



SOFT

A FILM BY JOSEPH AMENTA

LOGLINE

Soft follows three adolescent friends who become enraptured in the queer nightlife scene over summer break before a missing persons pulls them back into the reality they have chosen to leave behind.



SYNOPSIS

Soft follows three adolescent queer friends living in the underbelly of Toronto, each reveling in the newfound freedom of their summer break. Julien, a runaway, has been taken in by Dawn, a trans woman who has adopted the role of guiding him through the challenges of being a young queer carving out a place for himself in the world. Julien, alongside his youthful gang, is determined to sneak into a local gay club this summer, yearning to experience the wonders beyond its forbidden walls. Otis, a timid boy, follows Julien with intrigue and adoration for his effortless irreverence, while Tony, a young trans girl, rounds out the group with her bright spirit and optimism.

After stealing the wallet of a man Dawn seems to know intimately, Julien, Otis, and Tony succeed in their nightlife mission. However, when Dawn fails to return home later that night, the trio band together to find her whereabouts. Untrusting of authority, they hatch a plan to confront the man whose wallet they stole, ultimately setting fire to the double life he leads. As Julien sinks deeper and deeper into his guilt, a brutal discovery reveals how much darker the journey for truth really is.



THE KIDS





Matteus Lunot (he/him) is a Vancouver based actor. He started his acting career in 2019 at the age of 12 and is represented by Premeire Talent Management and Innovative Artists. He was seen in an episode of Disney's Gabby Duran and the Unsittables and in a supporting role as "Jayce" in Hallmark's 2021 film "The Christmas Contest" starring Candace Cameron Bure and John Brotherton. 'Soft' is Matteus' first feature film.

**MATTEUS
LUNOT**





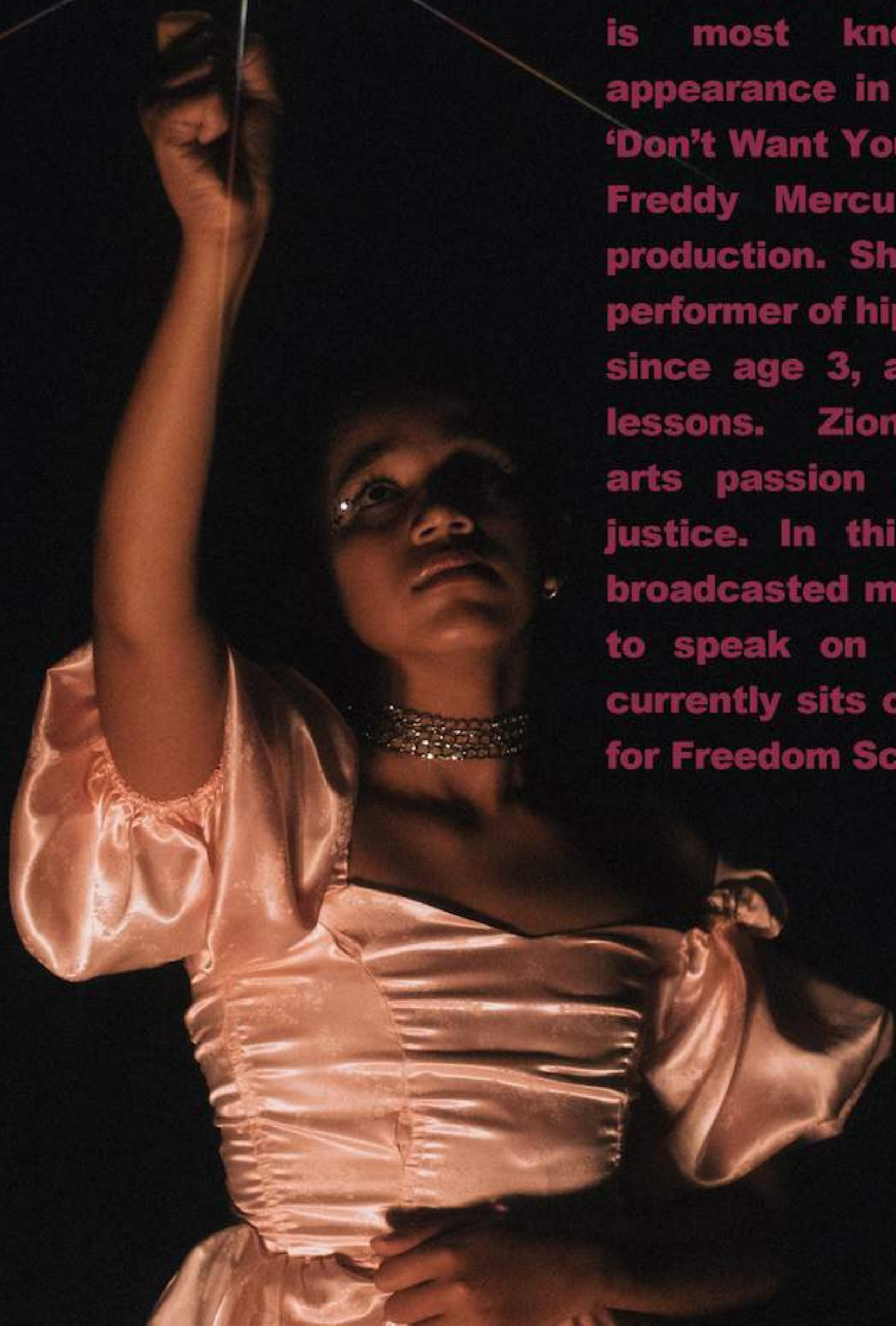
Harlow Joy is a young Toronto based actor, who has been featured in a number of independent works including Kevin Dempster's 'The Bookworm'. 'Soft' is his first feature film.



