

FemmePower Productions Presents

# FLUSH

A Film by Heather María Ács



U.S. / 2018 / 9 min / Color

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/274971986>

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## LOGLINE

Roxy, a high femme punk, is caught multi-tasking between a hot date and a hilarious group domination session, where her fabulous queer friends learn an important lesson from a john.

## SYNOPSIS

Roxy, a high femme punk, is caught multi-tasking between a hot date and a hilarious group domination session, where her fabulous queer friends learn an important lesson from a john. In Flu\$h, sex work is not fetishized or demonized. It is one of many tools our resilient characters use to survive. Flu\$h is the first in a series of short films produced by newly formed queer production company FemmePower Productions.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Flu\$h, Roxy, a high-femme punk, multi-tasks between a hot date and a hilarious group domination session with a cadre of her fabulous queer friends. When Roxy allows her date to get in on the action, things go awry, and Roxy must scramble to make sure she and her friends “come out on top.”

Flu\$h offers an intimate portrayal of queer, radical subculture, beautifully shot by award-winning cinematographer, Autumn Eakin (The Light of the Moon, SXSW Audience Award), expertly edited by Janis Vogel (She’s Gotta Have It, Netflix), with executive producer, Silas Howard (Pose, This is Us, Transparent).

Fusing humor and authenticity, Flu\$h offers a counter-narrative to negative portrayals of sex work and kink. Though sex work is a part of the story, it is simply a detail in the aesthetic of this queer, underground world. The true heart of this film centers on the camaraderie between friends, the support of a sweetheart, and the everyday lives of queer outsiders who don’t believe in shame around sexuality, bodies, kink, and capital. The characters are trans, poc, fat, and femme identified, with actors representing these identities playing the roles. In Flu\$h, sex work is not fetishized or demonized - it is one of many tools our resilient characters use to survive in a broken system.

Created by newly formed queer production company FemmePower Productions, Flu\$h brings subcultural characters to the screen in a strong, narrative format, combining humor and drama, in the spirit of shows like Chewing Gum, Insecure, Broad City, and High Maintenance. Anarchists, drag queens, community activists, bike punks, freegans, and performance artists navigating polyamory, protests, sex work, skillshares, and almond butter - what could be more hilarious and heartbreaking? FemmePower Productions is committed to DIY content with a high production value aesthetic. *We center marginalized artists both in front of and behind the camera.*

Flu\$h is the first film produced in a planned six-episode series of narrative shorts featuring radical and punk, intersectional queer characters in New York City, and their expanded queer universe. Each film can screen independently or within a series format. The series is fun, sexy, and raw. Never before has the beauty, heartbreak, and nuance within multiracial queer communities of outsiders, punks, social justice warriors, artists, and hustlers been presented like this, celebrating the ways we survive and thrive in a destructive world

## KEY CREDITS

Written and Directed by  
Produced by  
Executive Producer  
Director of Photography  
Editor

Heather María Ács  
Ethan Weinstock, André Azevedo, Megan Hess, Kit Yan  
Silas Howard  
Autumn Eakin  
Janis Vogel

### Cast

Roxy  
Wrex  
Owen  
Raquel  
CeCe  
Stan

Heather María Ács  
T.L. Thompson  
Cookie-Morgan Sullivan  
Summer Minerva  
Christine Davitt  
Jeremy Lawrence

# FILMMAKER STATEMENTS

**- Heather María Ács, Director / Writer / Actor**

This project is a love letter to my communities and a gift to the world beyond. The characters in my projects are outsiders, punks, social justice warriors, drag queens, hustler-individuals who rally against the status quo in order to survive and thrive in a destructive world. It is through this divergence and all its challenges, that they find joy, community, love, mutual support, and freedom in a world that does everything possible to keep us from being free.

I am interested in the nuances, flaws, and especially humor found in radical communities. Humor is rarely associated with political radicals, but always present. The world of my film reflects the communities I am a part of - beautifully intersectional with a diversity of genders, races, and bodies-all gorgeous, desirable, respected, and loved.

