 Narrative Feature Grand Jury Prize - *Honorary Mention*

Mammoth Lakes 2025 Narrative Feature Audience Award - *Winner*

Brooklyn Film Festival 2025 Narrative Feature Audience Award - *Winner*



## Press

“Lissa Carandang-Sweeney anchors the film with a charming performance that could position her as an indie breakout star. — CZ”

*IndieWire*

“A throwback to another era, a time (perhaps the last) when filmmakers could come together with a group of friends and make a movie that could launch a sustainable filmmaking career”

*In Review Online*

“The epitome of indie film”

*The Sunbreak*

## Additional Coverage

16 Slamdance Films to Check Out as the Indie Fest Hits L.A.

*Indiewire*

Alice-Heart — Mike Macera [Slamdance '25 Review]

*In Review Online*

Slamdance Soars West

*Spin Magazine*

Slamdance 2025: Quick Reviews

*The Sunbreak*

Alice-Heart

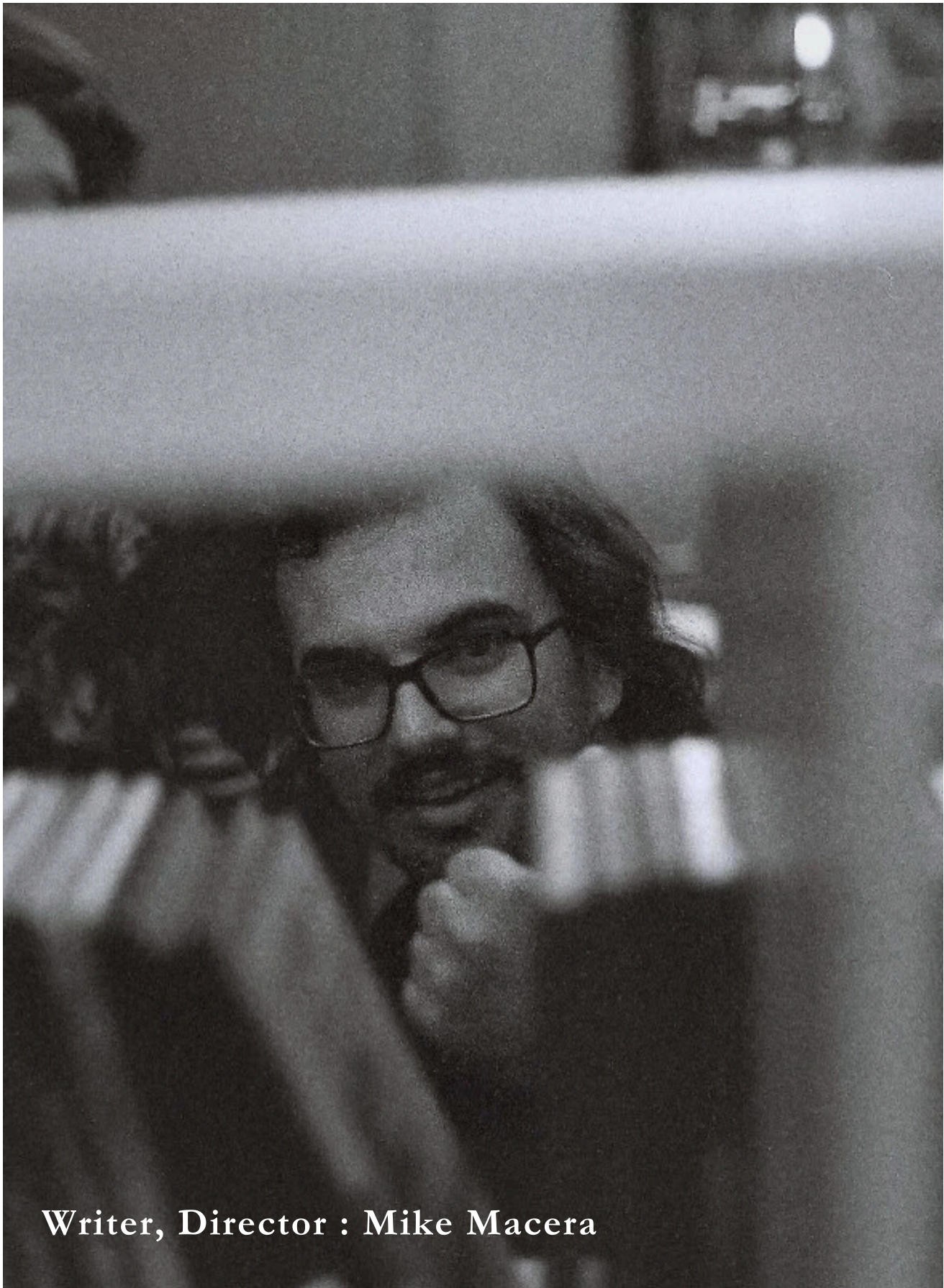
*Film Threat*

Review: Slamdance Film Fest Premieres Terrific, “Alice-Heart”

