

# **I Want to Feel Fun (9 min)**

**Official Selection: Tribeca Film Festival World Premiere (2025)**

An Improvised Comedy

Directed by Jessica Sanders

Starring Esther Povitsky, Avi Rothman, Simon Rex,  
Vivian Bang, Dugan O'Neal

LOGLINE:

One day in Los Angeles in search of love, connection and Nicki Minaj.



**Press Contact:**

Jessica Sanders [js@jessciasandersfilm.com](mailto:js@jessciasandersfilm.com)

Patricia Seely [patricia.seely@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.seely@gmail.com)

**INSTAGRAM**

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

**TRAILER:**

**Altina Films Presents**

**“I Want to Feel Fun”**

Directed by Jessica Sanders

Written by Esther Povitsky, Avi Rothman, Jessica Sanders

Produced by Jessica Sanders & Patricia Seely

Co-Producer Avi Rothman

Cinematography by Nicole Whitaker and Alex Disenhof

Edited by Simon Berger

Music by Tangelene Bolton

Sound Produced by Alexandra Fehrman

**Cast:**

**Esther——Esther Povitsky**

**Avi——Avi Rothman**

**Simon——Simon Rex**

**Vivian ——Vivian Bang**

**Ginger ——Ginger Gonzaga**

**Mom——Dohee Kang**

**Dad——Moonja Kang**

**Gene — Gene Kang**

**Commercial Director——Dugan O’Neal**

**Casting Director——Ed Flores**

**Camera Person——Laci Dent**

**Agency——Kara Luis**

**Agency——Lindsay Hailey**

**Agency——Mitch Silpa**

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT - JESSICA SANDERS

*"I Want To Feel Fun"* began as a creative experiment— Could I make a fully improvised film without a script, drawing on my background as a documentary filmmaker and comedy director, collaborating with an incredible cast. The idea was sparked when I saw comedian Esther Povitsky's Nicki Minaj shower curtain—and soon after learned Nicki was performing at the Staples Center.

Taking a docu-style approach, in the spirit of Scorsese's *After Hours*, the film follows Esther as she tries to get into the Nicki Minaj concert. Along the way, we meet Simon Rex—Esther's non-boyfriend boyfriend—her brother, played by Avi Rothman, and Avi's longtime girlfriend, played by Vivian Bang.

My approach to the comedy was to work closely with the cast, amplifying exaggerated truths and surround them with non-actors, crafting an adventure through Los Angeles in search of love, connection and Nicki Minaj.

### ABOUT JESSICA SANDERS

#### Writer/Director/Producer



Jessica Sanders is an Academy Award – nominated, Sundance and Cannes Award – winning director and producer of narrative and documentary films and commercials.

Jessica's latest short film **"I Want to Feel Fun"** is an improvised comedy that will World Premiere at the 2025 Tribeca Festival. Jessica directed, produced and wrote the martial arts action short film **"The Cocktail Party"** which premiered at the 2021 Tribeca Festival. The action packed, playful film tells the story of a cocktail party that turns into an unexpected martial arts action film.

Jessica directed and executive produced the TV pilot **"Embrace"** which won the 2020 SXSW Film Festival Grand Jury Prize and premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

Jessica directed and produced the short film **"End of the Line"** which premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. The visual effects heavy film is based on a short story by acclaimed writer Aimee Bender, exploring themes of power and its abuse. Starring Brett Gelman (Fleabag) and Simon Helberg (Big Bang Theory), for Refinery29 and TNT's Anthology Shatterbox film series.

Jessica's first feature documentary film **"After Innocence"** which she directed, wrote and produced tells the moving story of innocent men wrongfully imprisoned for decades and exonerated after DNA testing proved their innocence. The film won the Sundance Special Jury Prize and numerous festival awards before being released theatrically by New Yorker Films and

premiering on Showtime. It was shortlisted for the Academy Awards and became a game changer in criminal justice reform, bringing awareness and change for the wrongfully convicted.

Jessica's award-winning commercial career was launched when Steve Jobs handpicked her to direct Apple's iPad launch campaign. Jessica won the coveted Cannes Young Director's Award for her **"Sony Make.Believe"** film which also won an AICP award.