We are in a very interesting moment where I see more “outsider” characters in media than ever before. There is an unprecedented thirst for trans actors and stories, and other marginalized narratives/creators continue pushing towards the spotlight. However, just because Hollywood is “curious” about our stories, does not guarantee that others will tell our stories with respect, accuracy, or care. Representation matters, and it is imperative that we are in control of our own narratives. It is crucial that we have access to the equipment and resources necessary to tell our own stories. It is vital that we believe in ourselves and feel empowered to dive into and complete this challenge.

I was raised working-class by a single mom in West Virginia and moved to New York City in the late 90s on a full college scholarship. I quickly fell into a world of punks, anarchists, squatters, and political radicals. I spent my time dumpster diving, getting arrested at protests, and making performance art. I loved it. Underground, queer art movements have been my home as a creator and organizer for over 15 years. I am the co-founder of Heels on Wheels, a Brooklyn-based, all genders femme-inine spectrum performance group that produced an annual diy tour, a queer artists’ salon in Brooklyn, and a LAMBDA Literary award-winning anthology featuring over 60 diverse, queer artists. After years of focusing on live performance and “making something out of nothing,” in terms of budget, I was ready for a new challenge. After a fair amount of time on indie and professional sets as an actor, I felt ready to delve into this format. In my heart, I knew, it is time to make beautiful, high production-value cultural content showcasing the most talented professionals with intersectional identities that the queer community has to offer.

My communities are full of talented, gorgeous, professionals. We may not always have access to resources, but I am committed to finding ways to make beautiful films with, not only, incredible, diverse casts, but with a crew and post-production team that prioritize women, queer folks, people of color and other marginalized identities in the industry. My communities deserve to see ourselves represented in the highest quality level work.

So I started, FemmePower Productions.

**FemmePower Productions commits to intersectional equity on screen and behind the scenes. Representation in front of the camera is not enough. Our cast and crew of industry professionals represent multiple and intersectional identities, including queer, poc, trans, nonbinary, mixed-race, working-class, fat-identified, and sex workers.** We are driven and professional, fabulous and futuristic. We believe that marginalized artists should have opportunities to tell all the stories we want-comedy, romance, fantasy, sci-fi, not just stories based on identity. We are committed to creating the change we want to see in media and entertainment. We believe in abundance-that there is not only room, but an urgent need for a multiplicity of queer/lgbt stories that represent numerous, intersectional identities.

We shot in my apartment with a 30 person cast and crew. I had an incredible team, including amazing female cinematographer, Autumn Eakin, the professional prowess of editor Janis Vogel, and a group of producers that continued to grow because people believed in this project so much. Executive producer Silas Howard has been a long-time collaborator, having directed many projects I was involved in as an actor.

Being programmed at Outfest is a big win for us. The support from Outfest is just the green light we needed to keep going, so FemmePower Productions is launching a fundraiser for our next project with a plan to start production in the fall. This is only the beginning.

#### **- Silas Howard, Executive Producer**

For me the key to survival as a filmmaker is my community. We need to be seen and entertained in a way that reflects the world we live in but rarely see on screen. When Heather told me she was ready to direct her first film, I jumped at the chance be a part of it, and the opportunity to support a vital new authentic voice.

Heather is a major contributor to my queer creative community as one of my favorite artists, a grassroots arts and events organizer, and also a long-term collaborator as a performer and actress. I have been inspired by her work for over a decade. We first connected through our backgrounds – we both grew up working-class, and are committed to urgent storytelling.

Flu\$h is a comedic glimpse into a world of daily lives & queer chosen family while simultaneously hinting that not all is fun and games. The queer, trans, and multiracial cast of Flu\$h is playful, punk and sexy, reflecting real characters we find in our gorgeous communities. The film centers around sex work – continually stigmatized by society in general and under attack from the current administration. This urgency makes it more important than ever to amplify stories that offer alternatives to the often negative and one-dimensional portrayals of workers in the sex industry.

