



LUCY THE LION

PRESS KIT

The short film that bites back



LOGLINE

A gutsy single mom has a job interview that can change her life but when she can't find childcare for her six-year-old daughter, she's forced to make some difficult decisions – discovering what she's really made of.

KALMAN APPLE
DIRECTOR
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NATALIN AVCI
WRITER / PRODUCER
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TITLE: LUCY THE LION
COUNTRY: UNITED STATES
PRODUCTION YEAR: 2023
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DURATION: 14:27
ASPECTRATIO: 1.85:1
SHOOTING: SONY VENICE
FORMAT: 2K, 4K DCP (FLAT),
4.5K PRORES
SOUND: 5.1, STEREO

SYNOPSIS

Gutsy single mom Lucy has a job interview that can change her life. But after waking up to another one of her daughter Sophie's bed wetting disasters, she must navigate how to balance work and motherhood, all in a cramped motel room. Lucy rushes to beat the clock, only to discover that Michael can't daddy-sit – again.

Arriving late and with Sophie in tow, Lucy does her best to impress Adam, the interviewer with her work achievements but he's too busy trying to wrap things up, forcing Lucy to take bold action.

Lucy the Lion is complex social drama examining the challenges of gender imbalance within a changing political landscape





FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

This story began from an ending: Roe V Wade. Two years later, women are left with unprocessed grief and an unclear future. *Lucy the Lion*, was my way of unraveling the complexities of this experience.

There is great power in storytelling. Stories are how we understand each other, ourselves, and the world around us. The driving force behind *Lucy the Lion* is to create connection with the audience by delivering a film that not only entertains, but inspires change.

I purposefully chose a male director to give the narrative a balanced perspective. It's a portrait of a single working class mother in pursuit of the American dream. The film

explores the impacts gender imbalance has on society, the workplace and in the home. I wanted to create a ballsy character trying to balance work and motherhood, while discovering her voice as a woman. But it was equally important for Kalman and I, not to vilify the male characters and portray them as honestly and instinctively as we could.

Lucy the Lion is an authentic glimpse into the nuanced relationship between a mother and daughter, where the contrast in character point of views bring both depth and levity. This is a timely story of human resilience, reminding us that our voices are powerful.

Natalin Avci, Writer | Actor | Producer | Executive Producer

HIGH VIBE PICTURES PRESENTS

LUCY THE LION

A FILM BY KALMAN APPLE

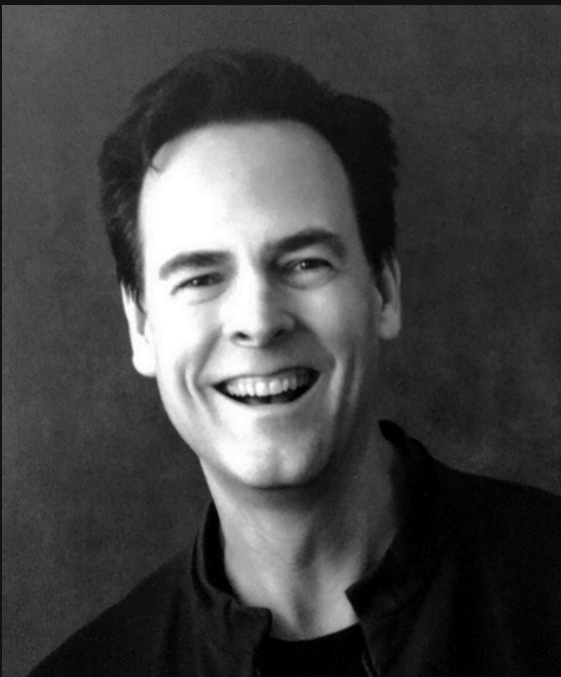
WRITTEN BY NATALIN AVCI

CINEMATOGRAPHER VALENTINA CANIGLIA

COMPOSER BENJAMIN KRAUSSE

PRODUCERS SAWANNE SAMRANKAI
EDGAR R. ARAGON
NATALIN AVCI





KALMAN APPLE

DIRECTOR

DIRECTING OVER A HUNDRED COMMERCIALS FOR NATIONAL BRANDS WINNING A CLIO AND A ONE SHOW AWARDS. AS WRITER/ DIRECTOR, HIS FIRST NARRATIVE FILM, "SPEED FOR THESPIANS" AN ADAPTATION OF ANTON CHEKHOV'S "THE BEAR" WAS NOMINATED FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD®. HE AND HIS PRODUCING PARTNER SOLD AN ORIGINAL PITCH AND DEVELOPED AN ANIMATED FEATURE FILM FOR WALT DISNEY PICTURES. HE LATER DIRECTED THE SHORT FILM "BAD WOLF," WINNING 1ST PLACE IN THE PRODUCERS GUILD WEEKEND FILM CHALLENGE. HE ALSO CO-WROTE AND DIRECTED "A DAY IN THE COUNTRY", THE GRAND-PRIZE WINNER OF THE CANON / RON HOWARD : PROJECT IMAGINATION FILM CONTEST. AS A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY, KALMAN HAS SAT ON THE PRE-SELECTION AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE HAS ALSO CONSULTED IN SHORT FILM ACQUISITIONS FOR SHORTS TV, THE SHORT FILM CHANNEL. CURRENTLY KALMAN IS DEVELOPING A THAI/AMERICAN, ACTION COMEDY SERIES WITH SUWANNEE; AND RECENTLY HAS WRITTEN A FEATURE FILM FOR IDRIS ELBA.



