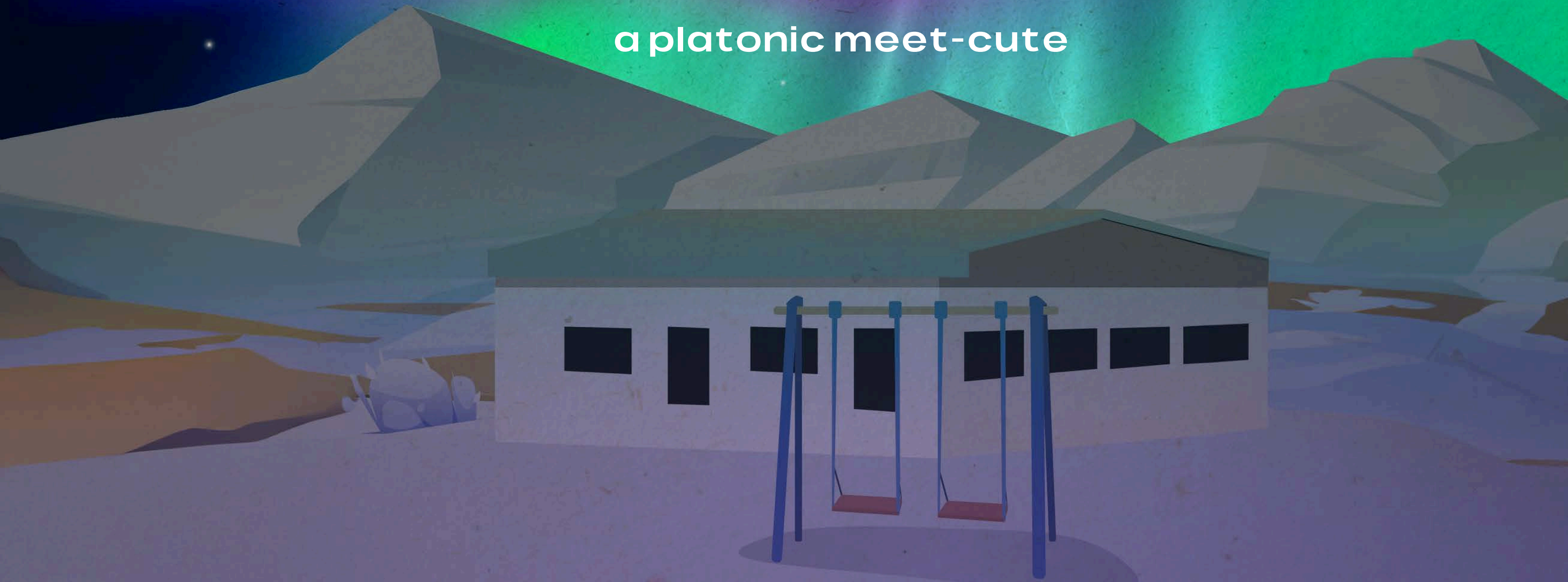


A ROM COM

a platonic meet-cute



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

People on the aromantic and asexual spectrums deserve a rom-com too

Title	Aromcom
Length	15 minutes
Genre	Rom-com, LGBTQ+
Budget	\$20,000
Shoot	January 2025

Logline:

While stranded in a small Icelandic town during a winter storm, a nosy woman develops a squish—a platonic crush—on the badass, aloof owner of a found GoPro who starts to open up once they discover they're both on the asexual and aromantic spectrums.

DIRECTOR'S VISION

“Aromcom depicts a cozy platonic meet-cute against the backdrop of an Icelandic winter storm and creates on-screen representation for one of the least-represented queer identities. A majority of adolescents want to see more content focused on friendships, and there are plenty of adults desperately seeking these stories as well. The aromantic and asexual spectrums are vast and varied and intersectional, and we'll only see the million different experiences represented once there are a million different stories produced. We hope to scratch the surface with Aromcom's Parker and Merida.”

-Katrina Jackson, Aromcom Writer/Director

FISCAL SPONSOR

Tax-deductible donations can be made through Aromcom's nonprofit fiscal sponsor, From the Heart Productions.

