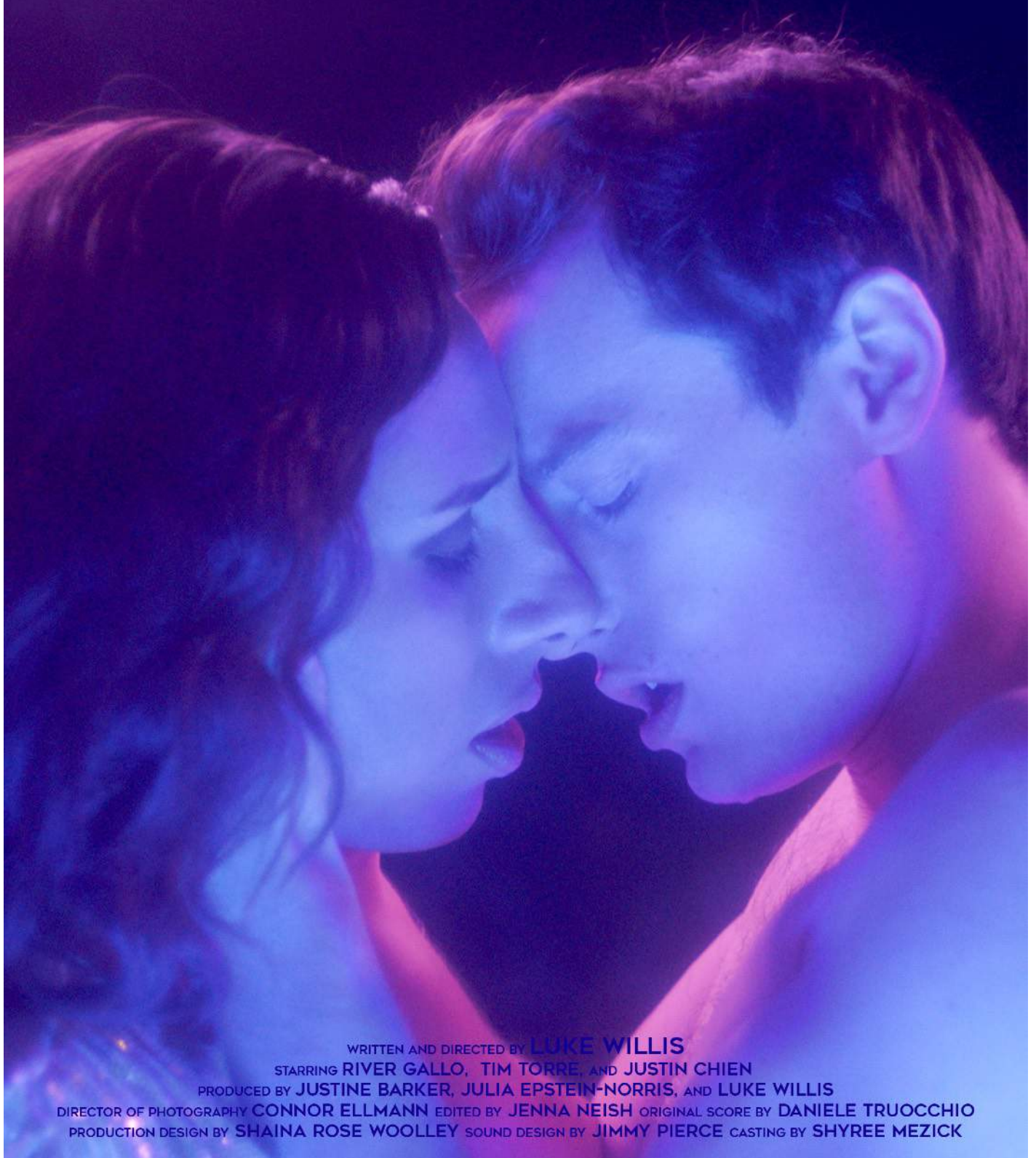


starring RIVER GALLO

# POOL BOY

"Superb and highly recommended" - Stephen Fry



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LUKE WILLIS

STARRING RIVER GALLO, TIM TORRE, AND JUSTIN CHIEN

PRODUCED BY JUSTINE BARKER, JULIA EPSTEIN-NORRIS, AND LUKE WILLIS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CONNOR ELLMANN EDITED BY JENNA NEISH ORIGINAL SCORE BY DANIELE TRUOCCHIO

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY SHAINA ROSE WOOLLEY SOUND DESIGN BY JIMMY PIERCE CASTING BY SHYREE MEZICK

# POOL BOY

STARRING RIVER GALLO  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LUKE WILLIS

10 minutes | USA | 2021

Inquiries: [lukewillis@gmail.com](mailto:lukewillis@gmail.com)

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IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13970200>



**LOGLINE** Austin, a college jock home for the summer, unexpectedly develops feelings for Star, his parents' non-binary pool cleaner, and struggles to hide his growing feelings from his clique of straight friends.



