

PRESS KIT

The Pleasure-Dome



SYNOPSIS

Suzanna, an artist who lives in a tower filled with strange objects, collects and catalogs a digital archive of figurative “artifacts.” After a late night of cataloging, the figures in her collection begin to confront her.



I initially conceived of *The Pleasure-Dome* during the first year of COVID-19 when I was confined to a small studio apartment. To ease my restlessness, I obsessively watched vlogs and livestreams, developing parasocial relationships with an array of digital creators. I sometimes dreamed about them. I also fantasized about life in a Babelesque greenhouse on an island, and from this specific vision, I illustrated the first styleframe of my film.

Suzanna, the film's protagonist and narrator, is a recurring character and quasi self-insert. She first appeared in my 2019 game *An Afternoon Rippling* as its impish narrator. In *The Pleasure-Dome*, she is aged up a decade, and she wears a fluttering cape instead of a Hawaiian shirt. She is still a hermit. Her world is made of collaged colored pencil backgrounds framing flat, graphic characters, recalling the dense natural worlds of midcentury Golden Age films: lush, childlike, idealized, but occasionally punctured by wildness and, in Suzanna's case, technology.

While this film draws on a number of literary and artistic influences, two older works about utopias influenced how I conceptualized the internet as a physical place. The first is Jorge Luis Borges' short story "The Library of Babel," which describes a man obsessed with finding meaning in an infinite library of random characters. The second is Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "Kubla Khan," which begins by describing Kubla Khan's pleasure-dome of boundless earthly beauty. The internet appears as a place with boundless potential for human connection. Of course, no utopia is what it seems.

The allure of parasociality is that it feels like a sincere substitute for solid, messy human connection. In my own life, I justify self-isolation as essential for creative flourishing. In truth, it is a false comfort. A truly lonely person may not realize she is lonely. She may think she is being productive.

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THE PLEASURE-DOME

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



DIRECTOR BIO

Marcie LaCerte is a mixed Chinese-American animator, director, and illustrator based in Minneapolis. She teaches animation and illustration at the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her films have screened at Ottawa International Animation Festival, GLAS Animation, and AFI Docs, and her work has been acquired by *The New Yorker* and selected by Vimeo Staff Picks. *The Pleasure-Dome* is her latest short film and has received support from the Jerome Hill Foundation, the Jacob Burns Film Center, and Bethany Arts Community.



FACTS & FIGURES

TITLE

The Pleasure-Dome

RUNTIME

08'54"

COMPLETED

2026

TECHNIQUES

2D Digital, Mixed Media

GENRES

Animation, Drama, Comedy

ASPECT RATIO

4:3



CREDITS

DIRECTOR, WRITER, & ANIMATOR

Marcie LaCerte

CAST

Suzanna – Alex Song-Xia

The Philosopher – Imani Youngblood

MUSIC

Noelle Tannen

EDITOR

Marcie LaCerte

ADDITIONAL EDITORS

Sachio Cook

Sean Weiner

SOUND DESIGNER

Marcie LaCerte

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Sean Weiner

Arno Mokros

SUPPORTED BY

The Jerome Foundation

Bethany Arts Community

Jacob Burns Film Center

Creative Culture Fellowship

SPECIAL THANKS

Brian Reinken

Meghan McDonough

Rebecca Blandón

Sophia Feuer

Ramiel Petros

Karina Dandashi

Katelyn Rebelo

Andrew J Rodriguez

Hannah Whisenant

AWARDS & SCREENINGS

AWARDS

Official Selection, Short of the Week (forthcoming)

Best Animated Film, Charlotte Asian Film Festival

FESTIVALS

BITBANG International Animation Festival, Buenos Aires, Argentina (October 2026)

Kuandu International Animation Festival (Out of Competition), Taipei, Taiwan (October 2026)

BANG Awards Festival, Torres Vedras, Portugal (September 2026)

Rochester Film Festival, Rochester, MN (September 2026)

Stageworks Northwest Film Festival, Longview, WA (September 2026)

MinnAnimate, Minneapolis, MN (September 2026)

Films at the Fair, St. Paul, MN (September 2026)

Charlotte Asian Film Festival, Charlotte, NC (August 2026)

OTHER SCREENINGS

Cardiff Animation Nights, Cardiff, Wales, UK (October 2026)

MCAD Faculty Biennial, Minneapolis, MN (August to October 2026)



LINKS & ASSETS

PROMOTIONAL ASSETS

[Trailer](#)

[Stills](#)

[Poster](#)

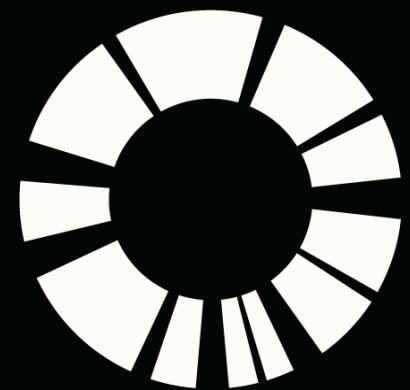
OFFICIAL FILM LINKS

[Website](#)

[Letterboxd](#)

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THE PLEASURE-DOME

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