

ALYSA
TOUATI

CHARLES
BROOKS

MARIE-MARGUERITE
SABONGUI

PINK LAKE

A FILM BY EMILY GAN AND DANIEL SCHACHTER

ON THE SHORES OF PINK LAKE,
A DEATH IS MOURNED
AND LIFE IS CELEBRATED.





LOGLINE

A thoughtful drama examining the complexities of both romantic partnership and prospective parenthood as a couple decides whether or not to help a close friend become pregnant.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Sam (Charles Brooks) and Cora (Alysa Touati) are a couple whose peaceful life in the Gatineau hills is disrupted when Nadia (Marie-Marguerite Sabongui), one of Sam's dearest friends, visits from out of town. When Nadia asks Sam to be her sperm donor, Cora initially gives her blessing but soon grows apprehensive about the arrangement.

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

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DIRECTORS' INTENTIONS

Emily and I co-wrote and co-directed *Pink Lake*. It is a personal film that dramatizes an ongoing dialogue between Emily and I about having vs. not having kids.

When Cora first gives Nadia permission to have a child with her partner Sam, Cora is insecure, and her insecurity leads to assertions of power that threaten not just the harmony of the group, but her own well-being. When Cora realizes this, and sees that Nadia's happiness is allied to her own, and to the greater good, she gives not just her permission, but her blessing. Cora's radical affirmation of the other is an ideal that we aspire to.

We shot *Pink Lake* with a very small and devoted cast and crew. There were only four crew members on set at any given time, which meant that Emily and I had to wear many hats; from co-directing and co-producing, to wardrobe and makeup, continuity and data wrangling, unit management and administration. Needless to say, our days were full. For our winter exteriors, we piled heavy gear onto sleds and trekked several kilometers into the forest on snowshoes. Production lasted 21 days. It was a marathon, and it was incredible.

Pink Lake's setting, a rural Anglophone town in Francophone Quebec, is one rarely shown in Canadian movies. We look forward to introducing audiences to this beautiful location, and to the people who live there (who make up most of our cast). Though the film isn't docu-fiction, it is a work of fiction that takes as its starting point the real-life circumstances of its creators and cast. The three main actors – Marie-Marguerite Sabongui, Alysia Touati and Charles Brooks – are close friends of ours. The principal location, a bungalow that backs onto a forest in Gatineau, belongs to Charles. And the story about a woman who asks her friend for a sperm donation – and the conflict that arises between him and his partner when he says yes – was inspired by a real-life event. And in an unexpected and delicious twist, the actress playing Nadia, the woman who asks her friend for sperm so that she can get pregnant in vitro, actually got pregnant in vitro soon after production. She recently gave birth to a healthy baby boy!

– Daniel Schachter (co-director)



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ALYSA TOUATI – CORA

Alysa Touati is a musician who works out of Montreal and the Outaouais. Her Tunisian/Canadian family has animated her music with multiform and diverse sounds. She performs under the name Eleanor X. Alysa, although a musician first, has always had a love for theatre and performance. She trained at the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama as a child, and went on to graduate from Canterbury Highschool for the Arts' drama program. She has also spent time behind the camera, working as the editor, animator and cinematographer for music videos such as "Pepper Spray" for Light Bulb Alley and "Kelleigh's Song" for The Fuzzy Undertones. Alysa is currently studying Human Geography and English at Carleton University. *Pink Lake* is Alysa's cinematic debut.

CHARLES BROOKS – SAM

Charles G Brooks is a musical artist based in the Gatineau Hills of Quebec. Having developed interest in the world's changing cultural environment has progressively led Charles into documentary film, cultural musicology and avenues of performing arts. Charles has produced and published several field-recording albums through the labels, Mississippi Records and Sublime Frequencies. Most notably, his efforts and works draw attention to the personal interconnectedness of people, place and time. With his role in the film, *Pink Lake*, he has certainly not departed from this creative measure.

MARIE-MARGUERITE SABONGUI – NADIA

Marie-Marguerite's first acting gig was as the star of the Fox Kids' show, *Galidor*. After a hiatus from film during which she worked in environmental campaigning, she returned to the industry as an actor, writer and impact producer. She was a Sundance/YouTube inaugural fellow for her series *The Mission*. She is trained at the Neighborhood Playhouse, Upright Citizens' Brigade and the Conservatoire de la Danse de Montreal.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



EMILY GAN AND DANIEL SCHACHTER
DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, WRITERS AND EDITORS

Pink Lake was written, produced, directed and edited by Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter. Emily is a photographer, filmmaker and yoga teacher from Montreal. *Cavebirds*, her debut documentary feature, garnered her the Emerging Canadian Filmmaker prize at Hot Docs 2019. She is currently developing a supernatural horror film adaptation of three Asian folk tales. Daniel is a songwriter and filmmaker also from Montreal. His short films *Three Mothers* (Grand Prix winner at *Cours écrire ton court* & NSI online film fest, A&E Short Filmmaker Award, Best Short at the RVCQ) and *Entre chien et loup* (starring Monia Chokri) played at international festivals including Clermont Ferrand, Rhode Island and Palm Springs. He releases albums under his first and middle names, Daniel Isaiah. For both filmmakers, *Pink Lake* is their first feature-length narrative film.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

A man with short brown hair, wearing a grey crew-neck sweater, is seated and playing an acoustic guitar. He has his eyes closed and a focused expression. The background is a textured, light-colored stone wall. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the man's face and the guitar.

