

kansas city
daniela anne canter



TITLE: <<**kansas city**>>

DIRECTOR: daniela anne cantu

GENRE: horror, drama

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: france-usa

PRODUCTION YEAR: 2025

DURATION: 18:38

LANGUAGE: english

RATIO: 4096 × 2160, 1.9:1

SOUND: 5.1, stereo



synopsis

Parker and Bianca, two young adults, experience the unraveling of their relationship as Parker develops a deluded sexual obsession with erotic online personality Kansas Fox. As his obsession deepens, he believes she is digitally following him wherever he goes and communicating with him by any means possible.

cast

caleb james parker-pollard: PARKER

lucie tellier: BIANCA

tamara lowy: BIANCA'S MOTHER

albane belec: FRANCES

yonca talu: BARISTA

extras:

artem bakatov, kaia capener, solana cordon, avinoam israel-davis, sunny keller
julius goldberg: PARKER STAND IN

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue turtleneck sweater, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is holding a white mug with both hands and looking out a window to the right. The setting is a kitchen with light-colored wooden cabinets and a stainless steel range hood above her. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window.

key crew

DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER: daniela anne cantu

PRODUCER: isabella gierbolini

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: gloria & ernesto cantu

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: quintana jones

EDITOR: avinoam israel-davis

DIRECTOR OF VFX: ayaan ghoshal



daniela anne cantu

director/screenwriter

bio

Daniela Anne Cantu is a filmmaker and performer, her work often grappling with sexuality and sensuality. Coming from a theatrical background, her directorial practice often centers on performance, drawing inspiration from methods developed by Uda Hagen and Sanford Meisner. Spending the first eighteen years of her life living in rural Texas, her work emphasizes the emotional and social effects of adjusting to urban, unfamiliar environments. In 2023, her mockumentary +33 07 DATE ME PLS was awarded BEST CAST at the Alternative Film Festival.



director's statement

With the film, I aim to talk about the psychology of my generation in this new digital culture and how it directly affects relationships. Despite this, I not only want to talk about parasociality in this context, I want to talk about porn addiction—

an uncomfortable topic for sure, but something that needs to be discussed if we want to preserve intersexual respect between the women and men of today, especially in regards to the youth of our society.

In an interview with Kris Taylor, an academic of psychology with a focus on porn and sex addiction, he begged the question of whether the promise of connectivity between influencers and audiences in digital, sexual spaces, promising a sort of relationship, is better or worse for these typically male members of the audience—

that young men are often showcased this two-dimensional image of what women should be and act like, and how that skewed perspective offered can mess with the heads of young men, making it difficult for them to flourish and find meaningful relationships with women in the future.

I want to approach this idea head-on

while at the same time approaching this circumstance sympathetically, as these situations tend to occur out of anxiety towards romantic and sexual relationships; the internet tends to showcase bad examples of how to participate in these relationships.

Kansas City is a story about how the misuse and misinterpretation of women and sex perpetuated by a patriarchal digital space can affect the psyche of young men and their relationships with the ones that they hold dear.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black beanie and a black t-shirt, is looking down at a smartphone in her hands. She is standing in a shower stall with white tiled walls. The t-shirt has a red square with the number '1' and the word 'TAKE' printed on it, and the word 'CARUBA' printed on a black rectangular patch. The background is a plain white wall.

isabella gierbolini esteva
producer

bio

Isabella Gierbolini Esteva is a Puerto Rican producer and multidisciplinary artist who creates as an act of liberation. With a foundation in visual art, Isabella approaches production as a form of reclamation—of voice, of narrative, of cultural memory. Whether producing film, video, or interdisciplinary projects, she centers work that challenges inherited histories, particularly those shaped by colonial trauma. As a producer, her practice is rooted in truth-telling, resistance, and the belief that collaboration can be a tool for healing and renewal, values reflected in projects like KANSAS CITY.



quintana ruth jones

director of photography

bio

Quintana Jones is a multi-disciplinary artist working primarily with experimental image-making in film, printmaking, and poetry. Her work explores presence and seriality, often utilizing poetic structure, haptics, and community-based storytelling. Growing up in the United States, Quintana straddled rural and urban life, before moving to Paris for a BFA in Film Art with Emerson College and Paris College of Art, graduating in 2025. In 2021, she was awarded Best First-Time Director at Indie Short Fest Los Angeles. She enjoys getting lost on walks and giving her friends manicures.



avi israel-davis
editor

bio

Avinoam Israel-Davis is an American filmmaker from Portland, OR. Often centering the online environment in her work, she is fascinated by the way the internet shapes and transforms contemporary culture. Avi also has an interest in supernatural stories. She finds the supernatural to be a helpful lens to elevate stories to a place of heightened emotion, where feelings manifest physically. She appreciates cinema as a larger-than-life medium, and enjoys flashy, over the top visuals and fast paced editing.

note from the editor

During the post-production process for Kansas City, I worked alongside Daniela Cantu to shape the film towards her vision. This was a non-linear and iterative process, where we wanted to see just how far we should push the film's explicit themes. Exploring the glitching effects of datamosh, motivated overlays, online interfaces, less explicit visuals contrasted with R rated soundscapes, and vibrant color palettes; we were able to capture the intensity of Parker's inner world.

caleb james parker-pollard

parker



bio

Caleb Parker-Pollard is a North Texas based actor who is making his film debut in Kansas City. He sees working on this film as a wonderful learning experience and something that he will never forget, and he aims to pursue performing in film.



lucie tellier

bianca

bio

Lucie's love for acting began during a workshop at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Washington, D.C., where she first felt the magic of stepping into someone else's shoes. That experience stayed with her and led her to study at Cours Florent Paris. Since then, she has taken on a variety of roles on stage and screen, each one teaching her something new. In Kansas City, she connected deeply with the role of Bianca, exploring her quiet strength and vulnerabilities. Eager to keep growing, Lucie will be studying at East 15 in London next year.



thank you

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