A Film for Our Times

*Hollywood Times*





Writer, Director : Mike Macera





**Actor, Producer : Lissa Carandang-Sweeney**





## Director's Statement

For college, I moved to Philadelphia and majored in film at Temple University. Coming from suburban South Jersey, I was always fascinated with city life. But once I got there, I found myself alone and aimless. I settled on wanting to be a writer, but I had no idea how to put myself out there. My education at Temple often frustrated me, especially during COVID when my classes went online. I felt as though my mom was pouring money into a half-assed education, and I hated my classes. I threatened to drop out more than once and almost did until I couldn't find a job, and fear set in. This is how most of my college experience was shaped—teetering on the edge of dropping out while being pulled back in by financial support and guilt to obtain a degree.

Our deal was that my mom would pay for my student housing as long as I was still in college. *Alice-Heart* emerged from this personal place. Stuck in a middle ground between feeling like an adult but not financing myself as one. In many ways, I wrote *Alice-Heart* to be me. But a much more headstrong version of myself— someone who could talk back to ridiculous teachers and openly complain about capitalism with no self-awareness of my privileges. *Alice-Heart* is meant to reflect this period of young adulthood for many liberal college students who move to cities. On the cusp of independence, recognizing talents, and learning how to cultivate them without the resources that have always been handed to you.





## Lead Actor/Lead Producer's Statement

Born and raised in the quiet suburbs of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, I grew up yearning to be in a city more dynamic and more diverse than the little life I knew. Upon moving to Philadelphia for college at the ripe age of 19, I found myself surrounded by insular, caucasian art scenes, reminiscent of social circles from my hometown- but this time, against a gritty, urban backdrop. In moving away from the suburbs, I grew to recognize and appreciate the diverse family I had all along- particularly from my brash but altruistic Filipino mother. It also helped me to acknowledge the triviality of most of my college-socialite concerns, and realize there was more to life than simply coasting by with good grades.

Juggling up to three jobs at a time to make rent and a majority of my tuition while in college, I can't fully relate to Alice-Heart's financial plight. However, I can relate to having a mother that provides endless support where she can, and offers invaluable life lessons shaped from a childhood abroad. As I grow older, I've come to appreciate how fortunate I am to have the loving security blanket that is my mom. I've also learned to laugh at the quarrels and sense of entitlement that occasionally define the experiences of mixed second-generation immigrants- Alice-Heart's and my own included.

As a proud Filipino-American creative, I celebrate the opportunity to portray humble elements of FilAm culture and biracial existentialism in a way that doesn't follow text-book melodramas. Working with and becoming close with Mike has been one of life's greatest pleasures: the tongue-in-cheek laments of all privileged twenty-somethings he depicts in *Alice-Heart* is the perfect setting to explore this playground of identity expression that isn't typically presented in film.

*Alice-Heart* is a coming-of-age love letter to the city of Philadelphia, ruminating on the unique concerns of obviously privileged Gen-Z city transplants. With *Alice-Heart*, our entire team hopes to rekindle the liberated spirit of mumblecore filmmaking and encourage more young Gen Z artists to tell stories that are true to them, no matter how seemingly trivial or grand.



## Zach Rineer

**Producer, Actor, 2nd Assistant Director**

Zach Rineer is a New York-based filmmaker hailing from Philadelphia and Delaware roots. Zach has been recognized for his producing and directing work on over 30 short films featured at Nashville, Philadelphia, Santa Fe, and NFFTY Film Festivals. Recently, Zach produced western thriller short film, *Idle Speed* (2022), which was featured at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner and awarded the Best Producing Craft Award by NYU's 2023 First Run Film Festival.

Zach has also had an extensive background producing, writing, and directing alongside Mike Macera on short films, including *Nobody Left Behind* (2022), which has amassed over 75k views online. Zach is excited to take his next steps as a producer into feature film territory with *Alice-Heart*.



## Adam McAlonie

**1st Assistant Director, Editor, Actor**

Adam McAlonie was born and raised in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He attended Temple University for a year before leaving to dive head-first into the film industry.

