

Leah  
Knauer

# The Ally

A short film  
by Jennifer Marie

Ari  
Maize

Based  
on real  
stories



# The Ally

Written, Directed and  
Produced by: Jennifer Marie

**Logline:**

**An energetic, young, white woman has pure intentions of supporting the Black community, but will her lack of awareness outweigh her love for their culture and cost her a promotion at her dream job?**



## Contact Info:

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**Meet the Writer, Director and Producer of The Ally  
Jennifer Marie aka j Marie...  
she also plays the HR Director in The Ally!**

Say hello to actor, producer, director, comedian and writer Jennifer Marie aka j Marie (@jennifermarieakajmarie) She was born in Iola, KS, but raised in Kansas City, MO and now resides in Hollywood, CA...this is where she would birth her production company, No Wooden Nickels LLC in 2021.

Jennifer decided to add Producer to her resume in 2018 after working in the entertainment industry since 2009 as an actor and host. She executive produced and starred in the hit Mini TV Series 'Revenge of Side Chick'. Watching that come to life, she was encouraged to do more, so she later produced and starred in projects such as: 'The Nun, The Witch and The Bloodsucker', 'Christmas The Wright Way', AND the hilarious and inspiring podcast 'Gyrl Talk With j Marie' and this is just the beginning to what Jennifer Marie plans to bring to Hollywood.

In 2019, the first project she Directed and Executive Produced was a short documentary entitled "FRIENDS to FRAMILY and that project was selected for the New Filmmakers LA film festival!! In 2023, Jennifer Marie wrote, directed and starred in two short films: The Ally and Kool-Aid Stand. Both projects will make a festival run in 2024 and 2025. In 2023, she also graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 from the Master's program for Film and Media Production at New York Film Academy in Burbank, CA . As her next step in life was to add even more knowledge to the passion she has for filmmaking. That experience was beyond pleasurable and confirmed her purpose and mission in this industry.

Going from in front of the camera to behind the camera is such a bold decision, but that was the next thing for her to push towards her full potential. j Marie's mission is to produce and create content that the world can love, laugh and learn from. So far, so good. Thanks for joining the journey where the sky is never the limit! So, see you on the screen or on the stage!

## Starring Leah Knauer as Jan Snyder

Bio:

Leah Knauer is a multi-talented comedic and musical force to be reckoned with, whose boundless energy and love for making people laugh has endeared her to audiences worldwide.

An extremely gifted improviser, actress, and singer, Leah's performances are a captivating blend of sass, wit, and charm that leave audiences in stitches.



## Starring Ari Maize as 'Makeba Jones'

Bio:

Ari Maize is an interdisciplinary artist, dancer, and stand-up comedian from Los Angeles. She's passionate about telling stories that center Black culture, queer identities, and feminism. She's thrilled to be a part of *The Ally* in her on-screen debut!



## Starring JGee of Flight Camp as Himself

Bio:

Jgee (@JgeeStyledMe) is a rapper and fashion consultant from Kansas City, MO. Jgee left Kansas City and headed to Los Angeles, CA where he would begin working heavily in fashion and writing music. He has a gift to pick up an instrument and be able to play it by ear. This is where he for sure knew music was a passion.

He was hired to act in The Ally and loved every bit of it. Now, he continues to keep people fly with his Jgee Styled Me fashion consulting business and coaching his son's football team.

JGee's verses from the songs: "Sauce", "Top Notch", and "Nintendo" are featured in The Ally. He has been making music since he was very young and you will see him and his music in more films and shows written by Jennifer Marie and many others!



## Saria Chauhan as the 1st AD of The Ally:

### Bio:

After her time at the New York Film Academy, Saria continued to immerse herself in creative spaces. She is continuously drawn to the world of film and finds inspiration in the vibrant energy of other creatives and the individuality of their ideas.

Through this immersion she charts a path towards self discovery. She is currently enjoying directing, editing, and really anything that involves holding a camera...the journey continues.





