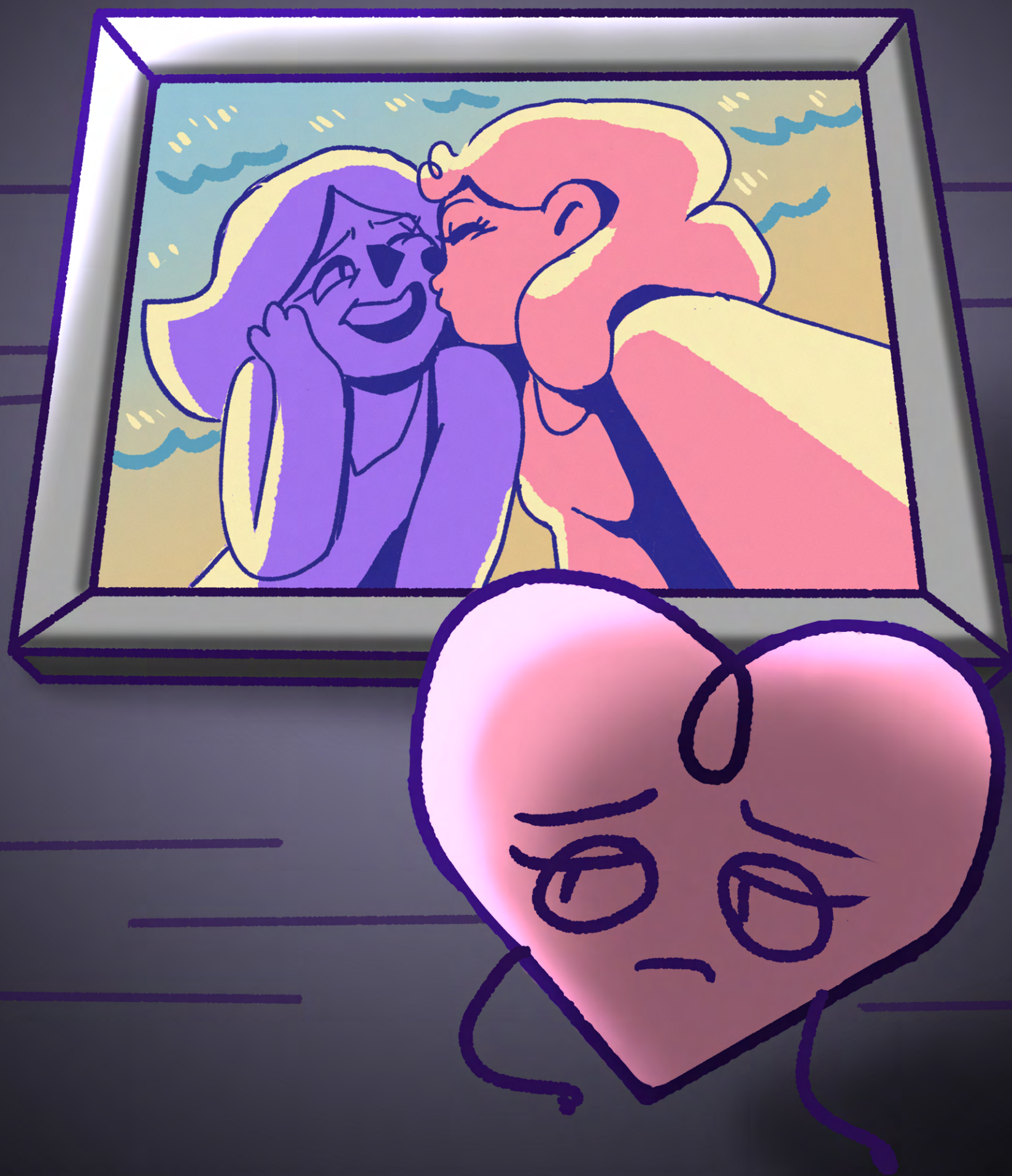


# *From the Heart*



*Spring 2022*

# Contact Information

## Visuals

Hannah Middleton  
HannahBearArt@gmail.com  
HannahBearraArt.com

## Story

Alistair Dieterich  
MayfieldAspen@gmail.com

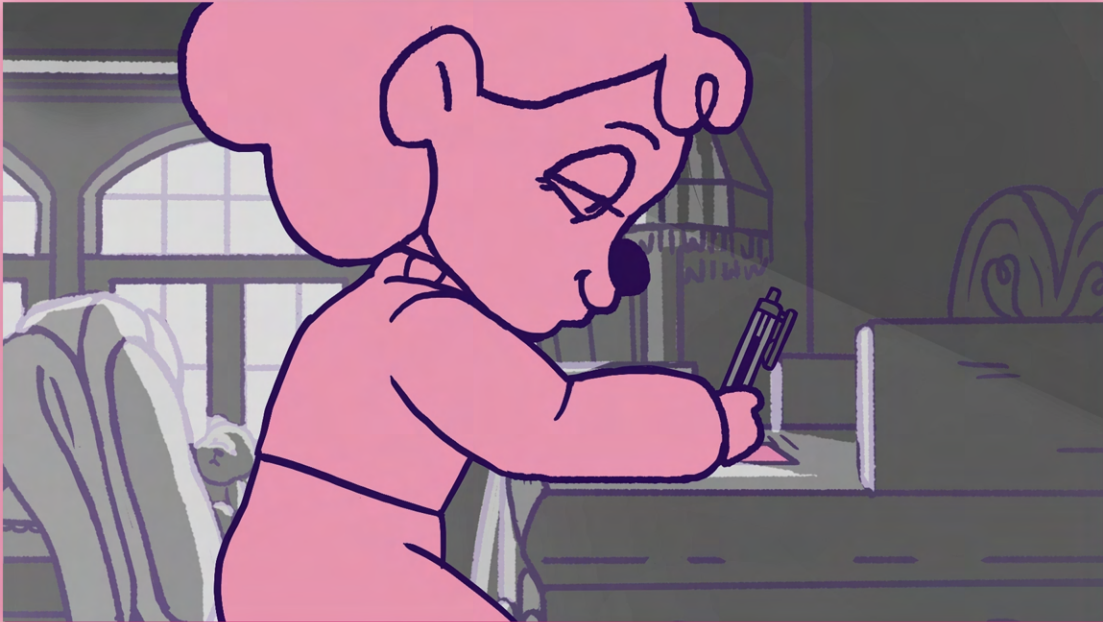
## Voice

Lauren Dieterich  
L.N.Dieterich@gmail.com

## Audio

Ella Rowen  
EllaMRowen@gmail.com

# About “From the Heart”



## Release Date

May 6, 2022

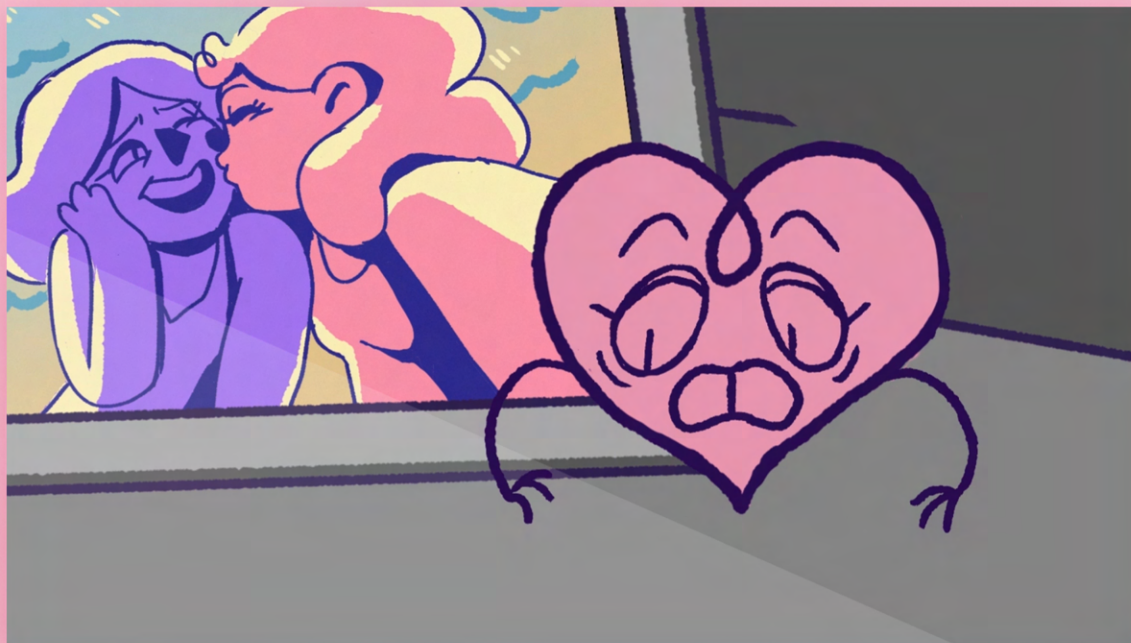
## Logline

After a devastating breakup, a young woman is determined to set things right. The only thing standing in the way is her own Heart.

## Technical Info

Type:	2D Computer Animated Short film
Total Run Time:	03:58
Aspect Ratio:	16:9, 1920 x 1080
Exhibition Format:	Digital H.264
Sound Format:	Stereo
Language:	English

# About “From the Heart”



## Synopsis

After a devastating breakup, a young woman named Maisy searches for comfort in a box of memories. When a particular photograph of her and her ex-girlfriend pulls her out of her despair, Maisy is determined to make amends and repair the broken relationship. Nothing is going to get in her way!

...Except maybe her own Heart.

Jaded by the recent breakup, fearful of getting hurt again, and wanting no part of this plan, Maisy’s Heart comes to life in an attempt to save the both of them from more heartache. Maisy’s willpower is put to the test as she fights off her Heart’s irksome interferences. If she succeeds, she could prove to them both that love can overpower the hurt feelings from the past.

