

The Pick Up

10 min
2018
2K Scope (2.39: 2048x858), shot on RED
5.1 Surround Mix
Exhibition formats: DCP, Blu Ray, H264, Quicktime,
DVD, mov, mp4

Website: <http://www.g6pictures.com/the-pick-up/>
Twitter: @g6Pictures
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/G6pictures/>
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/254901303>

Written and Directed by **Giovanna Chesler**
Produced by **Lisa Thrasher**
Director of Photography **Hans Charles**
Starring **Kayla Fuentes**
and **Ashna Sharan** with **Alexandra Wehr**
Composing by **Allyson Newman**

G6 Pictures presents
a **Mason Film Lab** production
in association with a **Lisa Thrasher**
Production

Distribution + Print Traffic

Giovanna Chesler, 347.241.3635, Giovanna@g6pictures.com

Awards

2019 Jury Award, Screenwriting, Big Muddy Film Festival
2018 [Cineffable](#) Paris International Festival of Lesbian and Feminist Film, Best Short Fiction
Film (Audience Award)
2018 [image+montreal](#) Best Short Film (Audience Award)
2018 [TIVA Peer Awards](#) – Bronze Award, Independent Short Film

Screenings

Mardi Gras Film Festival, Sydney, Australia – February / March 2020
Seattle Queer Film Festival, Seattle, WA – October 2019
Cine Club avec Cineffable, Paris, France – October 2019
CMG Short Film Festival, Hollywood, CA – October 2019
Lakefront Film Festival, Columbia, MD – July 2019
Bechdel Film Festival, Akron, OH – May 2019
Film Fest DC, Washington, DC – April 28, 2019
Printemps lesbien de Toulouse (Lesbian Springtime in Toulouse) France – April 12, 2019
Outfest Fusion, Los Angeles, California – March 2, 2019
Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, Illinois – February 24, 2019
Tucson Lesbian Looks Film Festival, Arizona – February 23, 2019
Award Winners of Cineffable Festival, Paris, France – February 23, 2019
image+nation Montreal Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Film Festival, November 23, 2018
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival, November 10, 2018 – Newfields Theater
Cineffable Paris Lesbian & Feminist Film Festival, November 3, 2018 – L'Espace Reuilly
Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Florida, October 9, 2018 – Tampa Theatre
DC Shorts, Washington DC, September 6 – 11, 2018 – E Street Cinema
North Carolina Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, August 18, 2018 – Carolina Theater
Seattle Pride Fest, Seattle, Washington, June 9 2018 – Northwest Film Forum
Cinema Systems, Paducah, Kentucky, May 25, 2018
Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, May 24, 2018
Boston Wicked Queer Film Festival, April 5, 2018, Brattle Theater

TAGLINE

Every road can be a detour if you let it.

LOGLINE

Sullen teen Melanie's trip home from swim practice takes her on a bumpy ride, facing adulthood, when mom picks up a strange, hot jogger.

SYNOPSIS

A teen (Kayla Fuentes) resentful of her divorcing parents doesn't like surprises. But when her mom (Ashna Sharan) gets a flat tire after picking her up from practice, a kind stranger (Alexandra Wehr) helps create an understanding. (Seattle Pride Fest)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

The Pick Up is based on a true story and the moment when I realized that my mother was a human being with feelings, desires, and faults of her own. My mother was driving me (then 7) and my sister home when a wild thunderstorm hit. We had just passed a jogger, who was now drenched. She quickly pulled over, told me to get in the back seat, opened the door and yelled to the jogger to get in.

Suddenly, this hot, wet, strange man had entered our car. The windows steamed up. My mother and I gulped. I immediately learned that I was sexually attracted to another person. It was an out-of-body experience watching the jogger and my mother in the front seat as they navigated toward his home. Further, it was a transformational one. Seeing her imperfections, allowed me to love her more.

As a queer director, I find freedom in reversals. I told this story with a different ending, a woman jogger, and developed an attraction between mother and jogger. Melanie, the oldest daughter and main character in *The Pick Up*, is like most teenagers- stuck in the back seat of her parent's lives. She does not get to decide where she goes and when. This car ride becomes a chance at autonomy when she sees how her mother needs her forgiveness and acceptance.