Jessica's work can be seen at: [www.jessicasandersfilm.com](http://www.jessicasandersfilm.com)

### CAST:



**ESTHER POVITSKY** is an American stand-up comedian, actress, writer, and producer. Most recently she co-wrote and starred in the feature *Drugstore June*. Povitsky is the co-creator and star of the comedy series *Alone Together* (2018); she starred as Izzy in the [Hulu](#) series *Dollface*. Her debut comedy special, *Hot for My Name*, premiered on [Comedy Central](#). Other television appearances include *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Love*, and *Parks and Recreation*. She was in the semifinals of 2015's *Last Comic Standing* (season 9)



**AVI ROTHMAN** previously collaborated with filmmaker Jessica Sanders as a writer and actor on the award-winning comedy short film *Bunion* (2014). Avi is known for *Wonder Woman 1984* (2020), *Love, Sex and Missed Connections* (2012), *Palm Royale* (2024) and *Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar* (2021).



**SIMON REX** is an American actor and rapper. In 2021, Simon received critical acclaim for his lead role in [Sean Baker's](#) drama film *Red Rocket*, winning the [Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead](#). Recently Rex was in Zoe Kravitz' directorial debut *Blink Twice* and is in the Sundance-premiered film *Magic Farm*. Rising to fame as an [MTV](#) VJ, Rex later became an actor known for *What I Like About You*, starring in three films of the *Scary Movie* franchise, and *National Lampoon's Pledge This!*. He later developed a rap persona, Dirt Nasty, and had several solo albums and co-founded the hip-hop group [Three Loco](#).



**VIVIAN BANG** starred in *White Rabbit*, which she also wrote, directed by Daryl Wein, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2018. Vivian was a main cast member on television shows *Sullivan & Son* and *Swedish Dicks*. She had notable minor film roles as a bridal shower planner in *Yes Man* (2008) and the hippie girlfriend in *Always Be My Maybe* (2019). Recently she is in the film *The Parenting*.



**DUGAN O'NEAL** is a writer and commercial and film director, known for *Dream Corp LLC* (2016), *Stupid Hype* (2013) and *L.A. Rangers* (2013) .



## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

### Patricia Seely - Producer

Patricia Seely is a filmmaker selected as an Inaugural Fellow of the WIF x Google Shorts Lab, where she wrote and directed *Please In Spanish*. She has also produced work that has premiered at the Tribeca Festival, including two collaborations with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Jessica Sanders and the directorial debut of filmmaker Kate Sullivan. Seely's commercial producing and directorial work includes the launch of *Ford Drive*. Previously, she served as VP of Production for Kobe Bryant's *Granity Studios*, where she produced podcasts, audiobooks, the ESPN+ television series *Detail*, and behind-the-scenes documentation for the Academy Award-winning animated short *Dear Basketball*. Her first feature film as a producer, *Liza, Liza, Skies are Grey*, stars Academy Award winning actress Mikey Madison.

### Nicole Whitaker - Cinematographer

Nicole Hirsch Whitaker graduated from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and subsequently began her career as a still photographer. Over the last 20 years, Nicole has worked across all mediums, from fiction and nonfiction to television and commercials. Whitaker's TV credits span from *Bad Sisters*, *Patriot*, *Cobain: Montage of Heck* and *Girl Rising*. She most recently lensed the feature *Dust Bunny*.

### Alex Disenhoff - Cinematographer

Alex Disenhof, ASC is a cinematographer who has photographed award winning feature films, television shows, and commercials. His latest work includes the highly anticipated HBO miniseries *TASK* and Amazon's mega-budget *THE LORD OF THE RINGS: RINGS OF POWER*, where he holds the position of lead cinematographer. Past work also includes the cultural phenomenon *WATCHMEN* for HBO, an ASC Award nomination for his work on the pilot episode of *THE EXORCIST*, and the 2014 Somali pirate film *FISHING WITHOUT NETS*, which received the US Dramatic Directing prize at Sundance and was screened at Camerimage.

### Simon Berger- Editor

Simon Berger is an editor who previously worked with filmmaker Jessica Sanders on her award-winning short film "*End of the Line*" that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Stephen has worked with directors such as Spike Jonze, Spike Lee, Craig Gillespie, Patrick Daughters, and Natasha Lyonne on commercials, short films and feature documentaries.

### Tangelene Bolton - Composer

**Tangelene Bolton** (she/her) is a Filipina-American film, TV, and media composer based in Los Angeles, CA. A **Berklee College of Music** Film Scoring graduate and a **2020 Sundance Composer Fellow**/ Tangelene is known for her scores from **Netflix's** original series *Warrior Nun* (Season 2), **Blumhouse's** thriller film *Unseen*, directed by Yoko Okumura. She also composed the music for **Disney+'s** *Let's Be Tigers* and **Walt Disney Animation Studios' Just a Thought**, which was an official selection at the **2019 Annecy International Animation Film Festival**. Most recently Tangelene wrote additional music for Sundance's 2024 opening film

***Freaky Tales***, an original drama film directed by *Captain Marvel* filmmakers Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, scored by Raphael Saadiq.