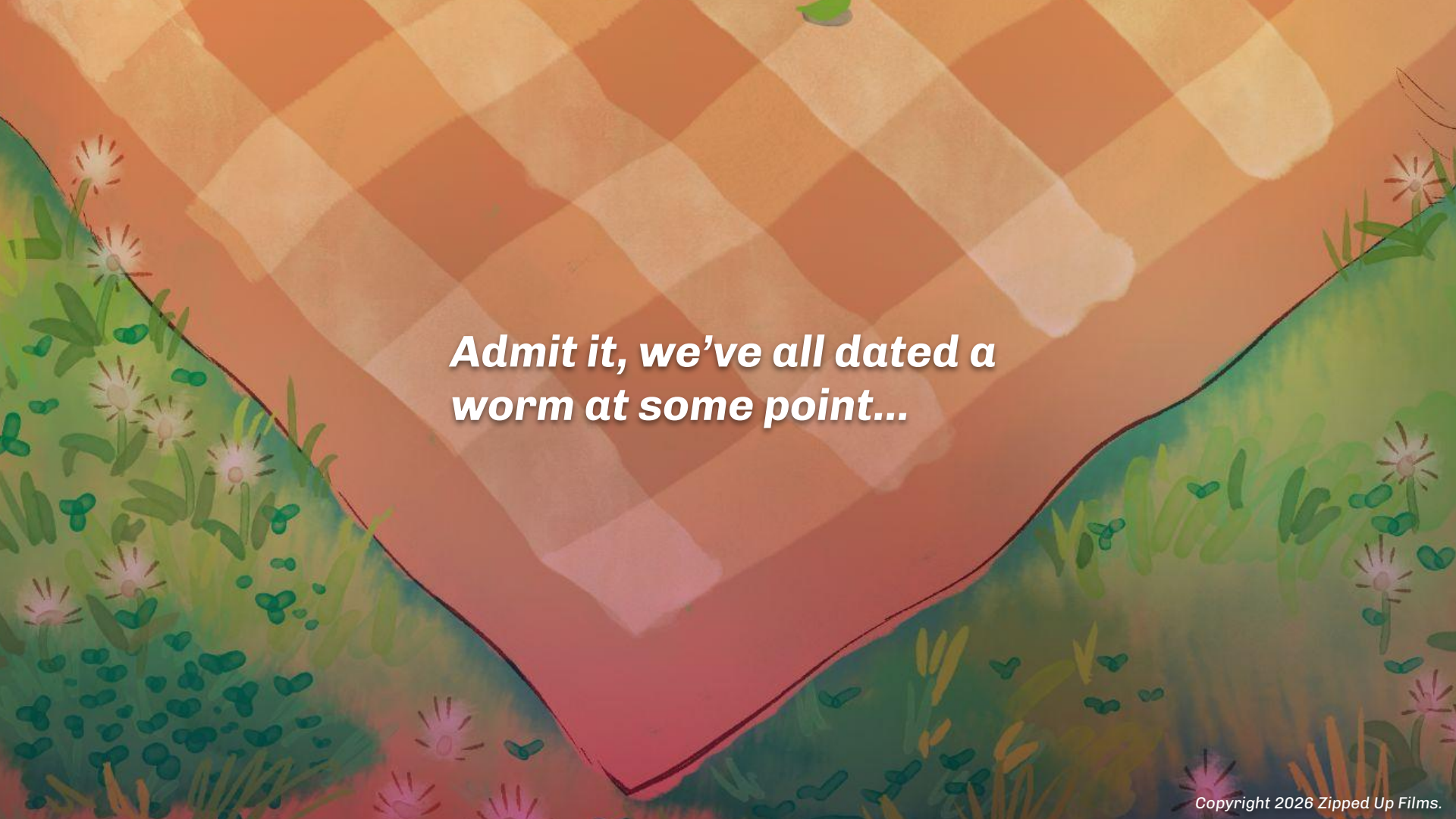


Worms!

