

— electronic press kit



DIASPORA

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
TYLER MCKENZIE EVANS

PRODUCED BY
MALACHI ELLIS
LINDSAY BLAIR GOELDNER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
SHANT JOSHI
CARA RICKETTS

PRODUCTION COMPANY
FAE PICTURES

STARRING
CARA RICKETTS & RAINBOW SUN FRANCKS



LOGLINE

In this sly satirical thriller by Toronto's Tyler Mckenzie Evans, a woman begins to wonder whether the disappearance of the Black families who have long occupied her suburban neighbourhood may be caused by something more sinister than gentrification.

CREDITS

STARRING

Cara Ricketts
Rainbow Sun Francks

PRODUCED BY

Malachi Ellis
Lindsay Blair Goeldner

PRODUCER

Eric Bizzarri

EDITOR

Jordan A. Hayles

COLOURIST

Sam Gilling

ORIGINAL SCORE

Kristyn Matthews

DIRECTOR & WRITER

Tyler Mckenzie Evans

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Evan Ciniello

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Chelsy Althea

WADROBE

Kristyn Matthews

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Shant Joshi
Cara Ricketts



TYLER MCKENZIE EVANS

WRITER/DIRECTOR

During his childhood, to escape the mundanity of the suburbs, he would go to the theatres weekly, which is where he discovered his love for storytelling. Tyler has made several short films, including *I Live Here* which premiered at Aspen Shortfest in 2022 and currently is streaming on CBC Gem. Tyler's latest short film, *Diaspora* is a social thriller film about gentrification that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2022 and screened at multiple festivals worldwide. Tyler's main goal is to create original and captivating stories centred around Black people and people of colour. He is currently developing a feature adaptation of *Diaspora*.

MALACHI ELLIS

PRODUCER

Malachi Ellis is a Black Gay Producer based in Toronto. He is an alumnus of TMU's Media Production & OYA Media Group's Emerging Filmmakers.

Post academics, Malachi has focused on telling diverse and authentic stories that challenge the status quo and amplify BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ voices. He recently produced the series teaser for *Streams Flow from a River* (dir. Christopher Yip) and the dramatic short *I Live Here* (dir. Tyler Evans), which premiered at the Oscar-qualifying Aspen Shortsfest 2022 and on CBC Gem Fall 2022. He is currently working on two Black-led proof of concept horrors; *Diaspora* (dir. Tyler Evans) & *The Fly That Doesn't Listen Follows The Corpse Into The Grave* (dir. Lu Asfaha).

In 2021, Malachi participated in Kidscreen's *The Next Wave: Diverse Voices* program, where he received mentorship from Creative exec Cort Lane. He was also named one of *Playback Magazine's* 10 to Watch for 2021.

As a Black gay man, Malachi feels a responsibility to produce fictional content that inspires others and pushes for authentic representation. He always seeks to foster professional relationships with other LGBT+ & BIPOC creatives.

In his spare time, you can find him reading a comic book or continuously recolouring his Google Calendars.



LINDSAY BLAIR GOELDNER

PRODUCER

Lindsay is a film producer and karaoke enthusiast based in Toronto. Her credits include *There's No Place Like This Place, Anyplace* (Hot Docs, CBC), *Learn to Swim* (TIFF), *Streams Flow From a River* (CBC), *Death Valley* (Fantasia, Tallahassee) and *Salmon Pink* (Popcorn Frights, FilmQuest) among others.

She began producing branded video content in New York City before producing commercials in Toronto for clients such as Google, McDonald's and General Mills. After completing the Producer Lab program at the Canadian Film Centre in 2019, she teamed up with fellow Producer Lab alumni Shant Joshi to join Fae Pictures as the Director of Production. She is currently lead producing and providing production oversight to several projects including a drag queen coming-of-age story *Queen Tut* (dir. Reem Morsi), feature-length art documentary *The Archivist* (dir. Tricia Hagoriles), two episodic dramedies *I Know A Place* (dir. Tricia Hagoriles) and *Degrees of Separation* (dir. Eva Grant), short horror film *Diaspora* (dir. Tyler Evans), trans-led dramatic short *Scaring Women at Night* and is preparing to distribute narrative coming-of-age feature *I Like Movies* (dir. Chandler Levack). In her spare time, she recommends films on TikTok.



SHANT JOSHI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Shant Joshi is a queer Indo-Canadian producer based in Los Angeles and Toronto. His credits include the films *Framing Agnes* (Sundance, NEXT Audience Award, NEXT Innovator Award), *International Dawn Chorus Day* (Berlin, TEDDY Award Winner), *Porcupine Lake* (Toronto), and *Noor & Layla* (BlackStar); the hit web series *Teenagers* (CSAs); and the Dekkoo original series, *I'm Fine* (Outfest). Shant co-founded the Future of Film Showcase as a launchpad for emerging Canadian filmmakers, and he previously worked at the United Talent Agency, Buchwald, and Lit Entertainment Group (fka Madhouse Entertainment). He is an alum of the Producers Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, holds a Certificate in Entertainment Law from Osgoode Hall Law School, and was named to York University's inaugural Top 30 Changemakers under 30.

Shant is currently Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors at BIPOC TV & Film, a sitting member of the Restructuring, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Action Committee at the Canadian Media Producers Association, and sits on the Advisory Board at the Future of Film Showcase.





CARA RICKETTS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Ms. Ricketts recently had a heavily recurring role in 20th Century Fox's *The Resident*. Cara is best known for her dynamic portrayal of "Lilly Rue" in CBC's *Street Legal* and was also highly acclaimed for her role as "Mary" in the CBC/Netflix series *Anne with an E*, winning the ACTRA Award for this performance. Her guest stars include *Global's Departure*, *CityTV's Hudson and Rex* WB's DC series *Titans*, BBC America's Emmy Award winning series *Orphan Black*, as well as NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*, CTV's *Saving Hope*, CBC's *Murdoch Mysteries* and *E!*'s mini-series *Book of Negroes*. Her feature film credits include *Stanleyville*, *Jean of the Joneses*, *Across the Line*, and *The Anniversary*.

Cara has also developed quite a fan base for her two leading roles in the Ubisoft games - the villainess "Mickey" in *Far Cry New Dawn* and "Sayla" in *Far Cry Primal*.

In theatre Cara has performed extensively in both Canada and the US including several seasons as a leading lady at Canada's esteemed Stratford Festival, the leading role of "Isabella" in *Measure for Measure* for Theatre for a New Audience in New York, and most recently *Time and the Conways* on Broadway. Ms Ricketts other selected credits include "Queenie" in *The Wild Party* (Acting UpStage) for which she was nominated for a Dora Award for Outstanding Performance, "Hedda" in *Hedda Gabler* (Necessary Angel), "Marianne" in *Constellations* and "Susan" in *Race* (Canadian Stage), opposite Jason Priestly

Her latest interest is in Web 3 and she is advising a few projects including a project in the Flim3 space .





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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Many low income neighbourhoods have slowly been changing: over priced grocery stores, coffee shops and condos are popping up. People of colour that live in these areas eventually disappear along with the area they once knew. Melina, the protagonist, is our watcher; she notices little changes in her neighbourhood. As an audience member we start to question if what she's noticing is really happening or if it's just her own paranoia. Diaspora is dark and twisted in so many ways and I'm extremely excited to showcase this worldwide.

TYLER MCKENZIE EVANS

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