



Colors of the Soul

a film by
Lauren Schwartzbard



COLORS OF THE SOUL

Description:

Animated Micro Short

Running Time:

1 minutes 39 seconds

Story, Direction & Produced By:

Lauren Schwartzbard

Created By:

Lightning Animation

Design By:

Allison Ataide *Music*

By:

Jordan Allison

LOGLINE

In a black-and-white world where color is forbidden, a chance encounter changes a girl's life forever.

SYNOPSIS

A girl lives with her cat in a monotone world that rains colors - but no one is allowed to touch them. One day, her cat escapes and the girl accidentally interacts with the colorful rain, It is beautiful and entralling and the girl abandons the rules to dance. As the rain stops, a patrol arrives. They whitewash and capture her. The girl is again surrounded by black and white. That is, until she realizes the color is inside her.



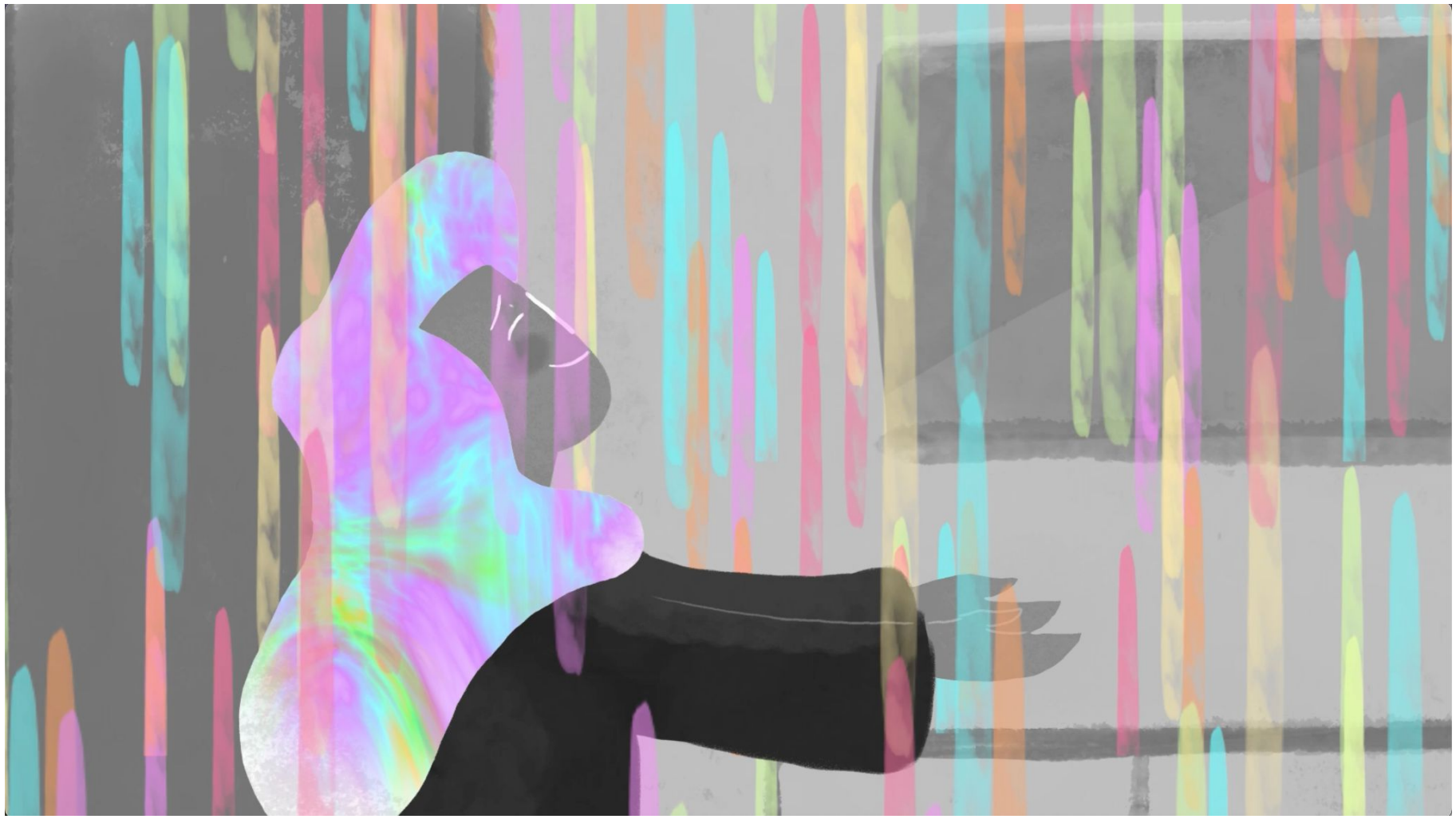


DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As someone who has been in various therapy programs since high school and tried a plethora of medications, it is very important to me to share stories that increase representation of mental illnesses in a non-romanticized way.

Colors of the Soul explores the stark contrast of life during a depressive episode and a manic or hypomanic episode. From my own experiences, there is a degree to which depression is normalized and accepted in modern society. Common symptoms of depression include feeling sad or anxious, a lack of interest in hobbies, trouble sleeping or sleeping too much, headaches, and digestive problems. Many people have experienced at least one of these symptoms in their daily life and often are sympathetic to them. However, mania and hypomania do not receive the same treatment. Common symptoms of mania include an elated mood, racing thoughts, little sleep, acting impulsively or recklessly, being easily irritated and distracted, and feeling grandiose. These experiences tend to be looked down upon and shamed.

It is my hope that this project will offer a new perspective on the heartbreak of being harshly treated or misunderstood for feelings and expressions out of human control. I initially wrote the script before I'd been diagnosed with Bipolar 2 which, to me, validates my experiences when I did not know what was happening with my brain. I had initially envisioned the piece as being live action but when I revisited the story and tweaked it slightly a few years later, I felt animation made more sense. Human emotions and perceptions of the world can be very difficult to articulate so it is my hope that animating the piece will make it easier to digest for the audience.



WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Lauren Schwartzbard

Lauren Schwartzbard, a visual storyteller and media artist, specializes in directing and producing films that increase the non-romanticized representation of mental health and self-growth. Lauren has experience across the lifecycle of media projects from development to set work to post production. She has worked on projects such as *Oppenheimer*, *The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special*, *Postcard from Earth*, and *The Wizard of Oz at Sphere*. Currently, she is a Production Coordinator at Sphere Entertainment Co. Lauren holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & Media Arts (Directing Concentration) from Temple University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Her work can be found at

<https://www.laurenelizabethschwartzbard.com/>.





LIGHTNING ANIMATION

Lightning Animation, the team behind this short film, has worked on such notable projects as Song of the Sea, The Breadwinner, Hogwarts Legacy, and Marvel 1943: Rise of Hydra.

<https://lightninganimation.com>



PRAISE

Indiegogo Creative Spotlight Fall 2024

Urbanite Arts & Film Festival 2025 Official Selection - SCREENPLAY SHORT

Sunnyside Shorts International Film Festival 2025 Official Selection



Colors of the Slump 4

FULL CREDITS

Directed By

Lauren Schwartzbard

Story By

Lauren Schwartzbard

Produced By

Lauren Schwartzbard

Created By

Lightning Animation

Design & VFX By

Allison Ataide

Animation By

Rachel Schmieg

Allison Ataide

Storyboard Artists

Emma Grace Reynolds

Brandon Beltran

Music By

Jordan Allison

Executive Producer

Shyam Kannapurakkaran

Associate Producer

Nicole Schwartzbard



CONTACT INFORMATION

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