An Animated Miniseries



The background is a stylized illustration. The top half features a sky with a checkered pattern of light and dark orange and yellow squares. Below the sky are two green hills with a dark red outline. The hills are covered in various green plants, including small blue flowers and larger pinkish-purple flowers. The overall style is painterly and whimsical.

***Admit it, we've all dated a
worm at some point...***

Premise

After Gillian leaves her worm-ex behind in her hometown, she sets her sights on a new city... meeting more boyfriends, more bugs, and more struggles of growing up!

*A Rom-Com Anthology
(6 five minute episodes)*

Short Film Trailer



Series Synopsis



“Would you still love me if I was a...”

The miniseries follows Gillian, our headstrong & adventurous young protagonist from the short film!

The pilot recounts her relationship with Worm, and how she left him and her hometown to start fresh in a new city. The series is an anthology, telling a new fable and cautionary tale about a different kind of boy (or bug) you may “encounter in the wild.” From obvious delinquents like blood-sucking mosquitos, to seemingly "good-guy" grasshoppers that turn into locusts. The series finale hones in on a firefly, a good-natured tech guy who Gillian finally finds compatibility with. But it's up to Gillian to finally decide for herself that she can live a perfectly fulfilling life — with or without a bug in it!

*“WORMS!” is a comedic coming-of-age fable —
exploring the meaning of relationships & lessons each boy/bug can give us.*

Series Outline

PILOT



- Recounts the short film's fable of Gillian leaving behind her first love, **Worm**, in her hometown.

EPISODE 2



- **Cockroach** is your first man in a new city: seemingly romantic, but much too persistent.

EPISODE 3



- **Beetle** is loud & fun, rocking out to the guitar in his band, but leaves Gillian behind on the tour.

EPISODE 4



- **Bumble bee** is well-meaning but far too busy; never making enough time to spend with Gillian.

EPISODE 5



- **Locust** started off as a grasshopper at first! But after dipping his toe into a satanic cult, he forever changed...

EPISODE 6



- **Firefly** is a nice guy in tech, who's a beacon of light! But Gillian is finally ready to take a break — she's self-fulfilled and fine on her own.

Story Arc of Each Episode

ACT 1

- Hot off the cusp of her last ex, Gillian stumbles upon a new bug in a unique romantic way and falls in love once again!



ACT 2

- Gillian gets to know this novel creature, and she gets intertwined into its way of life/habitat. Of course, everything seems great... *until it isn't anymore.*



ACT 3

- The pair break things off (sometimes not by choice!) and Gillian learns a new lesson; growing a little more independent & wiser with each episode.



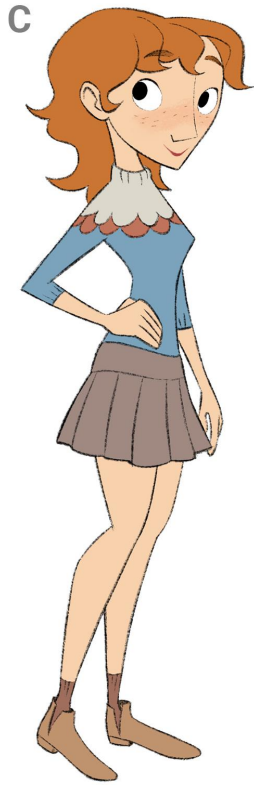
Target Audiences



- **Young Adults & Teens (ages 15-35) with a primary focus on women & LGBTQ+ entering the dating scene...**
- **Targeting fans of adorable animation, coming-of-age comedies, & fan-based romances!**