**HARLOW
JOY**

ZION MATHESON

Zion Matheson is young trans woman who lives with her mom and sister in Toronto, where she is a seventh grade student at an integrative arts school. Zion is most known for her prominent appearance in Kiesza's 2016 music video 'Don't Want You Back'. In 2019, she played Freddy Mercury in a local community production. She has been a student and performer of hip-hop, lyrical, and jazz dance since age 3, and currently takes singing lessons. Zion combines her performing arts passion with dedication to social justice. In third grade, she attended a broadcasted meeting with city Councillors to speak on behalf of her school. She currently sits on a Youth Advisory Council for Freedom School Toronto.



THE TEAM





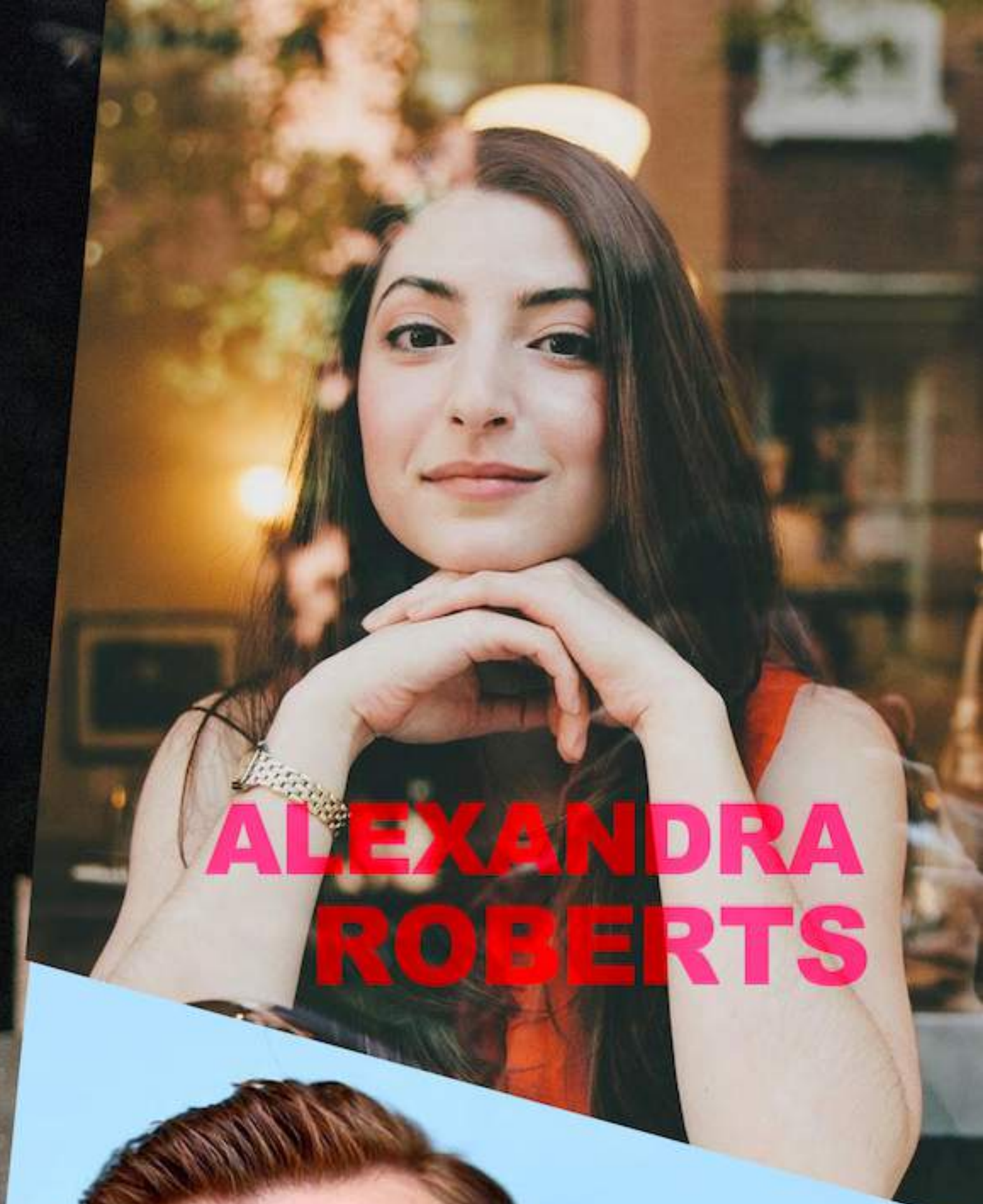
JOSEPH AMENTA

Joseph Amenta is a genderqueer filmmaker based in Toronto, Canada who focuses on post-genre stories emersed in the underbelly and subcultures of the LGBTQ community. They have produced, written, and directed short films screening at festivals internationally in addition to being broadcast across Canada, Europe, and Africa. Their short 'Haus' (2018) was selected for the International Competition at Clermont-Ferrand International 2019, and their short 'Flood' (2019) premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. Joseph was selected for the TIFF Talent Lab in 2019 after recently completing their residency at the Canadian Film Centre Directors' Lab in 2018. They have received the Toronto Screenwriting Conference Breakthrough Artist Award for their script for 'Soft' (2022). They have an honours degree from Toronto Metropolitan University in Film Studies in which they graduated Summa Cum Laude.



Alexandra Roberts has nine years of experience producing ambitious and forward-thinking stories for film and television, both in scripted and documentary. She cut her teeth in the industry on VICE's self-titled Emmy winning primetime series for HBO, where she contributed to pieces about the toxic legacy of the Iraq War, political assassinations in the Philippines, and the world's first glimpse at North Korea under the reign of Kim Jong Un, among others. Since then, her work has aired internationally on several networks including Hulu, Netflix, CBC, ARTE, NHK, Peacock, Discovery