JACOB POTASHNIK – CO-PRODUCER

Jacob Potashnik has spent the last 40 years following two streams of activity; producer and line-producer of documentaries, television series, commercials, web content and films of every genre, and award-winning screenwriter, script doctor, consultant and educator. Jacob is the recipient of the WGC award for the best screenplay for *Stardom*, and is the author of, *The Golem of Hampstead*, a collection of stories short-listed for the QWF/Concordia University First Book prize.

NATHALIE MOLIAVKO-VISOTZKY – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Over the past 30 years, Nathalie Moliavko-Visotzky has collaborated in the production of short and feature length films, as well as documentaries, as assistant cameraman, camera operator, and director of photography. She has worked with Denys Arcand, Jean-Claude Lauzon, Marc-André Forcier, François Girard, Louis Bélanger and also with Nathalie Saint Pierre who won the Best Film Award at the Festival of Angouleme in 2012 for *Catimini*. She has also collaborated on the films of foreign filmmakers like David Mamet, Robert Altman, Roger Spottiswood, Stephan Elliott, and Claude Miller. Notably, she directed the documentary Frameworks, directed by Helen Doyle, which won the prize for Best Canadian Film at the 31st International Festival of Films on Art, and for which Nathalie was awarded the Géméaux for Best Cinematography.

TOD VAN DYK – SOUND

Tod's life force has been inspired by sound. As a long-time drummer he has enjoyed playing in various groups: the Catherine Wheel, the Shamefuls and Orillia Opry. It was a natural progression that his love of Cinema led to a move to Montreal to study and to help with many a production as a Sound Recordist on both fiction and documentary films after completing his MFA in 2005. Working with others with such passion for their work - continues to propel his efforts to support them.

MATTHEW LEDERMAN – SOUND DESIGN

Matthew Lederman is a Toronto based audio mixer, musician, sound designer and music producer. In his over 20 years of experience in the audio world, he has worked with a diverse array of artists worldwide, from musicians (*Kid Koala, Jeremy Dutcher, Hayden, Metric*, etc.) to dance troupes (*Peggy Baker Dance Company*) to visual artists and film makers (*Moment Factory, Nomad Industries*). *Pink Lake* is his most recent project. He continues to produce music and mix projects out of his studio.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MICHAEL FEUERSTACK – *COMPOSER*

Montreal-based songwriter Michael Feuerstack (formerly known as Snailhouse) has built an ever growing archive of beautiful songs. Aside from his work as a solo artist, his reputation is also as a solid gold collaborator, producer and general facilitator of music, specializing in the guitar and pedal steel. Michael is a member of Bell Orchestre and has contributed to countless performances and recordings with the likes of Little Scream, The Luyas, Land of Talk, Thus Owls, Julie Doiron, and many more.

