

# THERE ARE BEES IN THE HOUSE

a VFS production



After a death in the family, Asa returns home to grieve alongside her mother, Ramona, and she begins to notice a peculiar sound echoing through the walls of the house: the buzzing of bees, which she eventually realizes is all in her head.



Asa returns to her childhood home and as she begins to settle back into her home life and routine, she suddenly begins to hear the buzzing of bees. She believes the sound to be coming from the walls of the house, and when she decides to investigate it, Asa only discovers locked doors and an evasive mother. The buzzing sound gets worse and worse, and begins to truly drive Asa mad, and eventually Ramona introduces her to the painful and uncomfortable experience of removing the bees from her head, and after that repeated experience Asa becomes numb to the world around her, and falls into the new toxic routine Ramona had introduced to her.

# DIRECTORS VISION- MORGAN SAELENS

What I love so much about this script and film are the layers at play in every interaction that this mother and daughter have. As someone who intimately understands the way in which a mother/child relationship can haunt you, I know that other viewers that have any context for fraught familial relationships will be engrossed in this dynamic.

Stylistically, my vision is very much inspired by the work of Josephine Decker in her films like Shirley (2020) as well as the work of Jean-Marc Vallée in his work for the HBO show Sharp Objects (which deals also with similar themes). The cinematic elements of the film will have a dreamlike quality to them with unconventional camera movements and disorienting editing in moments of high tension and anxiety.



The film will also incorporate sound design for the buzzing that will pan the audio channels creating an all-consuming auditory experience for the viewer to be put in Asa's position. Ultimately, this film should be engrossing to the senses.

I want to tell this story for a multitude of reasons beyond is just being a brilliant script. I feel really passionately about breaking into genres that are more often than not very problematic when it comes to the glorification of women's trauma or worse the exploitation of it. I want to create something new and original that takes a very real and intimate type of pain and creates a powerful visual metaphor for how unresolved trauma seeps out into our lives.



# Cast Biographies

ASA- LEUNA SHERIF



Leuna Sherif is originally from Bangladesh and immigrated to Canada when she was nine. She is in her final year of the Bachelor of Kinesiology program at UBC. Leuna decided to start pursuing acting in 2020 after a friend invited her to be a PA on set. Since then, Leuna has worked on a range of projects as 1st AD, gotten two lead roles in student films as well as a supporting role on a feature set to film in 2022.

RAMONA- MONA HASSANIEN



Mona Hassanien is an Ontario native with fifteen plus years working in the social work sector for counseling, outreach to the community, and organizing and planning. Dedicated to nurturing and deepening her acting craft, she derives so much pleasure and creativity from exploring the nuances and complexities of the human spirit through storytelling and performance art.

# Cast Biographies

LEON- HENRI ROIVAS



Henri is a Finnish immigrant who now finds himself in the slightly warmer climate of Vancouver, British Columbia. A drama actor and a graduate from the Vancouver Film School Acting stream.

He is also a self-taught screenwriter with well received scripts at multiple international competitions.

GRANDMA- DAVINDER DEOL



Davinder has always been inspired to become an actress ever since watching Audrey Hepburn movies as a little girl. She has taken scene study classes & more recently booked work for some small projects.

One notable appearance is the short "This Is How It Is", where she played the grandmother, and is passionate to continue her acting work.

YOUNG ASA- MELA PIETROPAOLO



11-year-old Mela brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to all that she does, from a voiceover role for an upcoming Netflix animated series, to three consecutive runs as an East Van Panto Kid in Theatre Replacements's very popular *East Van Panto*, to various appearances in short films and television. Mela performs in English, French, and Italian, and is proud of her mixed Sri Lankan-Indian heritage.



BTS

# BTS





# POSTER

...Can you hear them too?

a VFS production

"There are Bees in the House"

starring Mona Hassanien / Leuna Sherif / Henri Roivas

produced by Emma M. Cooke / directed by Morgan Saelens /

photography by Becca Isaias / production design by Marcos G.

Avendaño / 1st assistant directed by Ruben Scott / edited by

Samantha R. Mancias Carrillo

*There are Bees in the House*

...CAN YOU  
HEAR THEM TOO?

a VFS production

"THERE ARE BEES IN THE HOUSE"

starring MONA HASSANIEN / LEUNA SHERIF / HENRI ROIVAS

produced by EMMA M. COOKE / directed by MORGAN SAELENS / photography by BECCA ISAIAS

production design by MARCOS G. AVENDAÑO / 1st assistant director RUBEN SCOTT / edited by SAMANTHA R. MANCIAS CARRILLO

# PRODUCTION DESIGN



# Key Crew Biographies

PRODUCER- EMMA M. COOKE



Born and raised in St. Albert, AB, Canada, Emma Cooke is a filmmaker and producer based in Vancouver. Emma has produced films such as *Don't Snitch* (2021) and *My Roommate, Death* (2022).

DIRECTOR- MORGAN SAELENS



Morgan Saelens is a non-binary filmmaker and writer. Their style of storytelling focuses on the creation of worlds and relationships beyond the normative gaze.

# Key Crew Biographies

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY-  
BECCA ISAIAS



Becca Isaias grew up in Oakville, ON, but she is currently based in Vancouver pursuing her dreams of being a filmmaker. At a young age, she developed a love of storytelling through multiple art forms, with a heavy theatre background.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER-  
MARCOS G. AVENDAÑO



Born and raised in Mexico City, Marcos G. Avendaño has close to a decade of experience in still photography, as well as multiple other creative disciplines, ranging from manual to technical.

# Key Crew Biographies

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-  
RUBEN SCOTT



Ruben Scott was raised in Peterborough, England, where he developed a love for film. Ruben is a graduate of the British Film Institute Academy Young Filmmakers Program, and has experience working for Mark Wahlberg's production company and in post-production for HBO. He is an appointed pre-screener for multiple film festivals.

EDITOR- SAMANTHA R.  
MANCIAS CARRILLO



Born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, Samantha Mancias has been drawn to the industry from a young age. Samantha has vast experience in various editing jobs, from event videos, short films, music videos, and 2D animation.

# FACTS SHEET

- 4/6 key crew are female or non-binary
- Cast is almost entirely female, and ethnically diverse.
- \$9775.00 budget
- Full colour
- 2.35:1 aspect ratio
- Filmed in Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Mona Hassani and Leuna Sherif star





# SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT

Instagram: [@beesinthehousefilm](https://www.instagram.com/beesinthehousefilm)

Email:

[beesinthehousefilm@gmail.com](mailto:beesinthehousefilm@gmail.com)

Producer Email:

[emmamcooke44@gmail.com](mailto:emmamcooke44@gmail.com)