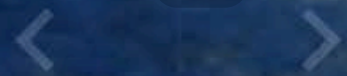
“From the Heart Productions, Inc. is honored to provide fiscal sponsorship for the film Aromcom. We carefully select the films we sponsor, and believe that this project will make a positive contribution to society and to the field of filmmaking.”

-Carol Dean, President, From the Heart Productions

SYNOPSIS...



A travel center cafeteria in the small Icelandic town of Vik is packed with tourists stranded by a winter storm that closed the Ring Road. Merida looks for the owner of a GoPro she and her friends found on a glacier near Jökulsárlón. And then... there's Parker, looking just as intimidatingly cool as they did in their videos. (Merida looked through the whole memory card of course. For research purposes.) Brandon and Trey force Merida to go talk with the person she wouldn't shut up about in the car. But Parker seems aloof and uninterested.



...SYNOPSIS...

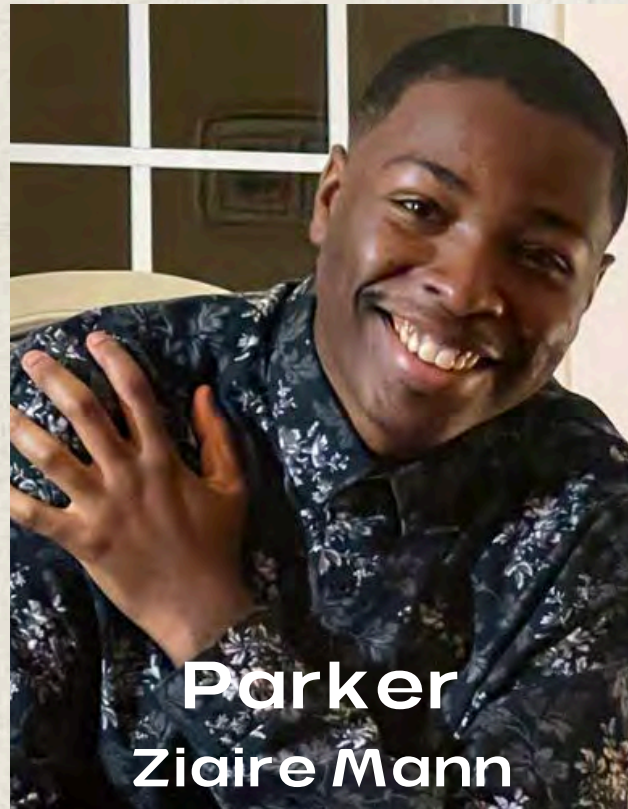
Parker, meanwhile, is overwhelmed by the loud room and by being suddenly approached by enthusiastic strangers. But when Parker realizes that, like themselves, Merida is on the asexual and aromantic spectrums, Parker is intrigued. Later in the evening, once Merida and Parker find a calmer environment to talk, Parker starts to open up about their struggles to keep anyone close in their life. Everyone seems to prioritize their romantic relationships over friendships. Parker often travels alone, but it makes them feel partly like a ghost, and there's no shared experience.

...SYNOPSIS

A splendid aurora display interrupts the conversation, and Merida and Parker soak it in. Parker wants to ask for Merida's number, but chickens out. After they go their separate ways, Parker returns home to a silence that is just as overwhelming as noise. But then Parker's phone chimes, and it's an IG DM from Merida. Of course Merida looked Parker up. "Floating ghost no more," Merida writes, "I'm your shared experience and I'm not going anywhere!" The closing credits are interspersed with photos of Parker and Merida on adventures.



CHARACTERS



Parker
Ziaire Mann



Merida
Elena Anderson



Brandon
Garrett Matthews



Trey
Jordan Brown

PARKER (they/them) has a plethora of videos showcasing their solo travel adventures and creative art projects, but their apparent boldness masks their struggle to navigate this loud world full of people and their confusing relationships.

