

# Honeycomb

Written & Directed by Avalon Fast



“A very unique film with a noteworthy vision”

*-Dilcia Barrera, Sundance Institute*

“From its first moments, it's evident that there is something special about *Honeycomb*. Throughout its strange, unfolding tale, Avalon Fast's feature debut continuously surprises with her bold and intriguing choices, especially when it comes to her dialogue. With nods toward Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and Ann M. Martin's *The Babysitter's Club*, *Honeycomb's* classic references mesh beautifully with its fresh, updated take on female friendship and the ominous end of innocence. As a lo-fi achievement that perfectly encapsulates the Slamdance spirit, the Narrative Features team couldn't be prouder that *Honeycomb* is part of our exciting 2022 competition slate.”

*-K.J RELTH MILLER, Slamdance narrative features co-captain*

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**Synopsis**

In the mundane hours of early summer, five girls sulk in their own boredom waiting for something. When Willow (Sophie Bawks-Smith) stumbles upon a seemingly abandoned cabin, she begins fantasizing about the life she and the girls could have there. Leader (Destini Stewart), Jules (Jillian Frank), Vicky (Mari Geraghty), and Millie (Rowan Wales) pack their bags and whisper a quick goodbye to the life they knew. They flow through open fields, blissfully entering their new sun-soaked world. Director Avalon Fast's new film "Honeycomb" is a way of feeling. A slow mindless space has been written with borderless rules and time to fill. The girls push for a meaning that is hardly there, struggling to reach out, grab it, and lock it in a box. Sometimes the girls find themselves feeling as though they were more free before.

**Director Statement**

The first glimmer of Honeycomb came to me on a walk alone on Cortes Island, BC. It was my first summer graduated and I think I was having some fear about what my life would look like without all of my friends around all of the time, as I had plans to move to the city. I remember getting drunk at a friend's place that night and just rambling to whoever would listen to my idea- a film about a lethal girl cult in the middle of summer. I wrote it that winter when the loneliness of the city really kicked in. My friend Emmett Roiko helped me to co-write and edit the screenplay during this time and we had it completed within two months.

Honeycomb does not follow one main character, instead, it watches this group as a whole as they settle into their mind-bending isolation. I wanted to make a film that showed the kind of resentment that “the girls” might feel for being sidelined in social situations, being the ones invited to parties, not the ones having them. These girls felt inferior to their guy friends and partners, and they were looking for a way out. It also shows the dynamics of choosing a leader within a friend group, either purposely or subconsciously.

Our entire friend group met for a camping trip that spring and I made them all sit in a circle as I handed out copies of my feature-length screenplay. I already had it in my head as to who would play who and that is how it worked out. Honeycomb was made by all of my closest friends and their brothers and sisters. The entire cast and crew and any help with artistic production are very close, and that is something that has made Honeycomb very special to me. The completion of a project like this cannot happen without an insane amount of effort put in by everyone involved. I am so beyond proud of who my friends are and what we have done.



