



THE TALE OF THE JELLYFISH GIRL

She will shock your heart...

Project info

- **Genre** **Fantasy / Romance / Comedy / Period / Female Protagonist**
- **Concept** ***Amelie meets The Greatest Showman***
- **Running Time** **Approx. 105 min**
- **Perceived Rating** **PG-13.**
- **Shooting Locations** **Europe (France, preferably)**
- **Scriptwriter** **Jerzy P. Suchocki**
- **Budget** **\$5-10M.**



LOGLINES

- **After losing control over her strange condition, an introverted girl with electric powers must join a circus in decadence in 1930s France to discover where she belongs.**
- **Unable to keep hiding from the world, a girl with a strange condition must face her greatest fears and join a decaying circus in 1930s France.**

SYNOPSIS

France, 1935. Elsa Ludgate is a 22-year-old woman with a strange condition - whenever she feels excited or anxious, her touch generates electricity. While she has tried to keep this a secret for most of her life by preventing herself from feeling any kind of emotion, things take a turn when one night, for no apparent reason, a sting appears on her chest and she loses control over her ability, causing the bursting of a street lamp. Such an event causes her to become the point of attention of the entire town, as well as Clothilde Vaccaretti, the host of *The Spectacle of the Bizarre of G. Vaccaretti*, a rambling circus searching for a new attraction.

As Elsa wonders what to do now that the town might be aware of her condition, Clothilde tracks her down and invites her to become part of her circus. Elsa doubts at first but eventually decides that this might be the best option for her. She joins the circus and the adventure begins.

Feeling the pressure of being the next main attraction for the circus, Elsa spends the next weeks working on her act - *The Tale of the Jellyfish Girl* and meets the circus crew. Among them, there is Clothilde's father and owner of the circus, Giuseppe Vaccaretti, and Jacob Kovacs, the accordionist, whose life is saved by Elsa after an accident during a rehearsal. As Elsa begins feeling more confident in her ability and herself, she engages more with the circus life. She manages to connect with them even more during a visit to Bordeaux, where the crew is intimidated by Sergeant Chevalier, a man with a personal feud against Clothilde as she is in a relationship with a woman he was in love with.

