

B.HUM'N STUDIOS  
in association with 13TH GEN & TRANSGRESS STUDIOS  
PRESENTS

# TRANSFINITE

As limitless as nature itself



**LOG LINE**

TRANSFINITE is a dark comedy omnibus feature film composed of seven standalone short stories where supernatural trans and queer people from various cultures use their powers to protect, love, teach, fight and thrive.

## Political Significance

TRANSFINITE is a first of its kind collective social justice feature film that brings together the creative voices and talents of transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) artists and filmmakers of color. It is the norm for trans narratives to be erased, only to be talked about in the context of trans murder, death or ridicule. This film centers trans and GNC characters by placing them in positions of great power, wisdom, magic and inner light.



# Writer / Director / EP

## Neelu Bhuman

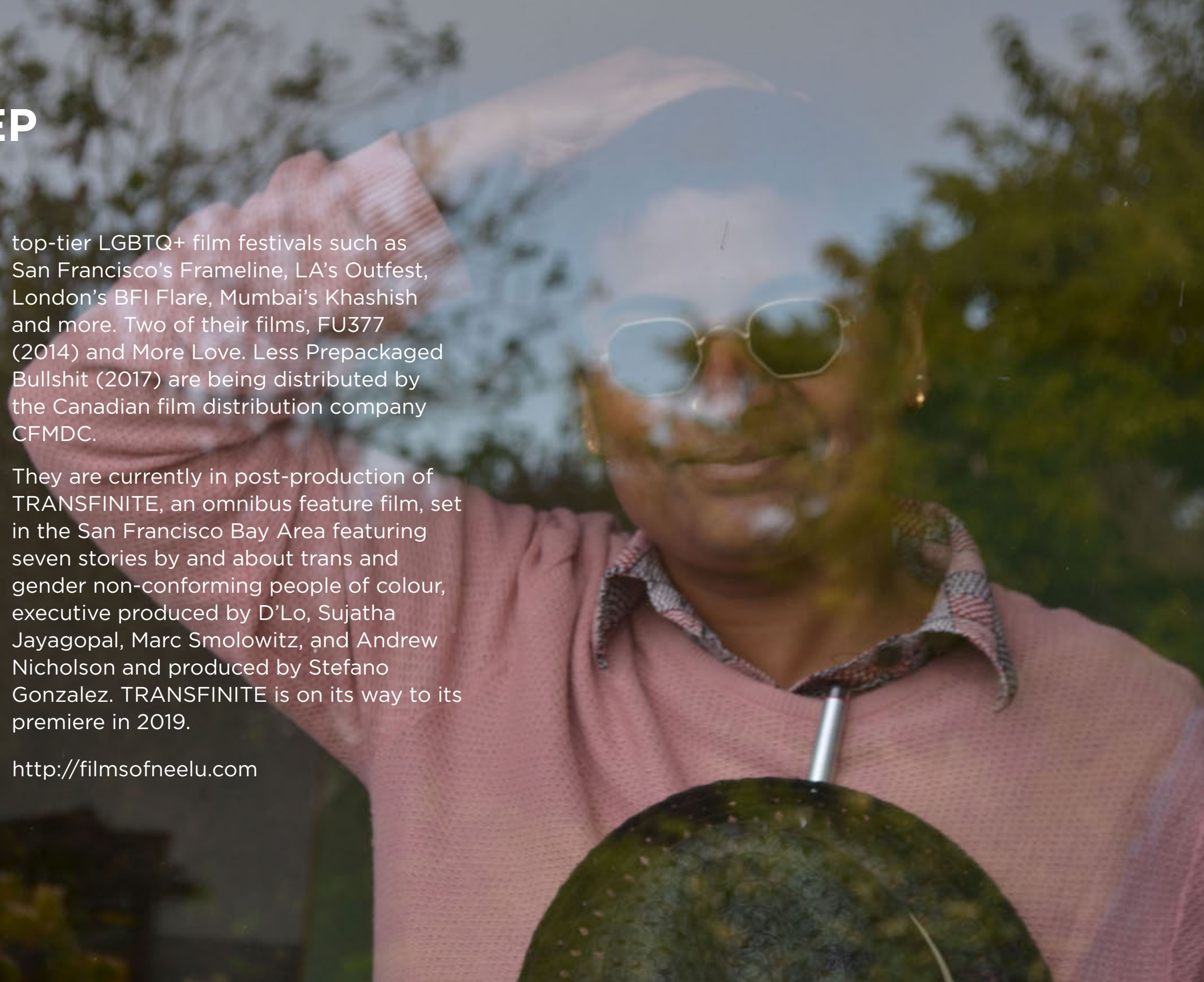
Neelu Bhuman is an independent filmmaker exploring social and political themes as they play out in close relations. Playfully evoking insights into the workings of difference in intimacy, her films blend viewpoints ranging from race, gender, sexuality, culture, class and romance.