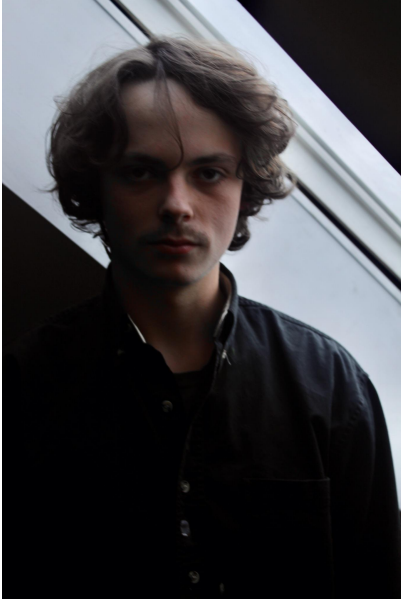
## Avalon Fast | Writer/Director



Avalon began making short films independently at the age of 8 and has continued to create film ever since. After high school graduation, Avalon was able to start her film career professionally. At 18 Avalon wrote “Violets Bloom In April,” a short film that was selected for the B.C. student film festival. There, she and her film crew won first place in the long-form category, and Avalon was awarded best director. In 2019, Avalon wrote and directed her Horror short “Night Trouble,” which was screened at the "Magic of Horror Fest" and also took special interest from a Fantastic Fest programmer. TIFF programmer Peter Kaplowsky noted “Night Trouble” as a "Compelling piece of filmmaking" as well as his favorite short of 2019. Avalon was accepted to both the Vancouver Film School and Concordia University for creative writing. Avalon chose against attending school and instead moved to Vancouver to continue writing and directing independently. Avalon wrote her feature film “Honeycomb” in 2019, and filming took place that summer on Cortes Island. She spent the next year in post-production, where she independently edited “Honeycomb.”

Since its completion, “Honeycomb” has received excellent feedback and a great deal of interest. Honeycomb's official selection for the Slamdance 2022 narrative features category is a victorious accomplishment for Avalon Fast.

## **Max Graham | Score composer, “Jude”**



Max is a musician and actor from British Columbia, Canada. He began making music in his early teenage years, going between various experimental bands of sorts, and has taken a particular interest in all things noisy ever since. “I am constantly forming ideas in my head and making the best attempts to make my music fit the emotions I would like them to portray or the emotions I am feeling personally.” He also has amateur acting experience appearing in Avalon Fast’s “Violets Bloom in April” and “Honeycomb” as well as a few years of live theatre experience through his high school years. “I plan on continuing to make music for now and forever and for anybody who needs it and for anyone who listens.”

## **Henri Gillespi | Assistant Director, “P.J.”**



Henri Gillespi is an actor from Vancouver Island BC, Canada. During the production of Avalon Fast’s most recent film “Honeycomb,” Henri played a supporting lead (PJ) and also took on the role of assistant director. As AD, Henri helped with many aspects of production such as; Wrangling the cast and crew, transporting props and equipment, camera and boom mic operating, and moral support. Henri has been acting since they were born. At a young age, Henri began performing scenes from

their favorite movies for their mum in the living room. Once in high school, Henri spent almost all of their time in the school theatre. Through their dedication to theatre, Henri was given lead roles which resulted in numerous awards and widespread crowd recognition. Once graduated, they went on to pursue a career in the world of acting in Vancouver. There, they worked on television shows such as "Riverdale" and "The 100." After a year in the city, Henri decided that the film industry was most enjoyable when surrounded by friends and that their time was more valuably spent on projects that they truly believe in.

### **Emmett Roiko | Co-writer, "Emmett"**



Emmett Roiko is a musician, artist, and aspiring writer from Victoria BC. He has played in multiple bands since his early teens and is currently in the band "Dastard." Writing first sparked Emmett's interest in high school and continues to be an activity that occupies a good portion of his free time. Whether it's lyrics, short stories, screenplays, or poems Emmett has a unique and intriguing style of writing. Working on the screenplay for Avalon Fast's "Honeycomb" was a very enjoyable project and Emmett could easily see himself being a part of similar projects in the future. Emmett is currently attempting to piece together a small book of short stories.

## Jillian Frank | “Jules”



Jillian Frank is a growing artist/writer/actor located in Victoria, BC.

Most recently, she starred as “Jules,” a lead role in Avalon Fast’s feature film “Honeycomb” which was selected for the Slamdance 2022 line-up. The film is shot on Quadra and Cortes Island, which is where Jillian grew up. Acting has become one of her favorite sources of expression, and she looks forward to exploring different roles. Jillian has appeared on screen in the mentioned directors earlier work, such as “Violets Bloom In April,” BCSFF long-form category winner, and “Night Trouble” which was screened at the “Magic of Horror Fest.” Being the Co-writer of “Night Trouble” and heavily involved in the production of “Honeycomb,” she contributes her creative talents behind the screen as well.