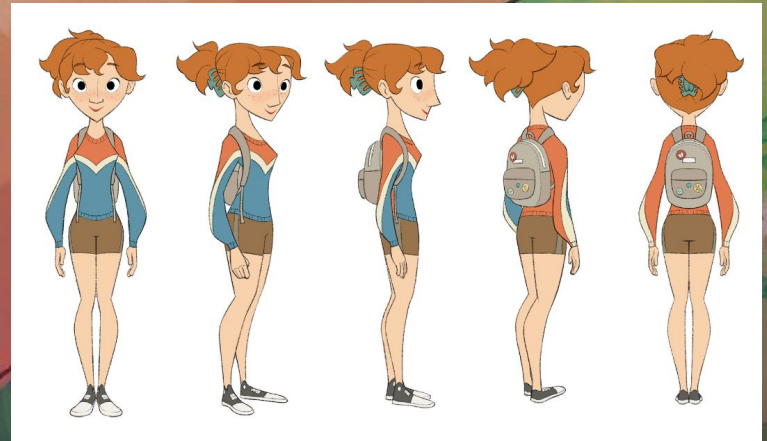
“The romantic whimsy of La La Land meets the kooky coziness of Bee and Puppycat...”



Characters: Gillian

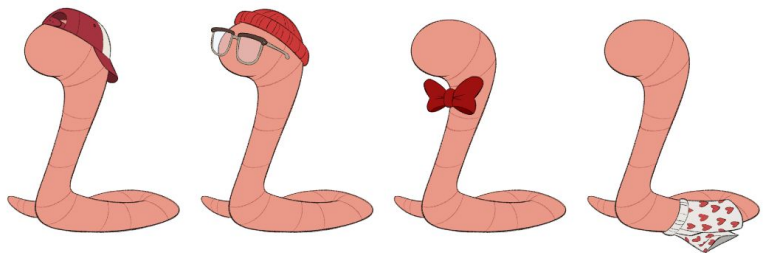
Gillian is youthful, headstrong, and a bit of a bookworm — a 20-something on the cusp of leaving the nest. Her design and color palette intentionally resembles a robin.

Gillian starts off very innocent, but by the end, she has truly lost her childlike naivety about love and bugs.



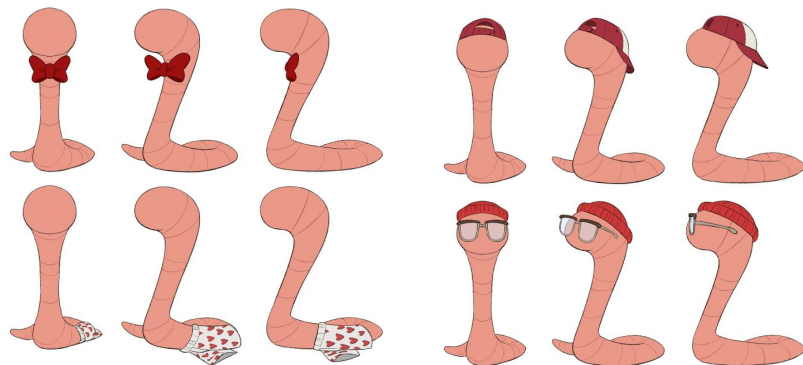


Worm



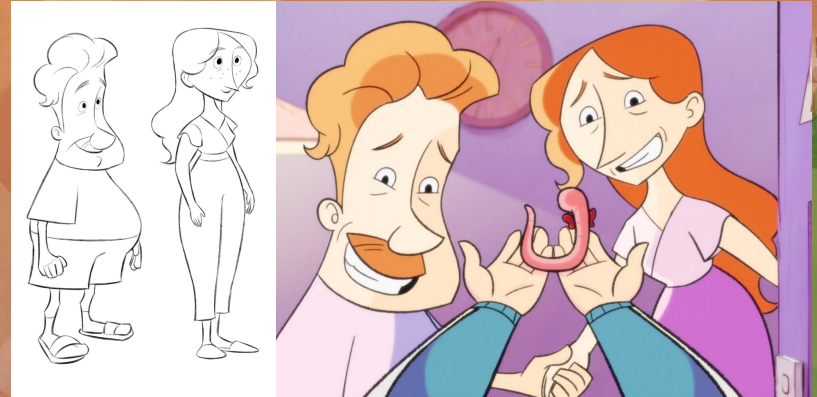
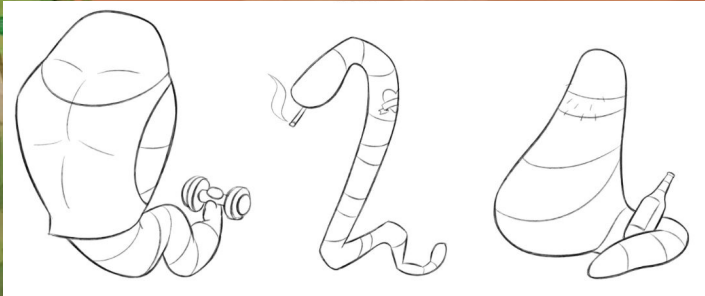
Characters: Worm