Pushing these themes in FU377 (2014) and More Love. Less Prepackaged Bullshit (2017), Neelu's films purposefully move towards abstract retellings of the problematics of identity categories and foregrounding varieties of resilience and resistance to experiences of duress – both immediate and political. FU377 (2014) has won best animation awards in New Delhi, New York City and Kolkata film festivals, while Love Letter/Prema Lekha (2016) garnered the best short in Graphic Arts category at the Tunis Chouftouhonna Feminist Festival in Tunisia. His films have screened world-wide including

top-tier LGBTQ+ film festivals such as San Francisco's Frameline, LA's Outfest, London's BFI Flare, Mumbai's Khashish and more. Two of their films, FU377 (2014) and More Love. Less Prepackaged Bullshit (2017) are being distributed by the Canadian film distribution company CFMDC.

They are currently in post-production of TRANSFINITE, an omnibus feature film, set in the San Francisco Bay Area featuring seven stories by and about trans and gender non-conforming people of colour, executive produced by D'Lo, Sujatha Jayagopal, Marc Smolowitz, and Andrew Nicholson and produced by Stefano Gonzalez. TRANSFINITE is on its way to its premiere in 2019.

<http://filmsofneelu.com>



## Executive Producers

### USA

#### Marc Smolowitz »

Marc Smolowitz is a multi-award winning director, producer and executive producer with 25+ years of experience. His long list of credits includes powerful social issue films that have screened at top-tier festivals - Sundance, Berlinale, AFI Docs, IDFA, DOC NYC, CPH: DOX, Tokyo, Melbourne, Viennale, Krakow, among others - and been released worldwide theatrically and across television and VOD/Digital/Educational platforms. In 2016, he received an IFP Fellowship to attend the Cannes Film Festival's Producers Network and Marche du Film marking him as one of USA's most influential independent producers.

He works full-time as an independent filmmaker while maintaining 13th Gen, a consulting business that guides both emerging and established filmmakers through key stages of development, fundraising, production, post, completion, and distribution. 13th Gen also oversees a vibrant portfolio of films & filmmakers, many of which Smolowitz produces and/or directs.



### UK/Europe/India

#### Sujatha Jayagopal »

Sujatha Jayagopal brings 17 years of international experience strategizing business for small, medium and large enterprises specializing in enabling digital transformation where she has closed 150-million+ dollar deals. She is currently the Director of Strategic Sales for Wipro where her focused approach along with sheer determination make her a competitive force to be reckoned with. Sujatha writes and performs stand-up comedy in her “spare” time. She lives in London with her partner, Meena Subrian, and their sweet little pug, Archie.

Sujatha is absolutely thrilled and immensely proud to be making her first foray into the world of filmmaking through TRANSFINITE and to lend her business acumen to ensure its success. She sees the unique beauty of TRANSFINITE and believes we need to see more of these powerful and timeless voices on the big screen around the world.

## Executive Producers

### Honorary / Creative D'Lo »

D'Lo is a queer/transgender Tamil-Sri Lankan-American multi-disciplinary artist and producer. D'Lo was part of the Emmy-Nominated mini-doc series THIS IS ME, and his TV credits include co-starring in the HBO series LOOKING as Taj, on the Amazon series TRANSPARENT and the Netflix series SENSE8. This year he appears in Adelina Anthony's BRUISING FOR BESOS, and in the upcoming Issa Rae/Project Greenlight produced MINIMUM WAGE. His own web-series PRIVATE DICK is in post-production and set to be released this fall.