and Al Jazeera English. She is the Associate Producer on the second season of 'Children Ruin Everything' for CTV, Roku, and New Metric Media, currently in production. She holds a Master of Arts in Media Studies from The New School, a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University, and is an alumna of the Producer's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre.

With more than a decade of experience in the Canadian film industry, **Danny Sedore** has produced countless short films, music videos, branded content pieces and most recently his first feature length film. During his tenure as Program Manager at POV 3rdStreet, a media-training program for youth from underrepresented communities, he oversaw production on a variety of short films that have gone on to play at festivals around the world. He received his B.A in English Literature from The University of Toronto in 2009 and in 2018 he completed his Producers' Lab residency at the Canadian Film Centre.



**ALEXANDRA
ROBERTS**



**DANNY
SEDORE**





Cinematographer

Liam Higgins is an award-winning cinematographer, writer and photojournalist born and raised in Southern Ontario, Canada. Higgins' work can be described as creating cinematic, potent, and true-to-life imagery. This has been reflected in his work for commercial clients including Adidas, RBC, Tim Hortons, and Grey Goose, his award-winning and Vimeo Staff Pick short film "Wake," and his most recent feature film titled "Soft", directed by Joseph Amenta. Higgins continues to push his boundaries through all facets of storytelling as he crafts and shapes the look of every project he approaches.



Editor

Alexander Farah is an Afghan-Canadian editor and director currently between Vancouver and Toronto. He is a BFA alumnus of Emily Carr University of Art & Design, and a current MFA candidate at York University. His editorial work has screened at Berlinale, Telluride, Clermont-Ferrand and Palm Springs, as well as scoring prestigious wins at VIFF, the Cannes YDA and the Kinsale Shark Awards. Alex's first directorial short film "Sahar" premiered at TIFF, and his most recently-directed music video "Meet You At The Light" won the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Choice Award for Best Music Video at SXSW 2022.




