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THE FOUR DANIELS

A Film by L.C. Henderson

Instagram: @thefourdaniels

12 minutes 47 seconds // USA // 2023

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THE FOUR DANIELS

Production Notes

SYNOPSIS

Sophie is trying to have it all – a better friendship with her bestie, Adam, a healed wound from a previous traumatic relationship, and a love life with multiple men, all coincidentally named Daniel.

Sophie and Adam aren't as close as they used to be; Sophie's distraction by "The Daniels" often leads to canceled plans between the two. This is such the case on the day of the craft fair – while Adam wants to run a build-your-own sock puppet booth to "find a boyfriend," Sophie has other plans to figure out what she wants to do about The Daniels.

Each of her relationships with The Daniels vary: from a Soundcloud rapper (Daniel 1), to an internet influencer (Daniel 2), to a basketball coach (Daniel 3). Adam is weary of Sophie's relationship with each of these men, as they seem to bring out the worst in her.

By the chance of fate one night, Sophie is face to face with all of The Daniels arriving at her doorstep at the *same time*. How will Sophie deal with all of her lovers meeting at once? Will Sophie and Adam mend their friendship? Who is the Fourth Daniel?

THE FOUR DANIELS centers around Sophie, who while processing a traumatic breakup, searches for love through sex, sock puppets, and dating multiple men with the same name.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up, whenever I'd have a bad day, I would run home after school and turn on a rom-com. Whether it was *MADE OF HONOR*, *13 GOING ON 30*, or even *FATHER OF THE BRIDE* -- so many of these genre films romanticized a life I always wanted. The choices were always the same: her career vs her lover, her family vs her fiancée, and my personal favorite, Mr. Right vs. Mr. Wrong. She always changes, settling her expectations for love. She always ends up with the same heteronormative lover. And in these movies, that means she always wins.

THE FOUR DANIELS started off as a joke between Jack McLain (producer) and I -- what if we made a romantic comedy where, instead of the girl having to choose which man she wanted, she explored ALL of her options? At the time of writing *THE FOUR DANIELS*, I was unemployed, confused, trying to find answers at the height of the Pandemic. I wanted to imagine a world where choices still existed, where the world had never stopped spinning. I was scared, but through it all, I had *THE FOUR DANIELS* to keep me going.

What started off as a silly romantic comedy turned into a way to process my grief, my trauma, and my love for the craft of filmmaking. Now that we're on the other side of the Pandemic, anything feels possible. This film was the first dip into what my style has evolved into -- stories of queer love, hyper-colorful to represent the beautiful world around us, and at times, a direct rip-off of Gregg Araki.

I hope that *THE FOUR DANIELS* serves as a reminder of the divinity of self-love and an empowering statement on sex and sexuality in the 21st century. It's a film my cast, crew and I poured our hearts and souls into, and it's turned into a punk-rock feminist reminder of the power we have within ourselves. Most importantly though, *The Four Daniels* is loud and clear about one thing: at the end of the day, we will be loved, and eventually, we will be okay. Thank you for listening. – *written by L.C. Henderson*



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

As embarrassing as it is to admit, Writer/Director/Producer L.C. Henderson is no stranger to dating apps. In what certainly seems like the only way to meet people in the 21st-century romance scene, the connections made on those apps often lead to some interesting story ideas.

That's where the core of THE FOUR DANIELS started – from the strange world we call “online dating.” Henderson would often spill the hilarious, yet embarrassing, details to her best friend and co-worker, Andrew Still King, over coffee every morning. The basis of Sophie and Adam's friendship is based on those mornings recounting horror stories, catching each other up on the latest hot gossip of who's in the roster of men they were both dating. Sophie and Adam's relationship feels so real because it is based, at times word for word, on Henderson and King's.

And then, it was March 2020.

Henderson lost her job right at the start of the Pandemic, and was no longer able to see King every day. They still kept in touch, but it wasn't the same as being in person together – King's Covid bubble was his family, and Henderson's Covid bubble was one of her other best friends, Producer Jack McLain.

