



YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU HAVE UNTIL  
YOU'RE LEFT...

# HIGH & DRY

A FILM BY JENN SANTOS

STARRING JENN SANTOS & JAMEELAH PRODUCED BY KAIULANI BUSH  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY KILANI VILLIAROS EDITED BY THOMAS DE LA ROSA ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CASEY LAGOS  
MIDNIGHT LANTERN PRODUCTIONS

**A THRILL-OF-A-RIDE HORROR SHORT ABOUT SURVIVAL AGAINST THE ODDS, AND A POWERFUL REMINDER FOR STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.**

**HIGH & DRY EXPLORES THE COMPLEXITIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND THE FIGHT AGAINST SYSTEMS THAT SEEK TO HARM THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT.**





## **LOGLINE**

**STRANDED IN THE WOODS WITH DANGER CLOSING IN AND NO WAY OUT, TWO QUEER FEMMES MUST CONFRONT THE MEN WHO MISTAKE THEM FOR PREY—AND PROVE THEY ARE ANYTHING BUT.**

## **SYNOPSIS**

What begins as a weekend escape spirals into a fight for survival. With no car, no phone service, and no water, two queer femmes of color—Jade and Imani—are forced to rely on strangers to find their way out.

But when a ride turns threatening, they must navigate more than just the wilderness—they must face the real-world horrors of misogyny and racial violence.



## *TONE*

GREEN ROOM **meets** THE DESCENT **with** GET OUT **vibes.**





# HIGH & DRY

**RUNNING TIME:**

**COUNTRY:**

**DIRECTED BY:**

**WRITTEN BY:**

**PRODUCED BY:**

**EDITED BY:**

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:**

**COMPOSER:**

13:20 MINUTES

USA

JENN SANTOS

JENN SANTOS

KAIULANI BUSH

MIDNIGHT LANTERN PRODUCTIONS

THOMAS DE LA ROSA

KILANI VILLIAROS

CASEY LAGOS

# THEMES

Survival stories remind us of the human capacity of resilience and perseverance. The harrowing clash against the elements, enduring psychological and bodily trauma, fueled by our gut impulse to get home.

This journey is especially trying for Imani and Jade, two queer femmes of color who face danger that lurks in the darkness: **abductors fueled by misogyny and racial discrimination.**

We aim to explore femme empowerment through the inevitable need of resilience when confronting oppressive forces. **The fight to exist.** To take up equitable space, unapologetically.

**It's a marginalized perspective that is yet to be seen on screen.**

HIGH & DRY is about friendship, intersectionality, and survival against racial exclusion and the patriarchy through the lens of two queer femmes.





## *DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT*

Regardless of where we come from, we can all relate to feeling like the other. Like someone else has chosen our narrative.

As a queer Filipino that grew up in a very white-centric, conservative place, I discovered my queerness and being non-binary later in life. And where I haven't lived the horror that these characters go through, I've certainly lived some horror that stemmed from what I look like.

I'm drawn to stories about identity, with feeling seen and understood. In my past work, the main characters struggle to fully own the parts of them that make up who they inherently are, parts that are generally judged and dismissed. *And with HIGH & DRY I want to demonstrate characters who find the power within themselves to not ask for permission.*

I resonate a lot with Jade. It took me a while to be open with my queerness because I didn't feel like society or people in my life would be understanding or accepting. It's been a long journey coming into my own, and now I feel confident to be out and to share all that makes me, me.

Queerness is more than a sexual orientation. It's about questioning societal norms, expectations, and the limitations that restrict our ability to love, express ourselves freely, and live authentically.

*HIGH & DRY explores the journey of self-expression through the eyes of those who are still discovering themselves.*



## WRITER / DIRECTOR JADE

JENN SANTOS (she/they) is a Filipinx-American, queer, non-binary, Actor/Writer/Director who loves horror movies almost as much as belting ballads on karaoke.

As an actor you'll recognize them from Mindy Kaling and Justin Noble's HBO MAX episodic series THE SEX LIVES OF COLLEGE GIRLS, adding some comedic relief to ~the dating scene~ and in NETFLIX's limited series BOO, BITCH where they play an aggressively sassy "May" across from Lana Condor. They've acted in a variety of films, television series, web series and commercials across platforms and festivals internationally.

Driven to explore complex characters and perspectives—while they impatiently wait for their \*indie film breakthrough role\*—Jenn writes and directs their own films that grapple with cultural and gender identity in front of a dramatic & horrific backdrop. Telling stories that delve into darker elements, their work shines a light on confronting fear and prejudices through empathy and a collective acknowledgement of our shared human experience.



## IMANI

JAMEELAH (she/her) is best known for her performance as Katya in the NETFLIX comedy feature film ME TIME, alongside Kevin Hart and Mark Wahlberg. She has also showcased her exceptional talent in Neil Jackson's directorial debut, OFF RAMP, and the independent feature JOLENE, starring Jessica Chastain. Jameelah holds a BFA from the American Music and Dramatic Arts Academy, demonstrating her extensive background in theatre, dance, and music.

While Jameelah has successfully portrayed a wide range of genres, she particularly enjoys delving into the realms of darkness, fantasy, and the extraordinary. As an accomplished character actor and stunt performer, she strives to captivate audiences and transport them into the enchanting and mystical dimensions of our world.





## PRODUCER

KAIULANI BUSH (she/her) is a committed producer with years of experience executing projects with precision and personality. Her knowledge gained from studio projects such as ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA, KING RICHARD and OPPENHEIMER is now being applied to the independent world that allows more freedom in the creative process. Coming from a background that ranges in sports, shorts, television, and feature films, she is ready to work with new voices that wish to shake up the movie experience.



