



poachers
a short film

A coastal scene featuring a cluster of red and blue succulents growing on a rocky shore. The ocean is visible in the background under a grey, overcast sky. The foreground is filled with various sized grey and tan rocks.

Logline

During the summer before college, two lifelong friends come across a unique business opportunity: illegally harvesting and selling succulents. As they embark on their journey, the two must decide where to draw the line when it comes to breaking the law, their morality, and their friendship.



synopsis

On an otherwise typical summer day, IRIS and her best friend ROSIE take a leisurely drive up the California coast. It's Iris's birthday, and they're celebrating.

However, they're also here on business. Rosie has come to harvest succulents as a means of making some extra cash.

As the end of the day rolls around, Rosie insists they haven't collected enough, especially if she wants to try and join Iris at college in the fall. Iris's guilt takes them to yet another cliff side, though she sits out the treacherous hike down.

While Iris waits, a PARK RANGER pulls up. He approaches her, asking her why she's stopped on the side of the road. Iris tries to distract him from their illegal bounty, and it seems like she's almost succeeded, when -

CLANG. Out of nowhere, Rosie emerges, hitting the ranger over the head with a shovel. As he lies there unconscious, Iris goes into panic mode, but Rosie is oddly calm. They leave the scene quickly, shaken.

The next day, the girls visit the SUCCULENT DEALER to finally drop off the plants. As they make their exchange and the dealer inspects the goods, Iris can't help noticing a speck of dried BLOOD on the leaf of a succulent. Seeing her apparent interest, the succulent dealer gifts her the plant. Iris looks over at Rosie, still counting her money, and back down at the plant in her hand...

And she knows that things will never be the same.

BTS Photography



Film Stills

For high-res downloads, please click [here](#).



Director's Statement

***Poachers Stockpile 'Tiny and Cute'
Succulents Worth \$600,000,
Investigators Say***



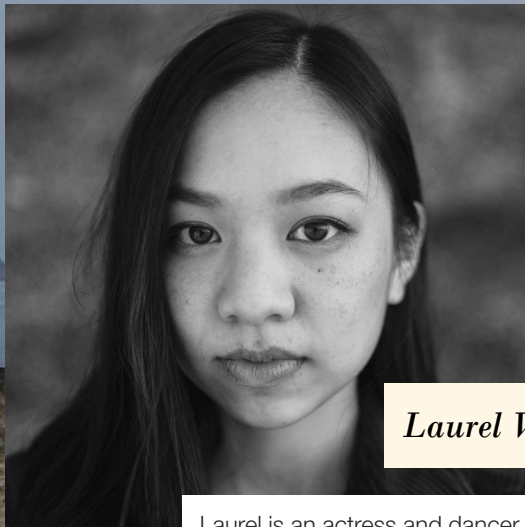
Inspired by true events involving an international smuggling ring and a \$600,000 haul, POACHERS is a breezy road trip that takes a dark turn. At its core, this is a story about friendship - that special kind of ride or die relationship that is so rare to find; someone you'd be willing to drop everything for and go to hell and back with.

However, friendships, like plants, require care and maintenance. Sometimes when you put them through too much, they don't always bounce back. When you venture that deep into a moral gray area with someone, just how far is too far? With the portrayal of this relationship, I'm really interested in exploring the importance of recognizing when things need to change, no matter how much you try to look away.

This film also represents an opportunity to show complicated Asian American women on screen. At a time when strong, nuanced portrayals of Asian American women in media are more important than ever, I see this as a perfect opportunity to reveal layers and depth within the experience of living in a world that doesn't take you seriously. Above all, I want the audience to understand one thing: although, like succulents, we may be easy to initially dismiss, we should definitely never be underestimated.