MERIDA (she/her), a mechanical engineer, is normally a confident and socially adept person, but her platonic crush (squish) on Parker has her making a fool of herself in front of her friends.

BRANDON and TREY (both he/him) are a couple that are happy to have their co-worker Merida third-wheel their vacation, as long as she puts up with their public displays of affection and merciless teasing.



TO

Borrowing from certain rom-com visual conventions—low contrast, soft focus—the film will be recognizable as a rom-com, but in a platonic, queer context.

Through close-ups that capture small moments (a stolen glance, a flash of recognition of the black ace ring,) the cinematography will lend the same feelings of possibility to a potential friendship that the genre typically reserves for romantic relationships.

STONE

By alternating between the two main characters' perspectives, the film will allow us to inhabit each character, exploring themes of isolation and community, bravery and fear, and how we can seem so different on the outside from how we feel on the inside.

The camera will initially depict the characters separately, as they perceive the world from places of difference. Gradually, as their illusions of each other are broken, they will come together in the frame.





The Squish

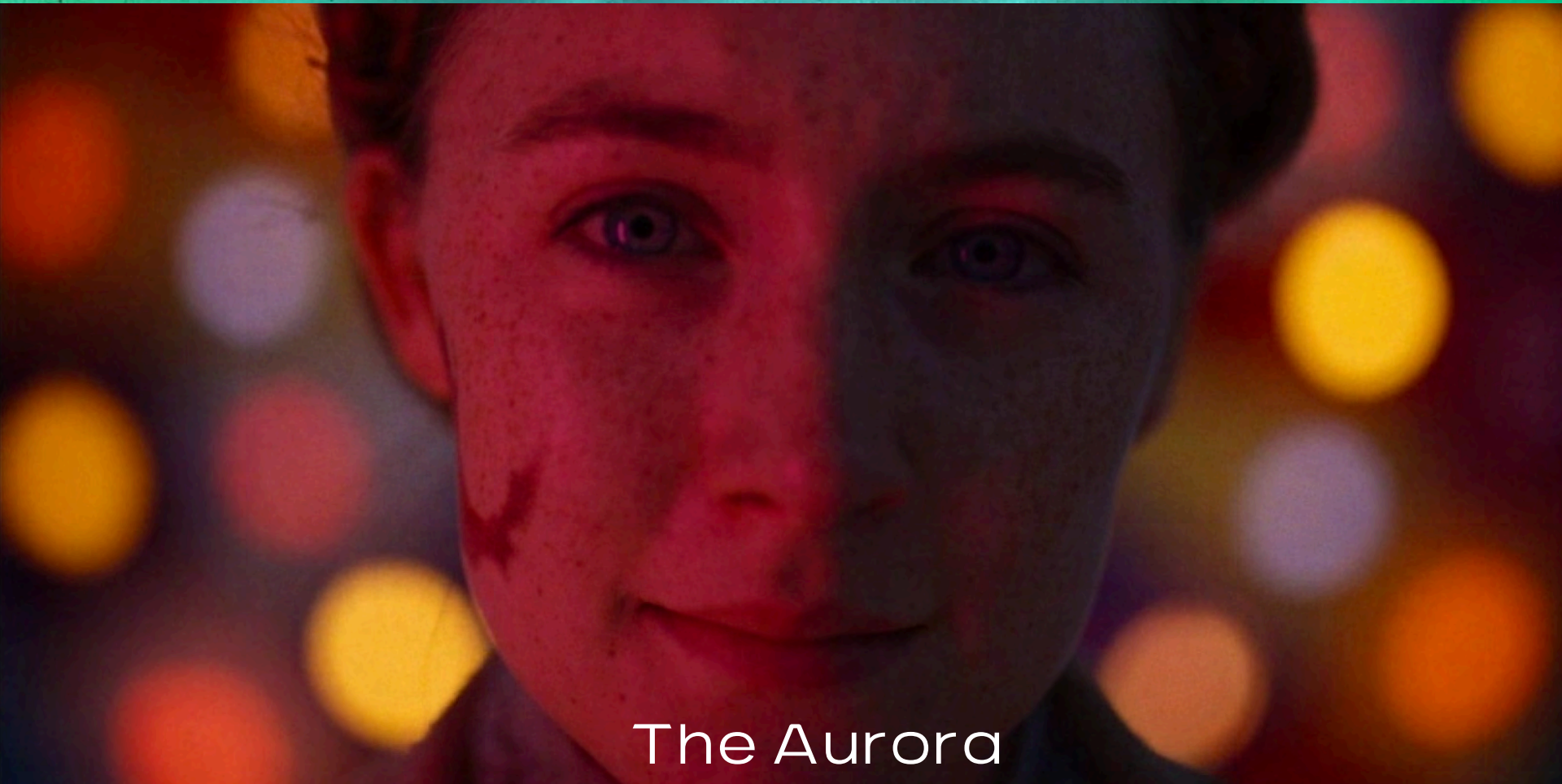


The Isolation

MOODBOARD



The Connection



The Aurora

TARGET AUDIENCE

Adults and teens interested in queer stories, particularly those on the aromantic and asexual spectrums

BACKGROUND INFO

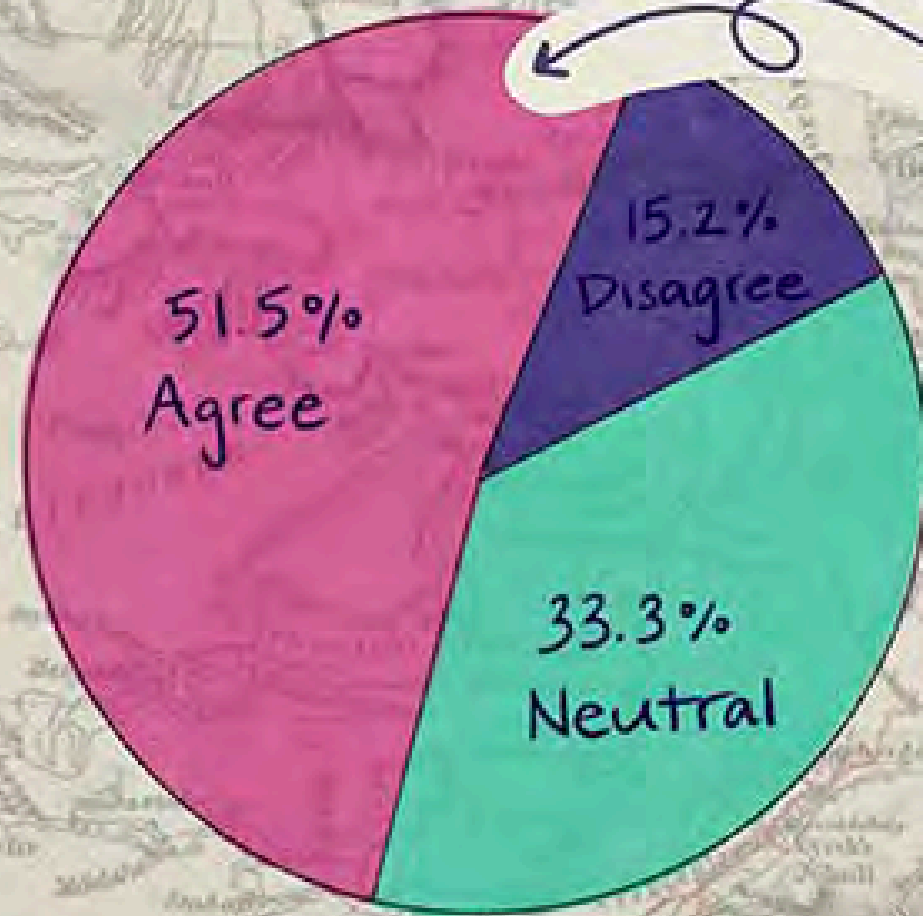
People on the aromantic or asexual spectrums experience little-to-no romantic or sexual attraction. A person may be on one spectrum and not the other. There are a wide variety of experiences within these spectrums, and numerous identity labels and words to give people the language to describe all the nuanced ways they experience attraction and relationships. E.g. a “squish” is a platonic crush. Most of these terms were invented within the past couple decades, due to the internet providing forums for people across the world to finally discuss their non-normative feelings.

