



May you get
what you wish for



BEWYCHING PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A POLLY PIERCE FILM "WYTCRRAFT" JENNIFER PIELAK
 HANNAH LEVIEN JOCELYN TAM PAULA SPURR AND MEGAN LEITCH COSTUME DESIGNER KATHI MOORE
 EDITED BY DAVID SCOTT TITUS MUSIC PERFORMED BY MARQUIS & THE RHYTHM HOWLERS
 PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARIEL SLACK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STIRLING BANCROFT, CSC
 PRODUCED BY POLLY PIERCE LAURA GELUCH ADRIAN NEBLETT WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY POLLY PIERCE



PRESS KIT – WYTCRRAFT (SEPT 2020, CANADA, 16MINS, ENGLISH)
 POLLY PIERCE - BEWYCHING PRODUCTIONS
 pollypierce927@gmail.com
 +1 604 754 7867

WYTCH CRAFT – SYNOPSIS

"Wytch Craft" is a supernatural dark comedy in the vein of "Baby Driver" meets "The Craft" via "Ingrid Goes West"



Amanda, a fed up and angsty 'keyboard warrior' Millennial, resorts to witchcraft in an attempt to rid the earth of her 'evil, annoying' co-worker, the all too perfect Epiphany. However, Amanda's efforts are thwarted by an act of God, allergies and sheer, plain forgetfulness.

After a final, desperate attempt to correct the last mishap to casting her spell, Amanda speeds back to her protective salt circle in the forest, racing against the rising of the sun and the possibility of missing the Witching Hour, only to be confronted by an army of early morning Nordic Walkers.



WYTCH CRAFT – FILM TEAM

POLLY PIERCE – DIRECTOR/ WRITER/ PRODUCER: Polly is an Australian/Canadian filmmaker with biracial ethnicity (Chinese and Caucasian) and graduated from the Queensland University of Technology with a BFA: Film and Television Production. Her film, *“Wytch Craft,”* has screened at over 25 film festivals worldwide and won the Best Comedy Award at the Toronto International Women Film Festival, Best Horror Comedy Film at the Houston Comedy Film Festival amongst others and Polly personally won the Best Female Director and Best Female Filmmaker Awards at the Fantastic Festival of Los Angeles and the Chicago Indie Film Awards respectively. Her next projects as Director are a dramedy short film, *“Slump,”* tackling toxic locker room culture from the female perspective and a feature length documentary on the BC Justice system’s poor handling of domestic violence cases.

LAURA GELUCH/ ADRIAN NEBLETT – PRODUCERS: Laura and Adrian are multi-talented individuals, juggling busy lives in front of the camera’s (you may have seen these two on shows such as *“Fargo”* and *“Snowpiercer”* respectively) as well as being producers, writers and entrepreneurs.

STIRLING BANCROFT CSC – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Stirling is a Leo Award nominated, Canadian Society of Cinematographer’s accredited BIPOC cinematographer known for his sensitivity to story and technical prowess. He has a plethora of commercial, short film and feature film credits to his name, including the Vancouver International Film Festival 2020 opening night film *“Monkey Beach.”* Stirling collaborated with Polly on her next short film project, the soon to be released on the film festival circuit dramedy *“Slump.”*

ARIEL SLACK – ART DIRECTOR: Ariel is responsible for creating the great visually striking, juxtaposing locations that help define *“Wytch Craft’s”* tone. She is also a talented and prolific theatre actress and theatre art director.

DAVID SCOTT TITUS – EDITOR: David has had a prolific career editing everything from corporate and informational productions through to short films and feature films. He currently has completed adding his special touch to four short this year with one being selected for the Calgary Film Festival. For *“Wytch Craft,”* David won the Best Editing Award at the London International Monthly Film Festival and has continued to collaborate with Polly on her next short film project, *“Slump.”*

JENNIFER PIELAK - “AMANDA”: Jennifer is a multi-disciplinary actor having performed in musical theatre, improv, where she wrote and performed the one woman and one piano player show *“Inside Voices: A Musical in the Key of P”* where Jennifer extended her improv performance abilities to create unique shows every night of its run, as well as the world of film. She most notably is seen in *“Harry And Meghan: Becoming Royal”* as Meghan Markle’s best friend, Jessica Mulroney. Polly and Jennifer later collaborated on the remotely shot, Pandemic short rom-com *“Dependable Pandemic Life Partner.”* Jennifer was a Best Actress Finalist at the Austin Comedy Film Festival for her performance as ‘Amanda’ in *“Wytch Craft.”*

HANNAH LEVIEN “EPIPHANY”: Hannah and Polly have worked together and known one another for over a decade since their days working in the Australian Film industry together. Hannah is a prolific actress who has performed in viral ad campaigns for Taco Bell and, since relocating to Vancouver, Canada from Los Angeles, she was a series regular on Freeforms *“Siren,”* The WB’s *“Supernatural”* and Scyf’s *“The Magicians.”*

WYTCH CRAFT - DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Wytch Craft" is a short film about Amanda, who's fed up with the world and her all-too-perfect co-worker, Epiphany, and how Amanda attempts to cast a hex against her. The only thing is how does one make this happen? By going to the supermarket to buy the supplies, like candles, salt, mason jars and sage, of course! However, like the saying goes, may you get what you wish for, meaning if you put bad will out you will receive bad will back and threefold!

