




# SORORITY

## *HonorDeck*

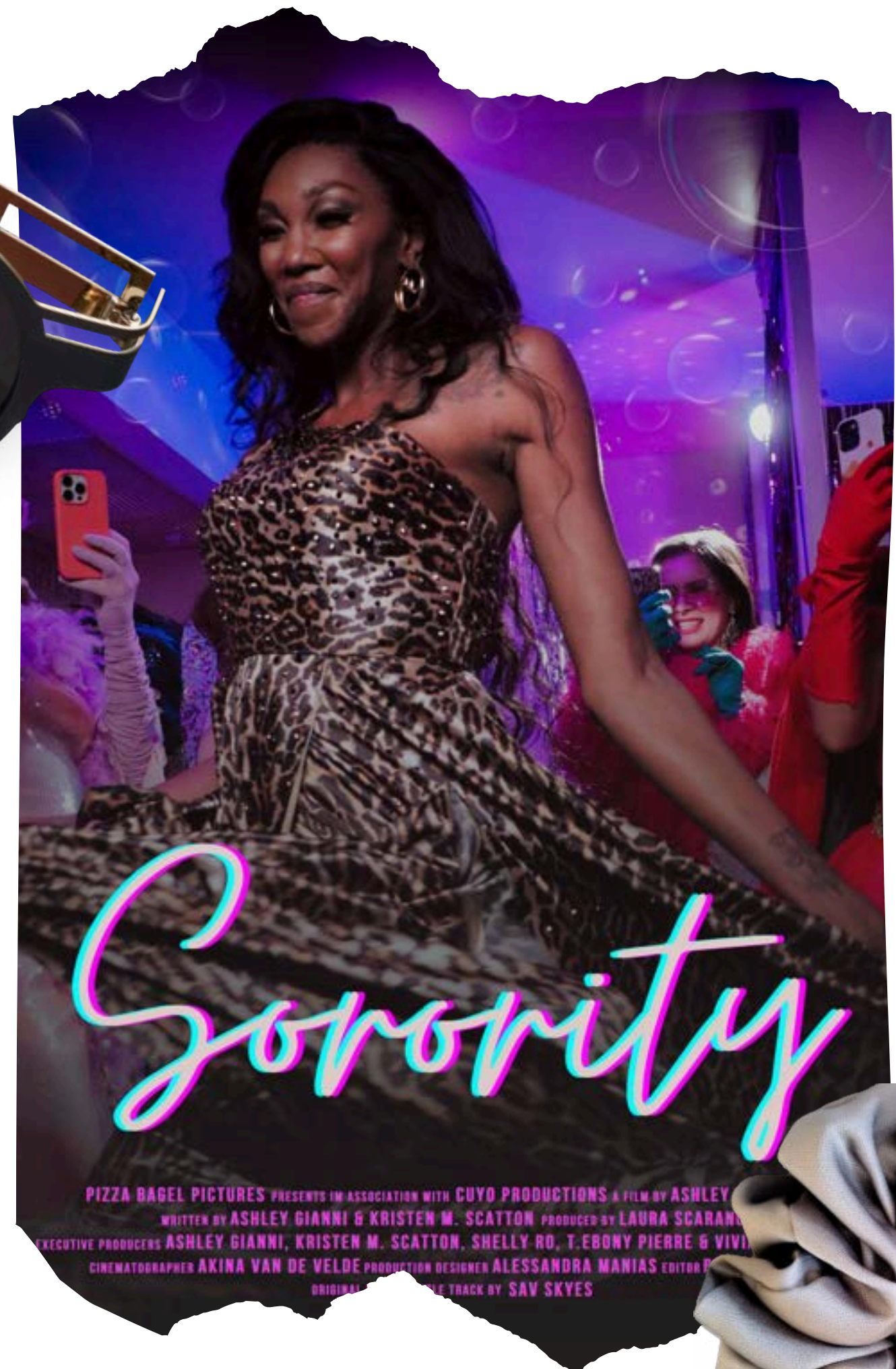
LGBTQIA+ Festival Bound Narrative Short  
& Social Impact Campaign





# LOG *Line*

A trans woman of color in the early stages of her transition learns to accept herself when welcomed into the sorority of sisterhood in the most sacred of places, the women's restroom.