NATALIN AVCI

WRITER | ACTOR | PRODUCER

IS A TURKISH-ARMENIAN SCREENWRITER |ACTOR | PRODUCER BORN AND RAISED IN LOS ANGELES. STUDYING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS AT CAL STATE LA, SHE'S A MEMBER OF UCLA WRITERS' PROGRAM AND A MEISNER TRAINED ACTOR FROM THE JOANNE BARON/D.W. BROWN STUDIO BEST KNOWN FOR INDIE FILM, THROWDOWN (2014) ALONGSIDE DANNY TREJO AND EMMY AWARD WINNING WRITER|DIRECTOR TIMOTHY WOODWARD JR. HONING HER VOICE AS A WRITER, TELLING TIMELY STORIES CENTERED AROUND UNCONVENTIONAL LEADING WOMEN WITH A STYLE THAT'S CINEMATIC AND EDGY. AT THE INTERSECTION OF PASSION AND PURPOSE, NATALIN IS DEDICATED TO TELLING AUTHENTIC STORIES THAT NOT ONLY ENTERTAIN BUT TRANSCEND CONVENTIONS. LUCY THE LION IS CURRENTLY ON THE RED LIST FOR COVERFLY WINNING NUMEROUS COMPETITIONS AND SELECTED BY SEVERAL FESTIVALS. CURRENTLY NATALIN IS DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE HORROR FEATURE AND A DARK WORKPLACE DRAMA SERIES WRITTEN FOR LAURA DERN.



VALENTINA CANIGLIA

CINEMATOGRAPHER

KNOWN FOR HER LIGHTING AND CAMERA WORK ON MOVIES, TV SERIES, COMMERCIALS, AND MUSIC VIDEOS. FEATURED IN "MEET THE CINEMATOGRAPHERS BEHIND SOME OF THE BIGGEST MOVIES" A TEENVOGUE ARTICLE. SHE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SELECTED BY THE ASC VISION COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE THE PRESTIGIOUS ASC VISION MENTORSHIP AWARD PROGRAM. SHE WON BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARD AT THE LOUISIANA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR THE PERIOD FILM "MADELINE'S OIL". THE FILM "POMEGRANATES AND MYRRH," WAS WINNER OF THE GOLDEN DAGGER AT THE MUSCAT FILM FESTIVAL FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY. THIS FILM ALSO FILM PREMIERED AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AND RECEIVED THE BEST FILM AWARD AT DOHA TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL. HER STUNNING CINEMATOGRAPHY IS RECCOGNIZED ON THE VIDEO "STAND FOR A CHANGE" STARRING VANESSA WILLIAMS & BILLY PORTER. VALENTINA'S WORK IS SHOWN AT THE APPLE TV SERIES DEAR X S2 STARRING VIOLA DAVIS, AVA DUVERNAY, JANE FONDA, SANDRA OH, ANDRÉ LEON TALLEY, SELENA GOMEZ. ALSO FOR THE TV SERIES "THE CAPTAIN" DIRECTED BY RANDY WILKINS, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BY SPIKE LEE, MIKE TOLLIN (EUREKA ENTRAINMENT).



BENJAMIN KRAUSSE

COMPOSER

BENJAMIN IS AN EMMY-NOMINATED COMPOSER FOR FILM AND TELEVISION BORN IN STUTTGART, GERMANY, NOW BASED IN LOS ANGELES. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED MUSIC TO CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED FILMS AND SHOWS SUCH AS OSCAR-NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY "CLAUDE LANZMANN", NETFLIX' "MURDER AMONG THE MORMONS" AND "LEAGUE OF LEGENDS: ORIGINS", AS WELL AS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S "HELL ON EARTH". WITH AN EDUCATION IN CLASSICAL PIANO AND YEARS OF TOURING FOR VARIOUS INDIE BANDS UNDER HIS BELT, BENJAMIN'S MUSIC SPANS A WIDE VARIETY OF GENRES - HE IS EQUALLY AT HOME WITH LUSH ORCHESTRAL SCORES, FUTURISTIC ELECTRONIC SOUNDSCAPES AND ENERGETIC POP AND ROCK TRACKS.



