

** a girl
named
Arthur*
by Audrey Rumsby

* TAGLINE * GENRE * LOGLINE * SYNOPSIS * CHARACTERS * MOTIVATION * BIOS * CONTACT



Tagline

She thought her biggest challenge was being a girl named Arthur then she fell in love with another girl!

Genre

Musical
Romance

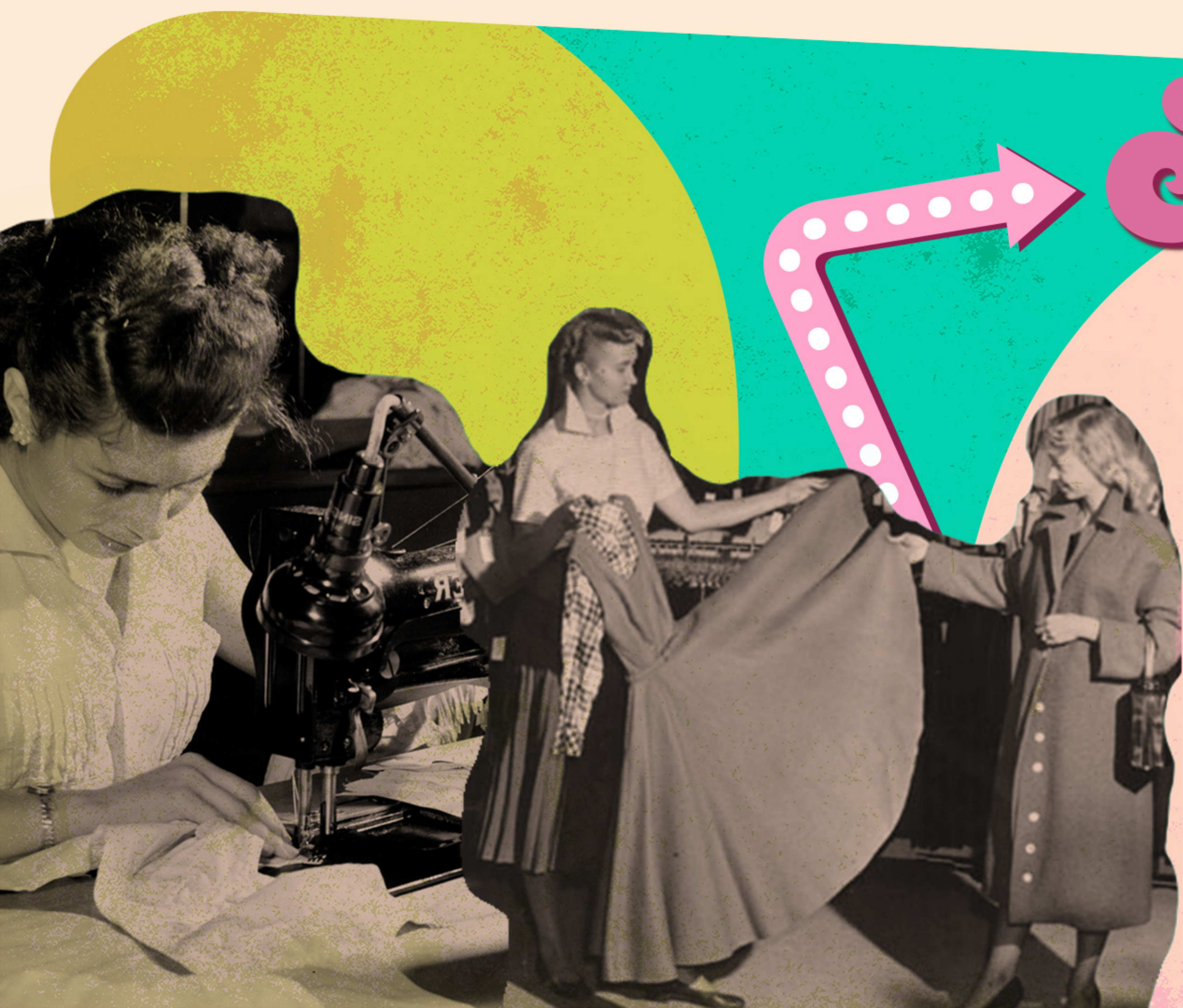


Logline



In 1962, newly-engaged Arthur lives with her aunt and grandmother who are obsessed with Marilyn Monroe and refuse to let go of the strict 1950's ideals. While working at their dress shop, Arthur falls for the rebellious Liza-Jane who introduces her to a world bursting with colours and sexual fluidity; there she finally finds her own voice.





