

A FILM BY ANDRONACHE STUDIO PRODUCTION



The poster features a man and a woman in profile, looking towards the right. The man is on the left, wearing a dark shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a dark jacket. Several Queen of Hearts playing cards are scattered around them, some appearing to be in motion or falling. The background is dark with a subtle glow.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

EVERY LIE LEAVES A SCAR

CAST ANGELA ANDRONACHE, DARREN ANSELMO, BARBARA RYAN, LISA L. MARTIN, MICHAEL LABOSKA

JAMES FERRIGNO, SINA ZOLGHADR, ANDREW DELICE, SHARON STEPHEN, JOANNA TASSIE

WRITTEN BY ANGELA ANDRONACHE & FRAN LEON LUY DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY ANGELA ANDRONACHE COOP ALBERT ARONOV

DCAM OP DANIEL LUACES MENDOZA & GABRIEL GELADO VEGA EDITED BY ALBERT ARONOV 2ND EDITOR ANGELA ANDRONACHE

SOUND RECORDIST & DESIGN KEVIN CACEIDO POSTER DESIGN MANZOOR ILAHI

A SHORT FILM

DIRECTED BY ANGELA ANDRONACHE

When a group of thieves delivers a ghost from her past, a calculating woman seizes the chance to turn blood, betrayal, and a single Queen of Hearts card into her ultimate weapon.



QUEEN OF HEARTS

Detective (2025)

SYNOPSIS

When a reckless gang of thieves delivers an unexpected hostage into Mara's home, the past she buried erupts to the surface. Matt, a ghost from her childhood, holds a letter that threatens to expose a lifetime of silence, betrayal, and abuse.

Through tense interrogations and haunting flashbacks, Mara plays a dangerous game, turning memory into leverage, and leverage into survival. With a single Queen of Hearts card as her weapon, she decides that truth is hers to control. But as her mask slips, the question remains: is she a cold-blooded killer, or a survivor rewriting her own fate?



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Angela Andronache. Director

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Queen of Hearts was born from a desire to explore silence, power, and survival. Mara's story reflects the weight of secrets women carry and the ways they reclaim control in worlds designed to suppress them.

This film is not about revenge as spectacle. It's about the cost of silence, the scars betrayal leaves behind, and the blurred line between monster and survivor.

Visually, I wanted a cold, noir-inspired thriller with shadows that feel alive, tension built on stillness, and sudden bursts of violence that land like punctuation. *Gone Girl* meets *Prisoners*, a female-driven psychological thriller that stays with you long after the credits roll.

VISUAL STYLE & MOOD

- Palette: Deep blacks, stark whites, muted greys, and piercing reds that echo the Queen of Hearts card.
- Atmosphere: Cold interrogation rooms, smoke and shadow, faces half-lit with secrets.
- Cinematography: Slow, precise camera work that lingers on silence and shifts power through framing. Sudden bursts of violence cut like punctuation against the stillness.
- Mood: Tense, elegant, haunting, dangerous.
- References: *Gone Girl* (controlled precision), *Prisoners* (moral darkness), *Killing Eve* (female-led intensity).



CHARACTERS



Mara – A poised, calculating woman hiding deep trauma. She controls with silence until silence becomes her weapon.

Matt Jones – The ghost from Mara's past whose presence unravels the truth she tried to bury.

Detectives Sparks & Jackson – Relentless, skeptical, circling Mara like predators, but unsure if she's prey or predator herself.



The Thieves

Berry
June
Zip
Peanut
Mimi

Reckless intruders who spark the chaos and expose Mara's buried truth.

MARKET & AUDIENCE

- Target Audience: 18–45, fans of psychological thrillers, strong female leads, and morally complex stories.
- Comparables:
 - Gone Girl – \$369M worldwide box office.
 - Nightcrawler – \$50M, cult thriller hit
 - Killing Eve – Emmy-winning, global success.
- Appeal: Festival circuit prestige + streaming demand for dark, female-led thrillers.