Simply put, we need new filmmakers such as Heather to tell truly centered stories that have the power to connect us, make us laugh, feel seen and hold both hope and the realness of complicated moments that make up life.

# FILMMAKER AND CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## Writer / Director:



**Heather María Ács** is an award-winning performer, writer, and filmmaker whose work explores queer and radical subcultures, punk/d.i.y. aesthetics, and femme-inine identities. Her company, FemmePower Productions centers marginalized artists in front of and behind the camera. She is a working-class raised, Appalachian mixed-race Anglo-Xicana, based in Brooklyn. She is the co-founder of Heels on Wheels, a queer femme/all genders arts organization whose queer performance anthology, *Glitter & Grit*, is a LAMBDA Literary Award winner. She has worked with Cherríe Moraga, Mx. Justin Vivian Bond, Nao Bustamante, Taylor Mac, Karen Finley, Lois Weaver, the SITI Company, Paula Pell (SNL), and Steven Soderbergh. She has worked as a teaching artist, university professor, and grassroots organizer. She facilitates workshops on arts education and queer femme-ininities, past engagements include, Duke University, Hampshire College, UMD, and Concordia University. *Flu\$h* is her first film. [www.heatheracs.com](http://www.heatheracs.com)

## Director of Photography:



**Autumn Eakin** turned her years of working under Maryse Alberti (*The Wrestler*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Creed*) and Vanja Cernjul (*30 Rock*, *Orange Is The New Black*) into an artful resourcefulness she uses in her narrative and documentary filmmaking, including *Mavis!*, *Hard-Hatted Woman*, *The Light of the Moon* (SXSW Audience Award), and Peabody Award Winning *No Le Digas A Nadie* (*Don't Tell Anyone*). She has also shot projects for Netflix, The History Channel, NBC, Hulu, Northface, Ogilvy & Mather, AT&T and many more over her 12 years as an IATSE Local 600 member.

## Editor:



**Janis Vogel** draws from a background in many genres to create powerful, compelling work. Born in Germany and raised on Martha's Vineyard, she studied film at Wellesley College, and went on to receive her M.F.A. from the City College of New York. Her thesis film *Drop* won the Independent Film Project and New York Mayor's Office of Film's *NextGen Award*. She has gone on to edit award-winning documentaries, narrative films, music videos and more collaborating with directors Silas Howard and Heather Acs on various projects including *Valencia*, *AB Soto: Keep It Movin'*, *The Golden Age of Hustlers*, *Sticks & Stones: Bambi Lake* and most recently *Flu\$h*. In 2017 she worked on Spike Lee's, *She's Gotta Have It*, for Netflix.

#### **Executive Producer:**



**Silas Howard** is an award winning director and writer, with a longtime focus in telling honest, boundary-shattering narratives filled with groundbreaking characters, as evident in his work directing episodes of Amazon's Emmy award-winning *Transparent*, Freeform's *The Fosters*, MTV's *Faking It* and NBC's *This Is Us*. Recent projects include FX's *Pose* and the feature film *A Kid Like Jake* starring Claire Danes, Jim Parsons and Octavia Spencer, which premiered at Sundance 2018.

#### **Cast Bios:**



**Heather María Ács (Roxy)**



**T.L. Thompson (Wrex)**



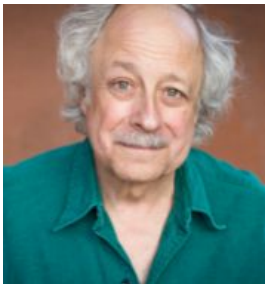
**Cookie-Morgan Sullivan (Owen)**



**Summer Minerva (Raquel)**



**Christine Davitt (CeCe)**



**Jeremy Lawrence (Stan)**

# FILM INFORMATION

## FLU\$H

A Film by Heather María Ács

Country:	USA
Running Time:	9 minutes
Shooting Location:	Brooklyn, NY