# Synopsis



Fiona, though almost forty, is in the early stages of her transition and newly recovered from gender-affirming care. She leads with the awkwardness of a teenager - unsure of herself and her belonging. When Fiona escapes to the women's restroom to ease her anxiety before a first date, she encounters a series of women who help her discover her womanhood. The women welcome her with ease into the sorority of sisterhood while ushering her through the sacred rituals of the space. From shared lip gloss to impromptu photoshoots, Fiona learns how to love herself as she begins to see herself through the eyes of her newly found sisters. "Sorority" is a celebration of womanhood, the sanctity and safety of a women's restroom, and a love letter to our trans sisters reminding them that they belong.





# DIRECTORS

## Statement



In the face of rising anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation under the current Trump regime, our stories are more vital than ever.

The systematic attempt to erase us, to deny our rights, and to strip away our dignity is a battle we must fight not just with activism and policy, but also through the power of storytelling. As a queer, female filmmaker, I believe in cinema as a form of resistance, a tool for social change, and a space for healing.

“Sorority” is more than a film—it is a call to action. It is a love letter to our trans sisters, a celebration of the resilience and beauty of trans lives, and a reclaiming of public spaces that have long been weaponized against us. This project is deeply personal to me. I grew up finding refuge in the women’s restroom—a space that, despite society’s constraints, often became a sanctuary for sisterhood, support, and self-discovery. I want to challenge the harmful narratives that paint these spaces as battlegrounds and instead show them as they truly are: places of connection, safety, and transformation.

At a time when trans women, particularly trans women of color, face increasing violence and discrimination, it is imperative that we create narratives that center their joy, their struggles, and their right to exist freely. “Sorority” is about chosen family, about the ways in which we uplift each other, and about the power of female solidarity. It is a direct challenge to those who seek to erase or dehumanize trans identities, a defiant act of love and visibility.

Through this film, I hope to spark urgent conversations and shift perspectives. Policies and statistics can inform, but stories have the power to change hearts. By immersing audiences in the lived experiences of our trans community, we cultivate empathy—something that is desperately needed in this political climate. More than that, we remind each other that we are not alone.

This project also serves as a rallying cry to my fellow cisgender queer women and the broader LGBTQ+ community. If we do not actively combat transphobia within our own spaces, we cannot hope to dismantle it in the world at large. Solidarity must be more than a buzzword—it must be an action. We must stand on the front lines for our trans siblings, amplifying their voices, protecting their rights, and celebrating their existence. Because if one of us is under attack, all of us are.

At its heart, “Sorority” is a film about love—love for our community, love for ourselves, and love as an act of defiance. In a world that seeks to silence us, joy is our rebellion. Visibility is our weapon. We must continue to tell our stories, to create art that refuses to be ignored, and to remind ourselves and each other: we are here, we are worthy, and we belong.





# PRODUCERS

## Statement



On any given night, in public women's restrooms around the world, magic is happening. Friendships are formed, comfort is given, and confidence is discovered. Women share laughter and lip gloss, tears and tissues.



And yet, more than a dozen states have enacted laws banning transgender individuals from using restrooms consistent with their gender identity in schools, government-owned buildings and spaces, and more, making this necessary, familiar space the center of discrimination against transgender individuals.

"Sorority" seeks to reframe the narrative around transgender individuals and restrooms and capture the magic of a women's restroom in a fun, fast-paced snapshot, with a rotating cast of characters who show our protagonist, Fiona, that there's more than one way to be a woman.

Fiona's onscreen transformation is at the heart of "Sorority", but the transformational power of stories also plays a key role in the inspiration behind this film. As female-identifying queer and ally storytellers, we believe that stories, particularly those that highlight underrepresented and marginalized voices, have the power to transform hearts and minds. It's our hope that "Sorority", which celebrates the power of female community, can inspire more acceptance for and celebration of feminine presentation and values. As a love letter to our trans sisters, "Sorority" shows that everyone is worthy of love, both from their community and themselves.





# PRODUCTION

*Strategy*



## PROJECT

*Timeline*

- Currently in Pre-Production
- Funded by December 1, 2024
- Production December 21 - 22, 2024
- Post-Production end of December through January 2025
- Completed by February 5, 2024 Tribeca deadline

— THE —  
**Funding Studio**

## FISCAL

*Sponsorship*

Production is inclined to seek donors to meet budgetary needs and in-kind donations including but not limited to, locations, catering, art department supplies, costuming, and post-production services via the 501(c)3 status granted in partnership with The Funding Studio.



