

# BANANA TREE



*Can anyone save  
the bananas?*

**A FILM BY SCOTT KANE**

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# ***BANANA TREE***

## **LOGLINE:**

Strange things are happening in one irreplaceable field and it's bananas.

## **SYNOPSIS:**

In this magical world, a peculiarly sentient banana plant is threatened by a fast-moving epidemic. Will a solitary farmer enlist the help he needs in time to save the bananas?

## **TECHNICAL INFO:**

Title	Banana Tree
Category	Animated Short
Genre	Comedy Drama
Production Year	2022-2023
Country of Origin	USA
Language	English
Run Time	16:46
Screen Ratio	16X9

# ***BANANA TREE***

## **PREMISE (short):**

An isolated farmer who is exhaustingly working to stop “one more good thing gone from the world” enlists the assistance of a friend in a mysterious last minute plan to save a life. In fighting for his trees, he discovers another friend who appreciates his efforts and may make his life far less lonely.

## **PREMISE (extended):**

Strange things are happening in Leon’s banana field. A farmer, Leon, and his friend, Alex, must come to terms with their project’s environmentally catastrophic and financially destructive epidemic. Leon is at the end of his emotional rope, while often talking philosophy to ephemeral plants. But Alex is advising him to cut and run. When a previously elusive neighbor takes an interest in the farm’s plight, Leon gains the courage to fight on another day and perhaps build a brighter future for himself. An innocent victim, the sentient Banana Tree, contemplates its plight - but no one can hear, or do they?



# **ABOUT THE FILM DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*BANANA TREE*, told in a short animated dramatic comedy form, is ultimately a cautionary tale of one plant's vulnerability to a spreading TR4 Panama disease epidemic. In a remote field, an idealistic, lone-farmer contends with the practical questions posed by his only human friend, as he resists the temptation to quit. However, his ties to another companion, a favorite Banana Tree, pull him back again and again.

Panama disease is disastrous - because Cavendish bananas were created long ago to be identical genetically. In a way they are all clones so none are resistant. The variety was easy to grow inexpensively and is one of the most significant global crops. I hope viewers will consider some philosophical questions related to sustaining their food sources and the environment.

I was motivated to make this film from my experiences during an agricultural epidemic in my region. When I was a biology student participating in Intel Science competitions, my mentors were scientists working to stop the spread of a disastrous disease killing orange groves in my region. I observed the financial losses and emotional turmoil faced by farmers and their communities. When I learned of the TR4 Panama disease currently decimating Cavendish bananas, I felt compelled to communicate this serious story in an entertaining, understandable, for-all-ages, format.

# CAST

**ADAM SWIMMER**

Leon, Alex

**DAKOTA JONES**

Tricia, Surprise Banana Tree

**SCOTT KANE**

Banana Tree



# **SCOTT KANE**

**Scott Kane is a Multi-hyphenate and creator of *BANANA TREE*.**

**Wrote, Animated, Scored, Directed, Co-Produced, Edited, and Voiced the role of the sentient Banana Tree.**

**First Year Graduate Student, MA Comedy Writing program, Falmouth University.**

**MicroMasters in Writing for Performance and the Entertainment Industries from Cambridge University in 2022. During his studies, he began collaborating with Adam Swimmer - the Co-Producer of *BANANA TREE*.**