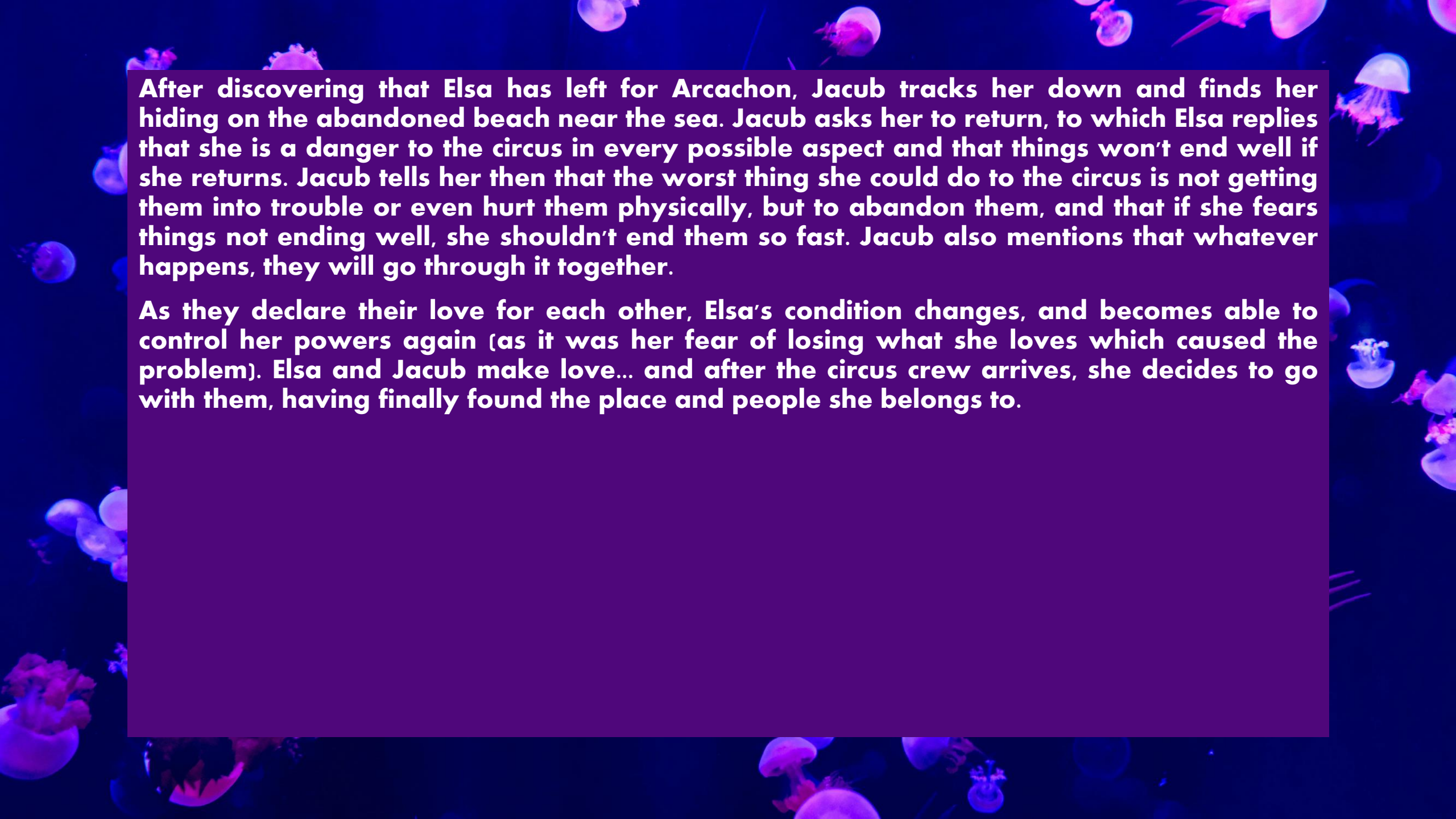
The background of the entire page is a dark blue, almost black, underwater scene filled with numerous jellyfish of various sizes and colors, including shades of purple, pink, and white. The jellyfish are scattered throughout, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular area in the center of the image.

The day of the show arrives and while Elsa is initially frightened of presenting her ability to people, Jacob helps her to perform her act and becomes an instant hit. Elsa, finally feeling that she belongs somewhere, begins to express herself and enjoy life more.

However, this doesn't last long. One day, again, for no apparent reason, she wakes up to find that her ability is gone. The circus crew tries to be supportive, but her absence quickly affects their show. Worried that this might jeopardize her new life, Elsa decides to "push" herself to find a way to bring it back. Knowing that her ability depends on her emotions, she tries to use her fear to once again create electricity... which only ends in a disastrous act. People get hurt and her condition is now worse than ever, making her unable to touch anything.

As the circus tries to find a solution to her condition, they are visited by Sergeant Chevalier, who threatens to take civil action against them if they don't leave town. Feeling guilty and a liability to the circus, Elsa decides to leave the circus in the middle of the night.

The circus finds out about Elsa's leaving the next day, and after discussing their options, they are convinced that they need Elsa and that it wouldn't be fair to let her go after all she did for them. They go on her search, causing Clothilde and Giuseppe to make amends for her reckless actions, as well as having Giuseppe confront Chevalier for his bullying attitude. As Giuseppe punches Chevalier, Clothilde sends Jacob to find Elsa while the crew deals with the police.