Since then, Adam has begun to work as a 1st and 2nd Assistant Director in New York and Philadelphia while continuing to pursue his personal goals of writing and directing. Adam's goal is to tell stories that he cares about and to reach audiences that can find a personal connection to his work.

*Alice-Heart* is a very special project for Adam. When Mike first showed him the script two winters ago, he fell in love with the whole idea of the piece. The snarky overconfidence of *Alice-Heart*. The warm support and kind ear of Tony. What's not to like? Adam is so excited to see what this little script blossoms into.

## Tony McCall

**Producer, Actor**

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Tony McCall is an independent filmmaker, screenwriter and occasional actor. His debut short film, *First Time* (2023) premiered at the Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival and Philly Film Showcase. Moreover, Tony strives to create stories about genuine human experiences and overcoming obstacles.

Nevertheless, Tony was initially drawn to the *Alice-Heart* project when Mike Macera showed him an early draft of the screenplay. He found the depiction of characters to be alluring, funny and quite relatable. Tony is excited to help produce this piece and see it come to life.





## Alfred Giancarli

**Producer, Sound Mixer**

Alfred Giancarli has been an English teacher, photo editor, press photographer, assistant cameraman, DIT, cinema worker, and museum educator. With a Bachelors in Filmmaking from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Masters in Journalism from Universidad de Complutense de Madrid, Alfred returned to filmmaking after a long absence in 2014 with the short film *My Wife Is no Longer with Us*.

In 2015, he wrote and directed *Don't Despair*, a critically acclaimed indie horror darling which premiered at the Horror Hound Weekend Film Festival. In 2017, he wrote and directed the short *Hope to Her Register*. *Weeknights*, his newest feature film, premiered at the South Carolina Underground Film Festival, where it won Best Feature. As of recent, Alfred has produced the upcoming short film *Gettysburg*.

## Will Bricca

**Unit Production Manager, Actor**

Will Bricca is a filmmaker from Westminster, MD based in New York City who earned a BFA in Directing at Temple University in 2022. Will is a member the creative collective Echidna Cone Productions, a group of young filmmakers with a passion for creating funny and fearsome films, including Will's newest short, *mother, son, Comedy!* debuting this February at the Houston Comedy Film Festival.

As a Unit Production Manager he has overseen the productions of the forthcoming short films *Nothing to Do But Ice Cream Sundays* and *The Sleepover*. He cannot wait to be a part of *Alice-Heart* and its eminently talented team of lovely people. He thinks the movie will really turn out and hopes that you'll like it!



## Matt Connelly

**Director of Photography, Colorist**

Matt Connelly is a Philly based photographer and cinematographer, primarily working on music videos and narrative projects. His work always strives to be visually unique and expressive.

“What really drew me to *Alice-Heart* was Mike’s vision for the story. He tends to fall in a really grounded space, but still leaves room for levity and exploration from a visual sense.”





Actor, Kelsey O'Keefe (Front) & Set Dresser, Alex Nicoletti (Back)





Lissa Carandang-Sweeney  
is Alice-Heart



Tony McCall is Tony



Adam McAlonie is Lyman



Kelsey O'Keefe is Joan



Gabriel W. Elmore  
is Professor Spadden



Will Bricca is Bradley



Lauren Serafica  
is The Rome Girl



Kimberly d'Anna is Melodie



Mylene Wilson  
is Alice-Heart's Mom



Ratthew Groseclose  
is Phillip the Rabbit





Alice-Heart





Alice-Heart

Written and Directed by: Mike Macera

Produced by: Lissa Carandang-Sweeney, Zach Rineer, Adam McAlonie,  
Alfred Giancarli, & Tony McCall

Executive Producers:

Clairvoyant Channa

Linda Macera

Thomas J. Gosse

Ken Sogabe

Unit Production Manager - Will Bricca

1st Assistant Director - Adam McAlonie

2nd Assistant Director - Zach Rineer

Director of Photography - Matt Connelly

Production Designer - Meghan Cavanaugh

Costume Designer - Lissa Carandang-Sweeney

Sound Mixer - Alfred Giancarli

Animal Handler - Christina Hoffman

Intimacy Coordinator - Roxy Geers

Production Coordinator - Theresa Hamilton

Editor - Adam McAlonie

Re-Recording Mixer & Sound Designer - Trevor Misplay

Colorist - Matt Connelly

Poster Design - Lauren Serafica

Title Card Calligraphy - Meghan Cavanaugh



PEACE

is a group effort



Contact us at [aliceheartfilm@gmail.com](mailto:aliceheartfilm@gmail.com)

for more info <3