Worm may be cute and endearing at first, breakdancing and wearing adorable outfits. But by the end, he's checked out from the relationship — becoming more unresponsive, emotionless, and well, simply a worm.



Characters: Worm's Friends

Worm's fratty friends love to smoke, drink, and hit the gym. Despite being a little more dirty-looking than Worm, they're all super cool, getting trashed & tangled in bottles.



Gillian's Parents

Gillian's parents are kind and understanding about most things... but why on earth is their daughter dating bugs?!

Characters: More Bug Boyfriends!

Each of the 6 episodes will focus on a new bug Gillian dates, encountering every type of boy one might find in the wild... learning a unique lesson from each failed relationship.



Worm
(simple, pure)



Cockroach
(too persistent)



Beetle
(in a band, duh)



Firefly
(nice tech guy)



Bee
(always busy)



Locust
(the bad boy)

Characters: More Bug Boyfriends!



Celebrity Concept Art for Cockroach & Firefly

(Pedro Pascal &
Jesse Eisenberg)

Characters: More Bug Boyfriends!

Busy Bee



Locust



Beetle



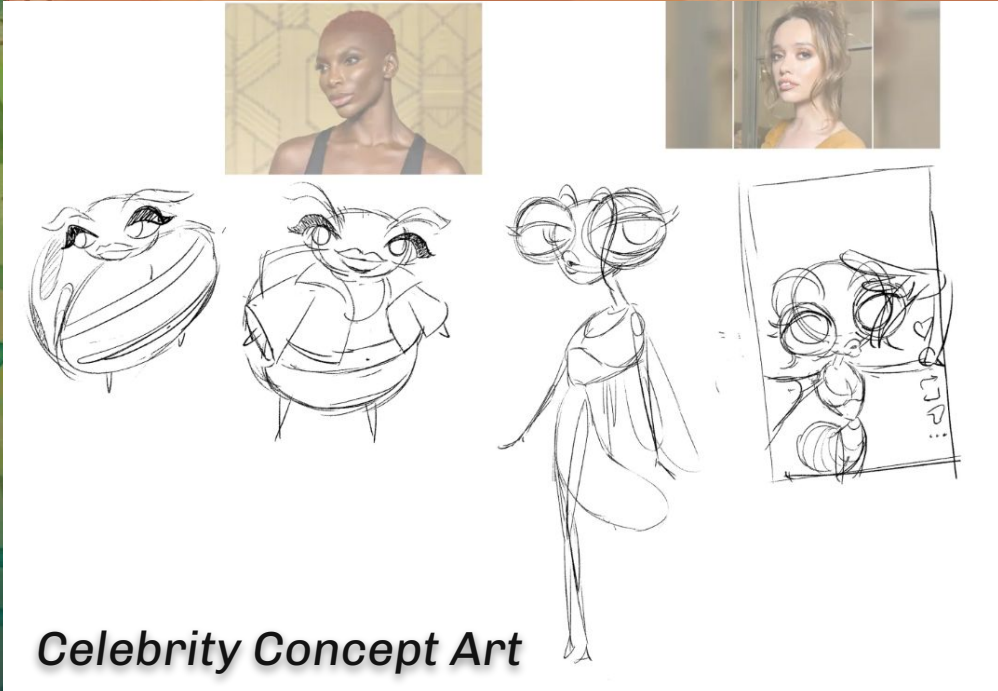
never look at you
in the eye
buzz
even when
not flying

