RE-LIVE
A Tale of an American Island Cheerleader
LOGLINE

When 29-year-old transgender Hollywood actress, Rowena Vega, learns her high school reunion’s 10-year reunion is hosting a “Do-Over Week,” she returns to her home town of Guam to finally live her childhood dream of becoming a cheerleader. In her homecoming, she learns how to value the family that she left behind.

THEMES
Family, friendship, LGBTQ+
SETTING
GUAM
10 years after leaving her small island home of Guam to go to Hollywood, a low-key famous and fabulous trans actor Rowena Vega decides to finally return home for her high school 10 year reunion themed around a five-day “do-over.” It’s a chance to RE-LIVE her high school experience as the person she always wanted to be. “They have the budget for that?”

Rowena takes up the challenge to boldly face her past and act on her heart’s biggest regret: she shows up for cheerleader tryouts. Navigating a captain trying to sabotage her, her learning that of her mother’s debilitating illness, and her estranged relationship with her transphobic sister Rochelle, Rowena struggles to make sure her childhood dream is not foiled once more.

The silver lining is the flirtatious relationship she develops with Matthew (formerly “Fatty Matty”), an old high school crush who supports her during a critical time in her family’s grief. Building a team of allies from the unlikeliest of places, Rowena finally comes to accept that beyond being a cheerleader, what is most important is to have a family and community that loves and supports her.
Maybe this was a blessing in disguise.
Maybe home...
is an opportunity for a second chance.
Isn’t she too old to be a cheerleader?

Do-over week! GO TEAM!
COMPARABLES
CASTING

ROWENA
30s, Filipina-American, transgender woman. A fashionable and fabulous actor who has lost touch with her roots. She’s had a successful career but hasn’t been so successful in maintaining a strong relationship with her older sister, whom she actually admires.

ROCHELLE
30s, Filipina-American. Rowena’s older sister and worst nightmare. She has a bite and sadly transphobic AF. But she’ll learn - later than sooner.

THELMA
50s, Filipina. Loving and witty matriarch. Full of life and a tremendous amount of love for her two daughters. Oh and she’s quite the comedian. Who knew?!

MATTHEW
30s, Taiwanese-American. A former wallflower turned single DILF. Guam’s most eligible bachelor and honey, we thirst.

MACKENZIE
30s, Non-Binary. Rowena’s BFF and charismatic assistant. A perpetual crowd pleaser.

BEVERLY
30s, Taiwanese-American. Mean-girl turned helicopter mom. Captain of the cheerleading squad and Head of the Reunion committee.

Casting
CHEER TRY OUTS
5pm
in gym
For the history of the genre’s existence over the past few decades, romantic comedies have served as propaganda for those who get to be loved, who for the most part have been white, cisgender, monied and beautiful. I always saw myself as a Julia Roberts or a Sandra Bullock type.

But as an Asian American and transgender person, this made it hard for me to understand where I fit into the real world when it came to love. RE-LIVE is a very personal story that may seem niche but is actually universal. It’s about a girl (who just happens to be trans) who has lost her way while seeking success and finds herself again in the unlikeliest place: home.

This movie will provide so much representation for a community that has been overlooked, oppressed and feared. But instead of focusing on the negative, we will focus on the power and the determination of our main heroine, Rowena -- who is cut out from the same cloth as Sweet Home Alabama’s Melanie, Never Been Kissed’s Josie, and Romy and Michele. There’s plenty to laugh and cry about without vilifying anyone.

We humanize all the characters as they take us on a journey of self-actualization while undoing their hearts’ biggest regrets. It’s time for more people of color, Asian Americans, and transgender people to take up space on the screen. And what better way to do that than a romantic comedy?

So leeeetttssss GOOO TEAM!!!
THE ISLAND OF GUAM
HOMECOMING AT HOTEL GARDEN VILLA
Rain Valdez just received her first **Primetime Emmy nomination** for “Outstanding Actress in a Short Form Comedy or Drama Series” for her lead role in **RAZOR TONGUE**, which she created, crowdfunded and produced.

As a director, Rain recently completed **Ryan Murphy’s Half Initiative program** by shadow directing on FX’s groundbreaking show **POSE** under the directing mentorship of Gwyneth Horder-Payton. Rain also worked as Director’s Assistant and Associate Producer on **Amazon’s TRANSPARENT**, working closely with the show’s prominent directors, including creator Joey Soloway, Marta Cunningham, Andrea Arnold and Silas Howard. Valdez’s rom-com short **RYANS**, which she stars in, screened in over 15 film festivals worldwide after premiering at Outfest, winning the Jury Award for Best North American Short at the NCGLFF. Rain’s short film **HEXED** was nominated for Best Director, Best Comedy and Best Actress at the Madrid International Film Festival. Rain has been named one of **Outfest LA’s Next Generation of Filmmakers** and her pitch for **RE-LIVE** won the Inside Out Pitch Please! Contest in 2019. In 2016, Rain was given a summer residency at BuzzFeed Videos to create, write, direct and produce 6 videos for Pride Month.