Synopsis

It's 1962, Arthur is a picture-perfect housewife-to-be living with her conservative aunt and grandmother; despite her getting engaged, something is brewing on the inside.

At the family dress shop where she works, the beautiful Liza-Jane walks in, Arthur is immediately smitten and inspired.

The next morning, Arthur visits the new men's suit shop and basks in the beauty of the wondrous suits. At the shop, she meets the colorful and confident Tab, then tries on one of the suits for herself. Based on her elation and excitement over wearing men's clothing, Tab takes Arthur to The Blue Flamingo, an underground party with the most eccentric beings, where she runs into LJ and eventually takes her back to the dress shop to show her the secret women's suits she's been designing.



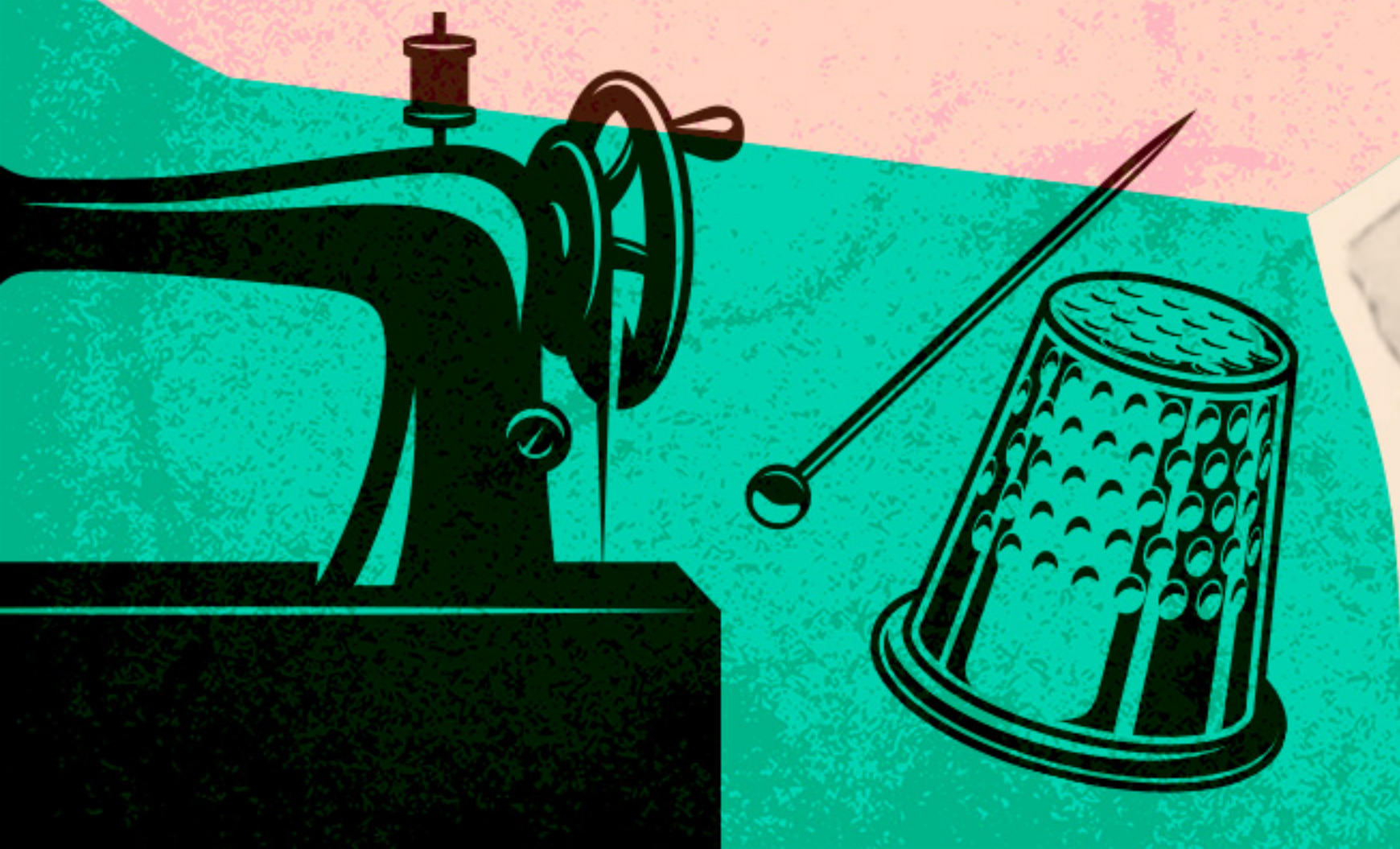
LJ tries on one of the suits and shares a moment with Arthur, who's also wearing one, and then kisses her.



