

LESBIAN SPACE PRINCESS

AN ANIMATED QUEER AS F*CK SCI-FI COMEDY



75th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama

Feature Film
Sci-Fi Animated Comedy
86 Mins



A QUEST FOR [SELF] LOVE!

An introverted space princess is forced to leave her home planet on an inter-gay-lactic mission to save her bounty hunter ex-girlfriend from the Straight White Aliens.

A laugh-out-loud adventure through the far reaches of queer outer space, Lesbian Space Princess showcases the incredible talents of South Australian writers/directors, Leela Varghese and Emma Hough Hobbs.

Daughter to the flamboyant lesbian Queens of Planet Clitopolis, introverted Princess Saira is devastated when her bounty-hunter girlfriend, Kiki, suddenly breaks up with her for being too needy.

After Kiki is kidnapped by forgotten incels of the future, the Straight White Aliens, Saira must leave the comforts of gay space to deliver their ransom: her royal labrys (the most powerful weapon known to lesbian kind). Only problem is...she doesn't have it!

With just a 24-hour window to get her labrys and save Kiki, Princess Saira finds herself on an inter-gay-lactic journey of self-discovery that includes encounters with a problematic spaceship and a new-found friendship with gay-pop runaway Willow.

An animated comedy like no other, Lesbian Space Princess is a riotous, candy-coloured joy from start to finish: a locally-made animation by emerging creatives that embraces LGBTQIA+ and culturally diverse voices, on and off-screen.



DIRECTOR'S VISION

EMMA

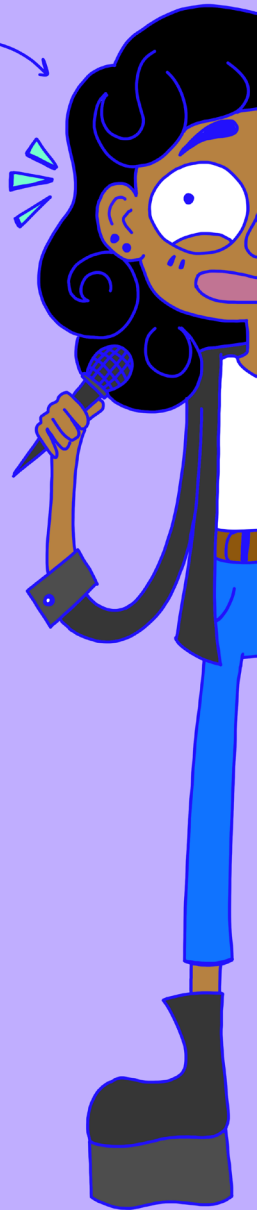
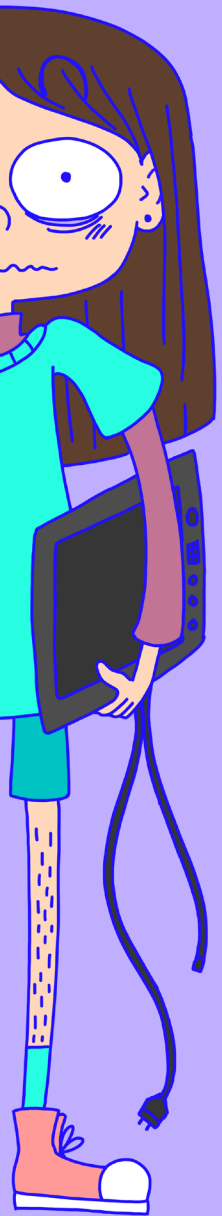
Lesbian Space Princess is the product of one lesbian's lifelong obsession with animation, another lesbian's burning desire to make people laugh and their combined longing for stories that are fresh, female driven and and gay AF. This film will be an ode to low-budget anime, a hilarious love letter to lesbians and most importantly - heaps of fun.

In a few words *Lesbian Space Princess* is campy and comedic with a biting undercurrent of cheeky and incisive political commentary. Imagine your favourite sci-fi movie but with lesbians. Strong comedic voice performances will be the beating heart of the film. We will put complex queer women of colour characters to the front. Authentic casting for LGBTQIA+ characters and people of colour will bring a genuineness to the world of *Lesbian Space Princess*. Original acoustic songs/music will create a unique indie twist to the sci-fi genre.