Amatonormativity is a term that describes the societal assumptions that everyone prospers in an exclusive romantic relationship. Sex and romance are engrained throughout our stories, and marriage is baked into our laws, religions, and culture as the most important relationship two adults can have. For those who don't experience much romantic or sexual attraction, many feel “broken” until they learn about the aromantic and asexual spectrums, and even then, many feel a sense of grief over not getting to experience the type of life that society taught them they should want to have.

Rom-coms have been a large source of that amatonormative pressure. But at the heart of a rom-com is a wish-fulfillment story where two characters meet and their connection allows them to have a happily-ever-after. The desires for human connection and to be happy are nearly universal, and we believe romance isn't required for that to happen. We want to create a story where a new platonic relationship is just as valuable, coveted, exciting, and fulfilling as a romantic relationship.

Teens & Screens

An October 2023 report from UCLA's Center for Scholars & Storytellers



The majority of adolescents (**51.5%**) expressed a desire for more content centered around friendships and platonic relationships.

A near majority (**44.3%**) felt that romance in media is overused.

A surprising **39%** want to see more aromantic and/or asexual characters on screen.

COMPS



Zucchini

2018

Type

Short Film

Distribution

YouTube

Views

271K+



Heartstopper 2022

Type

TV Series

Distribution

Netflix

Views

30M+



Happiest Season 2020

Type

Feature Film

Distribution

Hulu

Views

416K+*

*opening weekend, best debut in Hulu's history



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Katrina Jackson

Katrina comes from a space science and digital video production background. She was previously the lead video producer for the Hubble Space Telescope, and was the lead editor for the Webby-award-winning live broadcasts surrounding the launch and commissioning of the James Webb Space Telescope. Her YouTube documentary for the JustSpace Alliance “Behind the Name: James Webb Space Telescope” about queer experiences in astronomy aired on Democracy Now. Currently, Katrina is an associate science producer for NHK and a freelance video editor and science communicator. Katrina has directed, produced, choreographed, and performed in various community theatre shows, and has edited three short films. Aromcom is Katrina’s narrative film directorial and writing debut.

Website: Katrina-Jackson.com

Social Media: [@Katrina13J](https://www.instagram.com/Katrina13J)

PRODUCTION TEAM



PRODUCED BY Catherine Bobalek

Catherine attended Savannah College of Art & Design, graduating with degrees in Film & Television and Dramatic Writing. Her short films Cupcake, Crossfire, and Lavende have collectively screened at over twenty

festivals. Her work has been peer-recognized as Emmy and Webby recipients. She is passionate about telling stories that center on women of the past and present, asexual and LGBTQIA+ topics, supporting BIPOC individuals and visibility, and creating work that promotes empathy.

Website: catherinebobalek.com

Instagram: [@catherinebobalek](https://www.instagram.com/catherinebobalek)



