



Logline

A young woman's struggle with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder threatens to derail her career dreams and a budding romance.

Summary

Em is a young actress on the verge of a promising career, but her struggles with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder threaten her dreams. When her career begins to take off and a budding romance enters her life, Em's intrusive thoughts grow louder, intruding on her ability to receive the things she most desires; a successful career and meaningful relationship. Afraid of rejection and ridicule, Em is determined to hide her symptoms rather than open herself to help. With a real chance at happiness before her, can she overcome her fears to seize it?

Director's Statement

Mental health can be a difficult subject for many. In this semi-autobiographical film from writer/actress Tori Ernst, we examine the particular challenge women can face when they fear that an acknowledgement of their needs will be perceived as weakness. Sometimes our inability to allow others to see our inner selves can sabotage our chances to seize on opportunities in our lives.

Counting proudly features a female leadership team including writer, director, and more. Made safely during the Covid-19 Pandemic, this indie film was a result of teamwork and resilience.



Creators



Sarah Young (Director) is an award winning, NYC based, Director and Filmmaker. With fiercely contemporary films or by reclaiming classic theatrical/operaic productions, Sarah's work challenges traditional systems of power. Her first short film *In Case We Get Found* (2020) was inspired by her father's experience as a survivor of the Umpqua Community College mass shooting and has won several awards including the Audience Award for Suspense at the McMinville Short Film Fest. The webseries pilot *FCK* (Friend's Can't Kiss) about two gay couples navigating changes in their relationships is currently screening in festivals. *We're All Fine* (2021), about the purpose of art during a crisis, was made entirely on zoom

during lockdown for which Sarah won Best Director at the Couch Film Festival. She graduated with an MFA from The New School for Drama.



Tori Ernst (Writer, Producer) is an actor, writer and filmmaker living in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated from The New School of Drama in 2019 with her Masters in Acting. She's performed in various off-Broadway theater productions in NYC. Selected credits include *Roberto Zucco* (New School), *Sueño* (New School), *Harboured* (dir. Jimmy Maize, En Garde Arts), *Dutchman* (dir. Rashid Johnson), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Bryant Park Shakespeare). Tori is currently producing and acting in the short film *I Have Considered the Lilies*, directed by Cristina Spina. It's set to shoot in November 2021.



Andy Whitlatch (Director of Photography) is a New York based filmmaker. He has a degree in journalism from Temple University and interned at Comedy Central for *The Daily Show* and *Colbert Report* before beginning his career in film. His work can be seen across platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, History, PBS, *The New York Times*, and *The Atlantic*. He lensed the feature film *Songs for a Sloth*. It has a successful festival run taking home best feature film awards at Venice Film Festival and Florence Film Awards. His work has screened at festivals worldwide including Rome Independent Cinema Festival, Dumbo Film Festival, Williamsburg International Film Festival, and Valencia Film Festival.

Cast



Tori Ernst as Em

Tori Ernst is an actor, writer and filmmaker living in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated from The New School of Drama in 2019 with her Masters in Acting. She's performed in various off-Broadway theater productions in NYC. Selected credits include *Roberto Zucco* (New School), *Sueño* (New School), *Harboured* (dir. Jimmy Maize, En Garde Arts), *Dutchman* (dir. Rashid Johnson), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Bryant Park Shakespeare).

Tori is currently producing and acting in the short film *I Have Considered the Lilies*, directed by Cristina Spina. It's set to shoot in November 2021.



Jinho Woo as James

Jinho Woo (James) is a Seoul/NYC based South Korean actor. Credits: NY Theatre: K-Theater (K-Theater Company, NY Fringe 2019), *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus* (The Secret Theatre), *The Livingroom Stories* (Root Beer Occasion). Film: *The Black Hole* (NYFA), *A Place in the Dark* (Ife Creative Works), *Women & Worms* (Quantum Cohorts), *The Red Envelope* (Reel Works). Training: MFA, The New School for Drama.

Co Starring

Kat Dunn Watson

Cristina Spina

Full Credits

Directed by Sarah Young

Written by Tori Ernst

Producers
Tori Ernst
Sarah Young

Key Cast
Tori Ernst
Jinho Woo
Kat Dunn Watson
Cristina Spina

Director of Photography
Andy Whitlach

Production Sound and Sound Design
Alex Chludzinska

Editor and Gaffer
Kevin Deming

Art Direction
Alexandra Peter

Song "Into my Spine"
By Drew Krasner



Counting

Title: Counting
Year of Production: 2021
Duration: 14 mins 49 secs
Language: English
Film Type: Short Film
Genre: Drama
Aspect Ratio: 2.35

