



## Girl Coded

2022 | Australia | Musical | 9 mins | 16:9 | [BTS](#)

### KEY CREDITS

Director	Grace Valerie-Lynette
Writer	Grace Valerie-Lynette
Producer	Dianna La Grassa
Cinematographer	Felix Maude
Production Design	Lily Currey-Billyard
Editor	Daniel Oates
Sound Design	Thomas Ward
Original Music	Grace Valerie-Lynette

### KEY CAST

Robbie	Kath Ebbs
Ruth	Chloé Hayden

### SYNOPSIS

Desperate for power, ambitious tech nerd Robbie is keen to hack into her high school's anonymous gossip page to garner popularity. Robbie enlists her loyal friend Ruth to help, but as tensions grow between Ruth's moral compass and Robbie's unconscionable actions, Ruth reveals a secret that blows their project (and friendship) wide open.

*Starring Chloé Hayden (Heartbreak High) and Kath Ebbs (Neighbours).*

### FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) 2023 (Australia) – **In Competition**

Oska Bright Film Festival 2024 (UK)

BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival 2024 (UK)

Melbourne Women in Film Festival 2024 (Australia)

Daydream Cinema 2024 (UK)

Geelong Pride Film Festival 2024 (Australia)

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) 2024 (USA)



## DIRECTOR BIO

Grace Valerie-Lynette is a multidisciplinary queer writer and director. Her works are culturally relevant but emphasised in emotionally heightened, intense and glamorized worlds. Her stories are trojan horses, featuring naive or individualistic characters who transform through self-sacrifice, often utilising female-led casts and around themes of disability, queerness, marginalisation, and intersectional Australia.

Grace has spent the early years of her career investing in the podcasting format, due to its accessibility for young writers. Her musical podcast *Twinemies* debuted in 2021, and was created with funding from the Community Broadcasting Foundation as a part of SYN Media's Podcast Incubator Program. It charted top 20 for it's subgenre in New Zealand, Canada, Austria, Sweden, Singapore, Japan and peaked at #3 in Australia. It was also an Apple top pick for the month of March under their 'New and Noteworthy' banner, and a Spotify top pick for their 'Fictional Faves' banner. *Twinemies* won 'Excellence in Creative Audio' at the CBAA awards, was nominated for 'Best New Radio Show' and 'Best Online Content' at the CBAA awards, nominated for 'Best Original Score' and 'Best Title Art' at the New Jersey WebFest, and won 'Best Podcast' at Sydney WebFest. In 2023, she won the Rising Star Award at the Australian Podcast Awards for her work on *Twinemies*.

Described in reviews as 'an addictive story', 'a sensation for the ears', and 'seamlessly produced', *Twinemies* has also been featured in *BroadwayWorld* and *LOTL*.

Her latest work, a 10 minute queer musical short film titled *Girl Coded*, has just been produced by Bus Stop Films, and features *Heartbreak High* star, Chloe Hayden and *Neighbours* cast member Kath Ebbs. It premiered at the Brisbane International Film Festival, and is now headed to the BFI-supported Oskaa Bright Film Festival.

Grace works at Storyglass, a boutique podcast label under FremantleMedia as a Development Producer. There, she brought to life projects such as *Sex Therapy: Sessions with Chantelle Otten* (Audible #1 podcast for 2023) and the *Sleep Sound* series, featuring Cody Simpson, Natalie Imbruglia and Pallavi Sharda.

Grace received her bachelor's degree in screenwriting from AFTRS, which she attended on the coveted \$20,000 Virgin Australia Scholarship. She has also written on the award winning fiction podcast 'Supernatural Sexuality', and on Season 5 of the web series with over 90 million views, *Flunk*.

Some of the highlights of her career so far have included winning the Virgin Australia Commercial Pitch Competition twice over, being a judge at the Australian Podcast Awards, receiving a fellowship from Varuna House, being a featured writer at the Byron Bay Writers Festival, the Young Writers Festival, PACT Sound Out the Streets, and Enqueer Writers Festival.

In addition to her Mon-Fri work at Fremantle, in 2022-2023 she also worked in the arts accessibility sector. She was a Tutor for Bus Stop Film's Accessible Film Studies program for adults with intellectual disabilities at AFTRS on Sundays, and was a mentor with AudioAbility, training young people with disability in radio and podcasting with the Community Media Training Organisation.



### DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Girl Coded is West Wing meets Mean Girls - a dynamic, political drama that reflects the authentic and diverse inner worlds of teen girls. Starring Heartbreak High's breakout actress Chloe Hayden and the first non-binary actor of Neighbours Kath Ebbs, it is a playfully serious portrayal of love and teenagerhood in the digital age, and explores themes of reputation and morality.

Too often stories about teenage girls don't give its characters the credit they deserve, underestimating their emotional maturity and the levels they will stoop for social validation. Our characters are highly intelligent, ruthless, sharp witted and with too much time on their hands, but also have capacity for great love and kindness. This leads to a story with a unique take on the high school genre.

Set circa 2012 - a period of history that is comedically untapped, our characters navigate mean internet memes, vicious internet trolls and being exposed themselves on the confessionals pages. This project allows us to explore the minefield of online persona, gossip and heartbreak that was present at the time - and the timely themes of the impact technology and the internet has on modern teens. Whilst dealing with issues of homophobia and social status, it is done within the framework of a love story, and aims to create an incredibly relatable story that brings its audience back to a time when the most crucial thing in their lives was what girls said about them at school.

The story development and the production of this short film were both at the forefront of inclusive filmmaking in the Australian industry, as this project was driven by 15 young adults with disabilities who attend Bus Stop Films - Accessible Film Studies Program at AFTRS, which I teach. It's heartfelt for me to share aspects of my community with my students, and gain their input into bringing the film to life. The students had worked with me on developing the story, set design, colour palette, costumes and more, and were on the set working shoulder to shoulder with members of the queer screen industry community. Collaboration, inclusion and storytelling all wrapped up in a funny, honest and entertaining teen drama.

Girl Coded is an emotionally heightened and honest portrait of queer life in the early 2010s, and leaves audiences thankful that they don't have to live through highschool again - as much as they may miss the drama.