**Celebrity
Concept Art
for Bee, Locust,
& Beetle**

(Elijah Wood,
Jamie Campbell
Bower, & Jack Black)

Characters: And Girlfriends... ..

Cause we've all explored a little, *right?* But these girls end up Gillian's friends and source of support by the end of the series!



Celebrity Concept Art

(Michaela Coel & Aimee Lou Wood)



Ladybug
(confident,
expressive)

Damselfly
(always needs
to be saved)

Potential of a Series...

World-Building

- There are literally endless opportunities to flesh out the world of “WORMS!” We’d design bug third-spaces (bug bars anyone?) and write in recurring characters who are fan-favorite bugs that deserve second chances!

Character Designs

- There are so many bugs with well-known traits, there will be infinite potential for further episodes in subsequent seasons (including plenty of celebrity cameo opportunities!)
- *EX: Mosquitos are blood-sucking, crickets won’t stop talking, butterflies are pretty boys, bed bugs sleep around, etc...*

Audience Connection

- We noticed right away how much the short film connected with audiences—with people of all ages running up to us after screenings to tell us about the time *they too* dated a worm. We want the series to be based on real-life dating experiences, from both the crew & audience submissions!

Why this Show? Why Now?

- Worms have never been hotter!! Thanks to the popular meme, “Would you still love me if I was a worm?” people already associate partner-potential into loveable little fellas.

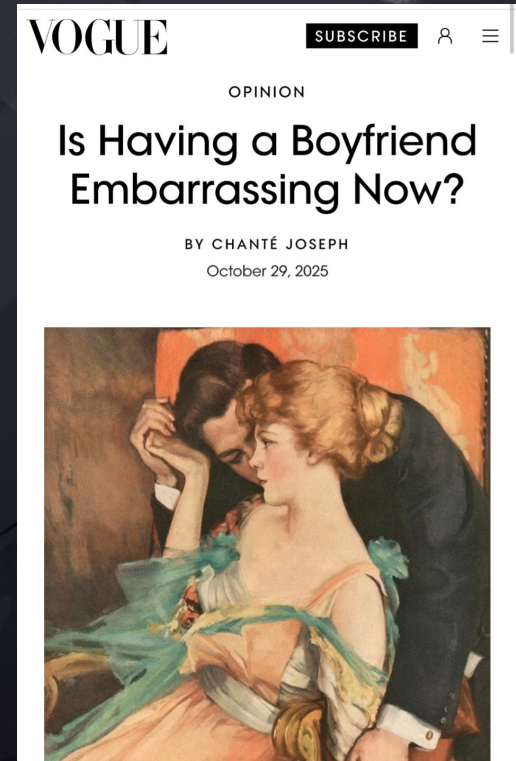
All we're asking now is does that truly apply to every kind of bug...?

- As well, the series would be a smash-hit online — generating lots of clips, memes, and merch opportunities! (\$\$\$)
- Just imagine, viewers making fan-cams of their favorite bugs or submitting bug/celebrity look-alike requests.
- Bugs are both universally loved and despised... and people feel similarly about partners & exes, no matter the culture or climate. ❤️



Why this Show? Why Now?

- In a time where relationships are increasingly shaped by dating apps, emotional burnout, and a growing awareness of mental health, people are more self-aware than ever, yet no better at building lasting connections.
 - This fable uses the medium of animation as a tool to explore the uncomfortable truths about love, attachment, and human behavior in a way that **feels both safe and deeply personal — viewers can project themselves onto hand-drawn characters in a way live-action can't!** 🐍
- By adapting real dating struggles into symbolic stories, the series helps audiences recognize their own patterns not just in others, but in themselves, giving them the clarity to build healthier relationships.