# CAST

**RIVER GALLO**

as  
Star



**TIM TORRE**

as  
Austin



**JUSTIN CHIEN**

as  
Jake





## **DIRECTOR BIO**

Luke Willis (he/him) is a California based writer and director originally from Jacksonville, FL. Luke comes to filmmaking after a 20-year career in the theater as an actor and as a classical ballet dancer for the San Francisco Ballet. His first job out of USC film school was working in several roles on the feature documentary *Gay Chorus Deep South*, which won the Audience Award at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival. His own award-winning short films have been met with great success in the US, Canada, and the UK, including multiple sell-out screenings at BFI Flare Film Festival and sell-out screenings hosted by Outfest for National Coming Out Day. Luke is committed to stories of hope and healing and is currently in development for his first feature film.

## **DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

Now more than ever the world needs stories of hope and joy. I wanted to make this film to offer a story that portrays a reality where people are not afraid to openly love whomever they love without guilt or shame - a world where a traditionally fetishized community is seen as a worthy of authentic affection, worthy of being the heartthrob we can't get out of our head, worthy of being loved and pursued openly and fearlessly. This film takes a privileged-cis-white-“straight” identifying male and explores his choice in the world to either accept or reject the heteronormative expectations society has for him. It was important to me that the non-binary character did not have to undergo any dramatic change or growth to get the guy, but that they be portrayed as worthy of authentic love and affection just as they are. That is why the protagonist of the story is a white “straight” identifying male because that is who actually needs to change in the real world. The trans community is perfect as they are, and this film is a love letter to all gender non conforming people to say you are valuable and lovable just as you are.





## KEY CREW

**Julia Epstein-Norris (she/her), Producer,** is a filmmaker based out of Los Angeles + San Francisco. She has produced several short films and worked on many commercial productions. Julia seeks to tell personal stories with her work, exploring them from varied and unexpected perspectives. Julia has a degree in film production + screenwriting from USC. When not on set, Julia continues her search for the perfect bagel.

**Connor Ellmann (he/him), Director of Photography,** is a Los Angeles based, 27-year-old cinematographer from Palo Alto, CA. He graduated from the film production school at the University of Southern California in 2017 with an emphasis on cinematography. For his senior thesis at USC titled “Forever Home” he won the coveted ASC Haskell Wexler Student Documentary Award. Since graduating, Connor has worked on countless commercials and music videos for companies such as SAP and Google and for artists at Interscope Records (under UMG), Atlantic Records and more.

**Shaina Rose Woolley (they/them), Production Designer,** is a non-binary, Jewish filmmaker and photographer located in LA. Shaina's work focuses on the positive and colorful aspects of queerness to move away from the trauma-centered stories we most often see about the queer experience. Their creative style blends strong color palettes, kitsch, and vintage aesthetics with a queer lens. Their surrealist short film, “Reasons To Stay” is currently in post-production. Outside of film, Shaina co-produces The Secret Circus LA, wants to go outside more but is addicted to animal crossing, and loves their two cats, Momo and Remy, very much.

**Daniele Trucchio (he/him), Composer,** is a Los Angeles based film and TV composer from Rome, Italy. Daniele has worked on several mainstream shows and films including Netflix's Extremely Wicked Shockingly Evil and Vile starring Zac Efron, Legacies and Roswell, New Mexico (The CW), God Friended Me (CBS), and many more. A truly life-changing experience happened during his teenage years becoming the chosen mentee of Senegalese guitarist/composer Peace Diouf which, through intense training lasted several years, offered Daniele an open-minded understanding of world-music and sounds. He has studied classical composition and guitar at the Italian Conservatory, and Film Scoring at Berklee College of Music in Boston with a minor in Africana Studies."

**Ann James (she/her), Intimacy Coordinator,** has an extensive career in theatre education, stage direction and conflict resolution in corporate and artistic environments. Ann has had the opportunity to direct on several regional stages including, The Alley, Steppenwolf, Dallas Theatre Center and Hartford Stage and Cherry Lane. She is also a proud member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab class of 2005. As an internationally certified educator she has had the opportunity to teach theatre on 4 continents. Ann has been featured as moderator in "Intimacy and Covid-19" with Theatre Communications Group and HowlRound, "Intimacy and Theatre Practice" with The Los Angeles Theatre Alliance, "How Intimacy Impacts the work of Artistic Directors" with The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, and "Intimacy and the Pandemic" with Lincoln Center Director's Lab West. She is a published author on HowlRound, and has been a featured Intimacy Specialist on many other theatre affiliated panels during Covid-19. Ann is devoted to making both stage and screen safer places for Black, Indigenous and People of Color to practice their craft. Her company, Intimacy Coordinators of Color has solid partnerships with Actor's Equity, ArtsEquity, Theatre Communications Group, TimesUp and A.R.T./New York. To that end, Ms. James is pursuing America's first MFA in Performance Pedagogy with emphasis in Intimacy Direction for People of Color at Loyola Marymount University.