



she keeps  
me warm

PRESS KIT



she keeps  
me warm

**Trapped in a snowbank, a recently broken-up couple find solace in a tender moment of intimacy before their rescue.**

Ryann and Leah ended their relationship just moments before sliding into a snowbank during a classic Iowa blizzard. Leah's career is taking a big jump and she is being asked to move to New York. As much as she wish she could, she can't ask Ryann to come with her. So, after holiday break with Ryann's parents, Leah broke the news and their relationship abruptly came to an end.

So, now trapped in a ditch, they are forced to confront their relationship's downfall with the heightened emotions of fresh mental and physical wounds.

*She Keeps me Warm* is a dramatic short of the physicality of grief and finding comfort in feigned memories. We see Ryann and Leah rekindle a loving and connected relationship that will never continue. As rescue comes, Ryann is thrown back into reality. Mourning the past and what could have been while still holding comfort in the future and what currently is.



## M. LEE RACH

### WRITER | DIRECTOR | ACTOR

Lee is a queer, non-binary writer and filmmaker. Originally from Minnesota, Lee found their calling to the entertainment industry after being accepted into the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists (SPCPA) with a musical theatre focus. Soon after immersing themselves into the entertainment industry, both in-front-of and behind camera, they quickly found a love for writing that goes hand-in-hand with their love of filmmaking and crying on camera.

Lee now writes dark and gritty scripts that highlight LGBTQ+ characters and strives for projects that include gender, sexuality, mental health, and vulnerability along with their career in acting.

## GRAHAM SKINNER

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Graham Skinner is a multi-talented cinematographer, colorist, and editor. A graduate from Biola University and currently working with the Salvation Army, Graham is constantly making time to pursue creative narrative work with other creators.

With an ever-increasing passion for storytelling, Graham has the ability to capture the bittersweet moments of romantic tragedy that was perfect in finding the delicacy of SHE KEEPS ME WARM.

# ANUSHA SHANKAR

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## *LEAH WILSON*

Anusha Shankar is an Indian actor from Singapore and a graduate of the UCLA School of Theatre, Film, and Television. She is managed by Peter McGrath and Louise Keshaviah at Echo Lake Entertainment and commercially represented by Neil Kreppel and Sheila Di Marco.

Recently, Anusha has worked with theatres such as CT Charlotte, where she originated the lead in *The Night Diary*, as well as Boston Court Pasadena and Santa Cruz Shakespeare. Her festival debut is currently taking storm with a lead role in the short film, *Gold Digger*.

Anusha's raw talent and willingness to add personal insight to further heighten the film. A genuine delight to have on the set of *She Keeps Me Warm*.





# LEE RACH

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## *RYANN COOPER*

Lee Rach is a Trans Non-binary American actor. They started their career at the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Since moving to Los Angeles, Lee's film debut is set to release Fall 2024, leading alongside Bailey Coppola in the independent film, INFORMAL CROOKS.

Lee is best known for their role in BF FOR HIRE on Snapchat and HookedTV.

They study under Charles Carpenter at The Storytellers Conservatory.

# BAILEY ROBERTS

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## *KATHERINE*

Originally from Turlock, California, Bailey Roberts is the youngest of three children in their family. Growing up, Bailey was always interested in anything that had to do with building, performing, and putting on a show.

After relocating to Los Angeles to attend film school in 2019 Bailey has been pursuing the love of film ever since.

Currently, Bailey is working on post production for their senior thesis “ A Woman Of Her Own” which is expected to premiere and enter the short film festival circuit this fall.



# PRODUCTION INFORMATION

## SHOOT

The film was shot in one day in La Mirada, CA  
In the garage of our Cinematographer.

## LENGTH

8 minutes 9 seconds

## FUNDING

This film was self funded by the director  
Lee Rach and Graham Skinner's generosity  
in donating his equipment and space.

## FILM CREW

Director: Lee Rach

DOP: Graham Skinner

1st Assistant Director: Timothy Mauritz

Set Designer: Paloma Carpio Marion

Sound Mixer: Graham Skinner

Colorist: Graham Skinner

Editor: Graham Skinner

## SPECIFICATIONS

Short Film

## GENRE

Romance | Psychological Drama

## THEME

Grief | Memory | Acceptance

## BUDGET

\$250 USD

## SHOOTING FORMAT

ARRI

## ASPECT RATIO

4:3

## FRAME RATE

23.976

## CAST

Ryann Cooper: Lee Rach

Leah Wilson: Anusha Shankar

Katherine: Bailey Roberts

A close-up photograph of a lit candle in a glass holder. The candle is lit, and its flame is bright yellow and orange. The glass holder is a simple, shallow, circular dish. In the background, a blue and white striped sock is visible, partially covering the candle. The overall lighting is dim, with the candle providing the primary light source. The text "WATCH THE TRAILER" is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font, underlined.

WATCH THE TRAILER



## WRITER'S STATEMENT

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*I pride myself on creating complex characters that are undefined by their queerness. I don't need to spoon feed a gay relationship just like I wouldn't spoon feed a straight one. I want my films to reflect the LGBTQIA+ community as it stands: complex and wonderful.*

I experienced my queer journey from two sides of a dramatic spectrum: Small town Wisconsin to a performing arts conservatory in the Twin Cities. Growing up in a small town, my first understanding of the LGBTQ+ community was starting high school and realizing that there was an openly gay student in my class. One. Though most of the ally's in our GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Club did come out after high school (myself included), I never really thought that being queer was anything more than a trend I unfortunately had to endure. I lived my freshman year being told to kiss my friends to impress the boys. Actually, getting dared to kiss my best friend by my boyfriend was what made me realize I liked women.

This script was originally written as a memory I wanted to give myself. I remember vividly hiding my queerness from my friends and family. At school I was, "Totally bi, but like, I'd never date a girl." I would sit in my car with the girl I was in love with, listening to her confess she only kisses me to make her crush jealous and that every time was just for fun.

**I wanted to mourn the relationship I thought I had, while nodding to the present and future of my queer and trans identity. Playing with grief and how one's mind can fabricate a memory to cope with the loss.**

This film was majorilly filmed in my DOP's garage with a kids snow making kit and some epsom salt. I am forever grateful for my team and the people that are willing to deal with my insane idea to make it snow in Southern California at a moments notice.



Thank you

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For Inquiries Please Contact:  
Lee Rach *Director*  
itsleerach@gmail.com  
+1 (715) 307-8168

For Further Press Materials:  
[CLICK HERE](#)

For Behind-The-Scenes:  
[CLICK HERE](#)