



UNDER THE WATER

## LOGLINE

When an eleven-year-old girl is confronted with misogynistic taunts and violence from the boys in her town, a series of strange happenings lead to her revisit a storybook about the sirens of the sea. Inspired by these strange creatures, she finds the power in herself to push back.



## UNDER THE WATER

Short film



### TECH SPECS

Running Time: 10'21"

Shooting Format: 2k

Camera: Arri Amira + Red Dragon

Aspect Ratio: 1.66:1

Exhibition Format: DCP

Sound Mix: Dolby Atmos (5.1 also available)

Picture Format: Colour

Country: Australia

Languages: English

Film's Total Budget: \$20,000 AUD

## SYNOPSIS

11 year-old, Olivia, lives in a small, seaside town with her father. Olivia endures misogynistic taunts from the boys and men in her town; she's told to smile, she's followed, she's physically assaulted. Dealing with the situation with silence and reservation, Olivia retreats into her own world.

Olivia finds solace in an old picture book; set against the roaring ocean waves a group of sirens fight back against their captors. A series of strange happenings lead her to → back to the ocean. When she follows a woman into the depths, Olivia engages with the power and irreverence of the sirens of the sea.

Later, when verbally assaulted by a group of teenage boys in a car, Olivia expresses her rage. She takes the power she hasn't been afforded.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

UNDER THE WATER is a strange tale about an 11-year-old girl confronted with male violence. With the help of the sirens of the sea, she is able to push back.

The film is intended as a lyrical exploration of the insidious undercurrent of misogyny that many women are faced with in everyday life. Based on my own experiences and the verbatim accounts of young women, the work is framed through a series of interactions between a young girl and men of different ages. Fascinated by the power of myths to conceal the horrors of the real world through metaphor, I drew on the symbolism of the sirens to reflect our protagonist's own journey to empowerment.

Our society is rife with learned assumptions and habits that are normalised; cat-calling for one. In 2024 we have seen terrifying evidence that violence against women is still an issue. Through the making of this film, I wanted focus on the types of behaviours that have been normalised within my own experience, in the hope that it may resonate with others.

For our production, 51% of all cast and crew identified as female, non-binary or gender diverse.

Isabella Andronos,  
Writer/Director



# KEY CREW BIOS

ISABELLA ANDRONOS  
WRITER / DIRECTOR



Isabella is a writer and director from Sydney, Australia. She is dedicated towards gender equity, diversity and inclusivity in her work. Isabella has an interest in subjective realist storytelling, exploring strange visual and aural techniques to express character psychology.

Isabella holds a Master of Arts: Screen in Directing from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (2022), a Bachelor of Dramatic Art from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (2014) and a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons: Class I) from Sydney College of the Arts (2011). Her background in conceptual art informs her approach to storytelling for the screen.

Isabella recently completed short film, UNDER THE WATER (2023), which explores the impact of misogyny and gender-based violence on a young girl. UNDER THE WATER premiered at the 33rd Flickerfest International Film Festival in 2024. Her previous work includes music video MONSKA (2020), short film EVELYN (2020) and music video ICE AGE (2018). MONSKA was awarded the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) Audience Favourite Award (2021), was nominated for Best Concept at the Clipped Music Video Awards (2020) and was a finalist in the Frankie Magazine Good Stuff Awards (2020). Isabella was a finalist in the Inner West Film Fest pitching competition, for her project with Beck Thompson, Lyrebird.

[www.isabellaandronos.com](http://www.isabellaandronos.com)

# KEY CREW BIOS

BECK THOMPSON  
CO-WRITER



Raised in the UK and now residing in Australia, Beck is a writer-director who has a passion for Psychological Horror and uses the genre in her work to challenge the audience's perceptions of identity and reality.

During her time completing her MA of Screenwriting at the Australian Film Television & Radio School, Beck dedicated her practice to researching the conventions of Horror, exploring innovative ways to subvert traditional storytelling methods.

Beck has written and directed a series of short films that have had success across festivals both in Australia and the U.S. Most recently, Beck co-wrote the short film, UNDER THE WATER, which was selected to screen at this year's FlickerFest Australian Shorts program. Her Folk Horror feature screenplay, FALSE MOREL, was selected as a quarterfinalist in the 2023 Screencraft Horror Screenplay Competition.

In 2022, Beck worked with the Asian-Pacific Broadcasting Union as a facilitator on an Advanced Television Production Workshop at Radio Television Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, where she assisted a team of creative executives for Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television, in brainstorming and story lining writer's rooms.

[www.becklthompson.com](http://www.becklthompson.com)

# KEY CREW BIOS

KATHERINE SHEARER  
PRODUCER



Katherine is a creative producer with a passion for excellence and equality across mediums and genres. With a background as a performer, Kat is attracted to character-driven stories that are genuine, imaginative and cinematic.