Writing has always been Jillian’s passion and is what initially began her involvement in film. Throughout her film career, she has grown to admire every step along the way—such as costume design, cinematography, and video editing. She aspires to write screenplays, surround herself with influential creativity (such as her amazing, talented friends/film crew), and contribute to creating a strong female force in the film industry.

## Rowan Wales | *“Millie”*



Rowan Wales is a multifaceted young artist from Vancouver Island, whose talents and interests range from musical to visual and performative. She has enjoyed a background filled with musical theatre, acting, dance, voice lessons, and primarily self-taught guitar.

First appearing in one of Avalon Fast’s earlier short films “Night Trouble,” her passion for on-screen acting has since remained unwavering and optimistic. Always with a project of sorts on the go, Rowan doubts this will be the last you will see of her.

## Sophie Bawks-Smith | *“Willow”*



Sophie Bawks-Smith is an aspiring actor born and raised on Quadra Island. She has now based herself in Victoria BC. She began acting, dancing, and singing in local theatre productions at a young age and progressed quickly to performing an assortment of principal, supporting, and leading roles in both theatre and film productions. Her on-screen credentials include starring in director Avalon Fast’s earlier short works “Night Trouble” and “Violets Bloom in April.” Most recently, she played the lead of “Willow” in Avalon Fast’s feature film debut “Honeycomb.” As an actor, Sophie brings professionalism and creativity to every role she plays. She takes pride in her performance and has



an immense dedication to character. While Sophie has the strong capability and diversity to embody many different personalities, she has mastered the essence of the outspoken, dramatic, best friend you have always wanted. Sophie has been recognized by directors for always remembering and perfecting her lines. After experiencing and witnessing the work put into “Honeycomb” both on and off-screen, she has developed a great admiration for the production of film. Although screen acting remains her passion, she hopes to further experience the many components of the industry. She is eager to return to the screen and build on the skills learned from her past projects.

### **Destini Stewart | “Leader”**



Destini Stewart is a talented young visual artist and occasional actor based in Victoria BC. She has always been interested in exploring different forms of artistic expression. Destini’s interests include but are not limited to: painting, photography, and as of fairly recently, acting. Destini executed her bold leading role in "Honeycomb" flawlessly, as she played the stone-cold mean girl that wasn't afraid to get in trouble. Destini not only has professional grace when it comes to acting but helped generously with the overall production of "Honeycomb." She looks forward to the opportunities that lay ahead.

## Mari Geraghty | “Vicky”



Mari Geraghty is an upcoming actor/artist who grew up on Cortes Island, BC. Mari has starred in “Night Trouble” and “Honeycomb,” two films written and directed by Avalon Fast. In “Honeycomb,” Mari plays the role of “Vicky” with deadpan humor and a seriously cheeky attitude. Her performances in both films are noteworthy and memorable. On a pursuit to broaden her acting career horizons Mari attends comedy shows looking to invite funny guys back to her parties.

## Jaris Wales | “June”



Jaris Wales is an artist and performer originally from Quadra Island, BC. Jaris has refined her acting skills most recently in Avalon Fast’s feature debut “Honeycomb.” She has a natural inclination and enjoys a variety of different creative outlets including drawing and painting, as well as more musical-oriented ones like singing and dancing. The time Jaris spent on “Honeycomb” is not a memory she’ll soon forget. Being her favorite project up to date, the production was not only a blast to be a part of, it awakened her passion for on-screen work. Jaris is looking forward to working with this awesome cast/crew again.



## Key Credits

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Writer/Director- Avalon Fast

Editor- Avalon Fast

Co-writer- Emmett Roiko

First AD- Henri Gillespi

Produced by Avalon Fast Productions

Scored by Max Graham

Costume design- Avalon Fast

Starring- Rowan Wales

Starring- Sophie Bawks-Smith

Starring- Destini Stewart

Starring- Jillian Frank

Starring- Mari Geraghty

Starring- Henri Gillespi

Starring- Jaris Wales

Starring- Emmett Roiko

Starring- Kyle Watson

Starring- Max Graham

Starring- Reily Houlihan

