



QUEERBAIT

a film by nate gualtieri



cha•ser ('tʃeɪsə) *noun* **1.** A person who seeks out sexual partners with a particular quality, especially to fulfill a fetish. **2.** A form of sexual attraction that strips you of your humanity and reduces you to your parts:
I would never date a tranny chaser.



LOGLINE

A precocious transgender student is taken under the wing of an accomplished professor, only to realize his mentorship comes with an ulterior sexual motive.





CHARACTERS



DAVID Brash and opinionated. Loves to hear himself talk. Paternal and charming. Well-groomed with expensive tastes.



EZRA Quietly intelligent. Innocent and naturally curious. Yearns for a father figure in his life. Small in stature but not weak.

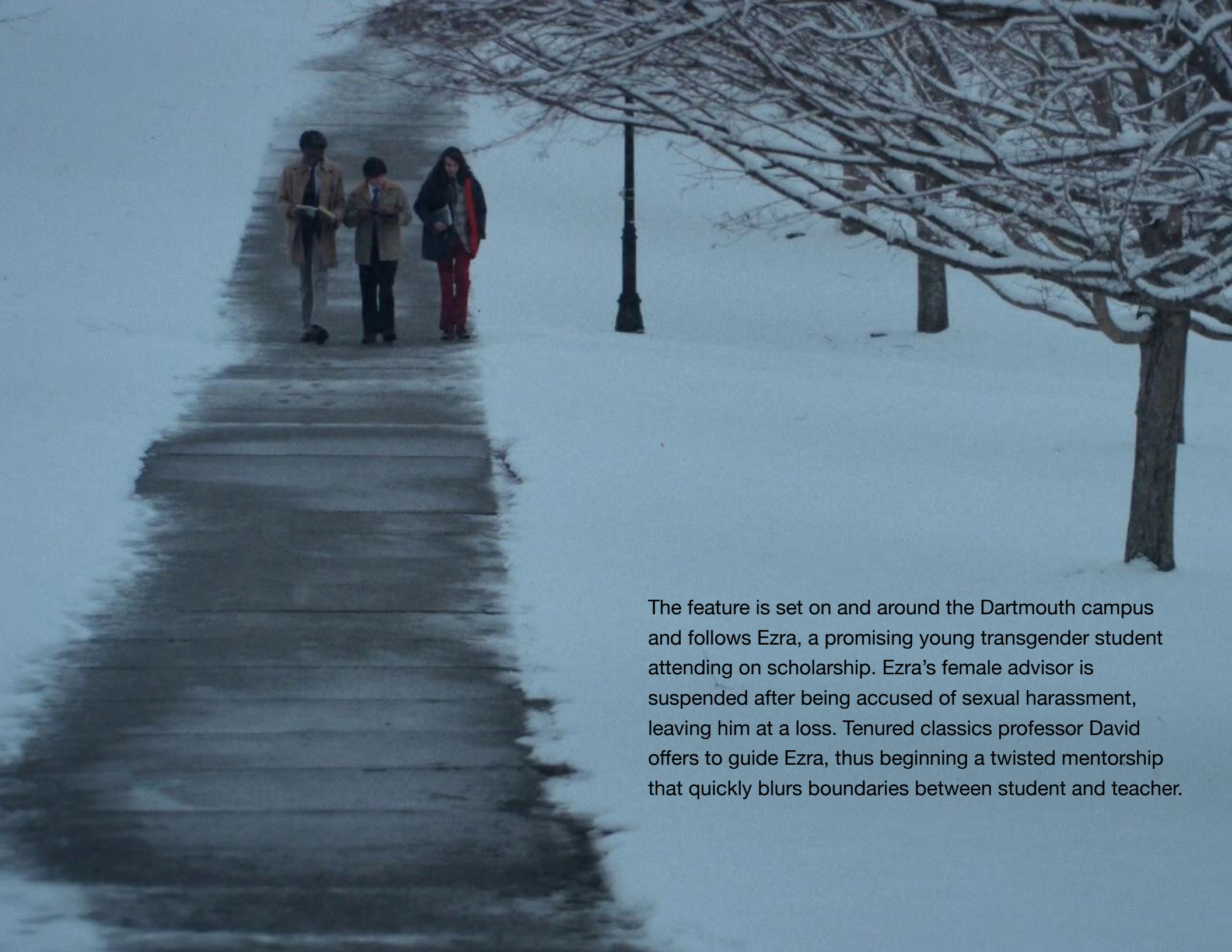
CHARACTERS



CHANDLER A senior frat boy lusting after Ezra. A college athlete. Carries himself with casual confidence despite being deeply closeted.