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After discovering that Elsa has left for Arcachon, Jacob tracks her down and finds her hiding on the abandoned beach near the sea. Jacob asks her to return, to which Elsa replies that she is a danger to the circus in every possible aspect and that things won't end well if she returns. Jacob tells her then that the worst thing she could do to the circus is not getting them into trouble or even hurt them physically, but to abandon them, and that if she fears things not ending well, she shouldn't end them so fast. Jacob also mentions that whatever happens, they will go through it together.

As they declare their love for each other, Elsa's condition changes, and becomes able to control her powers again (as it was her fear of losing what she loves which caused the problem). Elsa and Jacob make love... and after the circus crew arrives, she decides to go with them, having finally found the place and people she belongs to.

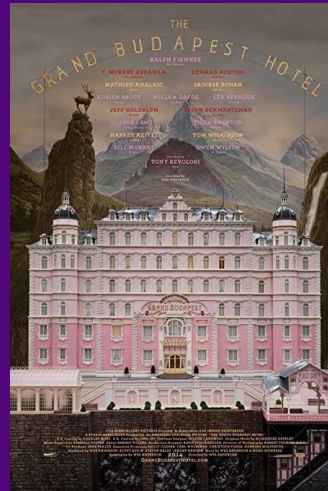
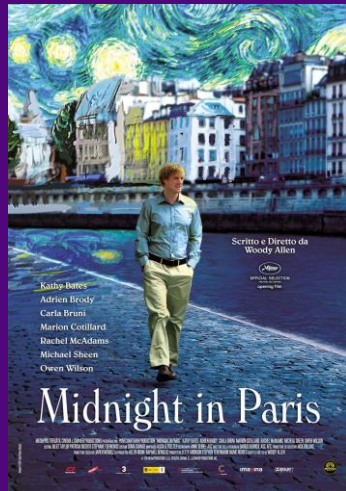
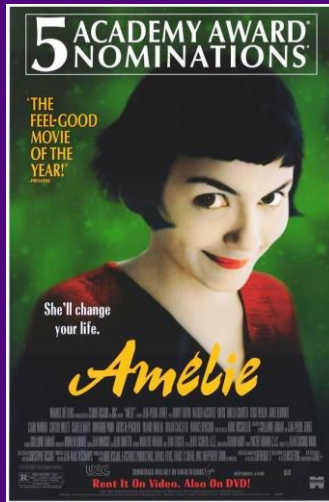
MARKET & AUDIENCE

As we saw through 2023, audiences are searching for new proposals that can be both exciting and moving, and *The Tale of the Jellyfish Girl* certainly goes in that vein. The story brings a familiar story with a unique concept with a PG-13 rating, making it an ideal option to watch with your family. Moreover, the script's message of self-acceptance, self-love, diversity, and finding something to hold on through difficult times come as very relevant topics, making this project an ideal option for young adults, especially women (as the story also comes as a coming-of-age experience for its protagonist).

So, this is the kind of project that could work as either a theatrical release or a streaming platform movie. Its fantastic world and period elements certainly make it an option that, with the right cast and crew, could shine in the big screen.

COMPARABLE FILMS

FILM	YEAR	BUDGET (\$M)	TOTAL BOX OFFICE (\$M)
Amelie	2001	\$10	\$174.2
Midnight in Paris	2011	\$17	\$151.7
The Grand Budapest Hotel	2014	\$25	\$173
The Shape of Water	2017	\$20	\$195.3
The Greatest Showman	2017	\$85	\$435



WRITER'S STATEMENT

I first wrote this story as a book. The main reason why I wrote it is that is a love letter to a friend who used to feel uncomfortable with herself. At the end of the day, this is a story about self-love and self-acceptance, and I think that those subjects are timeless. Many people (myself included) sometimes feel like they don't belong or feel terribly lonely. The world can be a very mean place and if we don't find someone to face it with, we might feel forever lost.

So, what this story tries to do is to work as a comforting piece. It's a comforting, charming tale about founded families and learning to love ourselves... and even about finding a way to deal with difficult times. The story is set in 1930s France because of that. The characters notice that what is happening in Europe won't lead to any good, but they also know that there's no escape from it. Times are about to get dark and they will have to hold on to each other to carry on with them. Sadly enough, that seems to be the case right now with all the things happening in the world...