I wanted to create "Wytch Craft" as in my day job as a ICG669 Camera Assistant in the Vancouver film industry, I worked a day call on the revival of "The X Files" (a show that inspired me to get into film and make the move from Australia to Canada) where I was amazed that a character in this particular episode had gotten what looked like loads of salt and candles and the largest Book of Spells I had ever seen, and I wondered, "With no car in sight, how did she get all of this stuff out here in the middle of the forest, and where did she buy the items? Walmart?" So, from my somewhat Smart-Alek thoughts came the inspiration for "Wytch Craft."

This evolved into me wanting to explore women's frustration, rage and rivalry in relationships as I had a similar and disappointing experience in real life, and to show that, sometimes even with a load of effort, things don't go as planned and just let myself and the viewer sit with that feeling and embrace it, as these emotions are normal and natural to our experience despite what the media and society like to show. I was wanting to see and make a film that was more than just another 'crying woman finding redemption and happiness' story as there's so many stories and films like that already and that's not the only story and experience that women have in everyday life obviously.

I wanted to make "Wytch Craft" into a dark comedy as it felt like the right fit for it, to keep all the pratfalls that Amanda experiences light as, similar to the adage, at the root of all comedy is tragedy. This is where the aesthetics in the films of Edgar Wright come into play. I love his use of rhythm through editing and camera work which makes his films, especially his approach to comedy, unique and exciting. I also love how music shapes his films and I was lucky to be given permission by LA-based Evil Swing band, Marquis & the Rhythm Howlers, to use a few of their songs in the score which helps to shape the tone of Amanda's world and that of the film as well. I also wanted to inject the visual aesthetic of my beloved "The X Files," especially the dark comedy episodes they created from time to time, and "Wytch Craft's" opening scene is a big nod in that direction. And, funnily enough, the Nordic Walker Doreen seen at the end of the film, is played by actress Megan Leitch, who was Samantha Mulder, Special Agent Mulder's sister, in some early episodes of "The X Files."

During the experience of making "Wytch Craft," I followed my gut with choosing my cast and crew and together we created a wonderful filmmaking environment that was supportive and just inspiring and rewarding. I'm hoping that all the hard work and positive vibes that we brought to the film can be felt by the viewer and that they will enjoy this quirky, unique dark comedy and feel comfortable about having all the feelings when life does through a curve ball.

WYTCH CRAFT - SET PHOTOS



Jennifer Pielak as “Amanda” in a scene from “Wytch Craft”



Polly Pierce (Director/ Writer/Producer) seen directing Jennifer Pielak as “Amanda”

WYTCH CRAFT - SET PHOTOS



Camera Operator Scott Nuttall operates a Technocrane on “Wytch Craft”



Jennifer Pielak mid-scene inside the witching circle of “Wytch Craft”

WYTCH CRAFT - SET PHOTOS



Camera Operator Tamara Cesarec with Cinematographer Stiring Bancroft CSC standing behind



Jennifer Pielak on set of "Wytch Craft"

WYTCH CRAFT - SET PHOTOS



The camera crew lining up a shot on “*Wytch Craft*”



Jennier Pielak as “Amanda” mid-scene on “*Wytch Craft*”

WYTCH CRAFT - FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

- **Best Comedy** at the Toronto International Women Film Festival
- **Best Editing** (David Titus) at the London International Monthly Film Festival
- **Best Female Filmmaker** (Polly Pierce) at the Chicago Indie Film Awards
- **Best Female Director** (Polly Pierce) at the Fantastic Festival of Los Angeles
- **Best Horror Comedy** at the Houston Comedy Film Festival
- **Best Supernatural Film** at the Rotterdam Independent Film Festival
- **Finalist** at the Berlin Shorts Awards
- **Finalist** at the Paris International Short Festival
- **Finalist Best Actress** for Jennifer Pielak at the Austin Comedy Film Festival
- **Semi-Finalist** at the Night of Comedy Shorts, Italy
- **Semi-Finalist** at the San Francisco Indie Short Festival
- **Honourably Mentioned** at the Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival

Official Selections:

- Las Cruces International Film Festival
- Montreal Independent Film Festival
- Vancouver Independent Film Festival
- Venice Shorts
- Women's Comedy Film Festival Atlanta
- LA Women in Film Festival
- Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival
- Flickfair Film Festival
- Niagara Falls International Shorts Festival
- Phoenix International Genre Film Festival
- Kalakari Film Festival, India
- Portland Comedy Film Festival
- Sydney Indie Short Festival
- LA Comedy Filmfest
- Women's Comedy Film Festival in Chicago
- Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival

WYTCH CRAFT - TECHNICAL ASPECTS

- Shooting Format: Digital
- Aspect Ratio: 2.40
- Audio Format: stereo
- Length: 16mins 20secs
- Language: English
- Country of production: Canada