The Team

Karen Zipor (Writer/Director/Producer)

Karen Zipor is the founder of Zipped Up Films, a production studio with a diverse portfolio spanning both live-action and animation. Karen has worked with industry giants such as Disney, Warner Bros Animation, and Dreamworks. Her credits include high-profile productions like *ARK: The Animated Series* and *Brittany Broski's Royal Court*, a celebrity interview show featuring stars like Harry Styles.

Karen Zipor holds dual degrees in Drama and Computer Science from the University of Virginia and is an Animation alum of the Television Academy Foundation. She brings a unique perspective to storytelling — blending artistic vision with cutting-edge technology, and engaging audiences across both traditional and digital platforms. You can view more of her work at: www.KarenZipor.com



The Team

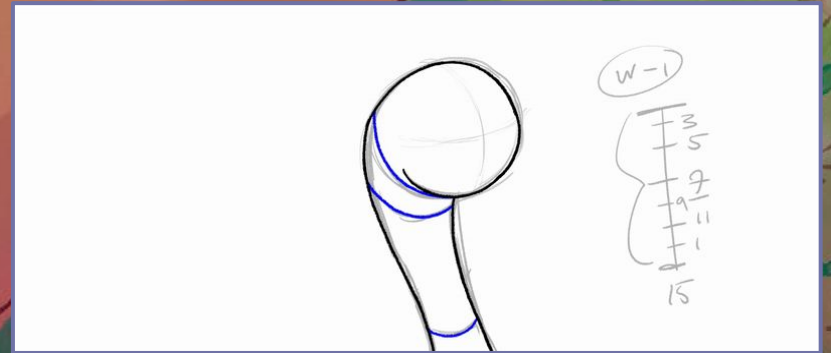
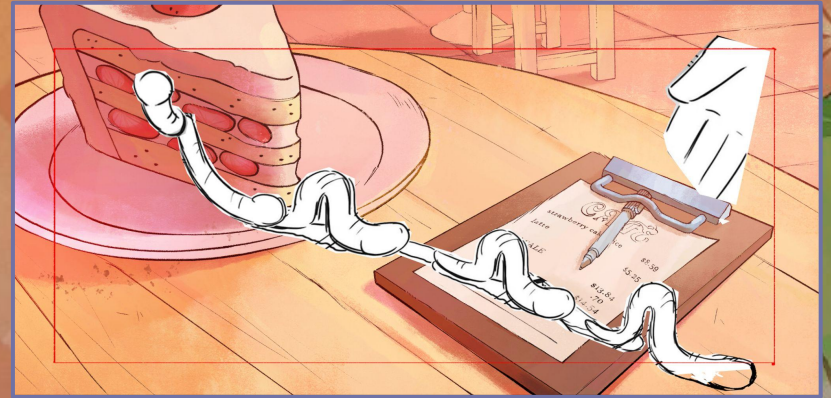
With experience across Disney, Sony Pictures Animation, Titmouse, and more - our crew of over 30 people are some of the best in the industry!



- Julie Hang (**Character Artist**)
- Alex Henderson (**Concept Artist**)
- Anna Simpson (**Storyboard Artist**)
- Kensei Morita & Shelby Hayes (**Background Artists**)
- Ella Louise Khan, Vince Marcellino, Edith Adame, Julia Bodnar, Connor Halleck, Amber Rankin, Winnie Lu, Lana Gerace, & Jesse-James Cullen, & Avalon Barr (**Rough Animators**)
- Yuri Pineda, Victoria Aldrich, Emma Vines, Darayell Wright, Nick Lish, Hadley Kennedy, Penny Lance, Collin Schuster, William Richardson, Gus Mazereeuw, Dalila Dutpayeva, Paula Moraga, Louise Isabela Wong, Anna Brockless, Skully Gilder & Janessa Eldaye (**Clean Up & Color**)
- Mike Ackerman (**VFX Composer**)
- Karen Zipor (**Executive/Line Producer/Editor**)
- Kiara Lin (**Production Coordinator**)
- Jared Fellows (**Sound Designer/Mixer**)
- Ashna Pathan (**Composer**)