## TRANSLATIN@

*Partnership*

Production is proudly partnered with The TransLatin@ Coalition utilizing their offices as the shooting location as well as filling prominent on-screen roles with talent associated with the organization. Production plans to build on the collaboration by organizing screenings accompanied by educational panels and community building events once the film is complete.

# PRODUCTION

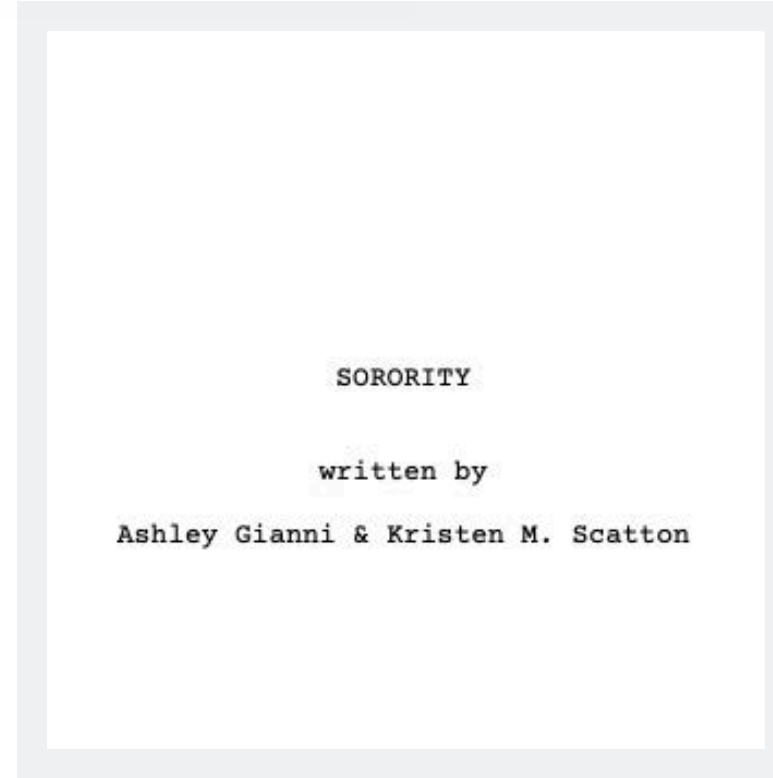
*Strategy*



## GIRLS WITH GEAR

*Partnership*

**G/G** was founded by a diverse group of women that represent disabled veterans, and the LGBTQIA+ community. They are working film professionals who invested in their own gear and collectively combined to offer great packages to independent filmmakers looking to build equity in the film industry.



## GRANT

*Submissions*

Production has applied for several grant and script competitions that provide production funds, production resources, and/or finishing funds if selected. Currently, "Sorority" has placed as a Semi-Finalist in the Outstanding Screenplays Shorts Competition.



## INCLUSIVE

*Team*

Production is actively expanding upon and building a predominantly queer and/or female team in front of and behind the camera to uplift underserved filmmakers and ensure the authentic representation of the story.



# PRODUCTION *Stats*

"Sorority" was produced by a predominantly queer, all-female team with a 98% female-identifying, predominantly queer cast and crew.

Additionally, most of the production services – including fiscal sponsorship, camera rental, lighting gear, production insurance, and more – were secured through female and/or queer female-owned businesses. ***The film is a true testament to the power of female and queer collaboration.***



**Press Play Above or [Click This Link](#) to Hear from the Cast & Crew**

*"This is what every girl in film dreams of! This is the crew we want to be with, these are the stories we want to tell!" - Shardin Johnson, 1st AD*

*"I'm sure this is not the only story that's going to change lives"*  
- Cameron Jackson, Actor & PA





# SOCIAL IMPACT

## *Strategy*



### **FILM** *Festivals*

Access target demographics and increase the film's visibility and reach with screenings, panels, and events at Top Tier festivals like Sundance, Tribeca, Austin Film Festival, and Newport Beach Film Festival, as well as prominent queer and/or female-driven festivals like OutCT, aGLIFF, Frameline, and Bentonville.



### **LGBT** *Organizations*

Leverage existing relationships with organizations like Planned Parenthood, HRC Los Angeles, and The TransLatin@ Coalition and forge new connections with organizations like GLAAD, The Trevor Project, and LGBTQ Center LA to organize screenings accompanied by educational panels and community building events.



### **LGBT** *Local Bars*

Alongside festival run, in respective cities, organize screenings accompanied by educational panels and community building events at local LGBTQ bars and establishments across the United States to engage our communities and promote impactful change at large.