D'Lo currently tours Ramble-Ations: A One D'Lo Show (dir. Adelina Anthony), and his full-length stand-up storytelling show D'FunQT, (dir. Steven Sapp), has toured internationally. The follow up show to D'FunQT, which premiered at NYC' Dixon Place Theater in '17.



### Honorary / Finance Andrew Nicholson

Andrew Nicholson is a lover of progressive and challenging film. He has worked with Neelu in supporting roles on several previous projects which all have spurred the audience to see beyond their assumptions and expectations particularly around race, gender, sexuality, love and relationships. The most recent of these was the short film More Love. Less Prepackaged Bullshit (2017) which has and continues to screen at festivals around the world.

When Neelu first approached him with the nascent idea of TRANSFINITE, Andrew was in absolute awe of the audacity of the concept: Seven shorts by seven writers centering trans\* and gender non-conforming people of color woven into a magical powerful tapestry of feature length. The project is incredibly ambitious and he is humbled and honored to be a part of such an important and relevant film.

A portrait of Davia Spain, a woman with dark hair and bangs, smiling. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

DAVIA SPAIN

A portrait of Ryka Aoki, a woman with dark hair, smiling. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

RYKA AOKI

A portrait of D'Lo, a man with a shaved head, wearing an orange and white striped shirt. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

D'LO

## SEVEN STAR WRITERS

Neelu invited various brilliant queer and trans artists of color from California to use short anecdotes from Indian mythological stories as very loose springboards to write short screenplays exploring a particular political topic keeping trans, GNC and queerness as the celebratory driving force of every story. They also requested the writers to use poeticism, futurism and magical realism as tools for social change. To further enhance the blurring of “tale vs reality”, Neelu asked the writers to use the cinematic techniques of animation and VFX.

A portrait of Lida N. Vala, a woman with dark hair, smiling. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

LIDA N.  
VALA

A portrait of Cody L. Makil, a woman with dark hair, smiling. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

CODY L.  
MAKIL

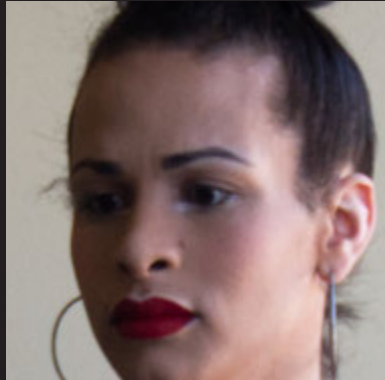
A portrait of Stefano Gonzalez, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing glasses. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

STEFANO  
GONZALEZ

A portrait of Neelu Bhuman, a man with dark hair, looking upwards. The portrait is set within a hexagonal frame with a dashed border.

NEELU  
BHUMAN

# STAR CAST



Harmony  
Santana

USA's first openly transgender actress who garnered an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress for 2011 film *Gun Hill Road*.



Blossom C.  
Brown

National spotlight on the show "I Am Cait" with Caitlyn Jenner & appeared on *Ellen DeGeneres*.



Carmen K.  
Moore

Played Felixia in 2014 Sundance's "Drunktown's Finest".



Tina D'Elia

Tina D'Elia is known for her work on *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006), *I (Almost) Got Away with It* (2010) and *Looking* (2014).



D'Lo

Co-starring in the HBO series *LOOKING* as Taj, on the Amazon series *TRANSPARENT* and the Netflix series *SENSE 8*. This year he is featured in Sundance Fellow Adelina Anthony's feature-length film *BRUISING FOR BESOS* in the supporting lead role of Rani.



Skyler  
Cooper

Appeared in the films *Elena Undone*, *The Owls* and *The Insomniacs*, and on television in *RuPaul's Drag U*.





# Heart of Transfinite

The seven striking short stories - VIJAYA, ASURA, SHAYLA, NOVA, MAYA, BAHARI and NAJMA - that compose TRANSFINITE span the rich cultural, political and familial landscape of California as experienced, written and enacted by trans, GNC and queer artists of color.

Every story in the feature film embraces the mantra “poetics, aesthetics and fiction for social change”.