McLain and Henderson would spend hours of the Pandemic talking about, and dreaming about, making movies. They were frequent collaborators in film school together – whatever McLain would direct, Henderson would produce.

On one particular brainstorming day, Henderson was discussing her love of rom-com films, but how dated they felt to today's modern dating age. “Like, why does *she* always have to choose?”

“Maybe she doesn't,” McLain replied.

From there, Henderson and McLain had the basic layout for the plot and the title of THE FOUR DANIELS by the end of the brainstorming session. Writing it was always so easy; each Daniel was based on an archetype of a man that Henderson had dated in the past year. Daniel 1 was the Soundcloud rapper without a real job. Daniel 2 always had the spark, but getting to him was just out of reach. And Daniel 3 is the option that feels the safest, someone older who had their life together a bit more.

Writing for Sophie mirrored Henderson's experience in early drafts, but slowly, Sophie found a life of her own, making her own choices and finding her own power as our lead. It was a chance to highlight the character in Hollywood films that was always written as the best friend, awkward at times, living through and dealing with her less-than-glamorous life.

Building out the rest of the crew for the short film shoot was a process that relied on people already in Henderson's circle. McLain joined as a producer, and King joined as a producer and

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as the actor playing Adam. It only made sense that Henderson's real-life best friend would play Sophie's best friend in the script.

Henderson asked Randy McGilvary, one of her friends and first-time actor, to come on board as Daniel 1. Henderson reached out to McGilvary when the project was just a script, a dream, and five nickels. McGilvary became imperative to production as Henderson bounced ideas for Daniel 1 off of him, grateful that he (eventually) said yes to play the role.

For Daniel 2, Henderson wanted to use a real internet influencer to play the role and bring their experience to it. Henderson reached out to TikTok star Orlando James after seeing several of his videos on her For You Page during the pandemic. While this is James' first time acting as well, Henderson was drawn to the magnetic charm that he used to capture his audience through a phone screen, and knew he would be perfect to play Daniel 2.

Daniel 3, played by Omar Lewis, was an actor who had previously worked on productions with Henderson and King at their old job. King suggested Lewis for the role, and Henderson instantly knew it was a right fit – Lewis' improv skills would give depth and humor to Daniel 3's serious demeanor. It was hard to keep a straight face on set with Lewis on screen; his explosive performance of hilarity was a masterclass of the craft.

A casting call was held for Sophie, and once Henderson watched Lori Kovacevich's audition tape, she knew she had found Sophie. Kovacevich's attention to detail with her reading, and the natural chemistry she had with anyone on screen, was a surefire way to bring Sophie's magnetic personality to life. Kovacevich was able to do this with such grace and charm, making Sophie relatable to anyone who's been on a bad date. Kovachevich and King's first read through together created an unstoppable force of friendship, both in real life and on the screen.

As the puzzle started coming together, there were still a few missing pieces from the overall picture of production. A major one was the lack of a Director of Photography. Henderson didn't know anyone in her close circle who could shoot, so one fateful night, she posted a "Cinematographer Needed" ad on Craigslist.

Chico D. Mejia responded almost immediately to the posting. And from the first meeting, it was clear that he was the Director of Photography for the project. He understood the visual references with such precision, coming up with the film's brilliant color palette within the first few weeks of joining the project. His creative eye and passion for the art of filmmaking created a well-oiled machine with only one other person on the camera crew.

And a well-oiled machine was incredibly important for a 15-page shoot over 3-days. In the summer of 2021, a cast and crew of 12 people embarked on a journey to bring THE FOUR DANIELS to life, and by the miracle of filmmaking, it worked. The 2-year edit process has been filled with re-discovering the story over and over, shaping the cut into what you're watching today. It's the strongest it's ever been, and they are so proud of what we've created.

