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# SPLINTERS

**Written and Directed by Thom Fitzgerald  
(94 minutes, 2018)  
Language: English**



## **INTERNATIONAL SALES**

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# *Splinters*

Written and Directed by Thom Fitzgerald  
Based on the stage play by Lee-Anne Poole  
Produced by Doug Pettigrew & Thom Fitzgerald  
Associate Producer R. Cooper Vollick

Genre: Drama  
Country of Production: Canada  
Year of Production: 2018  
Length: 94 minutes  
Shooting Format: 4K  
Language: English  
Technical Details: 24fps, Sound 5.1, Aspect Ratio 2.40

## CAST

Belle • Sofia Banzhaf  
Nancy • Shelley Thompson  
Greg • Bailey Maughan  
Rob • Callum Dunphy



## CREW

Director • Thom Fitzgerald  
Writer • Thom Fitzgerald, based on the stage play by Lee-Anne Poole  
Director of Photography • Luc Montpellier  
Production Designer • Ryan Vessey  
Costume Designer • Emlyn Murray  
Original Music • Stewart Legere  
Sound Mixer • Eric Leclerk  
Editor • Thom Fitzgerald  
Sound Designer • Christopher Francis Mitchell  
Producers • Doug Pettigrew, Thom Fitzgerald  
Associate Producer • R. Cooper Vollick

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Telefilm Canada  
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## SYNOPSIS

Belle returns to her rural Nova Scotia home for her father's funeral. Having caused her mother Nancy considerable consternation when she came out as a lesbian teen, Belle is now desperate to keep secret from her mother that she's been in a relationship with a man for the last two years.

Sofia Banzhaf (*Closet Monster*) stars in the leading role as Belle, a young woman whose sexual identity is fluid. Shelley Thompson (*Trailer Park Boys*) stars as Belle's traditionalist mother Nancy. Bailey Maughan and Callum Dunphy round out the starring cast.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first saw Lee-Anne Poole's play *Splinters* at Plutonium Playhouse in Halifax, I was moved by the honesty, humour and restraint of the text. I am an unabashed fan of Lee-Anne Poole and her plays like *Short Skirt Butch* and *Countrysong*.

I love the alternately seething and comedic battle for control between Nancy and her children. I love the stabbing, cruel humour between a brother and sister who are so clearly devoted to each other, but struggling to forge a grown up version of their relationship. These family dynamics in Lee-Anne's writing feel beautifully authentic to me.

My vision for the film fully embraced the literary roots of the material. Cinematographer Luc Montpellier and I shot single character close-ups very sparingly, preferring to keep multiple characters in the frame, in order to capture the energy of a family reunited in the emotionally fraught funeral weekend. I opted for a camera that moves through the scene in choreography with the actors to reframe the action rather than fast edits.

I set the film in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. I believe my sincere affection for the place shines through the film.

*Splinters* marks the first time I've done a feature with an all-Atlantic Canadian cast, every actor having close ties to the region. Working with them was a joyous experience, breathing in the distinctively sweet air of a ripening apple orchard.



## DIRECTOR

Thom Fitzgerald is a writer, director and producer of film, television and theatre. Films include *The Hanging Garden*, *Beefcake*, *3 Needles* and *Cloudburst*. Television includes *Sex & Violence* and *Forgive Me*. Thom has received honours from by the Canadian Academy of Cinema and Television, and the US Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Writers Guild and Directors Guild. His films have won awards at the Toronto International Film Festival, the Berlin International Film Festival, Troia, Mar del Plata, and dozens of festivals worldwide. Thom has enjoyed three premieres at the Sundance Film Festival. His stage play *Cloudburst* received the Merritt Award for Best Nova Scotia Play.

*Splinters*







**SOFIA BANZHAF** (Belle)

Sofia is a German/Canadian actor and writer. Her film and tv credits include *Closet Monster* (TIFF Best Canadian Feature), CW's *Reign*, *We Forgot to Break Up* (SXSW), and SyFy's *Bitten*. She stars in the upcoming *Natalie* from director Rama Rau.



**SHELLEY THOMPSON** (Nancy)

Two-time ACTRA Award winner Shelley appeared in *Labyrinth*, *The Child Remains* and *The Halloween Party*. She is widely known for her role on the tv series *Trailer Park Boys* and *Mike and Angelo*.



**BAILEY MAUGHAN** (Greg)

Bailey appeared in the film *Outlander*, the tv series *Pure* and the CBC comedy series *Mr. D.*



**CALLUM DUNPHY** (Rob)

Callum is a Canadian Screen Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his performance in *Sex & Violence*. He has also appeared on the Super Channel series *Forgive Me*. *Splinters* is Callum's feature film debut.