VIJAYA and NOVA cast a spell with the power of dance setting the tone for a multi-layered critical political thought, while SHAYLA's Navajo Poem “Meeting the Spirit of Water” reminds us to shed environmental ignorance. BAHARI undoes borders with a romance that is as deep and expansive as an oceanic Swahili poem and MAYA playfully and vibrantly sheds all shame around sex-work and hugs it like a delicate and sturdy Orchid. ASURA's martial arts

grandma stuns with her knowledge of wonderful wisdom and NAJMA makes a haunting hip hop beat highlighting the destructive power of shame in all relationships.

Each of the stories' desires and dreams are limitless, leading to each story's transcendental connection with a nature element, finally coming together as an full entity whose connecting essence is that each is as limitless as nature itself.



# VIJAYA

By Davia Spain

Formidable Honey casts a celestial spell on the sleazy politician and makes the world's best wishes come true.

The background of the entire image is a photograph showing the silhouettes of two women in profile, facing each other. They are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame. The background is a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise over a cityscape, with a sky filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

# ASURA

By Ryka Aoki

Martial arts granny teaches her granddaughter that the grace of wind is a powerful tool when faced with difficult reality.

A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a grey halter-neck crop top and large hoop earrings, stands by a large window. She is looking out at a city scene where a white train is passing on tracks below. In the background, there are city buildings, including one with a distinctive dome. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with warm, golden-hour lighting.

# NAJMA

Envisioned by Lida N. Vala  
& Written by Davia Spain

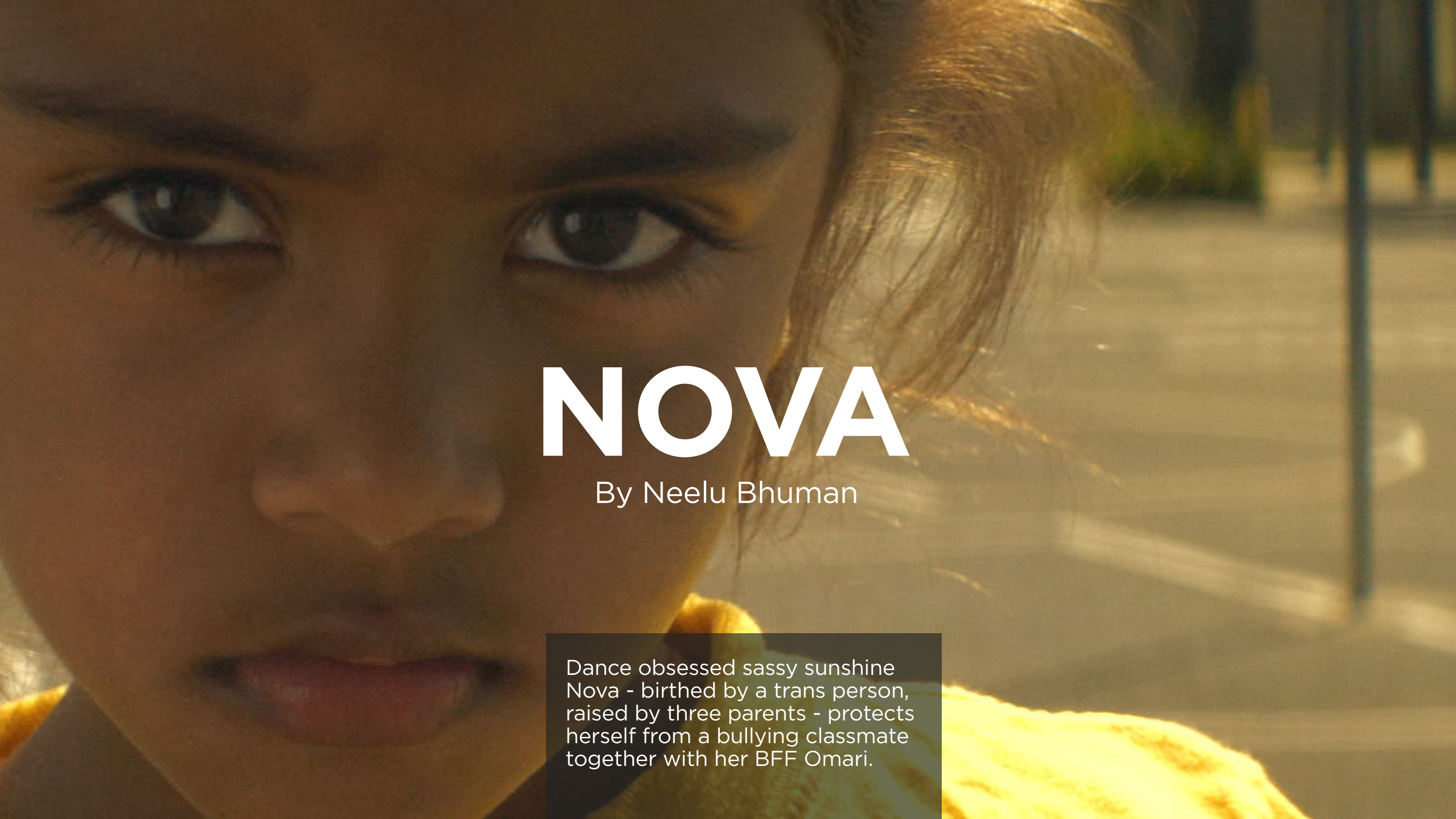
Just as the unforgiving desert,  
Najma shows how shame  
destroys all relationships.