## **Brenda Speight as Key Hair Stylist**

Bio:

**Brenda is a force to be reckoned with in the world of hair. Especially when it comes to natural styles. Jennifer Marie knew she was the one that would be able to transform Leah into “Jan Snyder” with the ethnic hairstyles required.**

**They partnered to achieve looks for both lead roles and Brenda worked so fast and perfect with each style! This is just the beginning of her journey working in film and television sets. The Ally was extremely grateful for her hard work and creativity! She will be invited back every single time!**





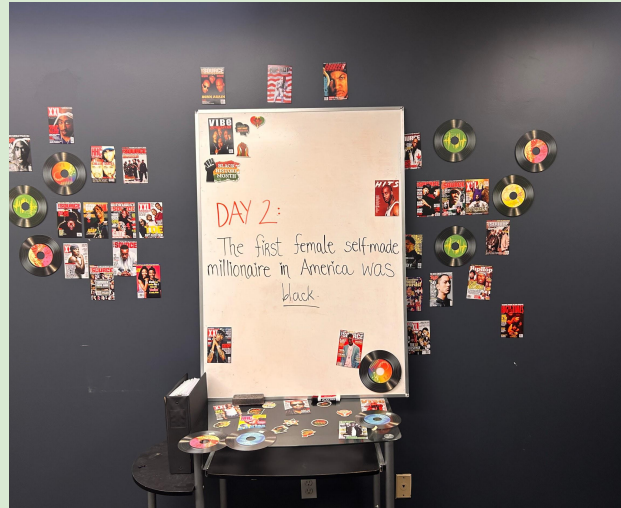
## **Michelle Künzler as Production Designer**

**Bio:**

**Michelle Künzler is a Swiss-Turkish filmmaker based in Los Angeles with a passion for screenwriting, a keen interest in editing and a strong eye for production design. She holds a Master's degree in Film and Media Production from the New York Film Academy (Los Angeles campus).**

**Michelle has written, directed, and contributed to several short films. Known for her attention to detail and commitment to authenticity, Michelle strives for accurate representation. Her goal is to create truthful and thought-provoking content encapsulating the human experience through an empathetic lens.**





Behind The Scenes (Link to Photos):

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-AJNJKB\\_CrFkKFGZVKZct3KkNFdkKROO?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-AJNJKB_CrFkKFGZVKZct3KkNFdkKROO?usp=share_link)

Still Shots (Link to Photos and Trailer):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-2oVLvYOwxozvzRtOJexH6OBvoFSFWZ?usp=sharing>

# Filmmaker Q&A with Jennifer Marie:

## 1. How did you work with your production team to realize the vision of the film?

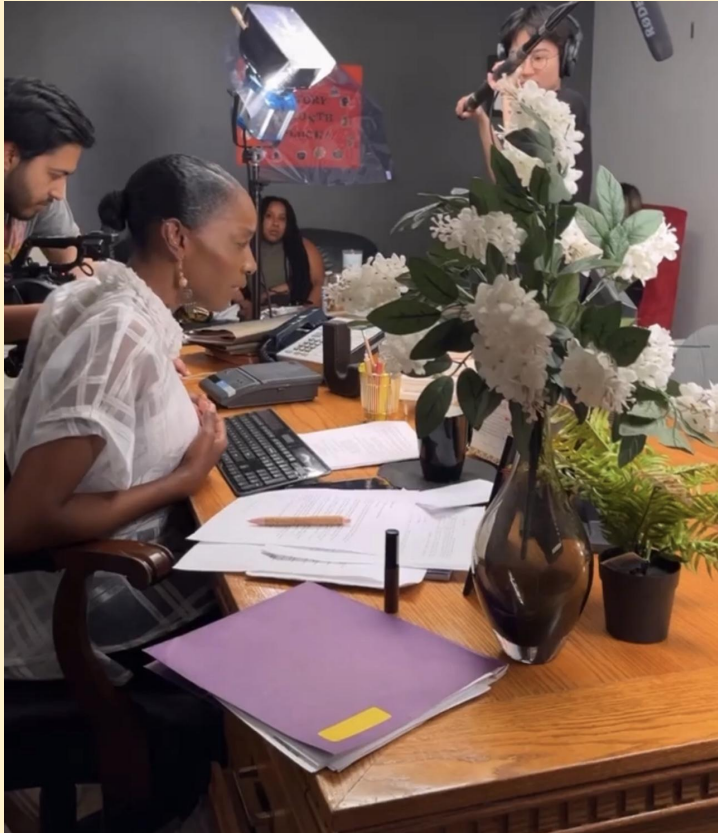
*We did multiple pre-production meetings and it was very important for me to speak to each department head and make sure that we understood one another. It was truly a team effort. One department that I worked very closely with was the hair department, led by Brenda Speight. She was responsible for multiple unique hairstyles in a very short timeframe. She completely blew my mind how fast and excellent she executed the vision. I was so grateful. Leah Knauer who plays Jan Snyder was a team player by going to get her hair braided the night before the shoot so we could save time. I was extremely obsessive with maximizing every minute we had available. The pre-planning we did allowed us to complete the project in 2 days with a 9 hour day 2!*