This film brought back together my collaborators from my recent short film "Java" and we made the film as a co-production with my film production company G6 Pictures and the Mason Film Lab in Film and Video Studies at George Mason University. Lisa Thrasher produced the film and made our production possible through her work with producing students. Hans Charles brought his eye to the lens and his students supported the professional camera crew.

KEY BIOS

Writer and Director Giovanna Chesler's fiction films are richly imaged with strong and funny characters at the core. (**Giovanna identifies as gender non-binary and uses they/them pronouns.*) Their fiction shorts include the sweet coming-of age film "The Pick Up" (2018) recently awarded Best Short Fiction Film from Cineffable Paris Lesbian and Feminist Film Festival and Best Short Film-Audience Award from image+nation (Montreal). Their other short fiction films include the mysterious drama "Java" (2017), melodramatic romance "Bye Bi Love" (2010) and the coming out comedy "BeauteouS" (2002.) Giovanna's films have screened at over 130 film festivals including Chicago International Film Festival, Outfest, Frameline, Ann Arbor Film Festival, and Seattle International Film Festival. Giovanna has enjoyed retrospectives and screenings at Anthology Film Archives (NYC), National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington DC) and the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego. When Giovanna directed and produced the hour-long documentary "Period: The End of Menstruation" the film became a cultural touchstone on the menstrual suppression debate when it was

covered on the front page of The New York Times. They Produced the Sundance Institute supported documentary “Out in the Night”, the award-winning feature on the New Jersey 4 (dir. blair dorosh-walther). “Out in the Night” launched the United Nations’ Free/Equal film campaign in 77 countries, was nationally broadcast on POV and Logo, and earned 15 festival awards. Giovanna holds an M.F.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University (Most Distinguished Graduate.) They are a 2019 Media Arts Fellow by the Washington DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and were recognized as a 2019 Filmmaker of the Month by the Washington DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment.

Producer Lisa Thrasher is an entertainment lawyer and Producer with 20 years of experience in Hollywood. Lisa has produced fiction films with some of Hollywood’s top women film and TV creators including Jamie Babbit, Angela Robinson, Andrea Sperling, Colette Burson, Nefertite Nguvu, and Tina Mabry. Lisa’s films have achieved critical and commercial success receiving domestic and international, commercial distribution; screening at over 900 film festivals; winning over 80 awards; and, a Student “Academy Award” Nomination. For over a decade, Lisa co-headed POWER UP Films, a Los Angeles film production company for women and the LGBTQ community. As President of Film Production & Distribution, Lisa oversaw development, production and distribution of all filmed entertainment, including: the two romantic comedy features “Girltrash: All Night Long” and the award-winning “Itty Bitty Titty Committee” (Berlinale “Teddy Award” Nominee, South by Southwest “Best Narrative Feature Jury Award); “Get to Know Us First” PSA (NBC, ABC, CBS); “Little Black Boot,” (Sundance); “Billy’s Dad is a Fudge-Packer” (Sundance); “Stuck” (Sundance “Honorable Mention”); and “DEBS” (Sundance, Berlinale “Best Short”). As a lawyer for 20th Century Fox, Lisa conducted International anti-piracy litigation, domestic trademark prosecution, and international anti-piracy affairs with foreign Heads of State to protect the studio’s films. Lisa holds a JD from Southwestern University School of Law and BFA in Photography & Film from Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2010, Go Magazine named Lisa as one of the “Women We Love.”

Director of Photography Hans Charles developed an eye for cinematography and produced his first feature “Like Water” while earning his M.F.A. at Howard University. Hans recently earned an Emmy Nomination for his work as co-Director of Photography on Ava DuVernay’s Academy Award nominated feature documentary “13th.” He Produced and serves as DP on “1 Angry Black Man” (dir. Lumumba) recently awarded Honorable Mention, Best Feature Film, at Urbanworld NYC. Hans’ recent DP’d projects include the Sundance Film Festival 2019 selected documentary series “Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men” and the award-winning documentary feature “Mr. Soul” (dir. Melissa Haizlip and Sam Pollard.) Other films include Tracey Edmonds (“Soulfood,” “Set it Off”) and Patrick Ian Polk (“Punks,” “Noah’s Ark”) and has shot for Spike Lee and Salim Akil (“Jumping the Broom.”) He worked on the narrative features “Entre Nos,” “Pariah,” “Middle of Nowhere,” and “Mother of George” which played on HBO, ESPN, Netflix, at Los Angeles and Zanzibar Film Festivals.