Before Arthur has the time to freak out, her aunt screams from upstairs about a fire breaking out. LJ leaves and Arthur rushes to her aunt, revealing herself wearing a man's suit; her aunt is shocked. Following these events, Arthur feels lost and ashamed so she cuts ties with everyone to revert back to her stepford ways thinking she should focus on her upcoming nuptials.



Arthur is now uninspired and a shell of herself, but it's Marley, the soda fountain owner, who convinces her to stay true to her new identity. Arthur goes back to the drawing board, calls off her engagement, then completes her line of suits only to reveal them to the entire town at The Blue Flamingo after making amends with LJ; ushering in a gender-defying decade and securing her own path.





Character Breakdown



Arthur

Arthur is in her mid to late twenties; she's a smart girl living and working with her aunt and grandmother who raised her. Like most young women of her time, she has to dumb herself down in the presence of men so that they aren't intimidated by her. Arthur is trying to become the person she knows she is underneath the 1960s perfect woman facade.

LJ is Arthur's love interest; she is a confident and assertive woman who performs at an underground venue. Liza-Jane has a distinct haircut, ahead of their time, that reflects her rebellious side.



Liza Jane

Arthur's fiancé, not the brightest man but a sweet and thoughtful one, is madly in love with Arthur and sees her as the sun around which the earth revolves. Buddy drives the town's ice cream truck; his ambition in life is to start a family and expand his ice cream business. Buddy is the 1950s movie's good American boy next door type.


Buddy



Dexter is Arthur's best friend and a deaf painter, the two of them communicate in sign language which becomes, in a way, their own secret language. Dexter is the alpha in the relationship; he's opinionated and sassy but nonetheless protective of Arthur.


Dexter





Barb is Arthur's grandmother and the brains of the duo. While she shares her daughter's enthusiasm for Marilyn Monroe, Barb is the one that takes charge of everything and is the hardest on Arthur, making sure her ideal wedding goes through. Barb still lives in her hey days of being a former pageant queen 1st runner up.

Barb



Beth is Arthur's aunt, she is obsessed with Marilyn Monroe and models her entire look and life around her. Beth is in love with Roy the fireman and constantly comes up with false fire alarms for a chance to meet with him. Just like her mother, Beth lives in the 1950s and has a hard time embracing the changes that the '60s are bringing on.

Beth






Tab

The new suit shop owner; Tab is gay and fabulous and is the type of person that exudes confidence without forcing it, he is comfortable with himself which makes Arthur uncomfortable at first since he is who she aspires to be. At night Tab transforms into an opulent drag queen by the name of Coco Marcelle.

Owner of Marley's Soda fountain, Marley is a friendly but cool older figure who gives everyone advice. She is Arthur's surrogate mother and subsequently guides her through coming to terms with who she is. Marley also operates The Blue Flamingo, a secret club located under her soda fountain.

