

# LEMONADE



A SHORT FILM BY

Sam Pacala • Samantha Hickerson • Cole Johnson • Zyann Rodgers • Bella White

June 2022

TRT: 14 mins

Contact

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# LOGLINE

A depressed, young man on the verge of losing his relationship, finds help from one of the most unlikely of sources: the girls who run the neighborhood lemonade stand.



# SYNOPSIS

*Lemonade* follows Joel, a man who seems to be spiraling down the drain, although he's afraid to admit this to himself. He's stuck in a dead-end, thankless job, and his relationship is souring rapidly but he can't pinpoint why.

Throughout his journey, we see Joel trying to navigate through his life, though it feels like he's desperately paddling against the current in a sinking canoe. We see where he works, a seemingly good company, which offers benefits such as free counseling, but which has an extremely toxic workplace environment where his coworkers seem to take advantage of his want to be strong and to roll with the punches. We see him at home with his girlfriend, Luci, and how he is unable to open up to her, which manifests a rift between them, pushing them further and further apart despite Luci's efforts to help him. We also see him at the neighborhood lemonade stand, where he vents to its tenders, Chloe, Lacey, and Audrey.

Ultimately, Joel takes drastic action in order to save himself and his relationship, but it all backfires spectacularly. Ultimately, it's the girls at the lemonade stand that finally tell Joel what he needs to hear and gives him the courage to be vulnerable with his girlfriend and begin his healing journey.



## FILMMAKER'S NOTES

I grew up in a variety of pretty toxically masculine environments. I played sports, went to an all-boys summer camp, and also am a member of a fraternity on campus. I've always felt a bit out of place in these settings, as I'm a person that craves emotional connections with those that I care about, but because of those experiences that I had, I was inadvertently conditioned into bottling everything up, to do what society told me was "manly." This led to tons of mental health issues that I've had to deal with, specifically anxiety and depression.

That said, my experience isn't unique, but rather the opposite. There is a reason why men are four times more likely than women to attempt suicide in this country, and that reason is because men are told that being strong is equivalent to being emotionless and cold, when in reality, it's the opposite.

*Lemonade* aims to start a conversation, to spotlight the societal pressures that are placed among men, and to show the problems that arise because of those pressures. I'll leave you on a quote that I learned at summer camp that I think perfectly fits the main objective of this film:

*"Build me a Son, Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid." – Anonymous.*

# THE CAST



# JOEL

Portrayed by the amazing Kamil Qahar, **Joel** is a 27-year-old man whose life seems to be spiraling out of control. He is afraid to open up to all of those around him, including the love of his life, because he may seem like less of a man. By pushing those he loves away, he is led to the discovery that his resistance and fear of being inadequate is not only hurting himself, but those he truly cares about as well.



# LUCI

Played by the incredibly talented Melissa Dunn, **Luci**, 27, is the love of Joel's life. She is incredibly empathetic and recognizes his pain, but despite her best efforts to help him, she is met with resistance. Though she may be caring, even she has a breaking point, realizing she can't help Joel if he won't help himself.



# THE GIRLS

Depicted by Alice Britton, **Audrey**, 11, is Lacey's best friend, although they couldn't be more different. Audrey is incredibly smart. She's rather quiet, but when she speaks, it's worth it to listen.

Taking the role of **Lacey**, 11, we have Addie Odekirk. Lacey is the younger sister of Chloe and is a bit of a loose cannon. She is very spirited and enthusiastic but lacks a bit of a filter.

Brought to life by Daisy O'Brien, **Chloe**, 13, is the eldest of the three girls, and wise beyond her years. She sees the pain in Joel, and tries to help him, giving him the support that he needs to succeed.



A black and white photograph of a woman and a man in a room. The woman is on the left, looking towards the man on the right. The man is in profile, facing the woman. The room appears to be a kitchen or a similar indoor space. The text "THE CREW" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

# THE CREW

**Sam Pacala** is a current undergraduate student, finishing up his B.A. in Film Studies and Production at the University of Denver's Media, Film, and Journalism school. He initially created the concept of *Lemonade* in 2020. After graduating this June, he plans on moving to Atlanta to pursue his dream of directing feature-length, narrative films.



**Zyann Rodgers** was born in Goldsboro, NC, but has gone back and forth between there in Philadelphia most of my life. She is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Denver's Media, Film, and Journalism school. She has always had a passion for film even at an early age and her goal is to create her own film in the future.



**Samantha Hickerson** is a graduating senior with a major in Film Production and Editing with minors in Psychology and Business Ethics and Legal Studies. She is also in the 4+1 Masters of Marketing program at DU's Daniel's College of Business. She is the head captain of the University of Denver dance team.



**Bella White** is a third-year, undergraduate student at DU pursuing a degree in film studies and production with minors in psychology and gender and women's studies. She strives to be an editor for film, television, and social media videos. In her free time, she enjoys watching old horror movies, painting, and playing bass guitar. She is also the newly elected president of the DU Film Club.



**Cole Johnsen** is 22 years old and I'm from Clyde Hill, Washington. He is currently a senior at the University of Denver, majoring in film studies and production. He's always loved watching films, and as he's grown closer to adulthood, he's become more interested in the process of making a film (mostly in the realms of cinematography, acting and directing).



# CREW CONTACT INFORMATION

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# MUSIC

## **SONG: “Moonlight”**

Written and Performed by Trevanna  
Used with permission from Trevanna

## **SONG: “Every Color With You”**

Written and Performed by Trevanna  
Used with permission from Trevanna

Both songs are on his album, “Godspeed,” which is on [Spotify](#) right now!

*Lemonade* does not own any of the rights to either of these songs. Special thanks to Trevanna for allowing us to use your amazing songs.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## [The Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#)

is a fantastic source for learning about anxiety and depression. They also have many resources available if you are in need of help.

The [National Alliance on Mental Illness HelpLine](#) is a fantastic resource that will aid you in finding the help you need for free. It can be reached Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., ET. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or [helpline@nami.org](mailto:helpline@nami.org).

[The National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#) is a 24/7 line that anyone can call to be connected to a trained counselor to help you through a crisis. If you are in need, call or text 988.

**“A man has to forge his own path.”**

– Joel

**“Trust is a two-way street. You can’t be afraid to let people help.”**

– Chloe