- Tiffany Lin | Writer, Director, Editor

Cast



Laurel Wong as IRIS

Laurel is an actress and dancer based in San Francisco Bay Area. Her early training in classical and contemporary dance sparked her love for choreographing dance films and acting for stage and screen. Laurel has worked on films across California, most recently starring in a short about two women searching for meaning, and producing a Filipino American film about grief and reconciliation. Currently an engineer in heart valve repair, Laurel is a creator and collaborator at heart. With each project, Laurel hopes to advocate for unheard stories and explore the intricacies of real human connection.



Olivia Cordell as ROSIE

Olivia Cordell is a professional working actress who has performed in numerous stage, film, television, and digital productions. Her credits include Hulu, Amazon Prime, YouTube Premium, Crypt TV, the La Jolla Playhouse, and more. She is also an award-winning playwright and produced screenwriter. Find her full resume at oliviacordell.com/acting and join her other hundred thousand followers on TikTok [@theprincessliv](https://www.tiktok.com/@theprincessliv)



TIFFANY LIN (Writer, Director, Editor)

Tiffany is a Taiwanese-American filmmaker born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. A 2020 graduate of USC's film and TV production program, Tiffany has worked extensively across both live action and animation, as well as virtual reality. A short film that she wrote was selected as a semifinalist for the 2020 Student Academy Awards; her other work has won awards in festivals both domestically and internationally. Through her films, Tiffany aims to present emotionally honest and unconventional perspectives on the experience of growing up.



SAMANTHA SADOFF (Producer)

Samantha is a graduate of the University of Southern California majoring in Film and Television Production with a minor in Gender Studies. Entering the entertainment industry at the age of seven, Samantha started as an actress working in working in Film, TV, Print and Radio. After earning her SAG-AFTRA membership in 2007, she began exploring other realms within film production navigating towards a career as a producer and director. She hopes to participate in the creation of socially conscious narratives, making it a responsibility to champion diversity in the industry.



ELIAS GINSBERG (Writer, DP)

Elias Ginsberg is a Los Angeles-based Director of Photography and an alumnus of the world-renowned USC School of Cinematic Arts Film and Television Production program. Elias was the winner of the 2020 ASC Student Heritage Undergraduate Award - one of the most prestigious awards a young cinematographer can receive. Elias's passion for cinematography comes from a background in Fine Art photography. He strives to capture humanistic stories and hopes audiences see his images as ones which grapple between disillusionment, reality and truth.



VIVIAN GRAY (Production Designer)

Vivian Gray is a production designer from Memphis, Tennessee. She studies at the University of Southern California, where she is in her final year as an undergraduate film and television production major. Throughout her time at USC, she has worked in the art department on many award-winning short films, music videos, and more.



NOAH DONNER-KLEIN (Sound Designer)

Noah Donner-Klein is a sound designer, editor and mixer based in Los Angeles, California. He graduated this past spring from the University of Southern California, with a Bachelor's in Theater, where he won awards for Outstanding Sound from the School of Cinematic Arts during the annual First Look Film Festival. He revels in collaboratively exploring the bounds of storytelling: ranging from conventional methods in cinema and television to emerging virtual production techniques and virtual reality experiences. Above all, he strives to both create and support powerful storytelling through sound.



ALEXANDER MANSOUR (Composer)

Alexander Mansour is a composer, pianist, and cellist from Los Angeles California. His music is fascinated with the lyricism of romantic expression, dramatic juxtaposition of disparate harmonies, and dynamic narrative structures. Most recently, he scored a documentary for director Robert Weide, *VONNEGUT: UNSTUCK IN TIME*, distributed this fall 2021 by IFC Films. Over the years, he has been recognized four times as an ASCAP Finalist in the Morton Gould Young Composer Competition and the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards. Alex is a graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music with a Masters in Music Composition.

Contact:

Tiffany Lin (Writer, Director, Editor)
(510)754-8110
ln.tffny@gmail.com

Samantha Sadoff (Producer)
(408) 722-0580
samisadoff@gmail.com

Elias Ginsberg (Writer, DP)
(402)321-3571
eliasginsberg@alumni.usc.edu

