

PRESS KIT 2021

BECCA

A FILM BY NANCY WEBB
STARRING AMANDA MCQUEEN AND EMELIA HELLMAN



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ELENA PETKOVIĆ
EDITED BY ELENA PETKOVIĆ AND JAMES WATTS
SOUND BY ALISON NATURALE AND KAYE ADELAIDE
COLOUR BY KAYE ADELAIDE
POST-PRODUCTION COORDINATOR MARIEL SHARP





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CONTACT

beccathefilm@gmail.com

www.nancywebb.info

instagram @ncywebb



LOGLINE

Strangers Max and Daphne share a lovestruck evening while a bizarre secret looms.

SYNOPSIS

Becca is a contemporary short comedy film inspired by Daphne du Maurier's Gothic novel *Rebecca*. The short plays out within the confines of one evening and one apartment following a breakup fight between Max and her longtime girlfriend Becca. Becca storms out and Max, listless, decides to try a trendy new dating app called Small Feast that promises an intimate dinner date at home. Max's date Daphne arrives and the two spark an immediate connection. Over the course of the evening Daphne begins to notice traces of another woman—a lovingly inscribed book, a post-it note reminder on the cupboard—but it is after all, *a really good date*, so she ignores the clues. Max and Daphne get a little tipsy and Daphne makes a haunting discovery while snooping on Max's phone. This unravels a not-so-carefully kept secret and slices through the whimsy of a sweet first date.

CREATIVE CONTEXT 1/2

The idea for *Becca* came from one of my favourite novels, *Rebecca* (1938) by Daphne du Maurier. In it, a wealthy widow named Maxim marries a much younger woman (the unnamed narrator) after the mysterious death of his wife Rebecca. The young bride rattles nervously around a haunted estate finding material traces of her predecessor, becoming engulfed by the shadow of a woman more elegant, poised, beautiful, beloved and charismatic than her. *Becca* is a comedic nod to this novel that I love, which dramatizes the weight of relationships past.

I was drawn to the challenge of representing the queer subtext of the original text without being heavy-handed. The real romance is a triangle of obsession, possessiveness and jealousy between the unnamed narrator, the housekeeper Mrs. Danvers and the intoxicating idea or memory of Rebecca. In the novel this is communicated primarily via the objects and traces that Rebecca leaves behind: her swooping handwriting, her perfectly preserved closet of gowns, the hairbrush that still rests on her vanity. Mrs. Danvers tries to embalm these objects as a tragic expression of her devotion to Rebecca, while the narrator oscillates between trying to become Rebecca and trying to liberate herself and Rebecca's memory from Maxim's gaslighting grasp.

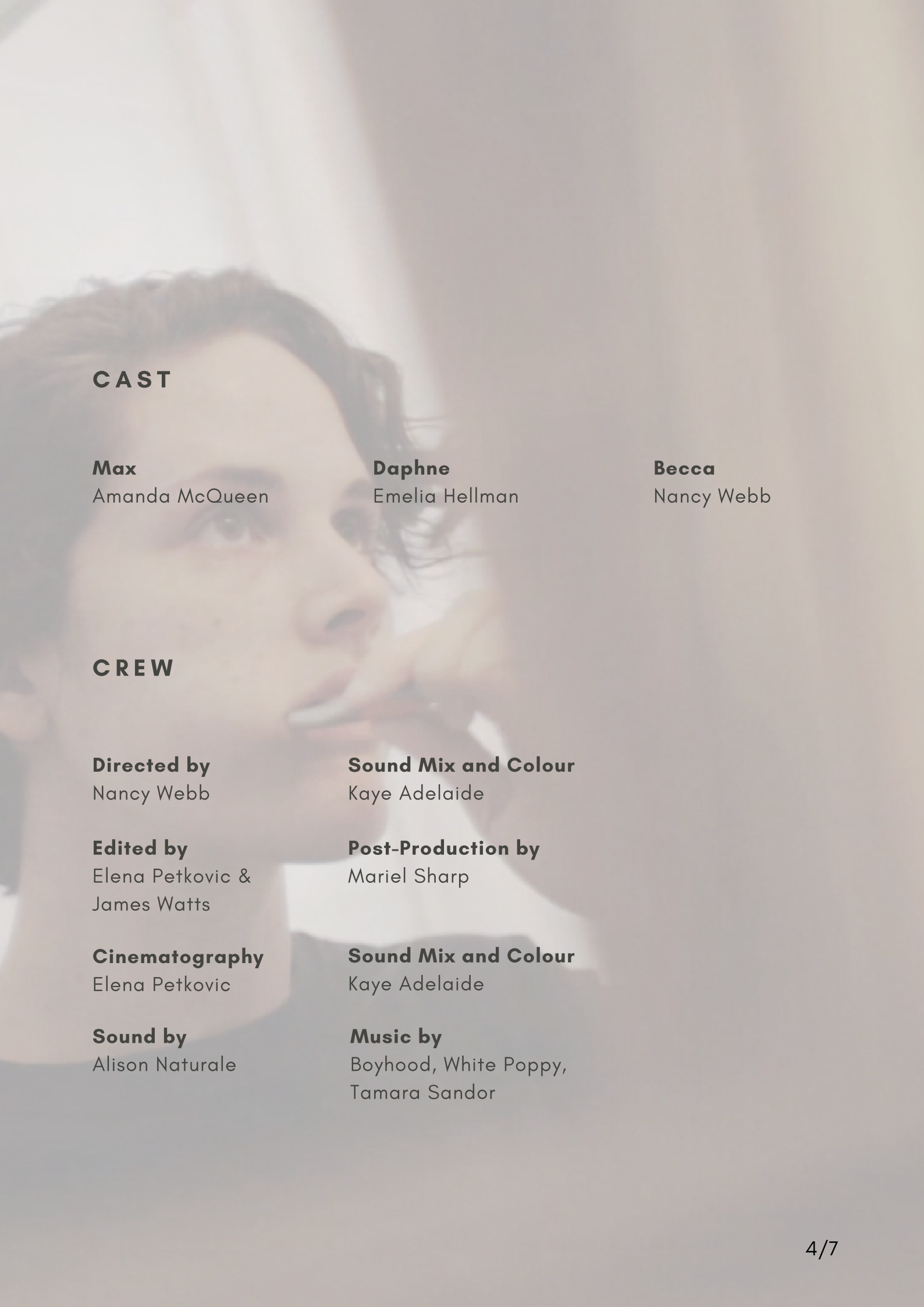
Even though these themes play out in an exaggerated Gothic noir style, I think we can all recognize parts of ourselves and our relationships in du Maurier's classic, and I thought the timeless haunting feel of the story would lend itself well to a comedic interpretation.



