

VALLEY FEVER



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ATLANIX PICTURES PRESENTS HEIRO STUDIOS A FILM BY ANTONIO PINHEIRO BROOKE BUTLER BLAKE JENNER "VALLEY FEVER"
MUSIC BY ACASIO PINHEIRO EDITOR CHRISTOPHER ORNE PRODUCTION DESIGNER FERNANDO ACOSTA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DUANE MIELIWOCKI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MATT JENNER PRODUCED BY BLAKE JENNER CLAYTON NIX ANTONIO PINHEIRO BRENDEN RODRIGUEZ ROBERT ULRICH
SCREENPLAY BY ANTONIO PINHEIRO DIRECTED BY ANTONIO PINHEIRO

A Short Film by Antonio Pinheiro

18 mins. | Horror | 2025

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/FAnuhnzhOBw>

LOGLINE



ON A WEEKEND HIKING TRIP, A YOUNG WOMAN SENSES DANGER AS JEALOUSY AND RESENTMENT TURN HER BROTHER'S GROUP VIOLENTLY UNSTABLE.

SYNOPSIS

Luna arrives on a remote hiking trip hoping for time alone with her brother, only to find he's brought his new fiancée and a group she never asked for. What begins as an awkward reunion quickly darkens, as passive politeness gives way to resentment, jealousy, and control. Shut out and increasingly uneasy, Luna senses something is wrong long before the group does. When an uninvited ex surfaces and buried secrets spill, the fragile social order collapses.

Violence erupts without warning, forcing Luna to confront a chilling truth: the real threat was never outside the group — it's been there all along. Blending dry humor with mounting dread, *VALLEY FEVER* examines how entitlement, emotional manipulation, and the hunger for belonging can turn deadly.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT/BIO



Antonio Pinheiro is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and writer, and a graduate of NYU's Cinema Studies program. A former stand-up comedian, his work blends dark humor with genre storytelling, focusing on character-driven tension and emotional unease. His directorial debut, *Location 4* (2023), screened at festivals worldwide, and he co-runs Heiro Studios alongside his brother Acasio.

He directed *VALLEY FEVER* to explore how humor and horror often come from the same place: discomfort. Rather than relying on traditional scares, the film uses tone, silence, and character behavior to create unease—inviting the audience to laugh at the absurdity while sensing the danger underneath. Influenced by films like *Tucker & Dale vs. Evil*, Pinheiro let ambiguity and performance guide the storytelling. The experience reinforced his belief in trusting actors, embracing constraints, and allowing discomfort to speak louder than exposition—principles that continue to shape his work.

CAST HIGHLIGHTS

Luna Vanwick

Actor: Irene Choi

Luna joins the trip hoping to reconnect with her brother, only to be sidelined by his fiancé and pushed to the margins. As tensions rise, she becomes the group's emotional anchor — fighting to keep everyone alive while forcing her brother to face what he's refusing to see.

Irene Choi is best known for *Community*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, and *Freaks of Nature*. A Harvard graduate, she brings sharp intelligence, grounded restraint, and precise emotional control to every performance.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3494378/>

Alex Vanwick

Actor: Hayden Szeto

Alex is emotionally passive and desperate for validation, mistaking his fiancé's control for stability. His refusal to assert himself — or protect those closest to him — leaves him dangerously detached from reality.

Hayden Szeto broke out in *The Edge of Seventeen* and has since appeared in *Truth or Dare*, *Lodge 49*, and *The Good Place*. His work balances vulnerability and humor, grounding heightened situations in human behavior.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4861659/>

Casey Harrington

Actor: Brooke Butler

Casey is a manipulative performer who treats every interaction as theater. Charismatic and controlling, her need to dominate the narrative turns violent when her carefully constructed image begins to crack.

Brooke Butler trained at USC's School of Dramatic Arts and has performed on stage and screen since childhood. Her background in music and movement brings discipline, precision, and volatility to the role.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4703551/>

Tristan Rothschild

Actor: Blake Jenner

Initially dismissed as a dangerous stalker, Tristan's presence reveals unsettling truths the group would rather ignore. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear he knows more than he should — and why.

Blake Jenner rose to prominence on *Glee* and starred in *Everybody Wants Some!!*, *The Edge of Seventeen*, and *American Animals*. He is also a producer and writer, bringing intensity and unpredictability to his work.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4703551/>

PRODUCERS/KEY CREW

Written & Directed by

Antonio Pinheiro

Antonio Pinheiro is a Los Angeles–based filmmaker and writer, and an NYU Cinema Studies graduate. A former stand-up comedian, he made his directorial debut with *Location 4* (2023), which screened at festivals worldwide. He co-runs Heiro Studios with his brother Acasio, focusing on character-driven genre storytelling.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm14558408/>

Produced by

Robert J. Ulrich

Robert J. Ulrich is an Emmy-winning casting director and producer with credits including *Glee*, *The Boys*, *Supernatural*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Feud: Bette and Joan*. A nine-time Emmy nominee and recipient of the CSA Lifetime Achievement Award, he founded Stay Relevant Productions and most recently produced *The Surrender*, which premiered at SXSW 2025.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm14558408/>

Produced by / Starring

Blake Jenner

Blake Jenner is an actor, producer, and writer whose credits include *Everybody Wants Some!!*, *The Edge of Seventeen*, and *American Animals*. He made his writing debut with *Billy Boy*, which premiered at Fantastic Fest and earned him the Rising Star Award at the San Diego International Film Festival.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4296357/>

Director of Photography

Duane Mieliwocki

Duane Mieliwocki is a veteran Director of Photography with extensive television experience, including *Nip/Tuck*, *Glee*, and *9-1-1*. Known for efficient production and cinematic lighting, his recent work includes *The Holiday Junkie* for Lifetime.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0583936/>

FESTIVAL RECOGNITION

Berlin Short Film Awards

Best Horror/Thriller



The Macoproject Film Festival

Honorable Mention



CONTACT

E-mail: valleyfeverfilm@gmail.com

Website: vfshort.wordpress.com

Instagram: @vf_short

X: @vf_short

TikTok: @vf_short

www.filmfreeway.com/valley-fever



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