# Director's Statement

“From the Heart” is a profound labor of love, about love, created by a brilliant team of queer people. When we started brainstorming the story, Alistair and I had a couple key sticking points: we wanted it to be 1) fun and 2) gay. We ended up with a role reversal of the classic “the heart wants what it wants” trope.

This film was created entirely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The story, sound design, music, and voice work were all concocted remotely, and we never met in person. Even so, we were in constant communication via Discord and Zoom, sending files back and forth and reveling in each other's work. Even with setbacks upon setbacks, both country-wide and private, this wonderful team was able to bring this story to life.

While the story features a gay relationship, the story isn't about sexuality, as often is the case with stories that feature LGBTQIA+ characters. This was an important sticking point throughout the story's creation. All too often, stories about queer characters are relegated to just being about “the struggle of being queer.” So rarely do LGBTQIA+ audiences see any of their other struggles past “being who they are” portrayed through a character they can relate to on-screen. Maisy struggles with the same thing that anyone going through a breakup does: a broken heart. Maisy is strong-willed, determined, loving, and happens to be a lesbian. The story is about Maisy and her Heart.

Ultimately, we created a story that has a lot of heart (haha) and a cast of characters that we fell in love with. We hope whoever watches will fall in love with them, too. <3

# Creator Bio

## Hannah Middleton



Hannah Middleton is an animator and illustrator based in Middle Tennessee. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in May 2022 with a B.S. in Animation. “From the Heart” will be her first film.

Hannah grew up surrounded by cartoons, anime, and video games. She was inspired by these mediums to make inspirational art of her own, and thus pursued a degree, and now career, in animation. Particularly, Hannah loves designing cute characters, 2D animation, and narrative drama, and luckily was able to incorporate all three into her first film. When she’s not making art, or thinking about making art, Hannah spends her time doing various crafts and running an Instagram account for her long Furby.

She has been a member of the MTSU ACM SIGGRAPH Student Chapter while at college, and she attended the 2019 SIGGRAPH conference in Los Angeles as a student volunteer. She always wants to make wholesome and lighthearted art that will make people smile.

# Screenwriter Bio

## Alistair Dieterich



Alistair Dieterich is a writer, story artist, and illustrator. They are a recent graduate from Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Animation. Alistair never grew out of their love for cartoons and was ecstatic when they found out they could make a career out of their passion. They have been writing and drawing from a young age, with multiple forays into original stories and fanfiction alike.