An unorthodox approach to a low animation budget will make *Lesbian Space Princess* feel expressive and inventive. Our film will visually draw from cartoons such as *Adventure Time* while our editing and coverage will more strongly resemble anime hits like *Revolutionary Girl Utena*.

As a filmmaking duo we bring our own special skill sets and perspectives to the table. On top of being filmmakers, our artistic backgrounds respectively as an animator/production designer and a musical comedian give us a strong foundation for achieving our ambitions of compelling visuals and comedic performances. With such a personal connection to the project we bring a whole lotta heart to it. We will create a film that brings an authentic new voice that women, the queer community and people of colour deserve.

LEELA





SAIRA

**She's a lesbian. She's in space.
She's also a princess.**

At first glance, you probably couldn't guess that Saira's a princess. She's what you'd call, "a quiet gay". On her home planet of Clitopolis, a place known for partying and fun, no one likes Saira- including herself. Constantly surrounded by big personalities and overshadowed by her fabulous and famous parents, Saira believes she only belongs on the sidelines of life.

Adding fuel to the fire are Saira's consecutive failures to summon her royal weapon, the Labrys. If Saira's going to save and win back her super hot ex she better learn how to summon it soon! Get it together Saira!



Shabana Azeez

(Birdeater, The Pitt, In Limbo)

The one who's holding back Saira is...



...HERSELF!

SAIRA'S HEAD MONSTER

Saira is internally tormented by her Head Monster, a troubling being manifested by Saira's anxiety. Throughout Saira's quest we are transported into Saira's headspace where the monster thrives. With the help of Blade, an amateur psychologist/professional drag queen, Saira discovers the key to unlocking her royal Labrys is held deep within her headspace.

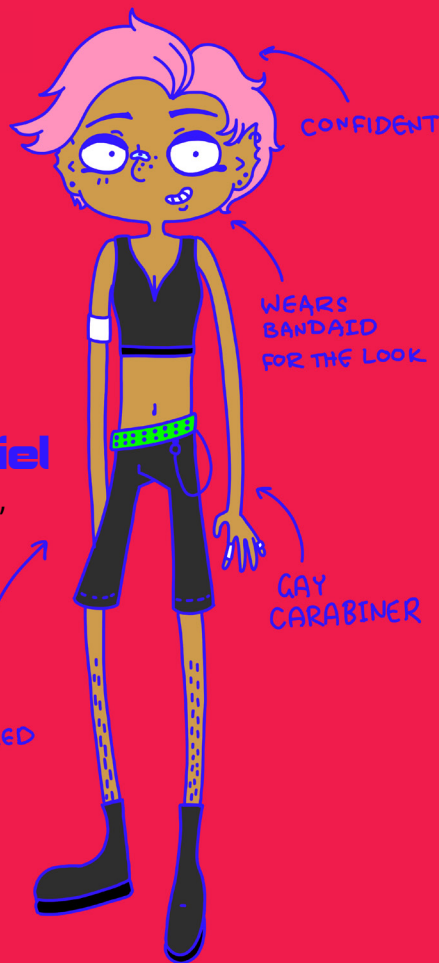


MEET KIKI

A badass bounty hunter and influencer. Super hot.

Kiki's favourite person is... Kiki. As a queer, WOC she's always been an alpha in The Gaylaxy.

Confidence comes easy as do opportunities. Kiki thinks she's more impressive than she actual is, she might seem like a hot shot bounty hunter but little talent lies behind her carefully curated image. An expert at charming women she will make you feel special until she gets bored, which is quickly. Unlike Saira, Kiki has an unlimited supply of self love.



Bernie Van Tiel

(Class of 07, Erotic Stories, Swift Street)