# WHY *Now*

***"One thing is certain:  
supporting and  
consuming queer media is  
more crucial than ever!!  
-OutMagazine 2025***



As we face the immediate threat of **Project 2025** and the systematic dismantling of the rights of LGBTQIA+, Trans, and Female U.S. citizens, it is more critical than ever to tell stories for, about, and by these communities.

Trans, queer, and female representation on screen uplifts and empowers those who see themselves reflected in the characters and enlightens those who live outside these communities. Sharing stories that demonstrate connection and compassion creates empathy among audiences, challenging the ignorance and fear that leads to hatred and intolerance. It reminds us of our shared humanity, that we are all alike in our desire for belonging and acceptance.

As of November 2024, the ACLU is tracking 530 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills in 41 states, many of which specifically target members of the trans community. This includes bills restricting access to gender-affirming care for youth and adults; barring trans and nonbinary individuals from changing their gender on state-issued identification, and preventing trans student athletes from participating in school sports, ***with some of the most controversial legislation targeting public restrooms.***

Accurate and authentic representations of trans and LGBTQIA+ characters play a pivotal role in combating this bigotry and ignorance. According to Megan Townsend, GLAAD Senior Director (Entertainment Research & Analysis), "We...know that 'portrayals in entertainment media' is one of the strongest positive influences on people's attitudes towards trans people, according to GLAAD's 2024 Accelerating Acceptance study, so telling authentic stories by and about the trans community is crucial at a time when a record number of anti-transgender bills are being introduced and passed."



# IN TRUMP'S 1ST MONTH IN *Office*

## **Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (January 20, 2025)**

This order establishes federal policies that define sex strictly based on biological terms, recognizing only two genders—male and female. It rescinds previous executive orders related to gender identity and dissolves the White House Gender Policy Council.

## **Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing (January 20, 2025)**

This order terminates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within the federal government, aiming to eliminate programs deemed as promoting "radical gender ideology."

## **Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling (January 20, 2025)**

This order directs the Department of Education to ensure that educational content aligns with the administration's definitions of sex and gender, prohibiting the promotion of concepts related to gender identity in K-12 schools.

## **Restoring America's Fighting Force (January 27, 2025)**

This order reverses previous policies accommodating gender identity in the military, effectively banning transgender individuals from enlisting and halting gender-affirming care for current service members.

## **Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation (January 30, 2025)**

This order directs federal agencies to prohibit the use of federal funds for gender-affirming medical procedures for minors, including hormone treatments and surgeries.

## **Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports (February 5, 2025)**

This order mandates that participation in women's sports at educational institutions be based on biological sex assigned at birth, effectively barring transgender women and girls from competing in female sports categories.

## **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025**

Signed into law on December 23, 2024, this act includes a provision that prohibits TRICARE, the military's health care program, from covering gender-affirming care for minors. This restriction affects military families seeking such care for their transgender children.

## **Safeguarding American Values in Elections (SAVE) Act**

Proposed by Representative Chip Roy, this bill mandates in-person proof of citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate, for voter registration.

Critics argue that it could disproportionately affect married women who have changed their last names and transgender individuals with legal identity discrepancies, potentially restricting their voting access.



# WHY SORORITY WILL *Succeed*



Telling meaningful LGBTQ stories is not just the right thing to do, it's also just smart business," according to the 2020 GLAAD Studio Responsibility Index & a recent CAA analysis found that, "female-led films outperform male-led films at all budget levels!" Audiences are craving original queer and female stories told by queer and female filmmakers, as the recent success of films like "Will & Harper," "I Saw the TV Glow," and "Love Lies Bleeding" demonstrates. These films show that, regardless of genre or form, there is much about the queer and trans experience that has yet to be explored and reflected in cinema.