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ABOUT THE CAST



LORI KOVACEVICH (Sophie)

Lori Kovacevich (co-vahh-chuh-vitch) is a New York-based actress working in film, TV and print. Born and raised in Riverside, CA, Lori moved to Boston, MA for college where she earned her Bachelors of Science in Communication from Boston University before finally landing in Austin, TX. Having lived and traveled to many places and worked dozens of different jobs, Lori believes that a breadth of life experience is what truly makes a great actor. How can one expect to imitate life if they have yet to live a life?



ANDREW STITT KING (Adam)

A man of the plains at heart, Andrew Stitt King was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. Once he went to school at the University of Texas in Austin, he found a love both of the city, and of the craft of filmmaking. For years he worked as a Creative Director of a mom-and-pop agency, and now, he uses his time to focus on inspiring positive changes in the youth of Austin. Like his character in THE FOUR DANIELS, he too loves sock puppets.

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RANDY McGILVARY (Daniel 1)

Randy McGilvary makes his acting debut in THE FOUR DANIELS by way of being best friends with the director, L.C. Henderson. A first-time actor, he charms the screen with his hilarious delivery of every line. He currently resides in Durham, North Carolina.



ORLANDO JAMES (Daniel 2)

From a plan to a brand, Orlando James is an overtime digital content creator, model, influencer, and entrepreneur. A self-managed, self-starter, Orlando will bring your vision to life. He provides brands with an effective approach to showcase their products/messages through creativity and appeal capable of reaching millions.

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OMAR LEWIS (Daniel 3)

Omar J. Lewis is known for *Murder by Numbers* (2017), *Scream: Legacy* (2022) and *The Royal Round Table* (2017). From Chicago, Illinois, he currently resides in Austin, TX. "I'm an ACTOR, which means I can be anything I want to BE, or you would like me to BE."



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ABOUT THE CREW

L.C. HENDERSON (director, writer, producer)

Born and raised in the small town of Mount Airy (or as Andy Griffith fans refer to it, Mayberry), North Carolina, Lauren "L.C." Henderson discovered her love of art at a young age -- even though her mother would disagree due to how long it took L.C. to learn her colors. L.C. tumbled into film school in 2014 after she realized her career as a musician wasn't going to work out, and there, she discovered her passion for film producing, writing, and directing.

In 2016, L.C. produced the short film BLACKHEAD, her first project as a Producer. From there, she produced the short TETHERED, which won the Long Leaf Film Festival Judges' Choice Award for Narrative Film in Raleigh, NC. After graduating from film school, she produced the feature film DUKELAND, which is now available via Vimeo and your local Pirate Bay.

In 2021, L.C. made her directorial debut with the short film THE FOUR DANIELS. Her style focuses on stories of queer love, often turning the expectations of typical rom-coms for marginalized groups that have not had a chance to shine on screen. This style continued to the short film I REALLY WISH MERCURY WASN'T IN RETROGRADE RIGHT NOW, which lives as part of the exhibit at Meow Wolf in Grapevine, TX.

L.C. worked as a Post-Production Supervisor at bmpcreative on editorial pieces for Netflix, including the Emmy-winning BEHIND THE FX. Now, she works there as an Editor and Creative Superstar, finding innovative solutions for storytelling and creating weird internet videos for Netflix's social channels.

In her free time, L.C. enjoys creating collages, working on her debut feature film, and hanging out with her satanic dog, Budweiser "Buddy" Ricky Bobby Henderson.

CHICO D. MEJIA (producer, cinematographer)

Chico grew up with a passion for film and its ability to facilitate ideas, stories, and experiences. No matter what he's filming or editing, his goal is to communicate a new thought or feeling that lasts with his viewer.

Chico co-founded Hidden Gem, a local Austin production company, in 2022. Hidden Gem provides him with a vehicle to explore his creativity and the value he can bring to his clients.

Chico looks forward to the next opportunity to continue growing and refining his skill set. Born in Sarasota, FL, he now lives in Taylor, TX with his wife and two dogs. Besides video producing, filming, and editing, Chico enjoys traveling, researching stocks to invest in, and home improvement projects.