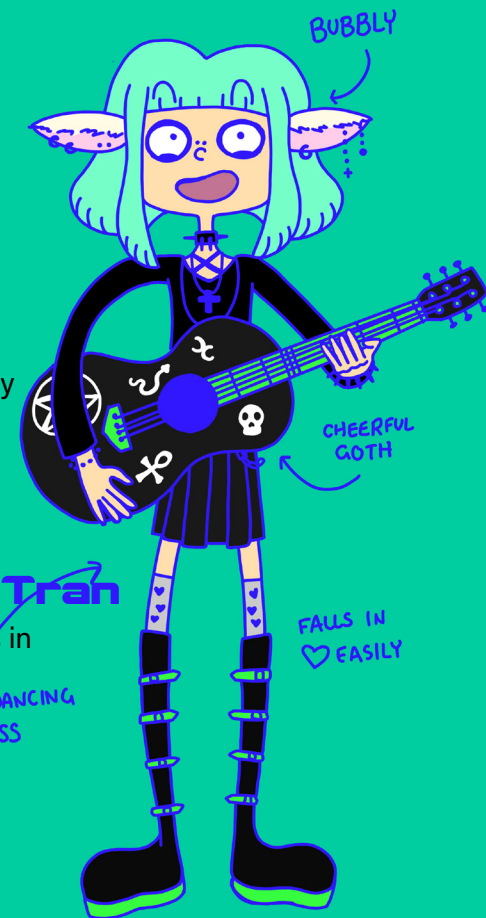
LIKES: HERSELF
DISLIKES: BEING BORED
& SLOW WALKERS

MEET WILLOW

A Gay-pop runaway searching for musical inspiration.

Willow just wants to be your new best friend, she's ambitious, brave and always lets her heart lead the way, for better or worse... While Willow isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, her creativity is off the charts. Unlike Saira she embraces her own flaws. Willow winds up joining Saira on her intrepid quest as this is just the inspiration she needs for her solo debut album, also, Saira is kinda cute...

Note: All character pronouns are temporary and will be inclusive of trans actors' pronouns when cast. Eg. They/Them.



Gemma Chua Tran

(Heartbreak High, Ladies in Black)

LIKES: SINGING & DANCING
DISLIKES: RUDENESS



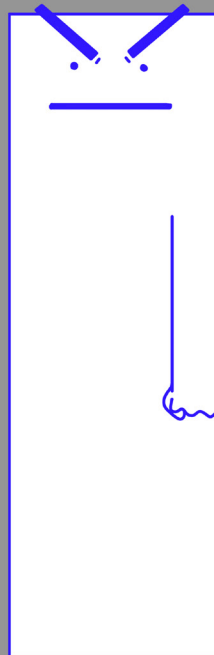
THE STRAIGHT WHITE MALIENS

Incels of the future, relegated to the edge of the universe.

Commandeered by their fearless leader, the Straight White Maliens long for the good old days when they used to be the ones on top. Now they can't even pick up hot chicks! The only action they get is staring into the eyes of the female characters printed on their *Magical the Gathical* trading cards. Not for much longer though! With Kiki hostage and Saira on the way with her powerful Labrys they will finally be able to charge up their chick magnet and score!

Aunty Donna

(Aunty Donna's Big Ol House of Fun, Aunty Donna's Coffee Cafe)



PROBLEMATIC SHIP

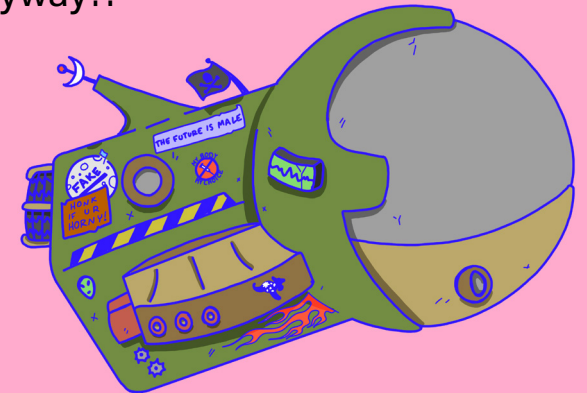
Saira's reluctant ride from the 21st Century.

A relic from the 21st century, the problematic ship thinks and says things he definitely can't get away with anymore. His artificially intelligent personality is unfortunately the product of learning the ways of the world from his previous racist, homophobic and misogynistic middle aged male pilots. By encountering Saira, the ship is given the chance to grow and change his problematic ways... Well kind of. There's a lot to catch up on after being switched off and abandoned for thousands of years, like when did women start driving anyway!?



Richard Roxburgh

(Rake, Elvis, Van Helsing)



THE QUEENS

The beloved and celebrated Queens of Clitopolis, Anne and Leanne, are fiercely... co-dependent; over the years they have essentially morphed into the same person. They are the life of the party and take Clitopolis' social calendar more seriously than anything, including their only daughter Saira.