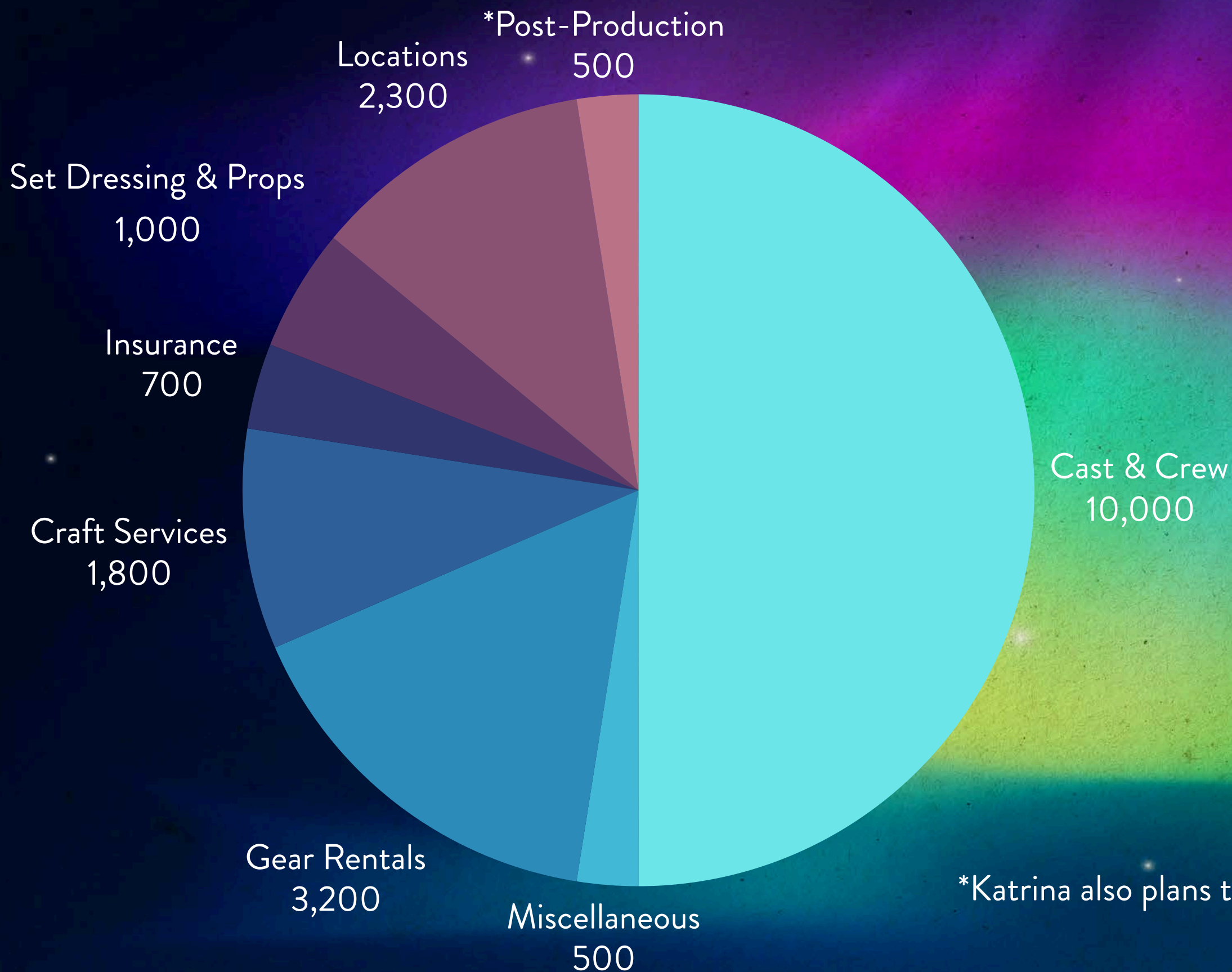
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY Madeleine Becker

After graduating with degrees in Film & Media Studies and Computer Science, Madeleine worked as a production assistant for Los Angeles-based production company Delirio Films. Since then, she has produced and assistant-directed

multiple award-winning narrative shorts, and more recently turned to cinematography as her primary role. She is fascinated by the possibility of visual language to help us reimagine structures of visibility and power. Madeleine is currently based in New York City, where she splits her time between working with computers and developing various film projects.

Instagram: [@baddiemeck](https://www.instagram.com/baddiemeck)