A close-up photograph of a man with a shaved head, a nose ring, and round glasses. He is looking down at a cluster of yellow orchids with dark purple centers. In the background, there are more orchids, including some pink ones, and some dried, fibrous plant matter. The lighting is warm and natural.

# MAYA

By D'Lo

Like a sexy Orchid, Mango Blu expands his inner universe instantly after falling for Parrot Pink who puts duty above all.



# NOVA

By Neelu Bhuman

Dance obsessed sassy sunshine  
Nova - birthed by a trans person,  
raised by three parents - protects  
herself from a bullying classmate  
together with her BFF Omari.

A man in a grey suit and sunglasses walks past a woman in a black dress on a city street. The man is holding a glass and looking to the side. The woman is holding a small book or card and looking at it. They are standing on a sidewalk next to a street with cars and buildings in the background. A green utility box with graffiti is on the left, and a green pole is on the right.

# SHAYLA

By Cody L. Makil

Shayla, channelling her strength from the mighty oak tree, transforms Ronald from a brick in a building into a powerful flower.



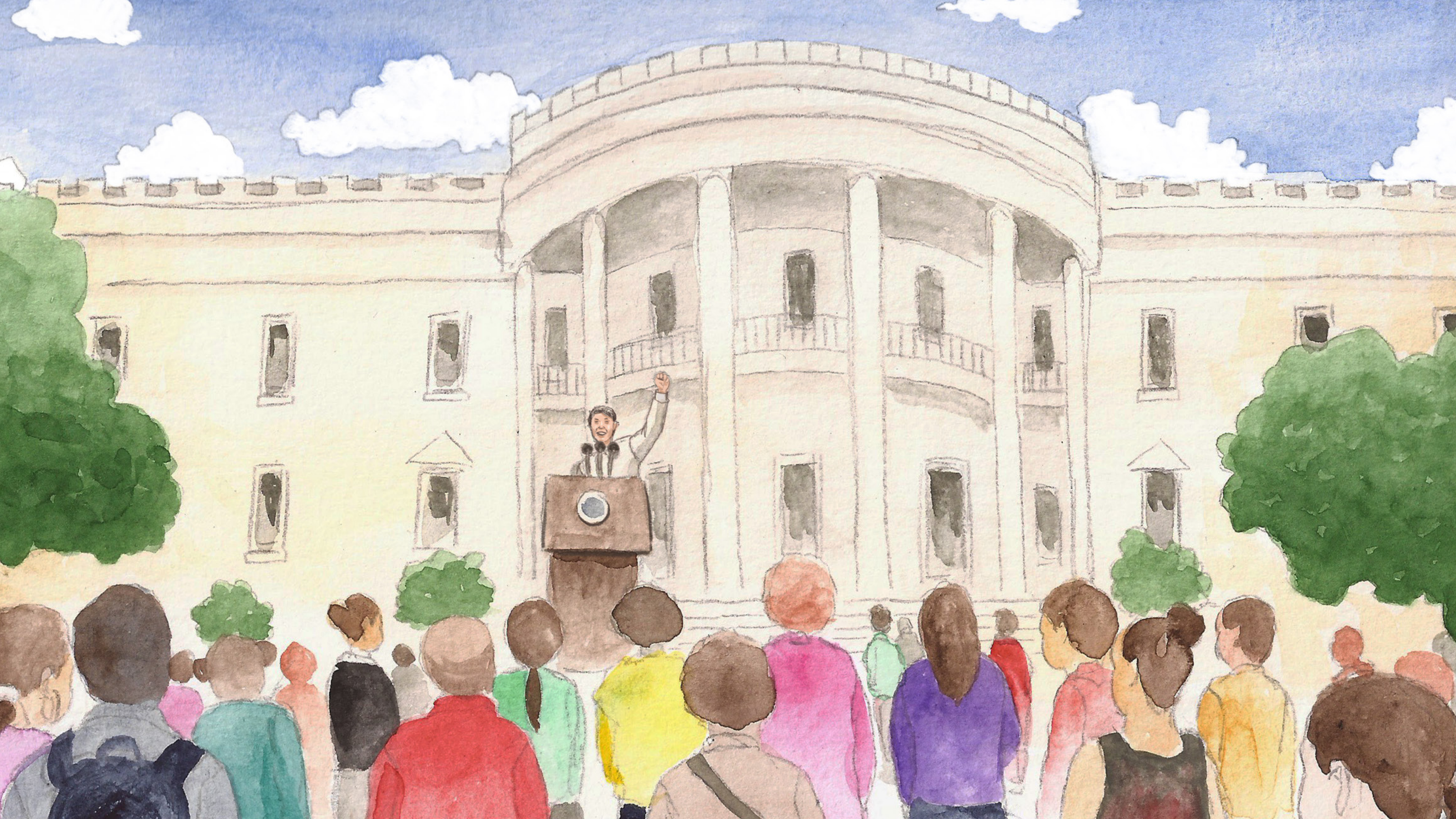
# BAHARI

By Stefano Gonzalez & Neelu Bhuman

Neruda's oceanic love and Bahari's expansive poetry are a perfect match that undo all borders.

# SIZZLE REEL





## Producer Stefano Gonzalez

Stefano Gonzalez is a Writer, Director-Producer with an MFA in Motion Pictures and Television. In addition to running his emerging production company Transgress Studios LLC based in Oakland, he has