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JACK McLAIN (producer)

Jack McLain was born in San Diego, but has grown up all over the United States. A consummate, lifelong cinephile, Jack's passion for movies of all shapes and sizes has become a major part of his work as a visual storyteller, as reflected in the eclecticism of his work. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in May 2014.

ANDREW STILL KING (producer)

A man of the plains at heart, Andrew Stitt King was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. Once he went to school at the University of Texas in Austin, he found a love both of the city, and of the craft of filmmaking. For years he worked as a Creative Director of a mom-and-pop agency, and now, he uses his time to focus on inspiring positive changes in the youth of Austin. Like his character in THE FOUR DANIELS, he too loves sock puppets.

BEATRIZ CARRENO CORIANO (producer, production designer)

Beatriz Carreno Coriano is a lifelong artist and creative artist based on the East Coast. She attended the University of North Texas, and majored in Interdisciplinary Art and Design, focusing on Graphic Design and Art Direction. In the process of finding her style and designing THE FOUR DANIELS, Bea has gained an appreciation for the importance of research as it applies to art direction.

REED TRACHY (composer)

Reed Trachy (pronounced 'Tracy') grew up in Seattle, Washington and first composed for film as a three-year-old by overdubbing *The Jungle Book* soundtrack with an original song. Much of his time in grade school was spent learning different instruments and dreaming of having a successful band. It wasn't until college that he, despite being a journalism major, seriously considered making a career as a composer. Six years and many life and work experiences later, he landed at the UNCSA graduate program in film music composition. His favorite movie is *Lost in Translation* and he now resides in Los Angeles, California.



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CREDITS

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IN ASSOCIATE WITH HIDDEN GEM