Therefore, I think that we need stories like this. We need stories that comfort us and that help us go through tough times.

DREAM DIRECTOR

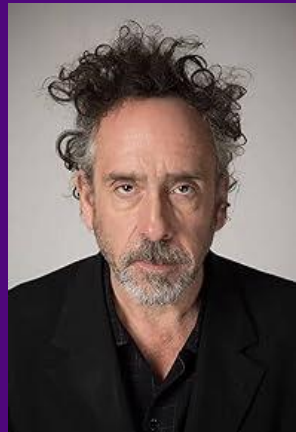
The ideal director for this project should be someone with a love for outcasts and freaks, as well as magical elements and period pieces. The visual presentation is also important. We have seen many movies about circuses and we need to see something different but that still feels like a spectacle from the past. So, it should be someone with the love and passion of people like Guillermo del Toro or Tim Burton.



Guillermo del Toro

Credits include:

The Shape of Water (2017)
Nightmare Alley (2022)
Pinocchio (2022)
Pan's Labyrinth (2005)



Tim Burton

Credits include:

Wednesday (2022)
Big Fish (2005)
Beetlejuice (1988)
Edward Scissorhands (1990)



Paul King

Credits include:

Wonka (2023)
Paddington (2014)
Paddington 2 (2017)



Jean-Pierre Jeunet

Credits include:

Amelie (2001)
Micmacs (2009)
The City of Lost Children (1995)
Bigbug (2022)



Mathias Malzieu

Credits include:

Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart (2013)
Une Sirène à Paris (2020)

CAST WISHLIST

Elsa Ludgate

22. French. Elsa is a conflicted girl whose strange condition has forced her to isolate from society. She fears to cause any harm as much as she fears to show her electric powers to anyone. Since her powers/condition are caused by the acceleration of her heart, Elsa has tried to avoid strong emotions or even feelings for the last couple of years. However, when a "call of the heart" causes her to lose any control over said powers, she will have to fight that what she fears the most and search for the place she really belongs and listen to her heart, even if that means to reveal her uniqueness to the world.



Scarlett Rayner

Credits include:
Beautiful Things (2023, Play)
Silverpoint (2022)
Pretty Outrageous (2017)
The Gatehouse (2016)



Anya Taylor Joy

Credits include:
The Menu (2022)
The Northman (2022)
Last Night in Soho (2021)
The Witch (2015)



Maya Hawke

Credits include:
Asteroid City (2022)
Do Revenge (2022)
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (2019)
Stranger Things Series (2015-Present)



Emma Mackey

Credits include:
Barbie (2023)
Emily (2022)
Sex Education Series (2019-2023)
Eiffel (2021)

CAST WISHLIST

Jacob Kovacs

25-30. Polish. Once a orphan after the Great War, he found a home in the *Spectacle of the Bizarre of G. Vaccaretti*, where he now works as the accordeonist. As the story goes, he becomes a key support for Elsa... a support that develops into a love relationship that might jeopardize Elsa's new home.



Evan Peters

Credits include:

WandaVision (2021)

Kick-Ass (2010)

X-Men: Days of the Future Past (2014)

American Horror Story (2011-2021)

Clothilde Vaccaretti.

30-40. French-Italian. Clothilde is the Ringmaster. She hosts the circus shows and is quite great at it, given her talent for showmanship. She is the person who finds Elsa and soon becomes a sort of mentor that tries to help her in personal affairs, even though Clothilde keeps a secret that might cost the circus a lot.



Marion Cotillard

Credits include:

La Vie en Rose (2007)

Inception (2010)

Rust and Bone (2012)

Two Days, One Night (2011)



Eva Green

Credits include:

Dark Shadows (2012)

Casino Royale (2006)

Penny Dreadful (2014-2016)

Sin City: A Dame to Kill For (2014)

CAST WISHLIST

Giuseppe Vacaretti.

