



# SUSIE

A FILM BY ARTHUR GAY PRODUCED BY DERIN CELIK STARRING QUINN JACKSON, TUNI HERNANDEZ, NAAMA POTOK  
CO-PRODUCED BY NINA COCHRAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL CONG PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARISSA TODD SOUND RECORDED BY RIDER LASKIN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAURA GANOTIS SOUND DESIGNER AND COMPOSER SAM BEST  
GAFFER EMMET LUCIANO FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA CECE CHAN COLOURIST MICHAEL CONG CATERING BY SERIN CELIK COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER YOKO KOHMOTO DUB MIXING BY YUSHU BAO GRAPHIC DESIGNER JIIN OH WRITTEN BY ARTHUR GAY

## PRESS KIT

**Arthur Gay / Director / Writer**

[arthur.elias.gay@columbia.edu](mailto:arthur.elias.gay@columbia.edu)

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

+1 (347) 873 0840

**Derin Çelik / Producer**

[dc3513@columbia.edu](mailto:dc3513@columbia.edu)

+1 (917) 708 3535

## LOGLINE

After deciding to leave her life at home, Susie befriends a young teenager on a remote farm, equally confused about his place in life. However, even in their shared connection they come to realise that life is a solitary journey.



## SYNOPSIS

Suffering from the malaise of life and it's inerrant meaninglessness, Susie decides to go to Alaska to find her estranged father.

She finds herself working on a small farm where she meets a 17 year old boy named Sam who, in struggling to find his own independence, yearns to explore the world. While Susie tries to find solace in her new surroundings, Sam begins to idolize her mission. However, when Sam asks Susie to take him with her to Alaska, she does not know what to say. Confronted by and shame, he runs away. She finds him in the flowing creek of water staring back at her. In this moment, Susie sees a young man equally afraid of the world around him. She sees herself in him and realizes how lonely they both are.



**DIRECTOR // WRITER // EDITOR - ARTHUR ELIAS GAY**

Having spent his early years of life, often moving countries with his mother, Arthurs work focuses on ideas of existentialism and belonging. After eventually settling in tāmaki makaurau, New Zealand, he received a bachelors degree in directing and writing. Since graduating he has been an active filmmaker, creating short films, music videos and documentaries.

He now lives in Brooklyn, New York where he is completing his MFA in directing and writing at Columbia University.

## SELECTED WORKS

2021 - Short Film - *'A Shared Moment of Loneliness'*

2020 - Short Film - *'Lipstick'*

2018 - Feature Documentary - *'Somewhere In Between' (In Post)*

2018 - Music Video - *'Darksong'* by Terrible Sons.

2015 - Short Film - *'What Do You See'*

2014 - Music Video - *'Neptune'* by Terrible Sons

2014 - Feature Documentary - *'Malerverksted'*



**PRODUCER - DERIN ÇELİK**

Derin Çelik was born in Houston, Texas. He moved to Turkey when he was 3 years old and lived in Istanbul until he was 18. He came back to the United States to study at New York University, at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study concentrating in Economics and Film.

Derin is currently in his second year at Columbia University's MFA program concentrating in TV writing. Derin likes telling stories exploring the immigrant and the Middle Eastern experience in ways in which it has not been explored in Media/Film.

## SELECTED WORKS

2022 - Short Film - *'The Great Filter'*

2022 - Short Documentary - *'1.5 Meters'*

2021 - Short - *'It's Over'*

2021 - *'In Between Trains'*

2018 - *'Nuke City'*



#### **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - MICHAEL CONG**

Born in Xinyu and raised in Weihai, China, Michael Cong is a filmmaker and cinematographer based in New York City. With a mixed background of Chinese and American culture, Michael focuses on the common ground where differences converge. His work is often centered around the passengers who are on the verge of leaving or staying somewhere, or with someone. He thinks of cinema as a form of expression that goes beyond language, and he makes films for people all around the world.

Since he graduated from Tisch School of the Arts with a concentration on cinematography, Michael has worked on numerous commercials and music videos. His narrative works are screened at multiple international film festivals. Michael enjoys experimenting with images and sound. His patience behind the camera makes the magic happen and curiosity drives him deeper. He is currently an MFA student at Columbia University where he keeps experimenting with cinema with friends.

