

Jelly Bean

Written & Directed by Nessa Norich

Synopsis:

Follow the trials and triumphs of a pivotal day in Reyzl's dating misadventures as she sets out to find the intimacy she craves.

Reyzl is a queer woman who is earnestly seeking romance on dating apps that she can not hack. Lacking any strategy to vet a perfect match, Reyzl decides to date whoever the algorithms choose. Catastrophe ensues when Reyzl's first online date turns out to be an appalling disappointment.

When an unexpected opportunity for intimacy presents itself a second time, will Reyzl have the courage to open herself up and grasp it?

Cast: Nessa Norich, Yoni Lotan, Lio Mehiel, Cara Francis, Maeve Bell, Diana Oh

About the Filmmaker:

Nessa Norich (Writer & Director, *Jelly Bean*) is a writer, director, and performer who creates works of comedy and social critique for film and theater. For the past five years, she has dedicated herself to independent filmmaking, building on fifteen years of theatrical production. Nessa is a recipient of the 2022 NYC Women's Fund for Media for her latest project, *Jelly Bean*. *Jelly Bean* has so far screened at NewFest 2022, Oslo Fusion, Hudson Valley Film Festival, and Rhode Island International Film Festival, where Nessa was recognized with the award for Best Actress.

Nessa developed as a multi-hyphenate artist at Jacques Lecoq in Paris where she studied physical theatre, and collaborated with artists from 36 different nationalities. After creating original works of theater with her UK-based theater company, Nessa moved back to New York City and joined the New York Neo-Futurists, writing experimental non-fiction plays for their weekly show, *The Infinite Wrench*, for four years. In 2017, she began to direct music videos and dance films. She made her narrative directing debut in 2019 with the queer episodic series *The Fae* (Outstream Film Festival 2020, Philadelphia Independent Film Festival 2021, PrideFLIX Film Festival).

As a hyphenate creator, she accesses a uniquely versatile toolbox for the creative process, which enables her to tell imaginative and visceral stories and has led to opportunities like guest starring on HBO's *High Maintenance*, as well as producing a rave for one of their episodes. When she is not creating her own work she supports other artists through creative coaching and teaching. She is also an alum of The Emerge NYC fellowship for artist-activists and is a current member of Film Shop NYC.

Director's Statement

Jelly Bean is a voyeuristic satire of contemporary dating based on my misadventures searching for partnership online. The film's aesthetic is a callback to dark comedies made in the '90s, like *Muriel's Wedding* and *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, that tell stories of ostracized women who long for love. Flamboyant outsiders portrayed by filmmakers like Miranda July, Todd Solondz and Jane Campion, are the characters I fall in love with. The friction between the alienation these women experience and the colorful crass worlds they inhabit touches me so deeply, it tickles me. *Jelly Bean* emulates this contrast, reflecting the bizarre aspects and brutal truths of online dating as a queer woman, using romantic comedy tropes.

I began to write autobiographically about my search for love as a queer, Jewish woman, and ultimately, the narrative became a kind of spell, a conjuring of partnership. In writing this script, I discovered my deep desires. I realized my definition of romance. *Jelly Bean's* central character Reyzl, gets her happy ending when she meets someone who naturally gravitates to her idiosyncrasies. I wanted her to discover, as I did, that our desires and needs are complex and nuanced, deserving of attentive curiosity. Romance is a careful odyssey of discovery of the other. I want to tell a love story in which two people find a mutual attraction, not because either of them fits into a conventional box, but because they share a unique and specific flavor of weird.

Credits:

Screenwriter & Director: [Nessa Norich](#)

Executive Producers: Katy McClellan, Nessa Norich, Todd Lindsay

Director of Photography: Michael Parrella

Assistant Director: Katy McClellan Camera Assistant: [Hannah Roodman](#) Second
Camera/Drone Operator: [Blaine Dunkley](#) Production Designer: [Domenica Garcia](#)
Production Assistant: [Sara Norich](#) Sound Mixer: [Anastasia Goldberg](#) Gaffer: [Grace
Giffune](#) Makeup: [Brianna Ashley Chin](#) Hair: [Kylie Lefkowitz](#)

Post Production Team:

Editor: [Kendall Payne](#) Original Score: [Emily Bielagus](#) Sound Design: [Jesse Malings](#)
Colorist: [Marika Litz](#)

Contact:

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