DISTRIBUTION & FESTIVAL STRATEGY

- Festival Path: Targeting Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, Venice, Miami Film Festival.
- Streaming Appeal: Perfect fit for Netflix, Amazon Prime, or Hulu's psychological thriller category.
- Expansion: The short film serves as proof-of-concept for a feature-length thriller.
 - Precedent: Whiplash, Lights Out, and Thunder Road – all shorts that became successful features.

TEAM



Angela Andronache


Director | Producer | Writer | Actress


Multi-award-winning filmmaker (Small Things, The Box, Stubborn Grace, etc.), known for female-driven psychological narratives. Angela's passion for filmmaking stems from a deep desire to tell unique stories. She believes that strong emotions are powerful enough to convey compelling narratives.


Growing up in a small town, Angela faced challenges that shaped her perspective, making her both intuitive and detail-oriented. Her extensive acting training, under various esteemed coaches, has given her insight into the actor's craft, enabling her to direct with empathy and precision. She has a natural talent for understanding lighting, set design, and authentic performances, which she brings to life through careful analysis and attention.

CONTACT

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 [@Angela.Andronache](https://www.instagram.com/Angela.Andronache)

"Good stories take us by surprise. They make us think and have unique feelings. They remain in our memory for years to come, they help us remember ideas and concepts in a way that nothing else can."



Fran Leon Luy

Co-writer,
Assistant Director



Albert Aronov

DOP & Editor.



Daniel Luaces Mendoza

Camera Operator



Gabriel Gelado Vega

2nd Camera Operator



Kevin Caceido

Sound Recordist &
Design.



Francisco J. Ortega

1st AD & Script
Supervisor



Chris Pinto

Prop Master



Michael Arango

BTS Photo & Video

ANDRONACHE[®]
Angela Andronache
STUDIO
PRODUCTION

Andronache Studio Production - Miami-based, award-winning production company committed to strong female-led stories.

BUDGET & FINANCING

Short Film (Completed):

Produced independently through Andronache Studio. Queen of Hearts was filmed with a lean crew, minimal locations, and practical effects. The completed short now serves as a proof-of-concept for the feature film.

Feature Expansion (Planned):

We plan to expand Queen of Hearts into a feature-length psychological thriller with an indie model designed for maximum impact and efficiency.

- Estimated Budget Range: \$250K – \$750K
- Production Approach:
 - Minimal Locations: Primarily set in a police interrogation room and one townhome/garage.
 - Lean Crew: Experienced independent filmmakers who specialize in high-quality, small-scale productions.
 - Emerging Talent: Strong performances from rising actors instead of costly name talent.
- Use of Funds:
 - 60% Production (cast, crew, equipment, locations).
 - 20% Post-Production (editing, sound, color grading, festival-ready deliverables).
 - 10% Marketing & Festival Campaigns.
 - 10% Distribution & Contingency.

Revenue Potential:

- Festival circuit (awards, recognition, critical press).
- Streaming & licensing (Netflix, Prime, Hulu, Shudder).
- International distribution (psychological thrillers with strong female leads perform consistently well worldwide).

Positioning:

The short film demonstrates proof-of-concept. The feature version of Queen of Hearts is designed to scale as a high-quality, low-budget psychological thriller – making it attractive to investors seeking maximum impact with controlled costs.

Comparable Case Studies

- Whiplash (2014)
 - Started as a short film proof-of-concept at Sundance.
 - Expanded into a feature on a \$3.3M budget.
 - Grossed \$49M worldwide and won 3 Academy Awards.
- Blue Ruin (2013)
 - Produced on a \$420K budget.
 - Premiered at Cannes, won the FIPRESCI Prize, and secured strong festival + streaming distribution.
 - Praised as a landmark indie thriller.
- Lights Out (2016)
 - Began as a viral short film on YouTube.
 - Picked up by New Line Cinema, expanded into a feature on a \$5M budget.
 - Grossed \$148M worldwide.

These case studies demonstrate that lean-budget thrillers can deliver outsized returns when the concept, execution, and audience demand align – exactly where Queen of Hearts is positioned.

SPECIAL

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VISUAL STORYTELLER THROUGH
THE POWER OF IMAGE