Rain got her start in acting playing ‘Coco’ in season 2 of TV Land’s **LOPEZ** and doubling in Amazon’s **TRANSPARENT** as Miss Van Nuys on screen and a producer behind the scenes. She recently starred in a **Paul Feig** directed, half-hour comedy pilot for Freeform TV, guest stars in Amazon’s **SNEAKY PETE** and can also be seen in the CBS All Access new show **WHY WOMEN KILL**.

In 2021, Rain continues to champion diversity on screen as director of the Be Scene LGBTQIA+ Actors Showcase at the GLAAD+Outfest Queer House at **Sundance**, and is currently set to star, produce, and direct the **2nd season** of **RAZOR TONGUE**, which is in pre-production.
Rachel Leyco

Rachel is a Filipina-American, award-winning filmmaker/writer/actor, passionate about telling stories that truly matter. She is additionally an enthusiastic, queer, outspoken advocate for mental health education and destigmatization.

Notably, she won a student Emmy at the 2013 College Television Awards, for her web series, "The Sub Club." Her short films, "Maple’s Tree," "Bicultural," and the pilot webisode for "Crazy" were official selections in quite a few film festivals around the world, including Outfest, BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+, Inside Out LGBTQ+ Film Festival and others.

Recently, her TV scripts have advanced as finalists in the 2018 NBC Writers on the Verge program, a semi-finalist in the 2019 Sundance Episodic Lab and a finalist in the 2020 Sundance Makers Lab. Her feature film script for "Violet, Violet" landed her the Runner-Up award in the 2020 Script Pipeline Screenwriting Competition.

As an actress, Rachel's TV credits include a guest star on NBC's Chicago Fire, most recently recurring in BET's Games People Play as 'Susie Q,' and a great role on Netflix's Atypical, Season 3.
Shant Joshi is a queer Indo-Canadian producer based in Los Angeles and Toronto. His credits include the films Porcupine Lake (TIFF, Busan, Rome, Outfest), Framing Agnes (Tribeca, Inside Out, Winner - Best Experimental - Outfest) and Pink : Diss (CBC); the hit web series Teenagers (IAWTV, Indie Screen Awards, CSAs); and the Dekkoo original series, I’m Fine (Outfest, NewFest, Inside Out). Shant co-founded the Future of Film Showcase as a launchpad for emerging Canadian filmmakers, and he previously worked at the United Talent Agency, Buchwald, and Lit Entertainment Group (fka Madhouse Entertainment).

He is an alum of the Producers Lab at the Canadian Film Centre. Shant is currently a sitting member of the Restructuring, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Action Committee at the CMPA, the Visioning Committee at BIPOC TV & Film, and the Advisory Board at the Future of Film Showcase. He is the founder and president of Fae Pictures, a production company with a mandate to “engage audiences with stories rooted in the perspectives of the Other.”
TARGET AUDIENCES

PRIMARY AUDIENCES

English-speaking Western Indie Film Audiences
Territory: US, CA, UK, AU, NZ
Gender: Predominantly female
Age: 25-40
Income: Middle Income
Medium: Theatrical (loss leader), US TV, TVOD, SVOD

SECONDARY AUDIENCES

Global Queer and Trans Audiences
Territory: World
Gender: Female, transgender, and gender non-conforming
Age: Open
Income: Low-to-middle income
Medium: Digital SVOD

TERTIARY AUDIENCES

Pacific Islander/East Asian Ally Audiences
Territory: Southeast Asia, East Asia, Pacific Islands
Gender: Predominantly female
Age: 30-50
Income: Middle Income
Medium: Foreign TV and Digital AVOD, SVOD
Based in Los Angeles and Toronto, FAE PICTURES is a QPOC-owned narrative production company committed to stories rooted in the perspectives of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBQSI+, female, transgender, gender non-conforming, and persons with disabilities.

The company is currently in post-production on the Telefilm/Inside Out-financed feature FRAMING AGNES, starring Angelica Ross, Jen Richards, Zackary Drucker, co-written and directed by Chase Joynt (TIFF’s No Ordinary Man), and based on the short film that premiered at Tribeca, Inside Out, BFI Flare, and won Best Experimental Short at Outfest. Fae Pictures also produced the Dekkoo original web series, I’M FINE, which was presented at Outfest, Inside Out, and NewFest.

In returning to work from the pandemic, Fae Pictures is developing feature and TV projects with financing from Bohemia Media, Slated.com, Corus Entertainment, The Fantasy Network, Hawkeye Pictures, Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates, the NFVF (South Africa), TalentXAfrica (Nigeria), the National Film Board of Canada, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.
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