SAWANNEE SAMRANKAI

PRODUCER

IS A NATIVE THAI - AMERICAN ENTREPRENEUR AND FOUNDER OF LEASTELLA PRODUCTIONS. THE COMPANY PRODUCED "BACK TO THE WALL", AND "THEY LIVED" WHICH SUWANNEE EXECUTIVE PRODUCED, CO-WROTE AND STARRED IN. BOTH FILMS RECEIVED AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS IN THE FILM FESTIVAL CIRCUIT, AND WERE RELEASED ON AMAZON PRIME. SHE ALSO PRODUCED "FOUR ON THE MANTLE" WHICH IS CURRENTLY TOURING ON THE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT AND HAS WON BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARD AND BEST SHORT INTERNATIONAL FILM AT THE PARIS WOMEN'S FESTIVAL. WHILE STUDYING ACTING AT BARON BROWN STUDIO, SUWANNEE MET AND BECAME FRIENDS WITH NATALIN. HAVING WORKED WITH ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE KALMAN APPLE, ON A NARRATIVE SERIES PROJECT, SHE GOT HIM INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT EARLY ON. SUWANNEE ALSO STUDIED FILM PRODUCTION AT UCLA; HER ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH, THAI, AND CAMBODIAN MAKE HER A TRUE POWERHOUSE OF A BUSINESSWOMAN WITH HER HEART AND EFFORTS FOCUSED ON THE ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS.



EDGAR R. ARAGON

PRODUCER

AFTER COMPLETING A DECADE OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN AIRBORNE INFANTRY SERGEANT, EDGAR PURSUED HIS PASSION FOR FILM; GRADUATING WITH A DEGREE IN DIGITAL CINEMA & VIDEO PRODUCTION. AFTER COLLEGE HIS CAREER TOOK OFF WORKING ON MUSIC VIDEOS ALONGSIDE RENOWNED A-LIST MUSICIANS AS WELL AS FEATURE FILMS, CORPORATE PROJECTS, LIVE CONCERT EVENTS, COMMERCIALS, AND CAMPAIGNS FOR BOTH TELEVISION AND SOCIAL MEDIA. EDGAR WAS HEAD STUDIO MANAGER AND FILM EQUIPMENT OVERWATCH SUPERVISOR AT A PRESTIGIOUS FILM STUDIO IN BURBANK, AND ASSUMED THE ROLE OF HEAD OF PRODUCTION FOR FWD FUTURE AGENCY . EDGAR'S EXTENSIVE CREW AND CLIENT DATABASE PRESENT HIM WITH AN INVALUABLE NETWORK OF RESOURCES, TO FULFILL THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF ANY PRODUCTION WITH PROFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONALISM.

CAST



INTRODUCING GENESIS CLARRE
STARRING NATALIN AVCI



M I C H A E L J O H N K N I G H T



A D A M B E N N E T T N I C K W. N I C H O L S O N
S U S A N J E N N A Z H U



AND LEJON STEWART

CREDITS

PRODUCERS
SAWANEE SAMRANKAI
EDGAR R. ARAGON
NATALIN AVCI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
NATALIN AVCI

CREW

EDITOR CHRIS MCPHERESON

1ST AD PAMELA MATEW
STEADYCAM OP ADAM G HARIBDP
GAFFER VATCHE GIRAGOSSIAN
KEY GRIP MO AL KAYED

PRODUCTION DESIGNER ASTRID ANDERSON
HMUA SUPICHAYA CHANPRAOP

PRODUCTION SOUND JAMES HATCHER JR.
SOUND SUPERVISOR / MIXING DAVID BACH
COLOR DINO DUMANDAN

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR JUSTIN DOYLE
STUDIO TEACHER SUSAN SALERNO
DIALOGUE EDITOR ESTHER KIM
MEDIC / CCO THOMAS HATCHER

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ADDT'L CAST

CHRISTINE HABER
SPENCER KAYDEN
NIKITA FRANCOIS

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
JOANNE OTTOMAN
JAY MINDES

LINKS

[Trailer](#)

[Stills](#)

[Awards Poster](#)

[Headshots](#)



HIGH VIBE
PICTURES

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
INDIE SHORT FEST
LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, JULY 2024

WINNER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
SPECIAL MENTION
The IndieFEST
Film Awards

WINNER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
SPECIAL MENTION
BEST SHORTS COMPETITION

GOLD AWARD
INDEPENDENT SHORTS AWARDS
LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 2024

WINNER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
BEST SHORTS COMPETITION

WINNER
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
IndieFEST Film Awards

AWARD WINNER
INDIE SHORT FEST
LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, JULY 2024

WINNER
Los Angeles Movie Awards
2024

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Venice Shorts
2024

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Awareness Festival
2024

LIFT-OFF GLOBAL NETWORK
LOS ANGELES 2024
OFFICIAL SELECTION

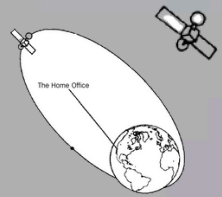
OFFICIAL SELECTION
Silicon Beach Film Festival®
2024

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NewFilmmakers NY
2025

FINALIST
Hollywood Just4Shorts Film and Screenplay Competition
2023

HONORABLE MENTION
Big Apple Film Festival and Screenplay Competition
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF)
2023



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