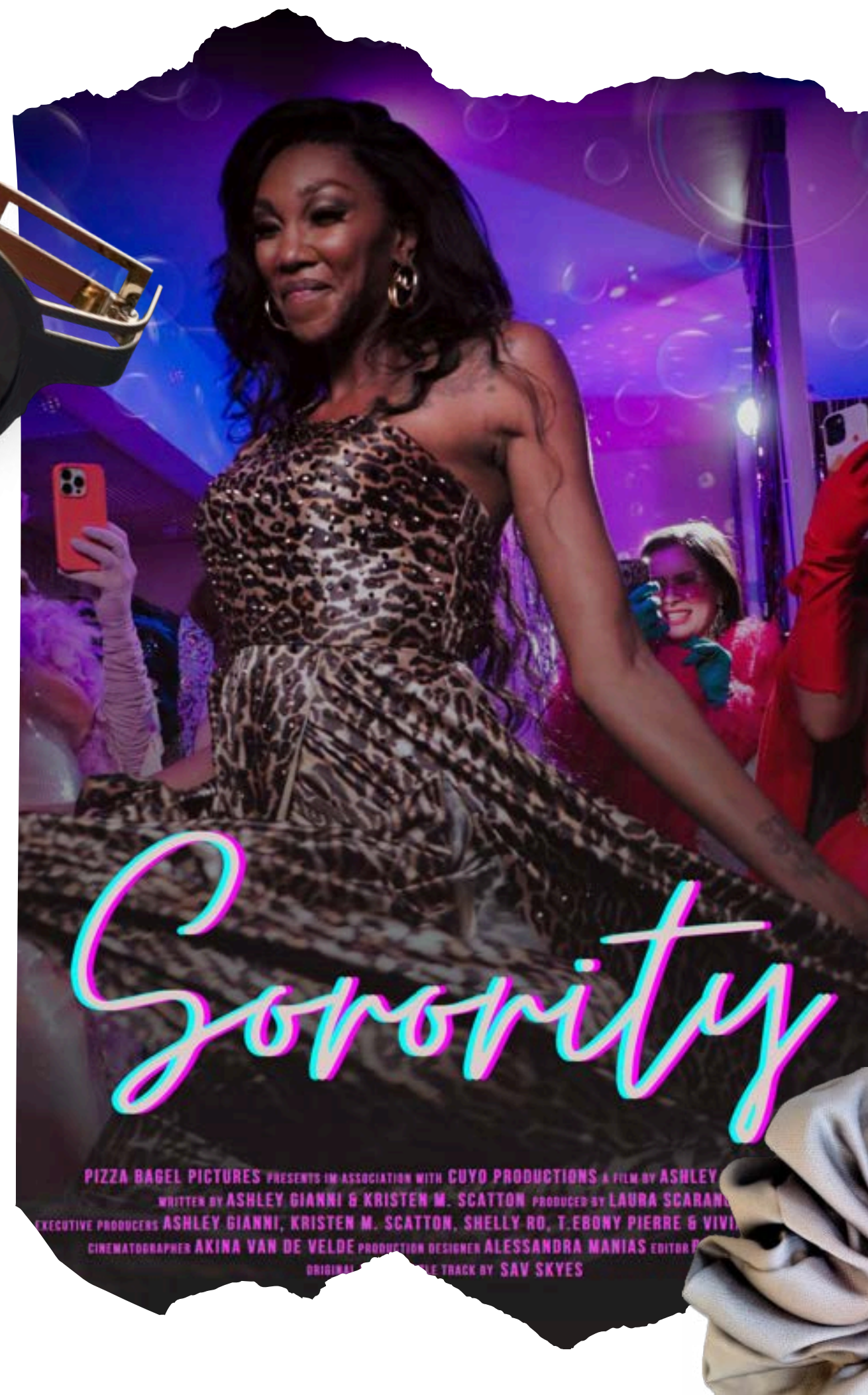


# DONOR

## Support

Production is seeking 4 Micro-Donors to contribute a \$4k tax-deductible donation in exchange for Executive Producer credit.

*\*Contributions will be used to fund the production and post-production of the film. Producers may seek to raise additional contributions to support a more expansive festival run and social impact campaign.*





# THE *Team*



Gianni, Scatton, Scarano, and Ro is an award-winning filmmaking team with over 70 festival appearances and 30 awards between them in the 2023-2024 festival circuit alone. Brought together by their collective belief in the transformational power of storytelling, the “Sorority” producing team is passionate about telling impactful queer and female-empowered stories. With their combined expertise and extensive experience in non-profit sectors spanning from arts to social justice to education to healthcare, the team is uniquely positioned to take their storytelling to the next level by pairing their films with comprehensive social impact campaigns.