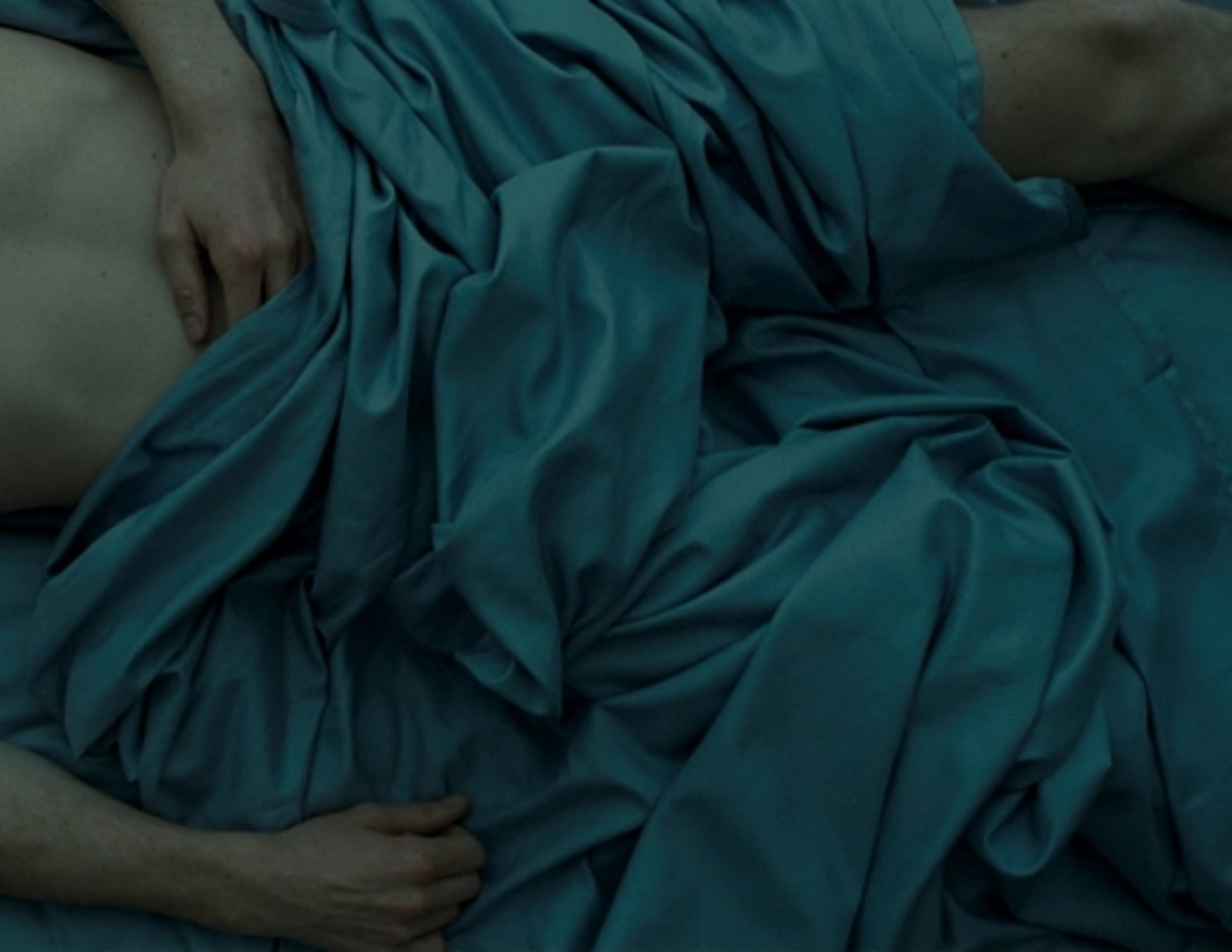
MEI Musical prodigy with a wild streak. Ezra's friend and roommate. Frequently underestimated. Butch and takes no bullshit.



The feature is set on and around the Dartmouth campus and follows Ezra, a promising young transgender student attending on scholarship. Ezra's female advisor is suspended after being accused of sexual harassment, leaving him at a loss. Tenured classics professor David offers to guide Ezra, thus beginning a twisted mentorship that quickly blurs boundaries between student and teacher.



Ezra blacks out during a grad student party at David's house. He wakes up in David's bed. After being assaulted, he can't bear to face his professor again. But if he fails the class, he'll lose his scholarship. Devastated and ashamed, Ezra now has a choice to make: protect his academic future, or protect his dignity?



TONE + REFERENCES

This is a film that examines sexual power dynamics through a trans perspective, drawing from both recent and classic commercial thriller influences like *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Promising Young Woman*. Using the academic backdrop of films like *Call Me By Your Name* or *Tár*, *Queerbait* uses Ancient Greek and Latin languages, motifs, and mythology to serve as both narrative and stylistic influences throughout. The film intentionally heightens the eroticism by pairing arousal alongside fear.



VISUAL INFLUENCES

Though the text of the script is a thriller, the visual language of the film borrows heavily from the horror genre. The audience shares in Ezra's sinking feeling as he watches as his professor, someone he once considered an ally, turn from mentor to monster.