made six short films. His short script, *How To Kill Someone You Hate*, won Best Short Film and Best Directing awards at the 2014 Epidemic Film Festival. *Rebel Child*, directed by Juan Davis and co-produced by Stefano, won Best Emerging Artist award at the 2015 Pictoclik Film Festival in San Francisco. His latest coproduction, *Do They Fit?*, was an Official Selection of Cannes Short Film Corner 2016. Mr. Gonzalez currently resides in Alameda, CA with his wife, her son, and his two pups.

<http://transgressstudios.com>



## DP Aja Pop

Music video filmmaker Aja Pilapil has been creating films for nearly a decade. This year, she continued to establish herself as a staple in the Bay Area LGBT filmmaking community. She has shared her experience in productions including *FLOAT* (dir. Sam Berliner), a transgender and queer experimental short filmed entirely underwater featuring an all transgender and queer cast and crew – and screened at Frameline and Outfest. She worked as the 1AC on director Shine Louse Houston's neo-noir film, *SNAPSHOT*.

<http://ajapopfilms.com>



# STAR CREW



## CASTING DIRECTOR \* **Tina D'Elia »**

Tina D'Elia is an award-winning multi-disciplinary artist, Latina lesbian/queer actor (SAG-AFTRA) and acting teacher based in SF Bay Area.

## HMUA \* **Risha Rox »**

Risha Rox is a Black Los Angelina, interdisciplinary artist, working in the mediums of painting, performance, installation and sculpture.

## ANIMATOR \* **Pamela Chavez »**

Pamela animated the powerful story 'Caracol Cruzando', a short animated film about a young undocumented Costa Rican girl.