Kat's first short film, SWEET TOOTH, was awarded Best Film at CAPA International Association of Film & Television Schools, the Nicholas Baudin Award for Best Short Film at Festival Des Antipodes Saint-Tropez and was narrated by Cate Blanchett. Kat followed up with THIS RIVER, winner of Best Direction (Naomi Fryer) in Australian Short Film at Flickerfest, and attracted Rachel Griffiths as the film's ambassador for Cinequest Festival (USA). Kat followed up with THE HOME TEAM starring Paul McDermott and Tara Morice, nominated for an APDG Award, A HOUSE which was selected for MIFF 2022 Accelerator Program (Matthew Taylor) and UNDER THE WATER which premiered at the 33rd Flickerfest International Film Festival 2024.

Kat produced CHARGING, winner of the AACTA/Mini Pitch and was post-producer on BALTASAR, Winner of Best Australian Short MIFF and St Kilda Film Festival. Kat has supported many independent production companies as an external producer, with a keen eye for talent, including LIBERTY ST for The Corinthian Food Store, and ISHMAEL, winner of Best Editing in an Australian film. Her emerging production company Bull Ant Films, produced the 2022 GREAT GATSBY FLICKERFEST TRAILER, design documentary THE BAKERY, and the Screen NSW Screenability funded short ALL SILENT DOGS, which premiered at SFF 2022.

[www.katshearer.com](http://www.katshearer.com) @kat\_shearer

# KEY CREW BIOS

SASHA DYER  
PRODUCER



Sasha is a Sydney and Brisbane based producer and actor. Since graduating from Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, she has worked across film and theatre, and is passionate about working collaboratively to tell women's stories.

In 2021 she was Associate Producer on short film BUG (Lightbulbhead Films), before going on to produce UNDER THE WATER (AFTRS), PEARLY GATES (Miss The Mark Productions) and LEAF LITTER (Ginger Snap Productions and JackRabbit Productions). Sasha is a proud member of MEAA & Ignite, New Ghosts' women's theatre collective.



# CREW LIST

Director ISABELLA ANDRONOS  
Writers ISABELLA ANDRONOS, BECK THOMPSON  
Producers KATHERINE SHEARER, SASHA DYER, ISABELLA ANDRONOS  
Cinematographer MEREDITH WILLIAMS  
Production & Costume Designer ROBERTO MANZINI  
Editor AMY DUNN  
Music HAMISH FRANCIS  
Sound Supervisor SAMUEL TURNER  
First Assistant Camera JAMES BLACKLEY  
Second Assistant Camera TOM CHEETHAM  
Underwater Cinematographer CALEB GRAHAM  
First Assistant Director DAVID BURROWES  
Production Manager BIANCA SAPPEY  
Unit Co-Ordinator NADINE TORNEY  
Sound Recordist MARTIN DEMIAN  
Boom Operator DANTE FLOREZ  
Script Editor SARAH EMERY  
Continuity EVIE ALLISON  
Gaffer JOSH WIGGINSWESTBROOK, LUKA YATES  
rip LESTER BISHOP, MORGAN BISHOP  
Best Person MAX NORINGTON, FELIX MAUDE, JOE FINSTERER  
Grip Assistant JONATHAN LE GRICE  
Runner JOE FINSTERER  
Standby Props ARA NURI STEEL, COURTNEY WESTBROOK, LUKA YATES

Art Department Assistants JACQUELINE CHAPMAN, MIRANDA DAUGHTRY, RUBY SWAIN, RICKY JAMES, EMILY BULL, MADISON HEGARTY  
Storybook Illustrator ISABELLA ANDRONOS  
Storybook Cover Design JACQUELINE CHAPMAN  
Digital Artist ROBERTO MAZINI  
Storybook Writers FABIA ANDRONOS, JOSHUA KRONE  
Hair and Make Up Artist MIABELLA ENRIQUEZ  
Risk Assessment JON HEANEY  
Stunt Co-Ordinator JON HEANEY  
Safety Officer JON HEANEY  
Water Safety Advisor JEMMA CRAIG  
Lifeguard NORTH CURL CURL SLSC  
Stills Photographer LAUREN ORRELL  
VFX ANTHONY MCGANN, JOEL GOODMAN, ELLIOT GOODMAN  
Colourist YANNI KRONENBERG  
Titles and Graphics ELLE WILLIAMS  
Foley Artist SAMUEL TURNER, JAYDEN WHITBREAD  
Re-Recording Mixer SAMUEL TURNER  
Music Recording Engineer GREG WISE  
Music Mix Engineer ROSE MACKENZIE-PETERSON  
Atmos Mix Technician ALEXANDER ROBERTS  
Vocalist NAOMI GESTE

# CAST LIST

Note: 51% of our cast and crew identified as female or gender diverse.



Olivia TAHLIA STURZAKER

Father BEN BROCK

Mother STEPHANIE BEGG

Boys at the kiosk JACK RUWALD, NILE STURZAKER

Kiosk vendor BRENDAN MILES

Boys in the car MICHAEL HAWKINS, JEREMI CAMPESE, NOAH STURZAKER

Mother on the beach PAYAL PATEL

Daughter on the beach SOPHIE PATEL

Voice ELEANOR STANKIEWICZ



## SCREENINGS

Official Selection: 33rd Flickerfest International Short Film Festival 2024  
Semi-Finalist: Flickers' Rhode Island Film Festival 2023

# CONTACT US

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