JARED CURTIS – *EDITOR*

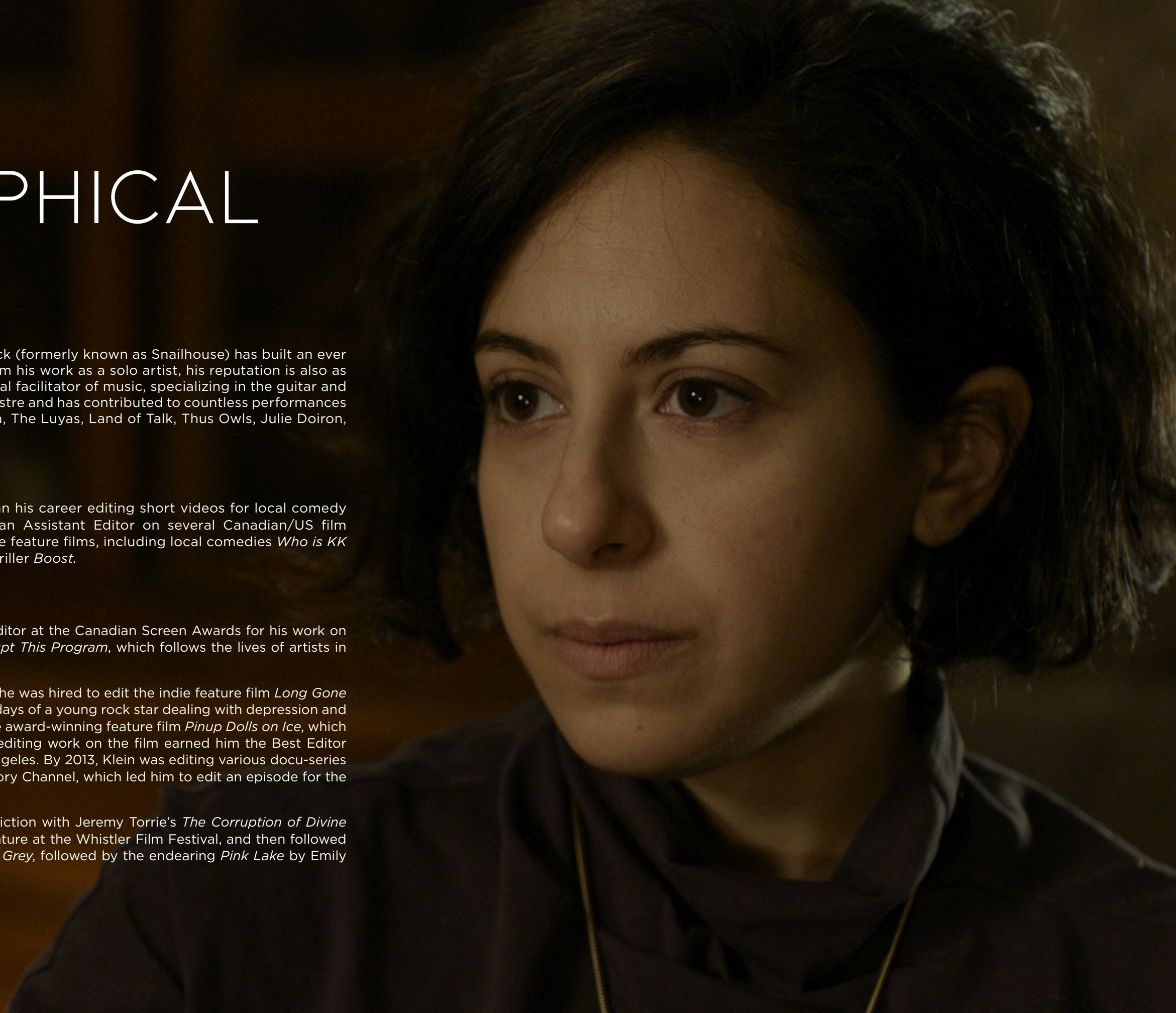
Jared is an editor living in Montreal. He began his career editing short videos for local comedy troupe Kidnapper Films. After working as an Assistant Editor on several Canadian/US film productions, he took on the Editor role on five feature films, including local comedies *Who is KK Downey*, *Three Night Stand* and the drama-thriller *Boost*.

GEOFF KLEIN – *EDITOR*

In 2017, Geoff Klein was nominated for Best Editor at the Canadian Screen Awards for his work on CBC's ground-breaking television show *Interrupt This Program*, which follows the lives of artists in oppressed, war-torn countries.

Klein's road to the CSA's started in 2010 when he was hired to edit the indie feature film *Long Gone Day*, a poignant drama that chronicles the last days of a young rock star dealing with depression and drug abuse. The following year, Klein edited the award-winning feature film *Pinup Dolls on Ice*, which he also co-directed with Melissa Mira. Klein's editing work on the film earned him the Best Editor Award at the ShockFest Film Festival in Los Angeles. By 2013, Klein was editing various docu-series for the likes of Discovery Channel and the History Channel, which led him to edit an episode for the acclaimed series *FrontLine* for PBS in 2018.

In 2019, Klein jumped back into the realm of fiction with Jeremy Torrie's *The Corruption of Divine Providence*, which was nominated for Best Feature at the Whistler Film Festival, and then followed that up in 2020 with the slow-burn *Woodland Grey*, followed by the endearing *Pink Lake* by Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Shooting format: HD
Projection format: DCP, Bluray and DVD
Available lengths: 80 minutes
Genre: Drama
Original version: English
Format: Flat 1.85
Country of production: Canada
Year: 2020

CREW

Directors Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter
Screenplay Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter
Producers Emily Gan and Daniel Schachter
Co-Producer Jacob Potashnik
Director of Photography Nathalie Moliavko-Visotzky
Camera Assistant Carla Clarke
2nd Camera Operator Marc Charlebois
Grip Chris Flower
..... James Rosen
Sound Tod Van Dyk
Sound Design Matthew Lederman
Chef and Crafts Services Marie-Josée Katcho
Composer Michael Feuerstack
Poetry Roo Borson
Editors Emily Gan, Daniel Schachter, Jared Curtis and Geoff Klein
Colour Grading François Dompierre

CAST

Alysa Touati Cora
Charles Brooks Sam
Marie-Marguerite Sabongui Nadia
Danielle Brooks Danielle
Michael Felber Mike
Amanda Macdonald Amanda
Sophie Desmarais Sophie
Guillaume Gagnon Guillaume
Eric Digras Eric
Penelope Nicholls Little Girl
Willamina Nicholls Baby



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