AROMCOM BUDGET

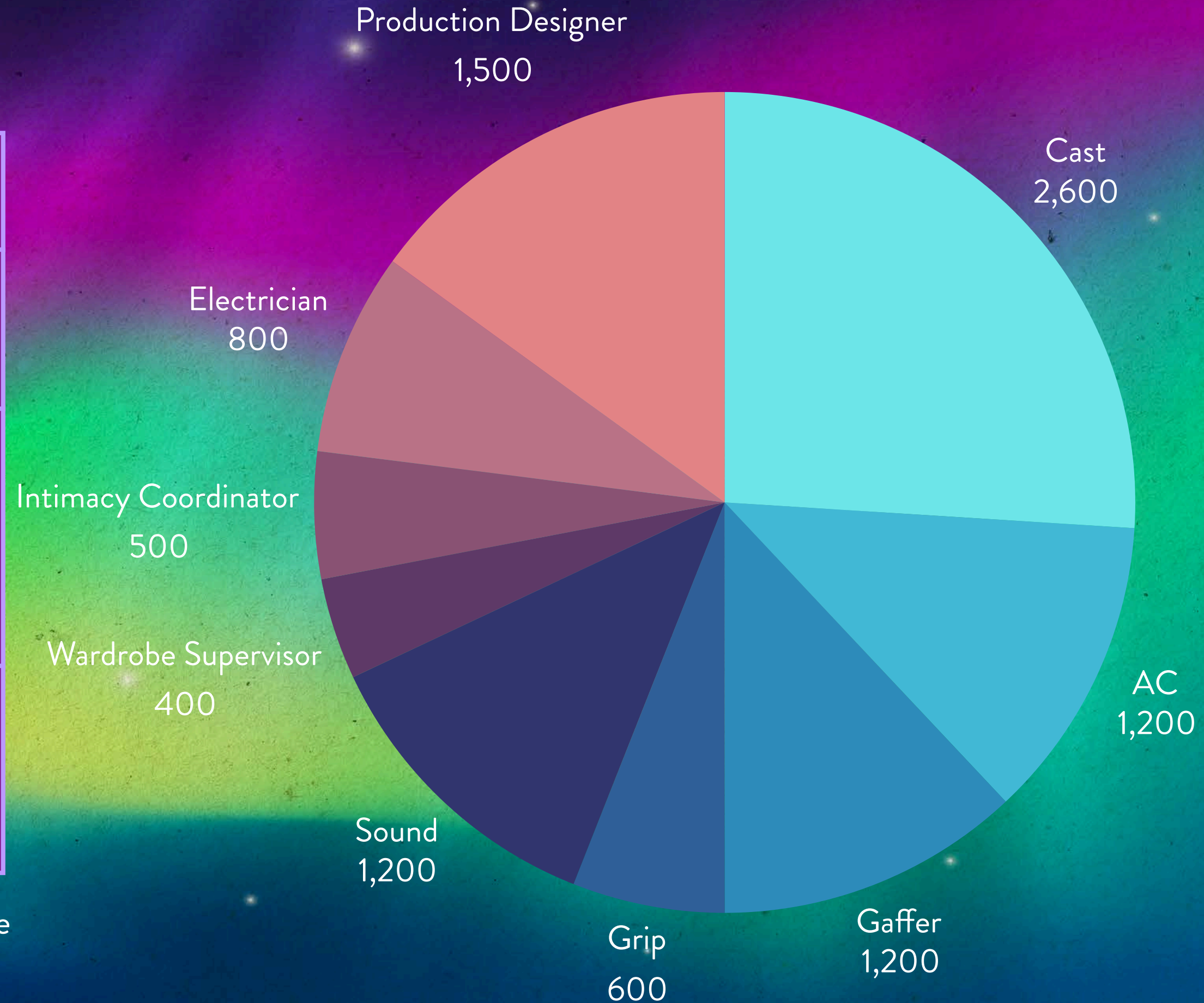


Budget	\$20,000
Script	11 pages
Shoot	2.5 days
Locations	3
Cast	4 + 25-30 Background
Crew	15-20

*Katrina also plans to edit the film, which is why post-production costs are minimal

CAST & CREW BREAKDOWN

Paid Cast	Parker, Merida, Brandon, Trey
Volunteer Cast	25-30 Background Actors
Paid Crew	Production Designer, AC, Gaffer, Grip, Electrician, Intimacy Coordinator, Wardrobe Supervisor/2nd AD
Volunteer Crew	Writer/Director/Editor, Producer, DP, 1st AD, Script Supervisor, 2-4 PAs



*If we raise more funds, we'll be able to pay more of the people



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