THE FOUR DANIELS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

L.C. HENDERSON

PRODUCED BY

L.C. HENDERSON

CHICO D. MEJIA

JACK McLAIN

ANDREW STITT KING

BEATRIZ CARRENO CORIANO

STARRING

LORI KOVACEVICH as **SOPHIE**

ANDREW STITT KING as **ADAM**

RANDY MCGILVARY as **DANIEL ONE**

ORLANDO JAMES as **DANIEL TWO**

OMAR LEWIS as **DANIEL THREE**

DANIEL ABRAMSON as **BUTTON GAY**

LUNA as **DANIEL FOUR**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

CHICO D. MEJIA

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

BEATRIZ CARRENO CORIANO

MUSIC BY

REED TRACHY

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1st ASSISTANT CAMERAMAN

MICHAEL MUSSELMAN

SOUND MIXER

THOMAS DEMOPOULOS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

ANONYMOUS DONOR

ANGEL WALTON

BRITTNEY MORTON

CAT SMITH

DAVID WARD

DENISE STEWARD

FELIX TAVERNA

JUSTIN JOHNSON

GABRIELA LOPEZ

MARIA AND DAVID RUSSO

MOM AND DAD

TREY HICKS

TYLER AND RACHELL HUGHS

REVIVAL COFFEE

TREASURE CITY THRIFT

VIA 313 PIZZARIA

TIKTOKS PROVIDED BY

@IAMORLANDOJAMES

ADDITIONAL WARDROBE DESIGNED BY

SWEET D LABS

POSTER DESIGN BY

LAUREN SULLIVAN

FILMED ON LOCATION IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

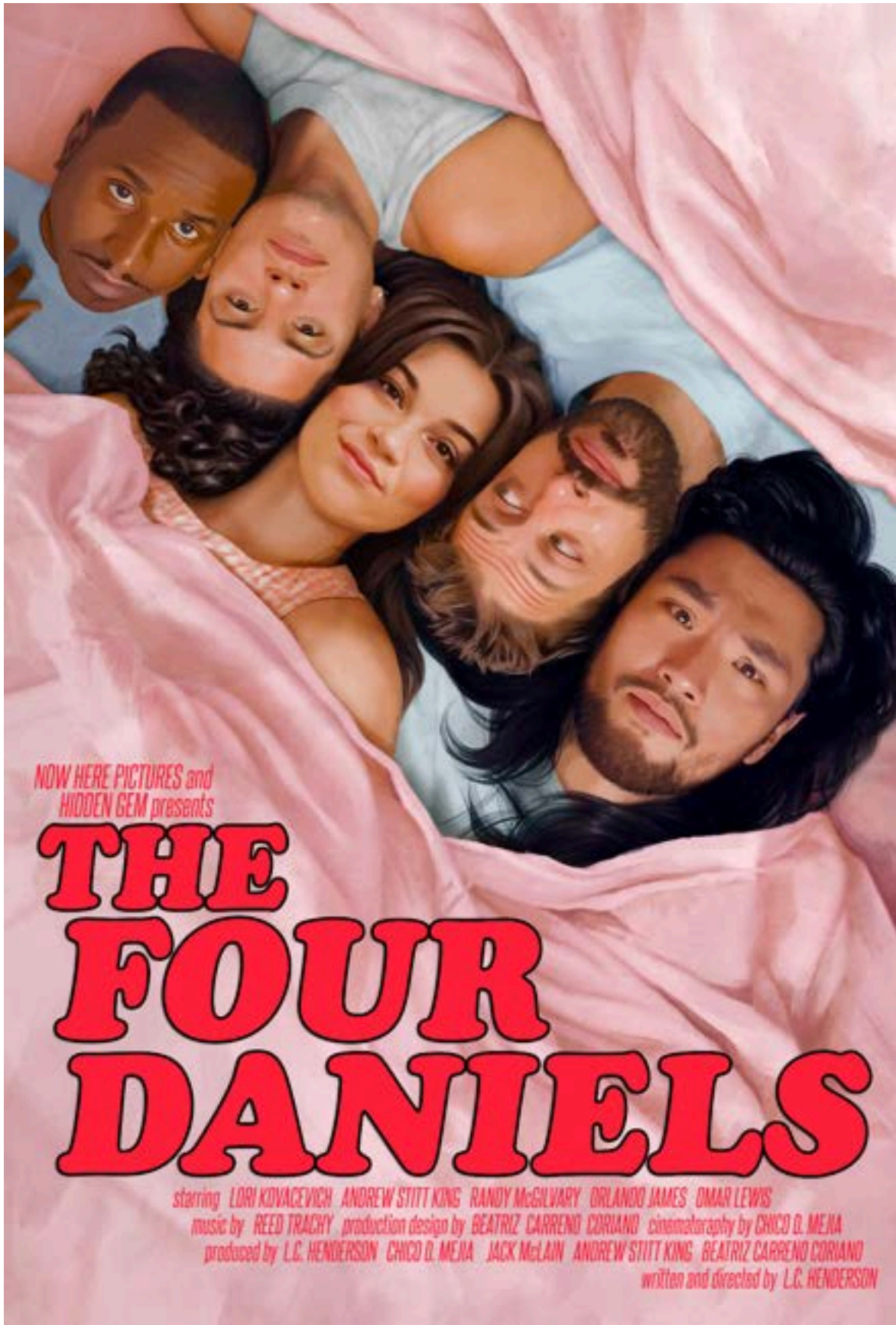
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL MUSSELMAN

FOR FIONA AND HAZEL

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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HIDDEN GEM presents

THE FOUR DANIELS

starring LORI KOVACEVICH ANDREW STITT KING RANDY McILVARY ORLANDO JAMES OMAR LEWIS
music by REED TRACHY production design by BEATRIZ CARRENO CORIANO cinematography by CHICO D. MEJIA
produced by L.C. HENDERSON CHICO D. MEJIA JACK McLAIN ANDREW STITT KING BEATRIZ CARRENO CORIANO
written and directed by L.C. HENDERSON