Jordan Raskopolous
(The Strange Chores, I Am Woman)



Madeleine Sami
(Deadloch, The Breaker Upperers)



Kween Kong
(RuPaul's Drag Race)



BLADE

Don't call your child Blade and expect them not to be super into blades!! She's a glamazonian drag queen and a trained psychologist but her true calling is... weapons! Blade is super keen to help Saira summon her labrys, but what's in it for Blade...?

CREATIVE TEAM



Leela Varghese
Writer/Director

Leela Varghese (she/her) is an award winning Australian writer/ director. Her most recent short film *I'm The Most Racist Person I Know* was selected SXSW Austin 2025 having its world premiere in the narrative short competition. Leela is known for telling joyful, fun and impactful queer stories that spotlight cultural diversity in Australia. She is also known for her work as a musical comedian, television presenter and voice actor.



Emma Hough Hobbs
Writer/Director

Emma Hough Hobbs (she/they) is a queer artist from Adelaide. They're a filmmaker, animator and production designer. Their award winning short *On Film* was in competition at SXSW Sydney 2023. As a props master they have worked on projects such as A24's *Talk To Me* and *Gold* starring Zac Efron.



Tom Phillips
Producer

Tom Phillips (he/him) is an award winning writer, director and producer. In 2019, he wrote and produced the online series *Lucy And DiC*, which has more than 4 million views across YouTube and Facebook, won multiple awards and was nominated for Best Online Series at the 2019 SPA Awards. He was announced as one of Screen Producers Australia's Ones to Watch in 2018.

AUDIENCE

3 types of fanatics

The Queers

Lesbians along with the LGBTQIA+ community are the main audience for *Lesbian Space Princess*. Our community are a famously passionate and supportive audience who get behind stories that reflect the queer experience. Like a vacuum, we suck up all the rainbow content we can get!

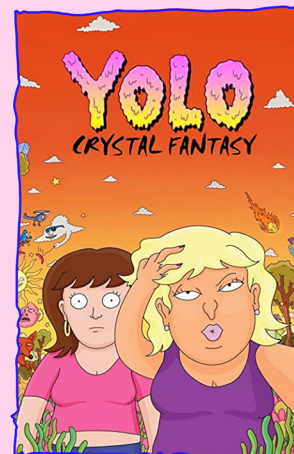
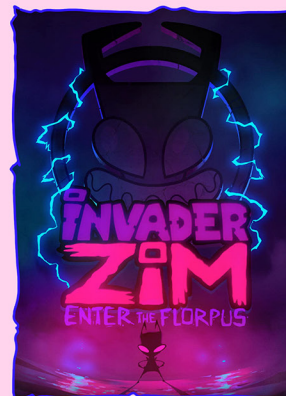
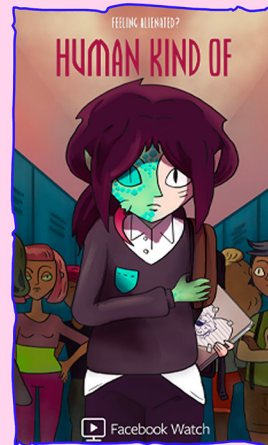
Adult Animation Film Lovers

Both cartoon and anime fans alike will find delight in this Adult Swim inspired comedy.

Global Comedy and Sci-Fi lovers

Film Festival goers and those who enjoy cheeky and facetious humour and a Sci-Fi itch.

REFERENCES



Q and A - Filmmakers

Q: So “Lesbian Space Princess”... is this a title first situation? How did you come up with the title?

L: Yes haha, I was having a little argument with Em about how she’s always working with other people but never with me- We’re partners by the way. Em said, “Well, I don’t see you pitching me anything!” and then stormed off to take a shower. When she came out, she said, “I’ve got it—Lesbian..Space..Princess.” Honestly, I said, “That is so ridiculous.” But it just stuck in my head. I realised, “Maybe ridiculous is good. Maybe this is something. Maybe I’m ridiculous.”

Em: It really started as just a title, we knew it would be funny and campy, but it was always important to us that it also had a lot of heart. We started figuring out the kind of story we wanted to tell and discovered our unconventional hero of the story Saira. We pitched the idea to our producer, Tom Phillips, at We Made A Thing Studios. We actually pitched him a few ideas, but he immediately said, “Lesbian Space Princess..I’m all in on that one. It has to be that one.”

