

ELLE

a conversation about feeling seen on screen-



Logline

Torn between embracing opportunities and staying true to her values, a Filipino-American actress starts a controversial dialogue about diverse representation in Hollywood once her cousin books a role of a different ethnicity.

Synopsis

Elle, a Filipino-American actress, has a hard time navigating whitewashed Hollywood with its lack of authentic representation on screen. When Elle learns that the huge role her cousin, Steph, just booked is supposed to be about an Indigenous person, she confronts him. This leads to a heated conversation about POC (People of Color) actors and how Hollywood pressures them to play a multiple ethnicities, since opportunities are far and few between. Once Elle gets an audition for a Latinx role, she must decide whether or not to stand by her beliefs or play the game with the cards she's dealt.



Director's Statement

This story is near and dear to me as it truly reflects my experience of being a Filipinx actor, a minority within a minority in Hollywood. As a Filipinx, I'm a brown asian that cannot be easily categorized, therefore my 'casting' is misunderstood. Typically, I'm either pressured to pass as just 'ambiguous' or to embody a completely different ethnicity, as opportunities for POC are not as common compared to their white counterparts. This is incredibly frustrating and adding to the constant reminder that I am seen as "other."

With this short, I hope to shine a light on the importance of on-screen representation and how we all just want to feel seen.





Jenn Santos
writer & director

Jenn Santos is a first-generation Filipinx-American writer, director, and actor. She studied Fiction Filmmaking and Media & Culture in both San Francisco and Paris. Jenn has produced and written multiple shorts and has acted in a variety of commercials and film projects. "Elle" is her directorial debut and has been selected for the Hollywood First-Time Filmmaker Showcase, Hollywood Verge Film Awards, and NewFilmmakers LA Film Festival. Jenn is passionate about inclusivity, storytelling, and karaoke.



Thomas De la Rosa
camera & editor

Originally from Paris, Thomas De la Rosa is a French-Spanish film editor, videographer, and musician based in Los Angeles. Thomas has directed and shot multiple personal and collaborative projects, including JAM SESH, an award winning short at the City Shorts Film Festival. Thomas has done videography work for Avenged Sevenfold, documenting their recording of The Stage album and their Grammy Theatre acoustic performance, as well as Pierce the Veil's live performance at the Mayan Theatre. While currently recording his own EP, Thomas also edits at renowned trailer house, Mark Woollen & Associates. Thomas is fond of flamenco, shredding metal, and eating good bread.



Joseph Skiles
sound design

Growing up in Denver, Colorado, Joseph Skiles started studying music at a young age. He graduated from the Musicians Institute for Contemporary Music, with an emphasis in performance on percussion. Joseph has sound designed for several commercials, web series, digital content, and film projects that have screened at film festivals. He was also an audio engineer on Rick Latham's latest work. Currently, Joseph has been working on his solo project AIME.



Cast & Crew

Written and Directed by Jenn Santos

Edited by Thomas De la Rosa

Narration by Paco De la Rosa

Camera Thomas De la Rosa

Sound Design Joseph Skiles

Assistant Director Hope Lagos

Production Assistant Nick Hadjiantonas

Graphics John Salazar



ELLE

Website www.jennsantos.com/Elle

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