

For Immediate Release
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MARKD Productions announces new short with star studded team

Stouffville, ON – MARKD Productions joins forces with Canadians: actress Elyse Levesque; Executive Producer Andrew Barnsley; writer Leah Gauthier, and international director Michael Driscoll, to produce the short film "*Hot Chocolate*", a true story of when a woman meets her boyfriend's family for the last time. This production will also see the directorial debut of Elyse Levesque who is known for her performance in the popular sci-fi series *Stargate Universe*.

This film will add to the collection of work produced under MARKD Productions, founded by Matt Worthington, Alexandre Belke, Robert Crowley Smith and Kevin Huhn. "We were completely stunned when this opportunity came to us," said co-founder Kevin Huhn. "To be considered as the production company to help make this project for such amazing people, is so humbling. These people are award winning powerhouses."

Short movies require the same work as any feature with preproduction, production and postproduction plans. Where features and shorts differ is on the funding, marketing, and distribution. Being able to bring a short to the marketplace requires a special set of skills. "We were beyond excited to have Andrew Barnsley join as an Executive Producer" says Leah Gauthier, co-creator of comedy series *JANN*. "Having produced together on *JANN*, Andrew and I formed a great working relationship and after receiving the pitch for *Hot Chocolate* there was no doubt we wanted to be a part of this project."

Filming for the production is set for September with the intention of submissions to TIFF, Cannes and Berlinale for the 2025 season.

ABOUT MARKD PRODUCTIONS

In 2021, the co-founders Matt Worthington, Alexandre Belke, Robert Crowley Smith, Kevin Huhn & Diego Aldana met at Toronto Film School. In a short time, they recognized each other's talents and shortly thereafter started MARKD Productions. In 2022, the team grew adding Matt Dionne to the team and they took their work to the outside world. Today, the business does movies, corporate commercials and public service announcements. Their success is built on the foundation: at the core of any project is a good story that can entertain, empower and educate an audience. For more information visit MARKDProductions.com

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