It always cracks us up that a straight white guy was the first person to truly believe in Lesbian Space Princess and our vision. Then, we were incredibly lucky to be selected for the South Australian Film Corporation’s Film Lab: New Voices initiative, it’s what made the film possible for us as debut feature filmmakers. It’s an incredible initiative with an emphasis on low budget methodology filmmaking that includes support from the SAFC, Screen Australia and the Adelaide Film Festival. It not only gave us and We Made A Thing the chance to develop Lesbian Space Princess into a production ready script but to also go straight into production.

Q: What do you hope people take away from the film?

L: We just want people to have some fun and a good laugh. We don’t take ourselves too seriously, and neither does the film.

Em: At its heart, this is a story about self-love and acceptance. We’re both quite anxious people so we wanted to make something with a main character that struggles with the same things we do and handles them in a realistic way. So many things I learnt at therapy manifest in the way Saira faces her world.



Q and A - Filmmakers

Q: What are you most proud of about the film?

L: Our amazing team. We got so lucky with the crew and cast. The film is the product of a very small, passionate group of people, and I think that's why it has so much heart. We even had friends and crew doing little voice parts in the film.

Em: We made this with a near impossible budget for a feature animation project. I'm an animator so I had it in my head that if we had a really small team for about a year we could pull it off. So Alice Lam and Cheyenne Maher were our 2 full time animators, Madeleine Karutz and Anthony Robinson were our 2 part-time background artists and Jeremy Kelly-Bakker was our compositor (among many other things!) and that's it, that's the animation team. Working with the team and We Made A Thing felt like being part of a little work family. It's a totally weird way of making animation but it really worked for this project.

L: And we have an incredible cast of beloved Australian comedians and actors. We're stoked about every single cast member—they all brought amazing voices to the film.

Q: Any little easter eggs or anecdotes from the film?

Em: There's a bunch of hidden animation jokes in the film, Maddie, Ants and I had a lot of fun making each other laugh in the creation of the backgrounds. We treated every bare surface as an opportunity for a joke. My favourite easter egg is the dumbest thing though, in animation characters tend to have 3 fingers and 1 thumb...and so do all of our characters except for Saira, who has 4 fingers and 1 thumb because she's "good with her hands". A very elaborate joke with almost no payoff because who's out there counting fingers?! No one, that's why I'm saying it now. Also her phone keyring is South Australian gay icon 'The Baba-dook.'

L: Not so much an easter egg but I've worked with Shabana Azeez in almost all of my films, she brought such life and lovability to Saira, her voice performance and the little quirks she added still make us chuckle to this day, even though we've seen the film hundreds of times! She has such a lovable and distinctive laugh, we're obsessed with it haha.



Q and A - Filmmakers

Q: Lesbian Space Princess is a genuinely funny film, what's the secret sauce here?

Em: Well of course, Leela as an actual real life musical comedian brought so much of the comedy bones in the script. When we were writing we'd pass the script back and forth between us, we have such different senses of humour we were always trying to make each other laugh aha.

L: And to bring the jokes to life we always encouraged improv and playfulness in the recording booth. Our cast were all so generous with what they gave to make the character's their own. We had so many options and I edited the first pass of the animatics so I could really spend a lot of time discovering the treasure in what we had recorded. Animation is a bit scary because you can literally combine different takes into what we called frankensteins and you choose the pacing too!

Em: Yeah, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes. Our editor Ben Fernandez also brought a lot to the pacing, there were these brutal 2 weeks where the 3 of us sat in a room and by the end we were so granular with it, we were arguing about the difference that 1 frame could make to a joke!

Q: What did you hope to achieve with the film?

L: It's such a beautiful thing just to even have the opportunity to make your debut feature. We'd been plotting away as short film makers individually and really wanted to use this feature film to do bold and new things. I was passionate about writing comedy, directing performances, and incorporating some of my original songs into the film. Then in contrast it was amazing to work with Em, who is such a talented animator—she has a great style and a deep love and understanding of the medium. I had actually never written or directed anything animated before, only live action.

Em: I'm really passionate about women and queer people in the animation space, I'm a big nerd and I grew up just not feeling represented on or off screen. Animation has always felt like this boys club and it means a lot to offer up our project to our communities as a small but safe place for other goofballs to have fun. I got to design the characters, storyboard the film, and create a whole new world with Leela and the team which is so creatively fulfilling.