A portrait of Dialla Kavar, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, looking slightly to the right.

DIALLA KAWAR

Dialla Kavar is a production designer and art director based in Toronto. She works in all genres and mediums of film including feature and short films, commercials, and music videos.

Dialla graduated from the School of Image Arts at Ryerson University with Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in Film Studies. Her work has been featured in numerous film festivals including, Toronto International Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, TIFF Canada's Top Ten, Vancouver International Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, and more. Her films have also been recognized at industry awards events including nominations for the Prism Prize and the Peter Garretsen Award, as well as a win for best EDM Dance Video at the MMVAs, and Video of the Year at the Junos for Venus Fly.

A small inset image of Mara Zigler in the water, looking upwards.

Mara Zigler is a Toronto based costume designer, filmmaker, and photographer. Recent costume design credits include Wendy Morgan's Sugar Daddy, Patricia Rozema's Mouthpiece, Semi Chellas's American Woman and Jasmin Mozaffari's Firecrackers. Mara was nominated for a Canadian screen Award in 2018 for Achievement in Costume Design for Firecrackers, and then for the same award in 2019 for her work on American Woman. In 2021 Mara and her team were nominated for a CAFTCAD award for their work on Sugar Daddy.

You can find her upcoming design work in Joseph Amenta's Pussy, Luis De Filippis's Something You Said Last Night, and Lina Rodriguez's So Much Tenderness. Inclusive thoughtful storytelling is integral to Mara's work, and she begins all costume design work starting with the psychology behind every character.

A portrait of Mara Zigler, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, looking slightly to the right.

MARA ZIGLER

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story of 'Soft' is a love letter to a childhood I never had, and friendships I always yearned to have experienced. The world of queerness is colourfully complex with extreme measures of talent and art. I have always been in awe of my community in its perseverance, adaptability, and beauty.

I take great pride in displaying diverse queer lives on screen and understand that in a community centred on a myriad of traditions and cultures, I must acknowledge the assortment of lives that have helped establish it. To the queer youth searching for belonging and family, and to the trans women who have always guided the way, this film is for you.

- Joseph Amenta



JOSEPH AMENTA FILMOGRAPHY



Soft 2022 (Narrative Feature)

Flood 2019 (Narrative Short)

Haus 2018 (Narrative Short)

Roam 2018 (Music Video) Arts & Crafts Productions

Cherry Cola 2017 (Narrative Short)

Festivals

Flood

Toronto International Film Festival 2019 Official Selection

Vancouver International Film Festival 2019 Official Selection

Festival Nouveau Du Cinema 2019 Official Selection

Frameline Film Festival 2020 Official Selection

Inside Out Film Festival 2020 Official Selection

Haus

Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival 2019 International Competition Nominee

Seattle International Film Festival 2019 Official Selection

Hawaii International Film Festival 2018 Official Selection

Vancouver International Film Festival 2018 Official Selection

Inside Out Film Festival 2019

Cherry Cola

Vancouver International Film Festival 2017 Official Selection

Orlando International Film Festival 2017 Official Selection

Inside Out Film Festival 2018 Official Selection

Awards

Frameline Voices - Framline Film Festival 2020

Canadian Screen Awards - Shortlist Best Narrative Short Film 2020

TIFF Talent Lab - Toronto International Film Festival 2019

Breakthrough Artist Award - Toronto Screenwriting Conference 2019

Telefilm Talent To Watch Recipient - Telefilm Canada

Avrich Fund - Toronto International Film Festival 2018

Peter Garretsen Award - Ryerson University 2013

CREDIT LIST

Written & Directed by
Joseph Amenta

Produced by
Danny Sedore
Alexandra Roberts

Starring
Matteus Lunot
Zion Matheson
Harlow Joy
Miyoko Anderson
Krista Morin
Trevor Hayes
Karl Campbell
Kiley May

Executive Producers
James Hyslop
Alyson Richards
Alex Jordan"

Associate Producer
Ladan Mohamad Siad

Director of Photography
Liam Higgins

Picture Editor
Alexander Farah

Production Designer
Dialla Kawar

Costume Designer
Mara Zigler

Composer
Casey MQ & Skyshaker

Casting Director
Jesse Griffiths CDC

Cast (in order of appearance)