#### **SELECTED WORKS**

- 2021 - Short Film - *'Windy Days'*
- 2021 - Short Film - *'Enloquecer'*
- 2021 - Cinematic Adaptation - *'Happy Days'*
- 2020 - Short Film - *'Fever From Elsewhere'*
- 2020 - Short Film - *'Dakota Running,'*
- 2019 - Short Film - *'Red Bean Soup'*
- 2019 - Short Film - *'Hotter Than July'*
- 2019 - Short Film - *'Photograph'*
- 2019 - Short Film - *'River of Dream'*



#### **QUINN JACKSON - SUSIE**

30 years young, Quinn has spent the majority of her life with New York City as her backdrop. The perfect playground for a creative heart, she spent her early years falling in love with the theatre and cultivating a passion for exploring the intricacies of human nature. After a quick detour to study art history at Columbia University, she studied for two years with Bill Esper at the Esper Studio and is now pursuing her MFA at NYU's Grad Acting Program (2023).

Quinn has been on NBC's the Blacklist and starred in Nick Santos's debut feature *It Cuts Deep* now on showtime.



#### **TUNI HERNANDEZ - SAM**

Tuni Hernandez was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Now lives in Los Angeles. After a year studying theater at ASU he moved to New York to pursue acting. His love and curiosity about film became more realized through student and independent films. He had a role in short film *'Checks and Balance'*, which screened at multiple festivals such as the Montclair Film Festival.

New to LA, he takes classes at the Michelle Danner Acting Studio. He Thanks Arthur, the cast and crew for this beautiful, dream-like, experience.

He's represented by International Artists PR & Talent Management, and Paloma Model and Talent. instagram @tunihernandez

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

'Susie' was originally inspired by stories I have been told by my mother(-Susie) of when she was a young woman traveling and working on farms through New Zealand. Although this film is not particularly accurate in its depiction of those stories, I was inspired by her sense of independence and desire to search for answers somewhere other than 'here'. This concept of transience and a search for abstract meaning is something that has been incredibly formative for me as a filmmaker and person navigating my own path. My mother and I spent many years moving countries and towns. Each time needing to start new. It very much defined my childhood and teenage years.

So for me, 'Susie' is an exploration of belonging, a search for the cure of inexplicable discomfort of where one currently stands. I was drawn to this idea of two characters, both yearning for connection and a greater understanding of their place in the world, yet ultimately unable to connect. More so, it was an exploration of the existentialist idea that we are all alone - even in a shared connection we must ultimately walk this journey alone, searching for oneself.

In 'Susie' I wanted to explore how the world of the farm represented her romantic image of 'connection' to self - also expressed through connection to Sam. Abstractly Susie and Sam are the same person, both afraid and running away, both being pulled by the ever moving current of the rivers water. Formally, in this piece and in most of my work, I am interested in how characters interact and belong within a space. To me, the environment characters find themselves in, the frame they inhabit (and sometimes don't inhabit) is a direct portal to their inner psyche. I am fascinated by the way we(the audience) engage with an environment/space within a frame and how our emotional reaction to that image is projected onto the character. 'Susie' is, for me, an exploration of the search for belonging within the world and the notion that we are all searching for this alone.





Director/Arthur Gay & Sound Recordist / Rider Laskin



1st AD/Laura Ganotis talking to Actor/Quinn Jackson



1st AC/Cece Chan



DOP/Michael Cong checking the frame



Sound Recordist/Rider Laskin & Actor/Naama Potok



Director/Arthur Gay  
Discussing with Actors/Quinn Jackson and Tuni Hernandez



Actors/ Quinn Jackson, Tuni Hernandez & Naama Potok rehearsing the scene

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Shooting format - Digital 3.2K UHD  
Aspect ratio - 1.66.1  
Audio format - 5.1 surround  
Runtime - 14m 45s  
Language - English  
Shooting Location - New York, USA  
Completion Date - December 31, 2021



#### ALL CREDITS

Susie - Quinn Jackson  
Sam - Tuni Hernandez  
Fran - Naama Potok

Director / Writer - Arthur Gay  
Producer - Derin Çelik  
Co-Producer - Nina Cochran  
Director of Photography - Michael Cong  
Production Designer - Marissa Todd  
First Assistant Director - Laura Ganotis  
Sound Recordist - Rider Laskin  
Sound Designer - Sam Best  
Gaffer - Emmet Luciano  
First Assistant Camera - Cece Chan  
Catering - Serin Çelik  
Covid Compliance Officer - Yoko Kohmoto  
Composer - Sam Best  
Colourist- Michael Cong  
Sound Mixer - Sam Best & Yushu Bao  
Dub Mixer - Yushu Bao