

LES CÂLINS CHEAPS

Based on the play by Annick Lefebvre



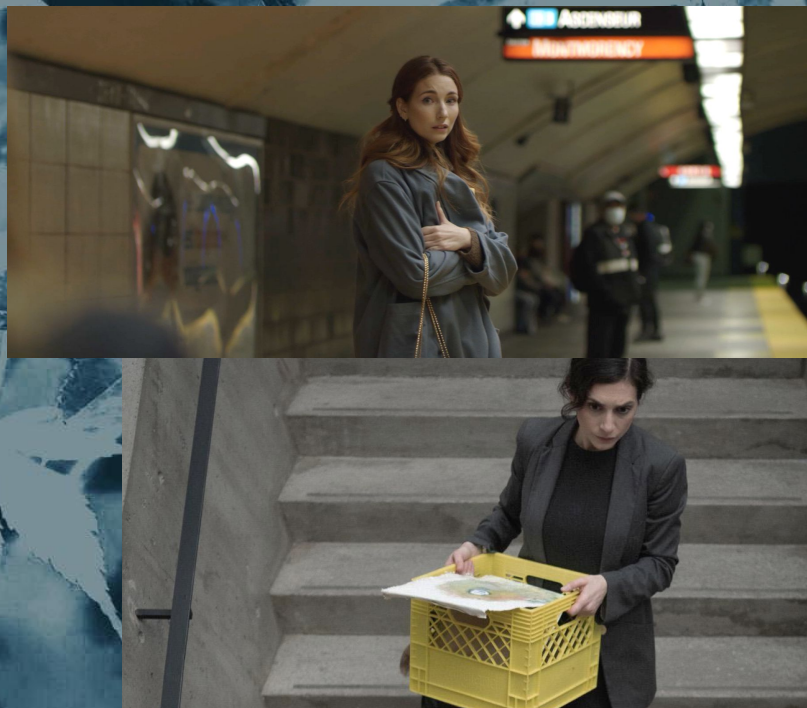
Adapted to film by Sarah Baskin, Valéry Lessard & Bryan Fitzgerald
Directed by Sarah Baskin

Synopsis

The film follows two women reeling from the loss of their mutual friend by suicide. One woman's openness to the pain counters the other's avoidance, ultimately leading them towards an unexpected connection that stirs something more hopeful in both of their hearts.

The story is set in Le Plateau, the iconic neighborhood in downtown Montréal, its distinctive bilingual culture acting as a gesture of separation at the beginning of the story, and connection at the end.

Les Câlines Cheaps speaks to the importance of mental health awareness, suicide prevention and the growing need for connection in this increasingly disconnected world.



Director's Statement

I first came upon the short play *Les Câlines Cheaps* by French-Canadian playwright Annick Lefebvre when I directed an English version of it in 2018. I was struck by the simple yet layered story of two grieving women moving through ordinary days that feel anything but when viewed through the lens of loss. The recent suicide of their mutual friend has re-colored the details of their lives, turning their respective worlds upside down.

What I strove to capture in the film adaptation is how the juxtaposition of their movements through the city reveals their individual responses to the question of how to live with this hole in their heart. One woman's openness to the pain counters the other's avoidance, ultimately leading them towards an unexpected connection that stirs something more hopeful in both of their hearts.

Although the original play is solely in French, I decided to make one character



Anglophone (Jordan) and the other Francophone (Chlo  ). The character who committed suicide (Mathilde) was the bilingual connective tissue who moved between both language worlds. Montr  al is a bilingual city and yet the communities are fairly segregated.

I chose to lean into this tension, using its distinctive culture to gesture at separation

at the beginning of the story, and connection at the end.

Working on this film has been a constant reminder of the profound effects that can come from even the smallest moments of connection. And that embedded within grief, there can be a quiet awakening to life.

–Sarah Baskin



Title of Film :

LES CÂLINS CHEAPS

Country of Production:

CANADA

Date of Completion:

MAY 2022

Duration:

15 MIN 08 SEC

Genre:

DRAMA

Language:

FRENCH & ENGLISH

BIOS



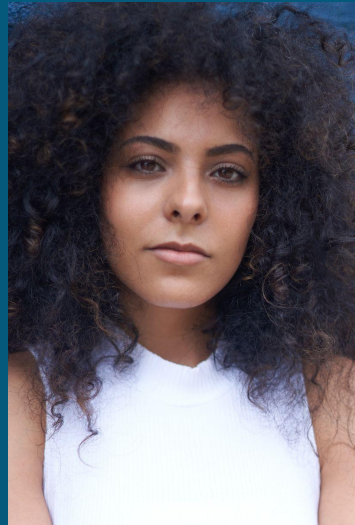
SARAH BASKIN
DIRECTOR/WRITER/
ACTOR
(she/her)

is an actor and director, originally from Montreal. She plays Jordan, the anglophone Montrealer who was a co-worker to Mathilde.



VALÉRY LESSARD
WRITER/ACTOR
(she/her)

is an actor and filmmaker originally from Montreal. She plays Chloé, the francophone who was the best friend of Mathilde.



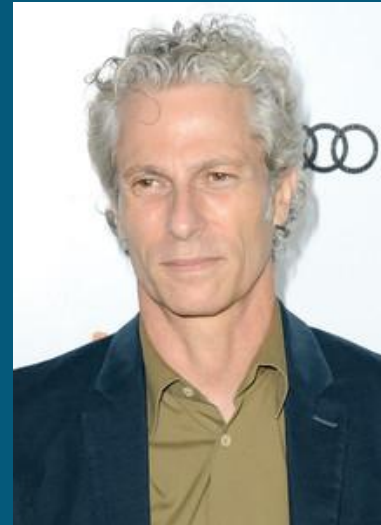
MIRYAM MAGRI
ACTOR
(she/her)

is an actor and singer, originally from Montreal. She plays Mathilde, a singer on the cusp of success who sadly takes her own life.



BRYAN FITZGERALD
WRITER/PRODUCER
(he/him)

is an actor and filmmaker from New York. He's also the founder of Sow the Seeds Productions.



DAVID SIEGEL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
(he/him)

is an established director, writer, and producer. His films have screened at Cannes, TIFF, Sundance, and more.



BEHIND THE SCENES





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