FRAMING
distortion, reflections, inverted frames





VOYEURISM

silhouettes, soft foreground, obscured frame



FOOD
carnal, sensual, violent

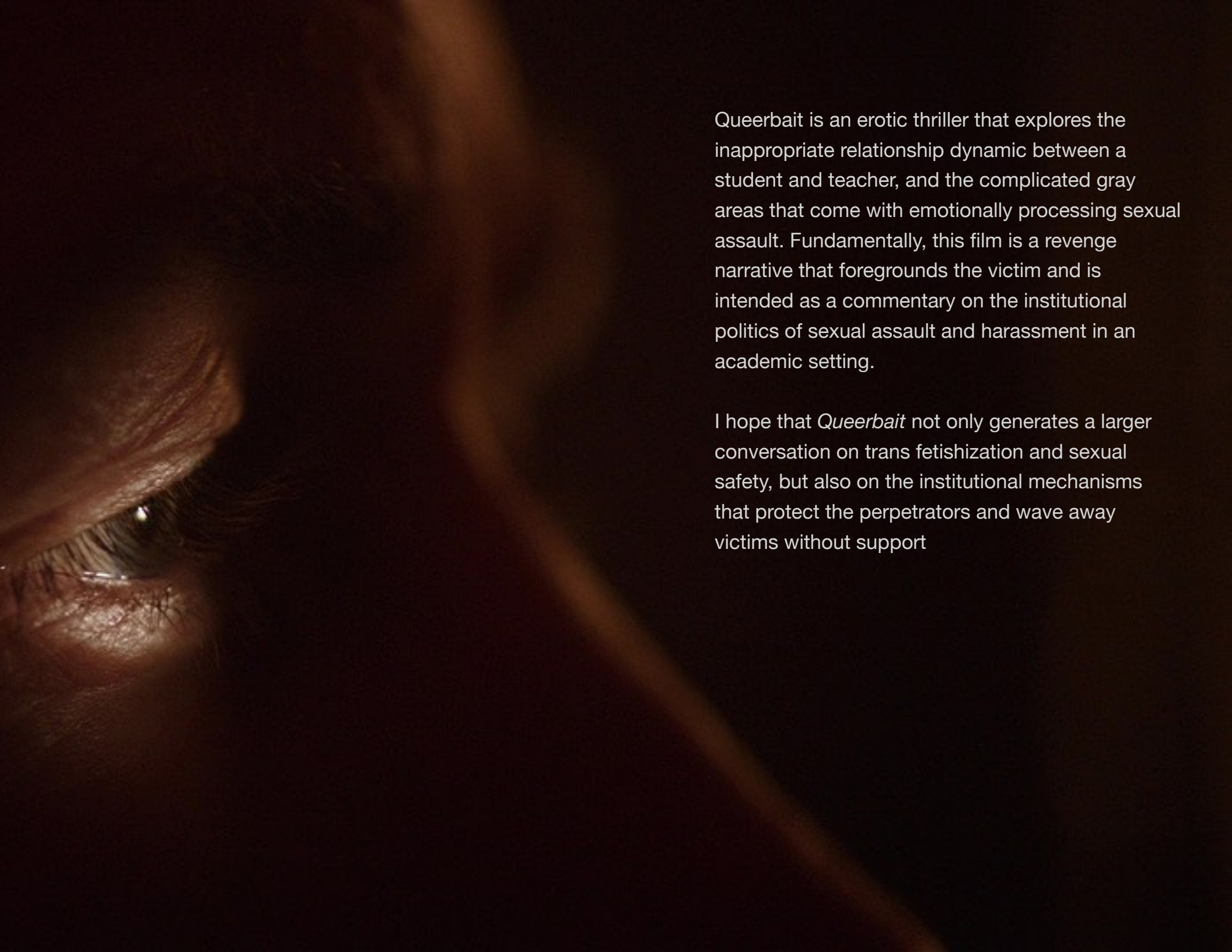


Sexual violence on college campuses is pervasive.

Among undergraduate students, 26.4% of women, 6.8% of men, and 23.1% of transgender, genderqueer, or nonconforming college students have experienced sexual assault. ^[1]

[1] David Cantor, Bonnie Fisher, Susan Chibnall, Reanna Townsend, et. al. Association of American Universities (AAU), Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (January 17, 2020).





Queerbait is an erotic thriller that explores the inappropriate relationship dynamic between a student and teacher, and the complicated gray areas that come with emotionally processing sexual assault. Fundamentally, this film is a revenge narrative that foregrounds the victim and is intended as a commentary on the institutional politics of sexual assault and harassment in an academic setting.

I hope that *Queerbait* not only generates a larger conversation on trans fetishization and sexual safety, but also on the institutional mechanisms that protect the perpetrators and wave away victims without support



NATE GUALTIERI

Nate Gualtieri is a transmasculine writer-director from the Boston area now based in Los Angeles. His recent writing credits include the Sundance 2024 Special Jury Award-Winning feature *Desire Lines*, a narrative documentary starring Theo Germaine and Aden Hakimi. Nate was previously a staff writer on the Berlanti/CW series *Gotham Knights*. He is an alumnus of the 2023 Film Independent Project Involve Fellowship, and a graduate of the USC screenwriting program.

Nate is currently a fellow in the inaugural Proof of Concept Accelerator Fellowship in partnership with Netflix and Dirty Films, which will support and finance the Queerbait short film. His previous short film, *Wrong Bathroom*, recently premiered at the 2024 Palm Springs Shortfest.

With work that showcases both the tender and toxic sides of masculinity, Nate is passionate about finding big stakes in grounded stories.