Composer Allyson Newman gained her Masters degree in composition from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Her first feature film *Watermark* screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2003 after which she then moved to LA to study film scoring at USC. Allyson has been awarded both an Australia Council for the Arts Grant and an Australian Guild of Screen Composers Award for her work in film music. Allyson scored the multi award winning documentary feature *Limited Partnership* that premiered on PBS Independent Lens in 2015. Alongside composer Matt Novack, Allyson wrote music for the comedy series *Filthy Preppy Teens* (2016), as well as the three-time Emmy Winning TV series *Children’s Hospital*. Allyson also scored the Emmy nominated (2016) media series *Her Story*. In July 2017 Allyson participated in the prestigious BMI Conducting Workshop and then went on to score *Kusama-Infinity* which premiered at Sundance 2018 and will have its theatrical release with Magnolia

Pictures in September 2018. Allyson is in post-production on documentary feature film *Making Waves: The Art of Cinematic Sound*. This is her second film working with Giovanna, following with collaboration on the short "Java."

Kayla Fuentes (Melanie) was born to be a musician. She started modeling and acting at three years old. Music bonded her tightly to her Grandfather Jorge, because they both shared a love for music. When she was four, he made a small acoustic guitar, which remains one of her most treasured possessions. She used YouTube to teach herself her favorite songs and then expanded her musical ability through guitar classes. She attends the Metropolitan School of the Arts, where she studies music, theater, acting, piano, voice, and is conquering her fear of dancing by taking contemporary jazz, tap and ballet. During the summer, Kayla worked in several new projects and was signed by CESD talent agency and The ESI Network management. Kayla lives with her two younger sisters, mom, dad, and her Spanish speaking grandma. Her Grandmother has taught Kayla Spanish fluently and she expresses herself as an artist bilingually. Kayla is dedicated to sharing her experiences and art with others, both through her performances and through her music.

As a Virginia native, **Ashna Sharan** (Mom) was born to perform. Due to her mother's background in dance and art, Ashna grew up training for dance competitions and performances at venues such as the Kennedy Center and Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts. Dance taught her to convey story through movement - performing in front of hundreds of people. Meanwhile, her father, an avid photographer and videographer, encourage Ashna to get behind the camera from a young age.

As she grew older and delved into other arts such as painting, music, modeling and more: she realized she wanted to pursue acting professionally in Film and Television. She is extremely passionate about her craft and is finally pursuing her dreams.

Alexandra Wehr (the Jogger, Alex) was born and raised in New Jersey where she earned her B.F.A. in Theater from Ramapo College. She embraces a style all her own with unrelenting passion. Her love for acting began when she was a small child mimicking the great works of Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, and Jim Carrey. Alexandra's career started in 2010 where she starred in an adaptation of Euripides Greek tragedy *Trojan Women*. Her crossover from theater to film and television was seamless, when she landed roles on top television series such as CBS's Blue Bloods and AMC's NewsWatch TV. Alexandra continues to perfect her craft in the DC area.

G6 PICTURES presents
a **MASON FILM LAB** production in association with a **LISA THRASHER** production
a film by **GIOVANNA CHESLER "THE PICK UP"**
KAYLA FUENTES ASHNA SHARAN ALEXANDRA WEHR ZOE ELIZABETH SYDNI GIFT
Sound Design **AMANDA KRAUS** Composer **ALLYSON NEWMAN**
Editor **DAMON BEIRNE** Director of Photography **HANS CHARLES**
Produced by **LISA THRASHER** Written & Directed by **GIOVANNA CHESLER**
www.g6pictures.com

FULL CREDIT LIST:

Writer and Director	Giovanna Chesler
Producer	Lisa Thrasher
Starring	Kayla Fuentes as Melanie
With	Ashna Sharan as Mom Alexandra Wehr as Jogger / Alex Zoe Elizabeth as Stephanie Sydni Guest as Angel
Director of Photography	Hans Charles
Editor	Damon Beirne
Composer	Allyson Newman
Associate Producer	Rebekah Meorado
Assistant Directors	Nicholas Canonico Donovan Jones Bryan Steger Andy Riddle Jessica Riddle
Production Managers	Katy Crain Annavictoria Knight
Production Coordinators	Livia Elgart, Kauri George Adriana Lopez, Carol Merengwa Chris Rothgeb, Lester Sauble Taimar Tookhi, Andre Wilson
Assistant to the Director + Casting Assistant	Lucas Muratore
Post Production Assistant	Andre Wilson
Second Unit Director of Photography	Damien Coor
First Camera Assistant Second Camera Assistant	Everd Rijzewijk Kyle Van Dyke
Camera Assistants	Mursal Akram, Jack Bolger Emily Daenzer, Mikayla Fridley Jason Gilligan, Naod Haddish Nick Lewis, Jamie Sullivan Mahon Julian Nguyen, Erblin Nushi Lindsey Oblitey, Adam Reforzo Hector Tolentino III, Tara Tung

	Cai Wang
Gaffers	Mike Wilson Andrew Jorgensen
Key Grip	Chris Franklin
Grip & Electric Swing	Darcelle Larkin Nathan Taylor
Grip	Russell Howard Lester Sauble
Sound Recordist	Mikayla Fridley Ryan Judge Chris Rothgeb
Boom Operator	Kaidan Blackmer DeShane Jones Jason Gilligan
Script Supervisor Continuity	Serge Magnavox Amanda Rhodes
Key Hair & Make Up Designer Hair & Make Up	Nasreen Alkhateeb Emma Baskir
Production Design & Set Decorators	Charlie Hall Zoe Peters Rebekah Meorado Max Stempniewicz Colin Stucki
Costume Dressers	Blaire Collingwood Rebekah Meorado Lucas Muratore Samantha Siewert
Catering & Craft Service	Adriana Lopez Lester Sauble
Transportation	Russell Howard Lester Sauble
Online Editor Colorist Finishing Artist	Robbie Carman, C.S.I. Robbie Carman, C.S.I. Joey D'Anna, C.S.I.
Re-Recording Mixer	Rick Rush
Sound Design and Sound Edit	Rick Rush

	Amanda Kraus
Sound Guardian	Cheryl Ottenritter, M.P.S.E., C.A.S.
Additional Dialogue Recording	Zoe Lee Ottenritter
Titles & Visual Effects	David Mason III
Still Photographer	Meagan Arnold Will Sidaros
Poster Design	Samantha Beach
Behind the Scenes	Damon Beirne Matt McKinney
Behind the Scenes Cinematography	Christian Druitt
Behind the Scenes Editor	Brittney Flores

Special Thanks to the Mason Film Lab’s generous Sponsors and Contributors
 Erich Roland and DC Camera ; George Greene and The Washington Source ; Robbie Carman and DC Color ;
 Cheryl Ottenritter and Ott House Audio ; Khalid Mekki ; Lori Yi, Samantha Beach and Andrew Jorgensen from
 Film and Video Studies ; Cynthia Zema, Brian Walther and Thomas Moncure Jr. from the Office of University
 Counsel ; Lindsay Daniels and Joyce French from the Office of Risk Management ; Dean Rick Davis and the
 College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University.

Thank you J.R. Osborn ; Patrick Anderson ; Zeinabu irene Davis and Desta Chery ; Roberta Marie Munroe ; Jen
 Proctor ; Angelica Das ; Heather Courtney ; Harjant Gill ; Chithra Jeyaram ; Nzingha Kendall ; mia famiglia ;
 Beth and Tes Jannery

Camera & Lenses	DC Camera
G&E Equipment	The Washington Source
Audio Post Production Services	Ott House Audio
Post Production Services	DC Color
Locations	George Mason University

“The Pick Up” is a co-production of G6 Pictures and the Mason Film Lab in Film and Video Studies at George
 Mason University.

Filmed on location in Fairfax, Virginia.

G6 Pictures is the author of this motion picture for the purpose of U.S. Copyright Law, the Berne Convention
 and all other national and/or International laws giving effect thereto.
 The characters and events depicted herein are fictitious. Any similarity to actual events and persons, living or
 dead, is entirely coincidental and unintentional.
 This motion picture is protected under the laws of the United States of America and other countries. Any
 unauthorized duplication, distribution, exhibition or other unauthorized action may result in civil liability and
 criminal prosecution.

A G6 Pictures Production
www.G6PICTURES.com
 All Rights Reserved.