

FLYING LESSONS

Artist Bios

Sarah Waldron (writer/director/editor) is a NYC based queer artist. She merges narrative, documentary, and experimental styles, and centers her work on queer women. She was the 2016 fellow for Filmmakers Without Borders in Honduras. Her shorts, including *Make Believe*, *Disconnect*, and *La Mirada*, have been featured in domestic and international festivals.

<https://sarahwaldron.wixsite.com/portfolio>



Danielle Cooper (producer) is a NYC based producer who prioritizes centering women in every stage of production. Since starting her career in production, she has worked to curate teams of kind, passionate, and respectful filmmakers who care about each other just as much as their art.

She is a graduate of Newhouse at Syracuse University.

Daniel Alanis (DP, A cam op) is a Mexican cinematographer. This is his 3rd collaboration with Sarah. Other credits include feature films (*Le Voyageur*; *1974: La Posesion de Altair*; *Landscapes*), short films (*Space Girl*; *Bug*; *Nowhere*; *Fire in the House*), music videos (*Ojos Bellos* by Ruido Rosa; *No se decirte no* by Marco Mares; *Rio* by Vanessa Zamora) and commercials (*Goldream-Coppel*; *Futura X*; *Rappi*) <http://www.danielalanis.com/6287481-narrative-reel>



Reno Kersey (composer) is a NYC based nonbinary composer, music producer, and solo artist. They also work for a non-profit assisting teens and adults with disabilities.

Along with the soundtrack, they composed Beatrice's cello pieces for the film, and supervised the musical performances on set. They also happened to be our props master (hence the urn and ashes).

CAST



Shayvawn Webster (Talía) is a Brooklyn-based actress and graduate of NYU Tisch. Her tv credits include FBI, Devs, Blue Bloods, and a recurring role on Law and Order reboot as Detective Dani Vertiz. She is a member of Society, a NYC theater collective, and she starred in their two recent debut shows.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9759744/>

Julia Shanker (Beatrice) is currently in her second year of a post-high school transition program in Boston, where she lives with her mom. She is active in orchestra, theater group, and after school arts programs.

Julia was adopted from China when she was 5 by Sarah's godparents. A few years later, Julia's father died unexpectedly. Sharing and processing this experience together was the inspiration for the film.



April Fritts (Rachel) is a community theater actress and high school drama teacher in Maryland, where the movie was filmed. She was also our local casting director for extras and small parts. She runs an accessible summer theater program that caters towards children with disabilities.

Tori Ashley Matos (Sofia) is a NYC based queer and nonbinary writer and performer. They are Afro-Taino and neurodivergent, and an activist for both of those communities. They are a graduate of NYU Tisch.

<https://linktr.ee/torishleymatos>



CREW

This production was a uniquely collaborative process, with a tiny but mighty crew of NYC-based young production professionals. Though everyone wore a myriad of hats, these were their primary roles:



Jilly Blundel - 1st AD



Kristina Lally - B Cam Op



CC McMillian - Sound



Colt Morton-1st AC

Mike Cronin-2nd AC



Gina Berceau - Production Designer

Consulting Producers:

Eric Stoltz (executive producer) is an accomplished NY-based producer, director, and actor. He provided guidance in pre-production, and is an invaluable consultant in post. He met Sarah and the crew while filming *Madam Secretary* in NYC. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000655/>

Anna Kolber (consulting producer) is an experienced documentary film producer, and Sarah's mentor. Her recent producing credits include *Grass is Greener* (Netflix), *Chasing the Present*, and *The Business of Birth Control*. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2153269>