Alistair is an active member in the animation community. They have been a member of the MTSU ACM SIGGRAPH Student Chapter since their first semester and have held various officer positions including Historian, Secretary, and President. They have also worked as an Animation tutor for MTSU. They have been a Student Volunteer for the SIGGRAPH conference in 2019 and 2020 and are involved in a number of online art communities and forums.

Alistair firmly believes that animation is a medium for all ages and they want to use their platform to elevate the stories and voices of those who may not be able to tell them themselves. Their dream is to work in television animation and to one day become a showrunner, but their main goal is to be able to tell stories that make people feel found.

# Voice Actor Bio

Lauren Dieterich



Lauren Dieterich is a recent graduate from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelors of Science in Video and Film Production. She has a strong love of editing, acting, and singing.

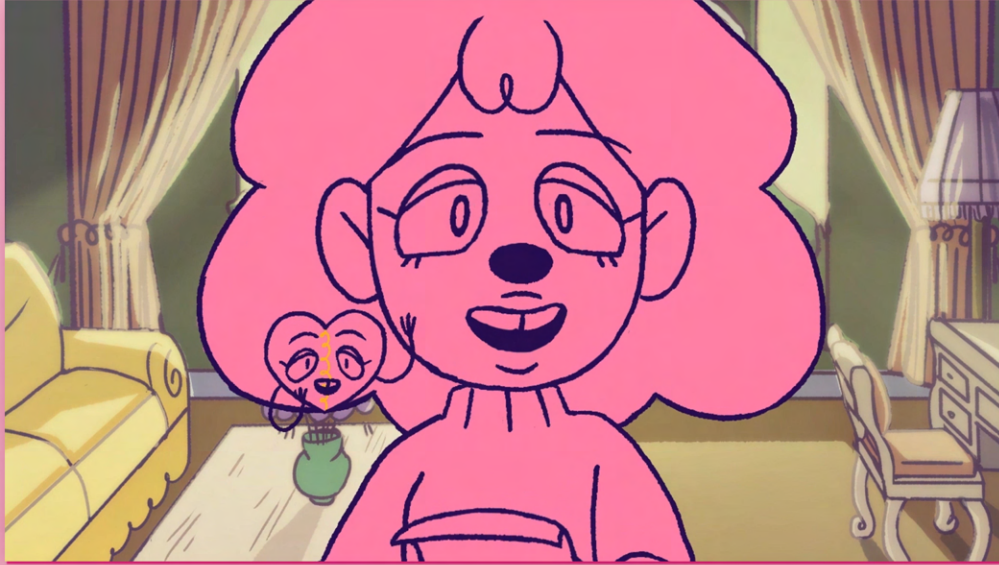
# Composer Bio

## Ella Rowen



Ella Rowen is a composer and audio engineer based in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has composed for and mixed several commercial projects, radio shows, and short films. Her most recent work includes the score for “Estelle” from Bon Pont Productions, and the theme songs for “The Real Housewives of Olympus” and “The Kidlit Chronicles” podcasts.

# Credits



From the Heart

A Film by  
Hannah Middleton

Produced at  
Middle Tennessee State University

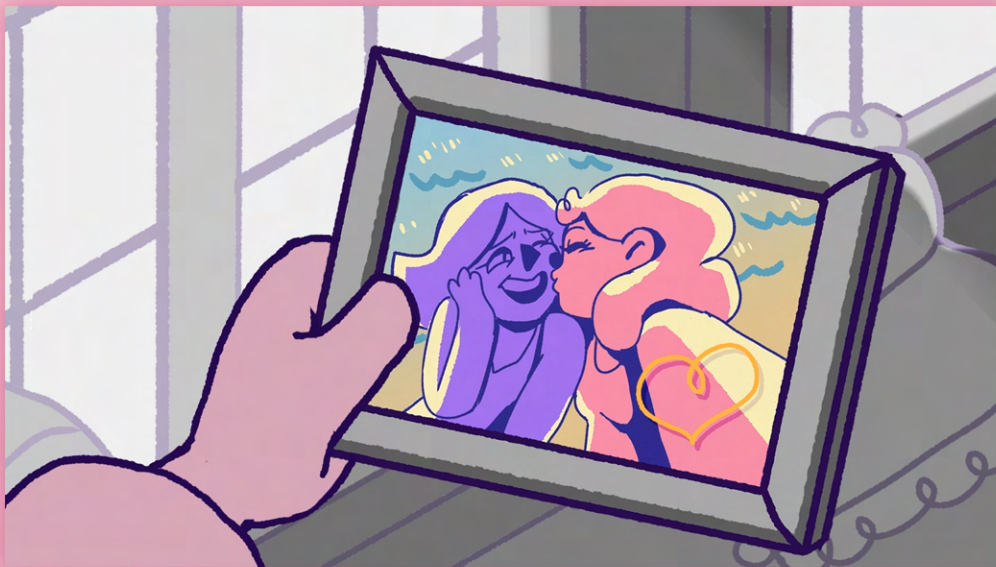
Faculty Advisors  
Kevin McNulty  
Richard Lewis