60+. Italian. Giuseppe is the owner of the circus and Clothilde's father. He is tough man who demands nothing but the best from others, but that is as protective of his crew as of his circus. He sees the circus as the work of his life, and as the circus might close without a great new attraction, he sees Elsa as their last hope. Ideally, he should be played by a legendary actor who shines at playing grumpy old men.



Robert de Niro

Credits include:

Taxi Driver (1976)

Goodfellas (1990)

The Intern (2015)

Silver Linings Playbook (2012)

Sargeant Chevalier

40+. French. Once a man in love, his heart was broken when his beloved one rejected him to be with Clothilde. Such a situation caused him to dislike freaks and circuses, and is searching for whatever reason to either arrest the circus or make them leave the city.



Guillaume Canet

Credits include:

Love Me If You Dare (2003)

Asterix and Obelix: The Middle Kingdom (2023)

La Belle Epoque (2019)

Little White Lies (2010)

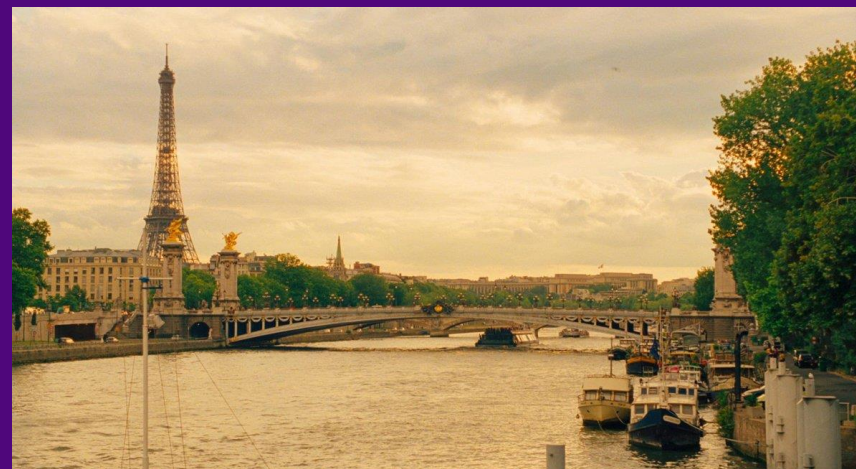
VISUAL COMPS



VISUAL COMPS



VISUAL COMPS



REVIEWS AND AWARDS

- *"The Jellyfish Girl is a thoughtfully composed story of found families, learning to make the most of simultaneously human and fantastical eccentricity, and love, all set against the backdrop of the endlessly fascinating world of performers living in the early days of a war sure to change their lives forever."* – SellingYourScreenplay.
- *"The idea behind the concept is a beautiful one. Love is and always will be an everlasting debate, and this story has the right mix of characters and other elements to make it work."* – Wiki Screenplay Contest.
- *"The Tale of the Jellyfish Girl stands out with its unique fictional world, and specifically Elsa's abilities, along with the unique scenarios."* – WeScreenplay.
- *"The main character is the ultimate outsider, Elsa has always had to push other people away to keep from hurting them. This is a great plot device – how is she going to overcome this hardship? It allows for a really nice character arc, and keeps the audience intrigued."* – BlueCat Competition.
- *"It is a charming story, very whimsical. We liked the plot, it is sweet and has a familiarity to it despite its originality"* – Barnstorm Fest.
- **Finalist - Tatra International Film Festival (2023)**
- **Semi-Finalist - Wiki: The World's Fastest Screenplay Contest (2023)**
- **Quarterfinalist - Stage 32 Sci-Fi Contest (2021)**
- **Official Selection – Fentress Fest for Writers**
- **Official Selection – Vesuvius International Film Fest**
- **Official Selection – Script Mind Media Awards**