Marley





I grew up in a home where I was forced to adhere to the notion that women must be feminine, beautiful and married; for a bisexual girl like myself, who liked to experiment with her gender expression, it wasn't easy. I must tell this story because it's my own, and speaks to a maddening need in our culture for acceptance and escapism.



Creator's Motivation

As a little kid, I always sought refuge in the glory of the MGM musicals; this is where our story begins. Our film takes the magic and nostalgia from those 1950's productions and turns them upside down. Imagine a 1955 musical where the female protagonist falls in love with another girl while figuring out a path that doesn't include being a stepford housewife. In this movie, Arthur is our Gene Kelly with a twist; she's attracted to girls and likes to colour outside the gender binary lines.

We can only imagine what the 50s would have looked like if queer stories were part of the equation. Even today, it's quite hard to find substantial stories about same-sex couples, let alone a classic romance with choreography and addicting music.

In the current climate, we are desperate for joy. This story comes in the midst of a battle cry for universal love with the world craving more unique stories.

This story can go beyond the LGBTQ+ community and reach fans of movies like *Moulin Rouge* and *Hairspray*. It's finally time to tell queer stories, but more importantly, we've earned the right to see a feel-good, infectious happy, lesbian love shine on screen.

by **Audrey Rumsby**,
creator of *A Girl Named Arthur*



Creative Comparisons



Bios



**Audrey
Rumsby**

(Writer and Producer)

Audrey Rumsby is an Arts Commissioner for the City of San Jose and an award-winning director and stage and film actor, having performed and/or directed more than 70 full-length stage productions in London, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. At 19 she received her Post Graduate Diploma from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, and is now a mentor for LAMDA'S Genesis Program. Rumsby's performance specialty is in physical theater and dance, notably appearing as lead musician and dancer for the London 2012 Olympics Team Welcoming Ceremonies. Her fantastical 2018 production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, which she directed, designed, and choreographed, garnered nine Theater Bay Area nominations and 4 wins, including "Best Production of a Play". She is the Creative Consultant for American Youth Shakespeare, a Bay Area theater company founded by her family over 15 years ago. Rumsby recently made the transition from stage to screen, having written and directed her first feature film: Barry & Joan, which will debut on Netflix Europe in May 2022.



Elio Mardini is an American writer and actor born in Beirut and raised between France and the United States. At the age of thirteen, a French newspaper published his poems and he went on to write two award-winning short stories. Mardini graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts with a degree in acting, later appearing in Disney's High School Musical on Stage and a variety of feature films including Brando Unauthorized and Texas Roadside Massacre. Mardini wrote the screenplay for Decrescendo, Where Have All the Flowers gone? and A Spring Doesn't Make a Summer, to name a few. As of 2020, Mardini is working on a queer 1950's inspired musical with award winning filmmaker Audrey Rumsey entitled *A Girl Named Arthur*.

**Elio
Mardini** (Writer)



Helena Sardinha is a Brazilian creative producer with experience in film and television. Helena produced several projects, with 60+ awards and nominations; screening in international festivals such as Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, Aspen Shortfest, and markets like NALIP Latino Media Market, FEST New Directors New Films and Brasil CineMundi. In 2018, she co-founded Driven Equation, a boutique production company located between Los Angeles and São Paulo. Helena Sardinha has participated in the HBO fellowship "Tomorrow's Filmmaker Today", and she's currently a faculty member of the Sitka Arts Fine Camp, in Sitka, Alaska. Her most recent feature film, Barry & Joan, is set to premiere on Netflix Europe in 2022.

Helena Sardinha
(Producer)



Rafael
(Producer) **Thomaseto**

Born in the countryside of Brazil, **Rafael Thomaseto** was raised by Italian immigrants in a small town called Jundiaí. He is a film director and producer currently residing in Los Angeles and co-founder of the boutique production company, Driven Equation. Thomaseto has participated in the HBO fellowship "Tomorrow's Filmmaker Today", he is a proud member of the Queer Producers Network and one of the founders of the Brazilian Filmmakers Collective. Rafael's films and tv projects were present in international festivals such as Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, Aspen Shortfest, Mix Brasil de Cultura e Diversidade, and many others.



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