## 2023-24 FESTIVAL *Success*

### *Official Selection*

2024 Blackmagic Film Festival Finalist  
37th aGLIFF Prism - Centerpiece  
37th Annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival  
Across the Globe Film Festival 2024  
Annapolis Film Festival 2024  
AV Film Fest 2024  
Bend Film Festival 2023  
Bentonville Film Festival 2024  
BFI Flare: LGBTQ+ Film Festival 2023  
Bridgeport International Film Festival  
Brightside Shorts Film Festival  
Brooklyn Film Festival 2023  
Bushwick Film Festival 2023  
CAAMFest 2023  
Calgary International Film Festival 2023  
Cinema Diverse Palm Springs International Film Festival  
City of Angels Women's Film Festival  
Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival 2023  
Cordillera Int'l Film Festival 2024  
Dances With Films - Los Angeles  
Dances with Films - New York  
DC Shorts International Film Festival  
Femme Fatal

FilmOut San Diego - 2024  
Final Girls Berlin Film Festival  
Fishnets & Film 2024  
Florida Film Festival 2024  
Frameline48 2024  
Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival 2024  
Hollywood International Diversity Film Festival  
Imagine This Women's Film Festival  
Inside Out Toronto 2023  
International Film Festival The Hague  
Julien Dubuque International Film Festival 2024  
LA Femme International Film Festival  
Lover's Film Festival (Italy) 2023  
Manchester International Film Festival  
Micheaux Film Festival  
Myrtle Beach International Film Festival  
Mystic Film Festival  
NewFilmmakers Los Angeles 2024  
Newport Beach Film Festival  
New York Latino Film Festival 2023  
NoHo Cinefest 2024  
Ojai Film Festival 2023

Out Film Connecticut 2024  
Out on Film Atlanta 2024  
OUT Shine LGBTQ+ Film Festival  
OUTshine Miami LGBTQ+ Film Festival  
OUT South Queer Film Festival  
Phoenix Film Festival 2024  
Picture's Up! 2024  
Portland International Film Festival  
Prison City Film Festival 2024  
Rainbow Visions Film Festival - Centerpiece  
Reel Out Charlotte Film Festival 2024  
Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival 2023  
Salute Your Shorts Film Festival 2023  
San Diego Film Week  
San Diego Latino Film Festival  
Santa Fe International Film Festival 2023  
Sedona International Film Festival 2024  
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023  
Sidewalk Film Festival  
Silicon Valley Queer Film Festival  
South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2024  
South Asian Film Festival of Orlando 2023  
Tasveer South Asian Film Festival 2023  
Wyoming International Film Festival

### *Awards*

Riley (Scarano - Feature Film 13 Awards)

- San Diego Film Awards 2024 (8 Awards): Best Feature Film, Best Directing, Best Editing, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Composer, Best Lead Actor, and Best Supporting Actor
- SLO Film Festival: Winner Honorable Mention, Narrative Feature Film 2024
- Woods Hole Film Festival: Winner - Best Dramatic Feature 2024
- Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival: Winner Best LGBT Subject, Nominated Best Feature 2024
- Riverside International Film Festival: Founders Award, Audience Best Feature Award 2024

Esperanza (Scarano - Short Film 4 Awards)

- Best Narrative Short, Portland Film Festival 2023
- Best Student Film, Ojai Film Festival 2023
- Best Screenplay, Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival 2023
- Best Fiction Short, South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2024

Carly (Ro - Short Film 4 Awards)

- San Diego Film Awards: Winner of Best Visual Effects, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design, Best Makeup/Hair
- San Diego Film Awards: Additional Nominations for Best Narrative Short, Best Lead Actor, Best Sound Design

The Paradise Road (Ro - Short Film 7 Awards)

- Bridgeport International: Best Actress, Best Cinematography
- Manchester International: Best Short
- Mystic Film Festival: Best Cinematography
- Hollywood International Diversity: LGBTQ+ Perspective Award, Best Actress
- Brightside Shorts Film Festival: Best Script
- San Diego Film Awards: 5 Nominations, Best Narrative Short, Best Musical Score, Best Lead Actress, Best Lead Actress, Best Cinematography

The Fuscus (Gianni, Scatton - Short Film 3 Awards)

- Best Ensemble Award, 37th Annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival
- Female Perspective Award, Hollywood Int. Diversity Film Festival
- Best Female Driven Cast, City of Angeles Women's Film Festival







# CONTACT *Production*

Contact Producing Team via Ashley Gianni  
Pizza Bagel Pictures, LLC.  
[ashley@ashleygianni.com](mailto:ashley@ashleygianni.com)  
201-921-4594 (c)  
[@sororityshortfilm](https://www.instagram.com/sororityshortfilm)