Director  
Hannah Middleton

Story  
Alistair Dieterich  
Hannah Middleton

Character and Environment Design  
Hannah Middleton

# Credits



Storyboard  
Hannah Middleton  
Alistair Dieterich

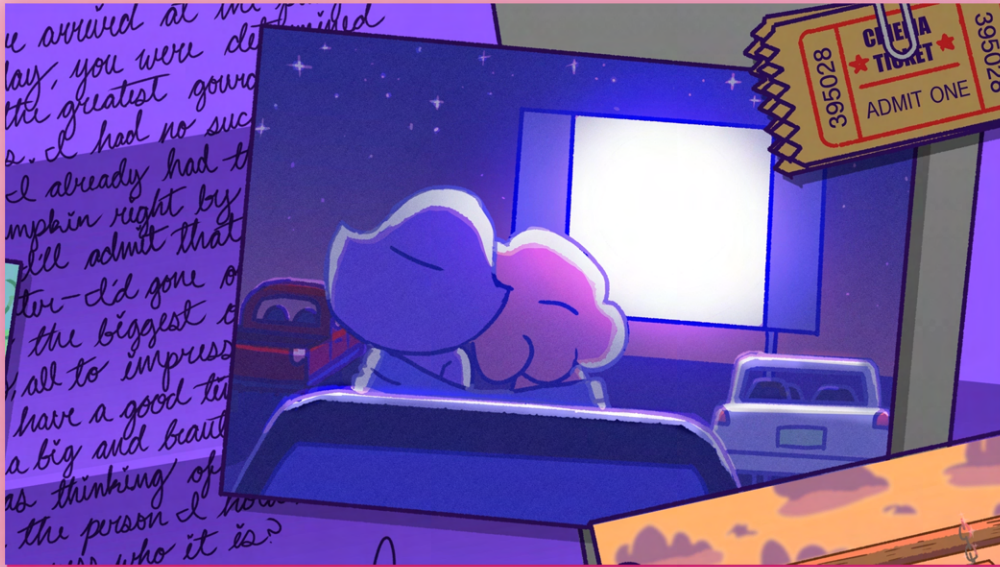
Animator  
Hannah Middleton

Editor  
Hannah Middleton

Music  
Ella Rowen

Sound Design  
Ella Rowen

# Credits



## Character Voices

Maisy

Lauren Dieterich

Maisy's Heart

Lauren Dieterich

Jeanie

Alistair Dieterich

Jeanie's Heart

Alistair Dieterich

## Special Thanks

Julian Brown

Chris Olson

Keegan Chambers

Sierra Hart

Nathan Coffman

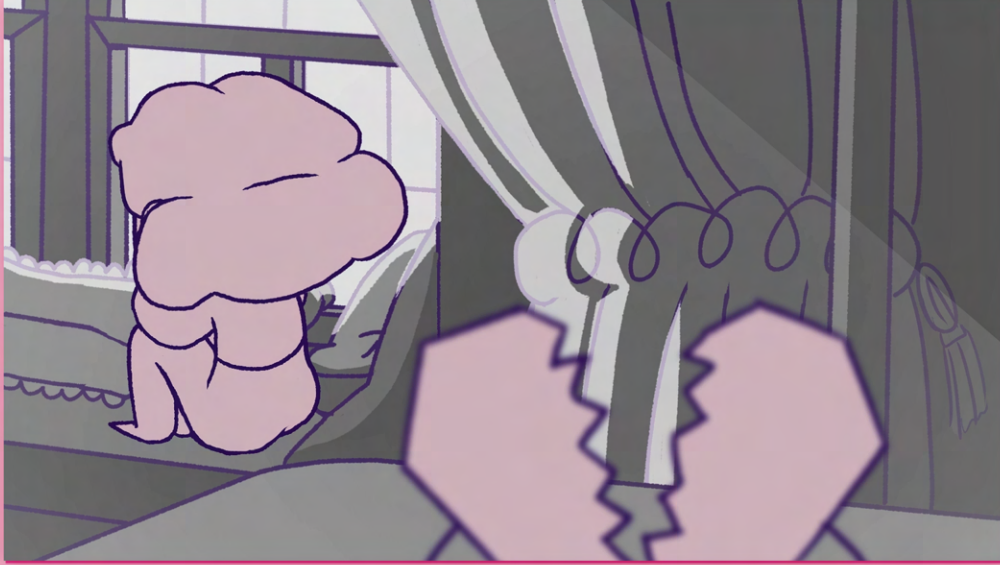
Nathanael Wilson

Brandon McMillan

Shea Spears

Virginia Lake Petty

# Credits



## Special Thanks

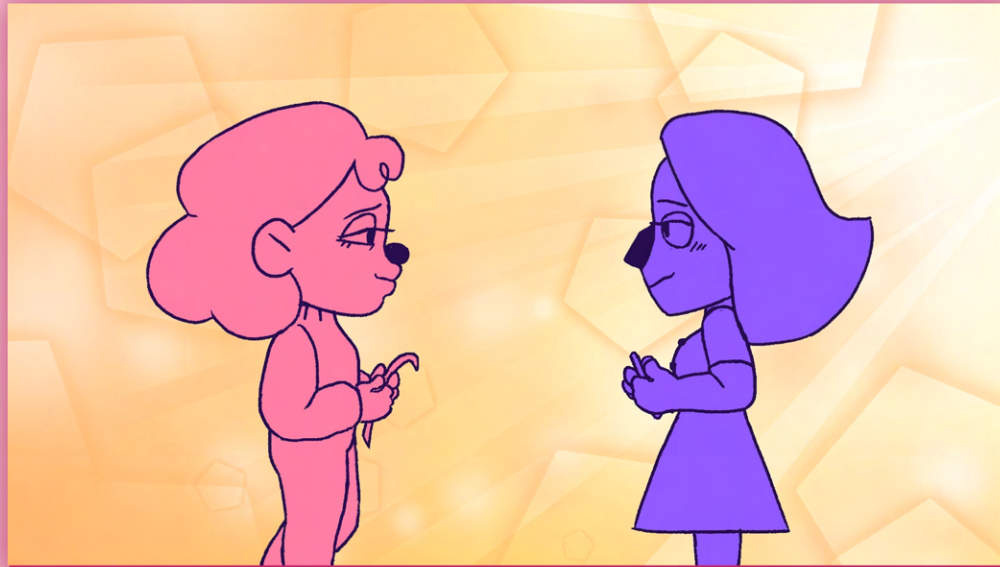
Ciara Chrisman  
Madison McCallum  
Alek Oglesby  
John Puryear  
Richard Lewis

Erin Rone  
Isaiah Thomas  
Daisy Winters  
Kevin McNulty  
Rodrigo Gomez

## Special Thanks

Ken and Pam Middleton  
Chelsey Zhu  
Nikki Horton  
...and all of my friends and  
peers who supported me throughout  
the making of this film

# Credits



Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the degree of Bachelor of Science in Animation  
Department of Media Arts  
College of Media and Entertainment  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Hannah Middleton is the author of this motion picture  
for purposes of the Berne Convention and all national  
laws giving effect thereto. Country of First Publication:  
United States of America.

This motion picture is protected under the laws of the  
United States and other countries, and its unauthorized  
duplication, distribution or exhibition may result in  
civil liability and criminal prosecution.  
Copyright 2022 Hannah Middleton