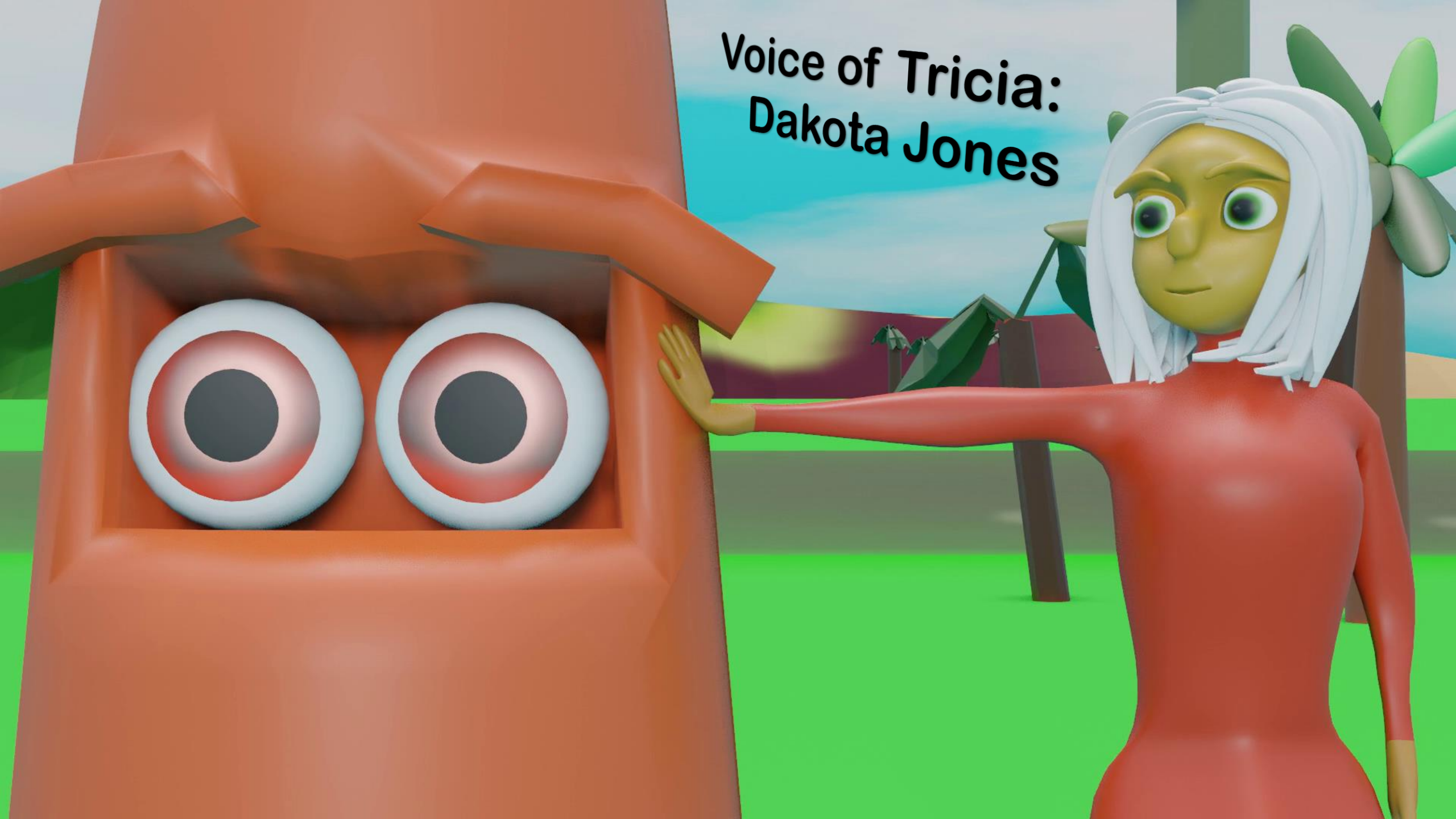
# ADAM SWIMMER

**Co-producer of Banana Tree and voiced the roles of Leon and Alex.**

**Adam Swimmer is a Toronto-based producer and performer who has written and acted in various productions, from web series to sketch comedy. He was a staff writer on the web series *Tights and Fights: Ashes* and the co-creator of the animated short *Jake Moxie*, which he also performed in. He also dabbles in fiction writing. His comedic sci-fi short story "Gelatinus Dross" appears in the 2021 anthology *Black Diamonds and other stories*.**



Voice of Tricia:  
Dakota Jones



# FAQ

**Q: Can anything be done to save the Cavendish bananas?**

A: A research institute in my region and other institutions around the world are working to develop TR4 Panama Disease resistant plants. There are many other varieties; but they're usually more costly to cultivate.

**Q: What do you hope people take away from this movie?**

A. I hope the film helps to look at this animated Banana Tree's predicament as a metaphor relating to the issues species face for sustainable environmental survival in the Anthropocene. The somewhat positive ending was included to project hope when sufficient efforts are coordinated.



# CREDITS

Written, Directed, Animated by:  
**SCOTT KANE**

Edited by  
**SCOTT KANE**

Produced by:  
**SCOTT KANE**  
**ADAM SWIMMER**

Score Composed and Performed by:  
**SCOTT KANE**

Cast:  
Tricia, Surprise Banana Tree  
**DAKOTA JONES**

*“Oh Bananas”*  
Written by:  
**Scott Kane**  
Performed by:  
**ADAM SWIMMER**

Banana Tree  
**SCOTT KANE**

Made in BLENDER

Leon, Alex  
**ADAM SWIMMER**