L: So, the film truly became the perfect combination of our combined skills. We were both able to learn new techniques and grow throughout the process too.



MUSIC

Leela here, I regularly perform musical comedy. I'm obsessed with writing songs and telling stories through music. I could not resist bringing some of that musical fun to *Lesbian Space Princess*.



The script is filled with fresh original acoustic songs that will make for an unforgettable soundtrack. The songs are vibey and moody with a hint of comedy. They will only use guitar and vocals to create a stripped-back acoustic feel. Sci-fi is often paired with synth-based composing but we will instead almost solely embrace the sounds of acoustic and electric guitar. It will feel like someone with a guitar is playing along to the film.

The music will be weaved into the narrative in a unique and quirky way much like in the film *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*. In our film all the songs will be performed by the character Willow and at the very end of the film, we see Saira receive a hard copy of Willow's debut album titled Songs Specifically about Saira.



[Publicity: isp@organic-publicity.com](mailto:isp@organic-publicity.com)

[Production Company: tom@wemat.com.au](mailto:tom@wemat.com.au)

CAST

(in order of appearance)

SAIRA	Shabana Azeez
KIKI	Bernie Van Tiel
QUEEN LEANNE	Jordan Raskopoulos
QUEEN ANNE	Madeleine Sami
CITIZEN	Sam Matthews
CITIZEN	Annie Schofield
CITIZEN	Stephanie Daughtry
MALIEN LEADER	Mark Samual Bonanno
MALIEN LARRY	Zachary Ruane
MALIEN JOSH	Broden Kelly
LESBIAN GUARD	Arlen Velez
THE SHIP	Richard Roxburgh
SAFETY BUBBLE	Reuben Kaye
SPACEWALKER GIRLIE	Cheyenne Maher
SPACEWALKER BOYFIE	Paul Howe
SPACE BUSKER	Max García-Underwood
TUMBLE WEED	Lori Bell
WILLOW	Gemma Chua-Tran
BLADE	Kween Kong
DNM GIRL	Demi Lardner
THESBIAN	Jack Evans
HAPPY COMMET	Alice Lam
TINY PENIS	Cale Matthews
ADDITIONAL VOICES	Leela Varghese
	Emma Hough Hobbs
	Leah McKeown
	Talica Natadra
	Jeremy Kelly-Bakker
	Anthony Robinson
	Nelya Valamanesh
	Madeleine Karutz

CREW

ADDITIONAL ANIMATION	Charlotte Hamblin Jake Bresanello
JUNIOR ENVIRONMENT ARTIST	Henry Hough Hobbs
SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT MENTOR	Alex White
BOOKKEEPER	Emma Clear
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Alexandra Short
SUPERVISING PRODUCTION MANAGER	Rhiannon Steffenson
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	Gail Fuller Wayne Lewis
POST PRODUCTION FACILITY	Artisan Post Group
HEAD OF POST PRODUCTION	Michael Darren
HEAD OF IT	Carlo Andreacchio
POST PRODUCER	Anton Andreacchio
ONLINE EDITOR	Carlo Andreacchio
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR / RE-RECORDING MIXER	Michael Darren <small>MPSE</small>
SOUND DESIGNER	Thom Kellar
SOUND FX EDITOR	Thalia Colettis
DIALOGUE / FX EDITOR	Leah McKeown
DIALOGUE SUPERVISOR	Leah McKeown
DIALOGUE RECORDISTS	Leah McKeown Jeremy Glover
FOLEY ARTIST	Tapio Liukkonen
FOLEY EDITOR	Arttu Jekkonen
ASSISTANT SOUND EDITORS	Oscar Ellery Effie Pashidis

