

SHE'S FAR TOO SMOKIN' HOT FOR THAT DUMB LAD



Dating Advice
With Baba Yaga

A SHORT FILM BY JILIAN TOLZMANN

PRESS KIT

SYNOPSIS

After catching her ex-boyfriend cheating, Maria seeks help from the notorious Baba Yaga. *Dating Advice with Baba Yaga* is a macabre story of found sisterhood, exploring the infamous legend in a new light.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What if the infamous terrifying Slavic folk legend Baba Yaga gave dating advice? It sounds crazy, but wouldn't it be crazier if a monster was capable of good dating advice? — For desperate Maria, Baba Yaga seems like the best assistance.

I'll admit, initially upon studying to play Maria, I struggled to connect with her. Being the independent person I am, I kept finding myself thinking "why can't she just get over him, he treats her terribly.", but I was missing the whole point to what I wrote. Writing her was also a challenge as although her comedy is found in her naiveness, I didn't want it to compromise her strong and committed nature.

If you think this is a story about love, you've missed the entire point of the film. This is a story about determination, about wanting something. I believe this is reflected in the process behind the film, which taught me that if I want something badly enough I can get it, because the real magic is the hard work and desire to build authentic connections.



JILIAN TOLZMANN

MARIA, DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER

Jilian Tolzmann is a multidisciplinary artist currently acting, directing, writing and producing on both screen and stage. She has performed with various theatres such as TheCulch and Carousel Theatre. In addition to acting, she has been a musician for 15 years, along with a plethora of credits in additional departments from costumes to art. A directorial highlight was her 2023 RunNGun 48 Hour Film best youth team nomination. Pursuing acting, Jilian looks forward to attending Studio 58 next year.



COLLEEN WHEELER

BABA YAGA, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Colleen is a multiple award winning actress based in North Vancouver, BC. She has performed in over 75 stage productions in theatres across Canada and has had supporting and lead roles in over 40 film and television shows. The film production company she runs with her partner (Heelfactory Film) recently released their first feature film "Attic Trunk". Colleen graduated with Distinction from the University of Alberta's B.F.A. (Acting) Program.

JIL OF ALL TRADES MEDIA

presents

COLLEEN WHEELER

with & directed by

JILIAN TOLZMANN

in

DATING ADVICE WITH BABA YAGA

MUSIC BY

JESUS CABALLERO

EDITED BY

JOHN HA

ART DIRECTOR

EVELYN TONG

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

JACOB MOY

PRODUCED BY

ARIANNE ROBBINS

STILLS & BTS PHOTOGRAPHY

WILLIAM MORGAN & EVANN YOON



PRODUCTION FAST FACTS

RUNTIME: 9MIN 16SEC
SHOOTING FORMAT: 16:9
BUDGET: \$500 CAD
PRODUCTION LOCATION: VANCOUVER, CANADA



FAQS

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE "WELCOME GOBLINS" SIGN?

Last Summer, Jilian volunteered at Bard On The Beach where she met Colleen, who was acting in *Goblin: Macbeth*. A fan visiting brought the "Welcome Goblins" sign as a gift for the cast, which lived in the green room for the season. In the Fall, the construction team found and kept the sign. As soon as Jilian cast Colleen in the film, she knew she wanted the sign in Baba Yaga's house to be a little Easter egg for *Goblin: Macbeth*. Through Facebook she tracked down the sign and was able to borrow it. The film wouldn't have happened if it weren't for *Goblin: Macbeth* so, Jilian wanted to plant some subtle nods to pay homage to the production. There's some other Shakespearean and goblin specific references in the film if you're quick to spot them.

"A charmingly dry-humoured feminist romp imbued with wit. Jilian Tolzmann is one to watch as she explodes into Vancouver's film scene."

— **SOLEIL KOVÁCS** (*Actor: The Good Scout, Beyond the Backwoods*)



WHERE CAN I GET THE MERCH?

The DAWBY sticker was initially created as a gift for the entire cast and crew, but is now being sold to help raise money to fund future Baba Yaga projects. They will be sold along with merch from other projects, Summer 2024 at Bard On The Beach's Artisan Market a part of Rebecca Northan's (director of *Goblin: Macbeth*) *The Comedy of Errors*.

WHERE IS BABA YAGA GOING NEXT?

Jilian has plans for an entire Baba Yaga "Creative Universe" (BYCU) as she calls it, because it's not simply cinematic, she has plans for the stage too. Currently she has a sequel short film and web series are in development.

PRESS CONTACT:

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