

A FILM BY ANNA O'DONNELL & JAMIE MUNSEY

HARPAZO

STARRING MAEZI KACEY • JAMIE MUNSEY ALSO STARRING IVAN MAYOR • GWENDOLYN LAUB • WILKY LAU
SCREENPLAY BY JAMIE MUNSEY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATTY BEAVERS MUSIC BY MAEZI KACEY AND LEXA GRESS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RILEY BARTOLOMEO • JAMES FLETCHER THOMPSON PRODUCED BY JAMIE MUNSEY
DIRECTED BY ANNA O'DONNELL ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS DOROTHY FLYNN BARBARA • X CARR • LEXA GRESS

HARPAZO

Running Time: **24:46**

Aspect Ratio: **1.78:1**

Language: **English**

Format: **Digital**

Directed By: **Anna O'Donnell**

Written By: **Jamie Munsey**

Produced By: **Jamie Munsey**
Anna O'Donnell

Edited by: **Jamie Munsey**

Cinematographer: **Matty Beavers**

Composer: **Maezi Kacey**





LOGLINE

The friendship between two rebellious teens is turned on its head when their isolated desert community announces the imminent rapture.

SYNOPSIS

A small town preacher thrills his isolated and superstitious congregation when he announces that the rapture (or “harpazo”) is finally at hand - in one week’s time. Impervious to this rejoicing are Harpo - local “heathen” and idealistic theatre kid - and her best friend, Zeke, who is privately dealing with gender dysphoria and a crisis of faith. A series of missed connections and miscommunications lead to their estrangement as they face what are possibly their final days. In the end, a miraculous event leads to the two finding, and forgiving each other.

THE STORY OF ZEKE AND HARPO

"Harpazo" (the original biblical term for "to rapture"), was always going to be an ambitious short. In order to speak to the American cultural climate, we created our fictional town, with its own subculture, and its own doomsday-based folk religion - which, though fictional, becomes less absurdist by the day. From this microcosm, we zoom in on Zeke and Harpo, two closeted queer youth who embody the often tense and fractured way that queer people relate to each other under such oppressive circumstances.

We present this film at a time when existential threats such as climate change are ignored, self destruction is accelerated, and war is celebrated by those who believe it will bring about the Second Coming. "Harpazo," is for the so-called freaks who still have to live in this world, unsure if they'll be welcome in the next one. It is both a platonic love story between two characters who are fractured yet still seeking joy and redemption, and a love letter to our community which are called upon to create our own verses, parables, and mythologies - to find salvation in ourselves and the worlds we build together.





OUR STORY

“Harpazo” is a film that exists due to sheer passion and tenacity. After winning several screenplay awards in 2022-2023, production commenced in summer of 2023 and took place over two weeks, with most of the interiors being shot in LA, and exteriors being shot in Bombay Beach, CA, on the apocalyptic yet beautiful shores of the Salton Sea. The production schedule was tailored specifically to that often-extreme environment, with drone shots taking place between wind storms, daily afternoon siestas to avoid 100°F+ temperatures, and a one-time employment of Kim’s Towing Service to rescue two cars that got stuck in the Salton Sea mud.

We are an independent, female-fronted, student-led team, with many of us doubling up as production assistant-composers, cinematographer-colorists and actor-designer-caterers. We owe this film to the dedication of our team, and the generosity of our collaborators in LA and in the desert.

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER, Anna O'Donnell

Anna O'Donnell is a writer, director, & producer based in Los Angeles. She enjoys sharing stories with themes of womanhood and girlhood, coming of age, and the intricacies of mother-daughter relationships and friendships. Anna is in her third and final year as an MFA candidate at USC's School of Cinematic Arts in Film & Television Production with a focus in writing, directing, and producing.

She was selected as the Director Mentee for Sean Wang's feature debut *Didi* (弟弟) (2024), which premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and won U.S. Dramatic Audience Award and the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Best Ensemble Cast. *Didi* was acquired by Focus Features and was released in theatres in July 2024.

Her short film THE ISLAND won a Silver Remi Award at the 2023 WorldFest - Houston International Film Festival in the Original Dramatic Shorts Competition.