Our Animation Production Process

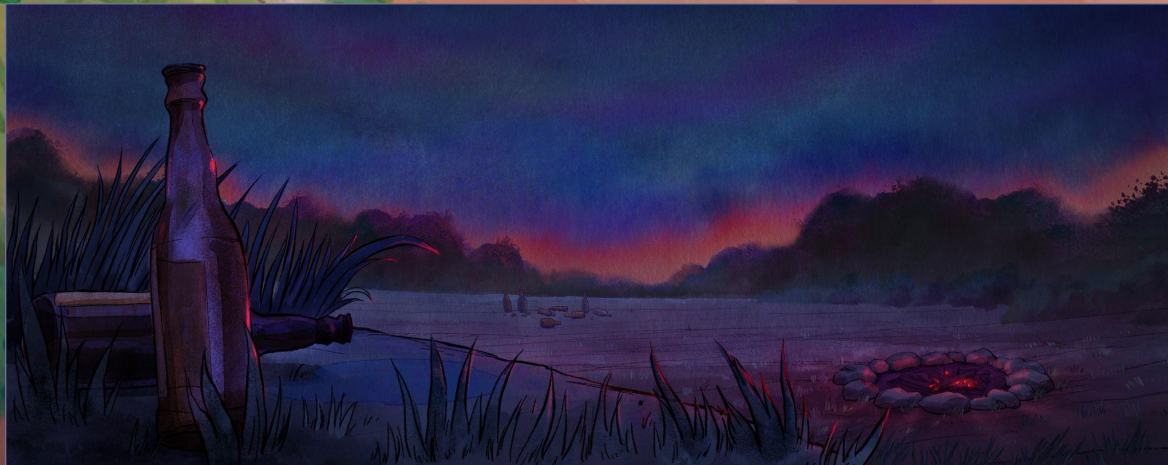
- Characters
 - Designs
 - Orthographic Turnarounds
- Backgrounds
 - Composition Options
 - Moment Paintings
- Storyboard Animatic
- Rough Animation
- Clean/Colored Animation
- VFX Compositing



Background Paintings from the Short Film



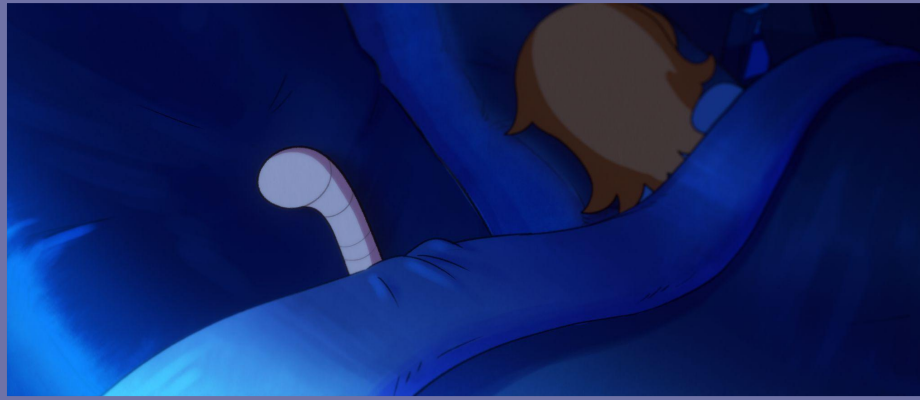
With storyboards



With storyboards



Stills from the Short Film





W

Thank you!

From all of us at Team "Worms!"



www.zippedupfilms.com
karen@zippedupfilms.com