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

KILANI VILLIAROS (she/they) is a cinematographer and camera operator based in Hawaii. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Cinematography from Academy of Art University in San Francisco and Academy of Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i. She then went on to pursue work in Labor Studies at the City College of San Francisco before jumping into film. After moving back home she started working on features, commercials, short films, and various TV shows, becoming the first woman in the camera union in Hawaii. She shot LAHI (2022) which was featured in several film festivals including Hawai'i International Film Festival. Furthermore Kilani is interested in exploring themes of identity and collective catharsis of all forms including narrative, documentary and experimental work.



## EDITOR

THOMAS DE LA ROSA (he/him) is a French editor, videographer, and musician. Originally from Paris and now based in Los Angeles, he has shaped a dynamic body of work across film, music, and commercial media. Thomas contributed to trailers for award-winning films including STAR IS BORN, JOKER, ROMA, BLACKKLANSMAN, THE FAVORITE, JOJO RABBIT, MINARI, and MANK and his commercial work include campaigns for AT&T, CORONA, FARMERS, HOMES.COM, and EXPEDIA. Thomas has helped cut music videos for artists like MEGAN THEE STALLION, KHELANI, and ANGELDU\$T and captured live energy behind the lens filming performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall for Grammy Award Winning Flamenco artists ANTONIO REY, DIEGO DEL MORAO, and REMEDIOS AMAYA as well as live studio sessions with AVENGED SEVENFOLD.





## COSTUME DESIGNER

KELSEY DUVAUCHELLE (they/them), professionally known as Maika I, is a Los Angeles based Kanaka Maoli-Filipinx drag artist, musician and costumer. From their years of experience in the film industry working on projects by MARVEL, NETFLIX, PARAMOUNT, and more, to late night queer events and live shows, they hope to live every aspect of their life and career as a shining example of queerness and Indigenous celebration.



## PRODUCTION DESIGNER

NATALIE PERACCHIO (she/her) is a filmmaker with a background in production design and SFX prop fabrication. She likes to explore themes of adolescence, persona, and transformation using analog film, puppets, and experimental techniques. Her short films have screened at festivals including the New Jersey Film Festival, Twin Cities Film Festival, Grrl Haus Cinema, Film Invasion LA, and others. Her work is also featured online in the DISCOVER INDIE FILM series on AMAZON PRIME VIDEO and NOBUDGE.COM. She grew up in Detroit, MI and earned a BA from Carnegie Mellon University and an MFA from Emerson College.



## COMPOSER

CASEY LAGOS (he/him) is an award winning Producer, Mixer, and Multi-Instrumentalist. He has produced and written music for Mega Pop Star KESHA, Hit Alternative I Indie Rock Band COLD WAR KIDS, Most Streamed Artist in the Philippines MOIRA DELA TORRE, WALT DISNEY PICTURE's MILLION DOLLAR ARM, scored commercial campaigns for PORSHE, and played in some of the biggest Rock bands of today ARCHITECTS and PARKWAY DRIVE.







SEED & SPARK



Writer & Director JENN SANTOS  
Producer KAIULANI BUSH  
Director of Photography KILANI VILLIAROS  
Editor THOMAS DE LA ROSA  
Original Music by CASEY LAGOS

First Assistant Director RONI CANIESO  
Production Coordinator KRISTINA KOSEVA

Executive Producers LARRY TENG  
STELLA ALEXANDRIAN  
ROSE WONG  
DIANDRA REYES  
EVA LAGOS  
TONY LAGOS JR.

Associate Producers FRANCISCO DE LA ROSA  
MATTHEW NAGATO  
DREW BANIN

JADE JENN SANTOS  
IMANI JAMEELAH  
RED JUSTIN SANDLER  
JOE ARTHUR ROBERTS  
BEN ALEX JEAN

Stunt Coordinator EMILY WILSON

Production Designer NATALIE PERACCHIO

Costume Designer KELSEY DUVAUCHELLE

Special Effects Makeup & Hair Artist KALISSA MORAN

Art Production Assistants ASH BEARD  
KELSEY DUVAUCHELLE

First Assistant Camera TONI NORDONE  
OLIVIA NEIL  
Second Assistant Camera KATRINA ANDAYA

Key Grip RICHIE LAWTON  
Best Boy Grip LE RICHARDSON

Gaffer ABHISHEK TATA  
Best Boy Electric ADITYA GUPTA  
Electric SHAHAN RAO  
SANJAY VENKATESAN

G&E Swings SETH FORESTER  
ROBBY OFFNER

Production Sound Mixer DAVID A. ALVAREZ

Script Supervisors KRISTEN CASE  
DEBORAH AVADA

Production Assistants JORDAN MILES  
MO BABUR

Post Production Supervisor THOMAS DE LA ROSA  
Sound Design & Mixer JUSTIN CARPENTER  
Colorist ADOLFO MARTINELLI  
Finishing Artist JEREMY KEHOE

VFX Artists SPENCER SMYTH  
MARIUS NELSON  
THOMAS DE LA ROSA  
JEREMY KEHOE

Graphic Motion Artist LEAH DUBOC  
Movie Poster Artist CAMILA NORIEGA  
Poster Tagline JUSTIN SANTOS

"HIGH & DRY"  
Performed by HOT TEA  
Written by NATALIE FIELD & DANIELLE SALOMON  
Mix & Mastered by CASEY LAGOS

"LET GO"  
Performed by JENN SANTOS  
Written by CASEY LAGOS  
Mix & Mastered by CASEY LAGOS





# HIGH & DRY

A HORROR SHORT

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