SCREENWRITER / PRODUCER, Jamie Munsey

Jamie Munsey is a writer, producer and actor from Los Angeles, CA. A graduate of Regent's University London's BA Acting & World Theatre program, she got her start in London's theatre and cabaret scene, which saw the debut of her original play, "Epilogue," in 2018.

Her original screenplay, "Harpazo," won Best Screenplay at the Berlin Lift-Off Film Festival in 2023 and won her Best First-time Screenwriter at the Script Awards LA in 2022, in addition to being a semi-finalist for Best Screenplay at the San Francisco Arthouse Short Festival, and a quarter-finalist in ScriptWrite's Short Script Contest in 2022.

A "wearer of many hats," she ran a successful crowdfunding campaign to produce "Harpazo" for \$10,000 in 2023, also doing the production design, costume design, editing, catering, and co-starring in the film.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Matty Beavers

Matthew Beavers is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer and USC MFA graduate in Film Production. His African American and Filipino heritage inspires stories centered on heritage, family, immigrant experiences, and the dynamics of human relationships, infusing his work with cultural depth and authenticity.



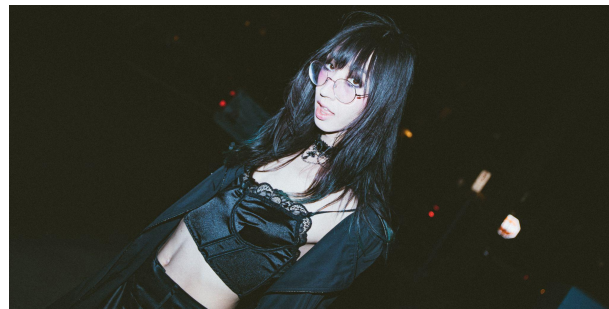
PRODUCTION SOUND, Karl Soelter

Karl Soelter is a sound recordist and editor. After attending UC Berkeley for Film Studies he received an MFA in Film and Television Production from the University of Southern California in 2016. He currently lives in Los Angeles.



COMPOSER / SOUND EDITOR, Maezi Kacey

Maezi Kacey is an LA-based musician/producer, known for her work with Scythe Gang 666, Raven Black, and as Maezi666. In addition to sound editing and scoring "Harpazo," she is excited to make her acting debut in the film as Zeke, seeing a lot of her own experiences in the character.



CREDITS

Directed by: **Anna O'Donnell**

Written by: **Jamie Munsey**

Produced by: **Anna O'Donnell
Jamie Munsey**

Director of Photography **Matty Beavers**

Production Designer **Jamie Munsey**

Editor **Matty Beavers**

Costume Designer: **Jamie Munsey**

Music by: **Maezi Kacey
Lexa Gress**

Production Sound Recordist: **Karl Soelter**

Executive Producers: **Riley Bartolomeo
James Fletcher Thompson**



CAST

Zeke

Maezi Kacey

Polar Bear

Cinthya Rey

Harpo

Jamie Munsey

Father Time

Lulu Dustin Maxfield

Preacher

Ivan Mayor

Businessman

Jay Whitmore

Joy

Gwendolyn Laub

Street Preacher

Tanner Kerrins

Zeke's Dad

Wilky Lau

Radio Host

Andy Haskins

Ben

Samuel Estrada

Person Holding Sign

Eliot Hutchins

Josh

Miguel Sanchez

Paramedic

Lexa Gress

Astronaut

X Carr

Swimmer

Will Jo



Associate Producers:

Dorothy Flynn Barbara
X Carr
Lexa Gress
Maezi Kacey

Script Supervisor

X Carr

1st Assistant Camera:

Tristian Ibarra

2nd Assistant Camera:

King Zabb

Production Assistants:

Lexa Gress

Edwin Barajas

Cedar Noora

1st Drone Operator:

Kevin Key

2nd Drone Operator::

Richard Edwards

Still Photographer:

Russ Harnden

VFX Supervisor:

Jamie Munsey

Lead Animator:

Lexa Gress

Sound Editor:

Maezi Kacey

ADR:

Maezi Kacey