Julien - Matteus Lunot
Tony - Zion Matheson
Otis - Harlow Joy
Store Clerk - Jay Yoo
Drag Queen - Sofonda Cox
Bouncer - Matt Willis
Dawn - Miyoko Anderson
Joslyn - Krista Morin
Gerald - Karl Campbell
Bruce F Duncan - Trevor Hayes
Patricia - Kiley May
Pizza Boy - Nick Boegel
Richard - David LaFontaine
Kita - Nicki Whitely
Dave - Peter Bou-Ghannam
Standing Man - Jordan Shore
Denice - Cookie Von C.
Vonce - James Baley
Tamara - Monique Jasmine Paul
Drunk Girl 1 - Julianne Dransfield
Drunk Girl 2 - Seher Khot
Bruce's Daughter - River Price-Maenpaa
Bruce's Wife - Sochi Fried
Anna - Joy Castro

Casting Producer - Jonathan Jude
Casting Assistant - Izad Etemadi
Background Casting - Roisin McGilly

Story Editor -Miyoko Anderson
Script Consultant - Giselle Ariel Bleuz

Production Manager - Renee Poujade
Unit Manager - Yousef Adris
Production coordinator - Jayne Elliot
Assistant production coordinator - Andrea Villanueva

First assistant director - Jeff Hanley
First assistant director - Matt Moreland
Second assistant director - Madison Wong
Third assistant director - Ariel Hughes
Trainee assistant director - Filsan Ali

Stunt coordinator - Scotty Cook
Stunts safety - Joey Racki

Production accountant - James Dunicliff

Script supervisor - Paula Wilson

First assistant camera - Oleksii Furdiiak
Second assistant camera - Anastasia Filomeno
Camera trainee - Rinchen Dolma

Gaffer - Ivan Karaulov
Key grip - Eamon Hillis
Swing - Timur Aliev

Assistant costume designer - Reilly Kizer
Costume trainee - Zawadi Bunziglye

Set decorator - Lana Kawar
On-Set Dresser/On-Set Props - Melissa Wright
Graphic Designer - Jon Mctavish
Additional Graphics - Joshua Rille
Lead set dresser - Max Whitworth
Daily Set Dresser - Gwynne Allenford
Daily Set Dresser - Matt Foebel
Daily Set Dresser - Khama Missinga
Art P.A - Emmett Cripps
Art P.A - Karlo Mendoza
Art P.A - Tristan Anthony
Art P.A - Harrison Clark
Art P.A - Ben Fieshi Rose
Art P.A - Justin Smith

Sound recordist & Mixer - Chandra Bulucon

Key hair & make-up - Carly Chamberlain
Assistant MUA - Irene Brotto
Assistant MUA - Harper Hyslop

Set medic - Brad Jacklin

Production assistants - Albert Kustikov
- Christina Collin

Craft Services Key - Winona Bowser
Catering and Craft Services provided by Blazing Kitchens

SPFX coordinator - Derek Liscomb
SPFX Key - Erik Smith
SPFX 1st Assistant - Simone Manning

On Set Photography - Kirk Lasaj

Underwater camera operator - Jeffrey Garriock

Picture editor - Alexander Farah
Visual effects - Robert Holt

Dailies & digital intermediate by Sreamland Media
General Manager - Evan Gervais
Workflow Producer - Kevin Camilleri
Workflow Supervisor - Lindsey Martin
Dailies Operator - Leningrad Sta Maria
Digital Archiving Technician - David Robertson

Lead colourist - Clinton Homuth
Colourist - Kevin Wu
Color assistant - Shay Koshy
Colour Producer - Alison Maxwell

Audio Post Production by Rolling Picture Co.

Sound Design Parachute Post Production
Supervising sound editor Allan Fung
Sound effects editor - Gray Aletter
- David Prato
Dialogue editor - Jesse Gillingham
ADR Editor - Melissa Hinton
Assistant Sound Editor - Holly Greenly

Re-recording facility Wanted Sound and Picture
Ridgeline Sound
Sound re-recording engineers - Brian Gallant
- Jeffrey Yellen

Foley artist - Brandon Bak
Foley mixer - Justin Helle

Music Supervisor - Casey Manierka-Quaile
Arrangement by Casey MQ
Cellist Emily Elkin
Oboist Claire Brazeau
Vocalists Miyoko Anderson
Lenchanter
Myst Milano