## ILLUSTRATOR \* **Rob Trujillo »**

Rob is an Oakland-based artist, co-founder of The Trust Your Struggle Collective, contributor to Rad Dad, founder of Come Bien Books.

## EDITOR \* **Mariko Montpetit »**

Mariko is an award winning editor on BAFTA and academy award nominated films such as 'The Act of Killing' and 'The Look Of Silence.'

## EDITOR \* **Donya Maguire »**

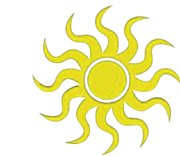
Donya has edited a number of short films, most recently the award-winning short 'Turquoise' directed by Roozbeh Misaghi.

## COMPOSER \* **TBA**



# Proposed Timeline

(pending funds raised)



**ROUGH CUT:**  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018



**FINISHED FILM:**  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**FESTIVAL RUN:**  
18-24 months from  
completion



**WIDER DISTRIBUTION:**  
2019-2020

# Completion Budget

Pre-production and production have been entirely self-funded. Through meticulous planning, budgeting, and deferred payment agreements, we have successfully completed filming and are engaged in early post-production with a modest amount of funding of \$63,000.

The remaining costs to support post production, deliverables, distribution and marketing, are estimated at \$72,000 in total. Given the social equity focus of this project, our fundraising focus will include philanthropists, foundations and grantmakers that are interested in LGBTQ visibility and increasing awareness and understanding of transgender and gender nonconforming experience with the larger goal of onboarding other socially responsible sponsors.

# Festivals, Sales & Distribution

Our goal is to create a 1<sup>st</sup> class film endeavor that places queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people in pivotal roles to be screened at top festivals around the world in 2018 and 2019. Our plan is to position ourselves as a tent pole presentation at LGBTQ Film Festivals worldwide and when possible mainstream festivals, highlighting our uniqueness as a project that both celebrates the lives of transgender and gender nonconforming people of color and their creative filmmaking talents. Our goal is to have no less than 100+ screenings on 5 continents as well as wider VoD and digital release worldwide.

# TRANSFINITE Sponsorship Levels

The Transfinite team is inviting sponsors at the below levels with appropriate recognition. Amounts can include cash and/or in-kind contributions to help us achieve our completion budget goals.

| Stars<br>\$50,000                                                                                | Sun<br>\$25,000                                                                                       | Ocean<br>\$10,000                                                           | Wind<br>\$5,000                                                             | Tree<br>\$2,500                                                              | Desert<br>\$1,000                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| “Presented By” credit in the film’s main credits                                                 | “In Association With” credit in the film’s main credits                                               | “Leadership Sponsor” credit in the film’s closing credits                   | “Founding Sponsor” credit in the film’s closing credits                     | “Supporting Sponsor” text credit in the film’s closing credits               | “Supporting Sponsor” text credit in the film’s closing credits               |
| Lead logo placement at the front of the film                                                     | Logo placement at the front of the film                                                               | Lead logo placement in closing credits of the film                          | Secondary logo placement in closing credits of the film                     | Text credit placement across all primary marketing and promotional materials | Text credit placement across all primary marketing and promotional materials |
| Primary Logo placement across all primary marketing and promotional materials                    | Logo placement across all primary marketing and promotional materials                                 | Logo placement across all primary marketing and promotional materials       | Logo placement across select marketing and promotional materials            | Text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels.          | Text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels.          |
| Lead logo or text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels, in e-news, etc. | Logo placement or text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels, in e-news, etc. | Logo or text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels. | Logo or text recognition by sponsorship category on film’s social channels. |                                                                              |                                                                              |
| Up to (2) Executive Producer Credits                                                             | Up to (2) Co-Executive Producer Credits                                                               | One Associate Producer Credit                                               |                                                                             |                                                                              |                                                                              |

# Contact

BUSINESS INQUIRIES  
USA

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Director  
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**transfinitefilm.com**

# Charitable Contributions



Transfinite has 501(c)(3) non-profit status in the United States through the Independent Arts & Media (IAM) fiscal sponsorship program, based in San Francisco. Charitable contributions in the United States are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. IAM also supports corporate matching programs to increase the impact of your gift.

[\*Donate\*](#)

**transfinitefilm.com**

Thank You