CREATIVE CONTEXT 2/2

In *Becca*, Max is an emotionally detached but charming weirdo and her date Daphne is the closest to a relatable character that we get. Daphne helps to communicate the internal bargaining that happens on first dates—when almost everything is going right, but something still seems off, while Max represents a naive romantic who yearns for the heady magic of falling in love at the expense of everyone else's feelings.

We wanted the look of the film to be warm, intimate and cocoon-like, so that time oozes away and we get lost in the romance between Max and Daphne. It was important to capture a realistic depiction of a modern-day date, while maintaining the Gothic eeriness of the film's inspiration just below the surface. A lot of Max and Daphne's banter was improvised, which speaks to the experimental, joyous atmosphere we were able to achieve behind the scenes with a small team and a genuine belief in the project. We shot everything in less than 24 hours with a cast and crew of five women on almost no budget. This is the first film I've written and directed and it is kind of miraculous that it worked out! As a director, it was crucial to me that the set be comfortable, supportive and fun. Since wrapping post-production, my paperback copy of *Rebecca* has made the rounds among the cast and crew, and I'm not sure I'll ever get it back.



CAST

Max

Amanda McQueen

Daphne

Emelia Hellman

Becca

Nancy Webb

CREW

Directed by

Nancy Webb

Sound Mix and Colour

Kaye Adelaide

Edited by

Elena Petkovic &
James Watts

Post-Production by

Mariel Sharp

Cinematography

Elena Petkovic

Sound Mix and Colour

Kaye Adelaide

Sound by

Alison Naturale

Music by

Boyhood, White Poppy,
Tamara Sandor

STILLS

All stills available [here](#)



BIOS



Nancy Webb

Director

Nancy Webb is a Canadian writer, director and comedian based in Montreal, Quebec. Her debut short film *Becca* has been screened at the Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival, Wicked Queer (Boston), Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival and New Filmmakers Los Angeles. She also recently directed the music video for Birthday by Lenny and is the co-producer and co-host of Stand Back, a monthly feminist and LGBTQ+ live comedy show.

Photo credit: Emelia Hellman



Elena Petković

Cinematographer

Elena Petkovic is a filmmaker and cinematographer based in Montreal, Canada. Over the years she has collaborated with various Canadian artists, showcasing their work through documentary-style films while dabbling in the world of short-fiction. *Becca* was proudly her first comedy endeavour.

BIOS



Amanda McQueen

Lead Actor

Amanda McQueen is a Montreal-based performer and stand-up comedian, featured in Cinderblock Brooklyn, Chicago Funny Fest, WIC Boston and Off Just For Laughs. She has appeared in VICE magazine, as well as on CBC web cartoons & The Wacky Word Show. *Becca* was a dreamy experience with people she loves.



Emelia Hellman

Lead Actor

Emelia Hellman is an actor, filmmaker, and photographer living in Montreal. Her selected film appearances include Ashley in *Game of Death* which premiered at SXSW (2017), Bethany Mansfield in the CBC drama *Bellevue* (2017), *X Men: Dark Phoenix* (2018), Grace in the virtual reality feature film *After Life* (2019), and she led the multi award winning short film *Moment* (2019). Lately she has stepped behind the camera as a photographer, cinematographer, and director, and just wrapped her first short film; *Your Call Is Important To Us*.