MIX TECHNICIAN

Oscar Ellery

MIX FACILITY

Michael Rowan Theater - Artisan Post Group

ADDITIONAL COMPOSER

Matthew Hadley

COMPOSING INTERN

Artemis Bishop

THEREVOX, GUITAR, PIANO, SYNTHESIZER, VOCALS

Michael Darren

GUITAR, SYNTHESIZER, VOCALS

Matthew Hadley

VIOLIN

Michael Green

CELLO

Hilary Kleinig

VOCALS

Cleo Darren

Luke Jurevicius

SPECIAL EFFECTS UNIT CINEMATOGRAPHER

Claire Bishop

SPECIAL EFFECTS UNIT PROPS MAKER

Wayne Hobbs

MIND THE GAP FINANCE

Michael Agar

Caroline Farmer

Ester Harding

UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT

Jeff Harrison

Ari Harrison

Nick Hayes

Jamine McSweeney

James Keogh

Nikita Leigh-Pritchard

Hudson Sowada

Ben Cook

Maximilian Aboudara

Stephanie Violo

Stacy Eastoe

Sarah Mott

Raf Mushin

Julie Ryan

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION - BLUE FINCH FILM RELEASING

Mike Chapman

Simon Crowe

Fatima Hayward

Matthew Joynes

Alexandra Osben

Abbey Wong

Alex Atkinson

CAM ROGERS LEGAL

Cam Rogers Sol Bedi

SPECIAL THANKS

Charlie Alderson	Michael Aldrich	Michael Bakker
Lori Bell	Colin Bennet	Nick Crowhurst
Tim Carlier	Lan Dugdale	Chloe de Brito
Pip Hart	Gretal the cat	Mohini Herse
Wayne Hobbs	Leanne Hough	Paul Howe
Judith Kelly	Mat Kesting	Gail Kovatseff
King Sound Studios	Julia Light	Tom Loughlin
Apoorva Madan	Georgia Mappin	Kath McIntyre
Gerry McMilan	Ross McMilan	Sophie Morgan
Sarah Mott	Beth Neate	Kaddison Noack
Mark O'Toole	Madeleine Parry	Erin Patterson
Ash Phillips	Evelyn Phillips	Jack Phillips
Richard Phillips	Karen Phillips	Marten Rabarts
Suriyna Sivashanker	Hebe Sayce	Paul Struthers
Tyson Smith	Kirsty Stark	Bradley Tennant
Ana Tiwari	Linda Ujuk	Andrea Ulbrick
Anne Varghese	Matthew Varghese	Nina Varghese
	Saleem Varghese	

Always in our hearts - Frances Varghese

The Filmmakers wish to thank:

**Our amazingly talented team & cast, making this film with you was so damn joyful.
Thank you so very much for all the love and dedication. It has meant the world to us.**

MUSIC

"Lesbian Space Princess"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Really Really Sad"
Written by Leela Varghese,
Michael Darren
Performed by Leela Varghese
Produced by Michael Darren

"Here I Go"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Gay Pop"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Wait A Minute"
Written by Aayush Sharma
Performed by Waxx Off
Produced by Aayush Sharma
Courtesy of SECTOR 44 RECORDINGS

"Fedora Destroyer"
Written by Stabbitha and the
Knifey Wifeys
Performed by Stabbitha and the
Knifey Wifeys

"Crush"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"There She Goes"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Cool 2B Queer"
Written by Anthony Egizii,
Chelsea Wheatley, David Musumeci
Performed by Chela
Produced by DNA

"Safety Bubble Song"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Reuben Kaye
Produced by Michael Darren

"Moon Crystal"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Saira and Me"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"PRN"
Written by Qarin Hipe
Performed by RinRin
Produced by Chris Lalic

"The Absence You Became"
Written by Coen Miller, Harry Mason,
Josh Lim, Tom Drizners
Performed by Outsider
Produced by Jarred Nettle

"Spanish Ladies"
Written by Hilltop Trio
Performed by Hilltop Trio

"There She Goes - Rock Version"
Written by Teenage Joans,
Leela Varghese
Performed by Teenage Joans,
Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Jarred Nettle

"Awesome Spaceship"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"Grow Old"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Max García-Underwood

"Gloom Goo"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren

"BAD LIKE RIRI Ft. Erica Banks"
Written by Jessican Koroï,
Rory Peckham Fraser, Erica Breaux
Performed by JESSWAR
Courtesy of Gaga Music Pty Ltd

"WTF"
Written by Qarin Hipe
Performed by RinRin
Produced by Ryan Botha

"Out For Blood"
Written by Stabbitha and the
Knifey Wifeys
Performed by Stabbitha and the
Knifey Wifeys

"Rush E"
Written by Andrew Wrangell
Performed by Sheet Music Boss

"Friendzoning"
Written by Leela Varghese
Performed by Gemma Chua-Tran
Produced by Michael Darren