

BEE STING

A Film By George Segress





LOGLINE

HAUNTED BY THE SHADOWS OF A REPRESSIVE CHILDHOOD, A QUEER MAN DRIFTS THROUGH SURREAL NIGHTS OF SELF-DESTRUCTION—UNTIL A TENDER NEW LOVER OFFERS HIM THE CHANCE TO CONFRONT HIS PAST AND BEGIN THE SLOW WORK OF HEALING.

SYNOPSIS

PAUL KEEPS HIS PAST AT A DISTANCE—HIS LIFE DEFINED BY NIGHTLIFE, HOOKUPS, AND EMOTIONAL DETACHMENT THAT SHIELD HIM FROM THE WOUNDS OF A REPRESSIVE RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING. BUT WHEN HE MEETS LEO, A GENTLE AND GROUNDED QUEER MAN, THAT ARMOR BEGINS TO CRACK. AS INTIMACY BLOOMS, LONG-BURIED SHAME RESURFACES IN THE FORM OF HAUNTING VISIONS AND A MASKED FIGURE THAT BLURS THE LINE BETWEEN MEMORY AND NIGHTMARE. WHAT BEGINS AS A ROMANCE BECOMES A TURNING POINT: A SURREAL AND DEEPLY PERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH FEAR, DESIRE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HEALING. BEE STING IS A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION—OF LEARNING TO MOVE THROUGH TRAUMA NOT BY OUTRUNNING IT, BUT BY FINALLY LETTING SOMEONE IN.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BEE STING GREW OUT OF A NEED TO MAKE SENSE OF THE DISSONANCE BETWEEN QUEER DESIRE AND THE RELIGIOUS SHAME THAT SHAPED MY EARLY LIFE. I WASN'T INTERESTED IN DEPICTING TRAUMA THROUGH SPECTACLE—I WANTED TO EXPLORE HOW IT LINGERS IN THE BODY, DISTORTS PERCEPTION, AND REFRACTS EVEN THE MOST SINCERE CONNECTION THROUGH FEAR. PAUL'S JOURNEY IS ONE OF TRANSFORMATION, NOT IN THE DRAMATIC SENSE OF REVELATION, BUT IN THE QUIETER, MORE DIFFICULT WORK OF ALLOWING TENDERNESS TO ENTER A LIFE BUILT AROUND EMOTIONAL DISTANCE.

THE FILM DRAWS ON MY BROADER INTEREST IN HOW STRUCTURE AND RHYTHM COMMUNICATE FEELING. I APPROACH FILM THE WAY I APPROACH GAMES AND VISUAL SYSTEMS: AS EMOTIONAL ARCHITECTURE. THE HORROR ELEMENTS IN BEE STING AREN'T JUST AESTHETIC CHOICES—THEY'RE PART OF THE FORMAL LANGUAGE THROUGH WHICH THE FILM EXPRESSES SHAME, LONGING, AND SURRENDER. MASKED FIGURES, THE BEES, THE YELLOW STROBE—THEY'RE NOT JUST SYMBOLS, BUT SENSORY THRESHOLDS, WAYS OF EXTERNALIZING INTERIOR STATES. INFLUENCES LIKE DAVID LYNCH, ETHEL CAIN, AND LUCAS POPE HAVE TAUGHT ME HOW TO BUILD WORK THAT'S LIVED IN THE BODY AS MUCH AS THE MIND.

THIS ISN'T A COMING-OUT STORY. IT'S A STORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER—WHEN SURVIVAL HAS BECOME SECOND NATURE, BUT HEALING STILL FEELS UNFAMILIAR. I HOPE BEE STING RESONATES WITH ANYONE WHO'S EVER FELT HAUNTED WHILE BECOMING THEMSELVES.

-GEORGE SEGRESS



CAST

ELLIOTT HANSEN ~~~ PAUL
FREDDIE EICHENSTAT ~~~ YOUNG PAUL
NATALIE ELIZABETH ~~~ RUTH
GAVIN YI ~~~ LEO
DAVID POPA ~~~ ABE
RYDER MCDANIEL ~~~ MAN

CREW

WRITER/DIRECTOR/	JACKY HERRERA :SUBSTITUTE KEY GRIP
EDITOR: GEORGE SEGRESS	JIHO LEE :GRIP
1ST AD: LARA LLAMAS	JACKIE CARROLL :GRIP
PRODUCER: LAUREN WHITE	TAYLOR WARNE :GRIP
PRODUCER: MAC GLEASON	MADIE GIACONIA :PRODUCTION DESIGNER
DIRECTOR OF	SOFIA MIGALY :HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST
PHOTOGRAPHY: SAM CLAYTON	IAN CASTRACANE :ART DIRECTOR
1ST AC: JANKHNA SURA	AIDAN HOLMBERG :SCRIPT SUPERVISOR
2ND AC: SABRINA SCHMITT	BECCA SCHWARTZ :INTIMACY COORDINATOR
BOOM OP/COLORIST/	
]SOUND DESIGNER: NICK KAPP	
SOUND RECORDIST: AVA KENNERLY	
SOUND UTILITY: SAMANTHA JUNCO	
GAFFER: SUKWON JEONG	
GAFFER: SHANE CHUNG	
KEY GRIP: ELIANNA PHILLIPS	