## 2. How does the soundtrack complement the narrative of the film?

*The soundtrack was one of my favorite things about this project because I was able to hire my brother, Jgee for the songs that represented the energy of the Rated Rich Record Label. I was sure I wanted it to have an urban, hip feel and something that Jan (Leah Knauer) could rap to while she shows us her personality. I was the Music Supervisor for this project because we are a VERY independent project LOL, but I loved it because I always wanted to be an A&R or something that allows me to put great music in film and tv! There is so much more to come. The music in this project was motivational and fun, although this story covers a serious topic we also keep it light. That was the plan and I love how it turned out.*

## 3. What has been the most rewarding part of this film's journey?

*The most rewarding part of this journey is seeing the crowd react to all the hard work our team put in to complete the project. My other favorite thing has been the cast and crew seeing the project on the big screen. It completely satisfies me and just encourages me to do even more! I just love to see the fullness of someone's dream come to pass.*



# Filmmaker Q&A with Jennifer Marie Continued:



## 4. How do you hope this film contributes to or sparks conversations within its genre or the industry at large?

*I really want people to see that although this is a comedy, the topics being discussed are something that we should take very seriously today. I hope people that are not aware of microaggressions that they may commit or witness are a lot more careful in how they handle those from minority groups. I would love for it to cause people to do some research on the history of co-workers or friends that they are not as knowledgeable about. This will only make us a better world. It is okay to not know about something, but imagine if we educate ourselves so we can just love and respect one another even more.*

## 5. Are there any supplementary materials or follow-up projects that you are planning to expand on the film's themes or story?

*Absolutely, I am currently finishing the pilot for a limited series of *The Ally*. I am in love with these characters and there is so much to explore, so I am looking forward to sharing a little more of Jan and Makeba with you all and discussing additional work, life and societal issues that we sometimes push under the rug or act as if they do not exist. If you are interested in joining the team please hit me up! It only goes up from here! :)*

# Credits

## Crew:

**Writer / Director / Producer:** Jennifer Marie aka j Marie

**Executive Producers:** Mary Cole and No Wooden Nickels LLC

**Director of Photography:** Dr. Julio

**2nd Unit Camera:** Hayden Rusk

**Production Designer:** Michelle Kuenzler

**Production Design Assistant:** Sheatarra Ervin

**1st AD:** Saria Chauhan

**1st AC:** QJ Ma

**2nd AC:** Tyler Ohaya

**Gaffer:** Shreya Shethia

**Sound / Boom:** Charlie Hao

**BTS / Production Assistant:** Yu-Lin Chen

**Key Hair Stylist:** Brenda Speight

**Crafty and Catering Services:** Joncea's Catering

## Cast:

**Leah Knauer** as Jan Snyder

**Ari Maize** as Makeba Jones

**Jennifer Marie aka j Marie** as HR Director

**Jgee of Flight Camp** as Himself

**Richie Slick of Flight Camp** as Himself

**LJ Stead** as Executive #1

**Tanner Ortiz** as Executive #2

**Deuce the Truth** as Male Cubicle Co-Worker

**Slomique Elder** as Female Cubicle Co-Worker

*Produced at New York Film Academy*

Thank you so much for checking out The Ally Short Film!

See you on the big screen!

Again, Please Follow Us online!

[www.TheAllynwn.com](http://www.TheAllynwn.com)

