

YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE?

A SHORT FILM BY MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



THE

LOGLINE

A young man has to overcome his romantic insecurities before a visit from his engaged brother.

THE

SYNOPSIS

This short film about **asexuality**, with cake serving as a metaphor for sex. We focus on Kyle, an inexperienced young man who **doesn't desire cake**. He's deeply insecure about this and has developed **severe anxiety** issues as a result. Now that his older brother, Jake, is engaged, Kyle feels an internal **pressure to date** and try cake, as he feels his "failure" to make progress towards these life milestones risks exposing his insecurities to the world. But a relationship is not what Kyle needs. What he needs to learn is that **it's okay to not like cake**.

THE

THEME & TONE

YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE? is about learning to **overcome anxiety** around a **stigmatized sexual identity** through the vehicle of **self-love** and **personal support systems**. The tone of the film is serious with a hopeful ending.



THE CHARACTERS



KYLE

BRADLEY BEACHUM

A young man who has never been in a relationship and hardly attempted dating because he doesn't like cake. He's deeply insecure about this and has severe anxiety issues as a result. Now that his older brother, Jake, is engaged, Kyle feels an internal pressure to try and overcome his insecurities as he goes on his next date.

JAKE

COBY LARINDE

Kyle's older brother. He's happily engaged and in the midst of making plans for the wedding as he's visiting Kyle from out of town. He's supportive of his younger brother but has a feeling that he's keeping something from him, being unaware that Kyle doesn't like cake.



JOYCE

An open-minded woman who goes on a date with HANNAH SULAK Kyle later on in the film. She finds a kinship with Kyle as they both want to take things slow and yearn for a deeper connection.



TESS

ESTHER REEVA

A thrillseeker who goes on a date with Kyle early on in the film. Tess is looking to have a good time and is perplexed when Kyle is not interested in cake. Tess unknowingly perpetuates the anxiety and shame that Kyle feels regarding his sexual identity.



A close-up photograph of a round cake. The cake has a light-colored, possibly white or vanilla, frosting. It is decorated with a thick, dark chocolate drizzle that runs down the sides. The top of the cake is covered in a layer of dark chocolate, with several dollops of whipped cream and two bright red cherries with stems. The cake is sitting on a pink circular base or plate. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**THE
FILMMAKERS**



MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ

DIRECTOR, WRITER

Michael is an editor, writer, and director originating from Arlington, Virginia. He is now based in Los Angeles, California. Starting with a career in editing, he applies an editor-first mindset of precision and planning in his writing and directing style to tell character-driven stories about identity, self-esteem, and differing perspectives.

REGINA PIGSLEY

PRODUCER

Regina is a half-Chinese writer, director, and producer from Santa Rosa, California. Her short film "The Pheonix" (2022) played at 35 festivals and won 17 awards. In 2023 alone she's produced 4 short films and co-produced her first feature, In Flight, which was announced in Deadline magazine.

When she's not working on narratives, Regina produces music videos for independent and signed artists (Capitol Records), as well as music festival/concert broadcasts such as Outside Lands, Bonnaroo, EDC, and Ye's Sunday Service, on platforms such as Hulu and Amazon.

Regina loves to tell stories that reflect the strength and resilience of women, youth, and underdogs in society. She hopes to continue to tell stories that empower, uplift, and challenge the norm.





DEVON DONIS

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Devon Donis is a Los Angeles based Cinematographer playing in both narrative and commercial hemispheres. He maintains an affinity for projects with passion and collaborators who also strive for excellency in their craft.

He brings a vast array of experience to the table and is known for his work on the Emmy-Nominated, PBS distributed, feature documentary ONE+ONE MAKE THREE (2022) and the music video BRITTANY (2023) for Glume featuring Sean Ono Lennon which garnered press in the eclectic PAPER MAGAZINE.

His latest short-form work for OW. (2024) just won Best Filmmakers Award at LA Shorts Fest and you'll find the narrative feature THE PRODIGY (2024) releasing to Dekkoo in October.

MICHELLE P. CARTER

PRODUCER

Michelle is a sex-positive, sex-averse, panromantic gray-asexual. And yes, that is a mouthful for someone who has never had her mouth full of anything but food. Working on this project was a natural fit. “When Michael first approached me about a short film that delves into some of the nuance around the asexual experience, I knew immediately that I had to be involved. Asexuality is one of the most misunderstood sexual orientations, and it’s so important to share our experiences with the world. And while there is no one way to be asexual, this film tells Michael’s story, which opens up a conversation for the various ways that folks can experience asexuality.” Michelle works days in television and film as a creative executive (and sometimes associate-producer), and she moonlights as a content creator with over 100,000 followers, 3.2M+ likes, and 17.3M+ views on TikTok under the moniker "AsexualMememes.”



A three-tiered wedding cake stand is the central focus, featuring white frosting, white flowers, and pastries. To its right is a vase of white and purple flowers. The background is a blurred green plant. The text "THE OPPORTUNITY" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**THE
OPPORTUNITY**

THE **AUDIENCE**

This film is for everyone from all walks of life. While it will resonate most soundly with folks who are asexual, aromantic, or identify as queer in some way, this film is also important for anyone who is heteronormative. Asexuality and aromanticism are two of the most misunderstood, least-known identities in the queer community. Coming out as asexual or aromantic often requires a very lengthy, in-depth, nuanced explanation of what the orientation means. Spreading awareness and understanding about both of these identities makes it easier for folks to come out, or to be supportive of their friends or family who do.

THE **BUDGET**

\$20,000 to \$25,000

THE **FINANCING**

YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE? was financed in part through crowdfunding via From The Heart Productions, a 501-C platform for filmmakers. The campaign raised over \$10k of the total budget.

A cinematic scene from a film set, featuring a camera operator in the foreground and a director in the background. The scene is overlaid with a purple tint. The text "THE SPECIFICATIONS" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

THE SPECIFICATIONS

THE
COMPLETION —————
2025

THE
ASPECT RATIO —————
2:39:1

THE
GENRE —————
Drama, LGBTQIA+

THE
FORMAT —————
Digital / Stero

THE
MPAA RATING —————
PG-13

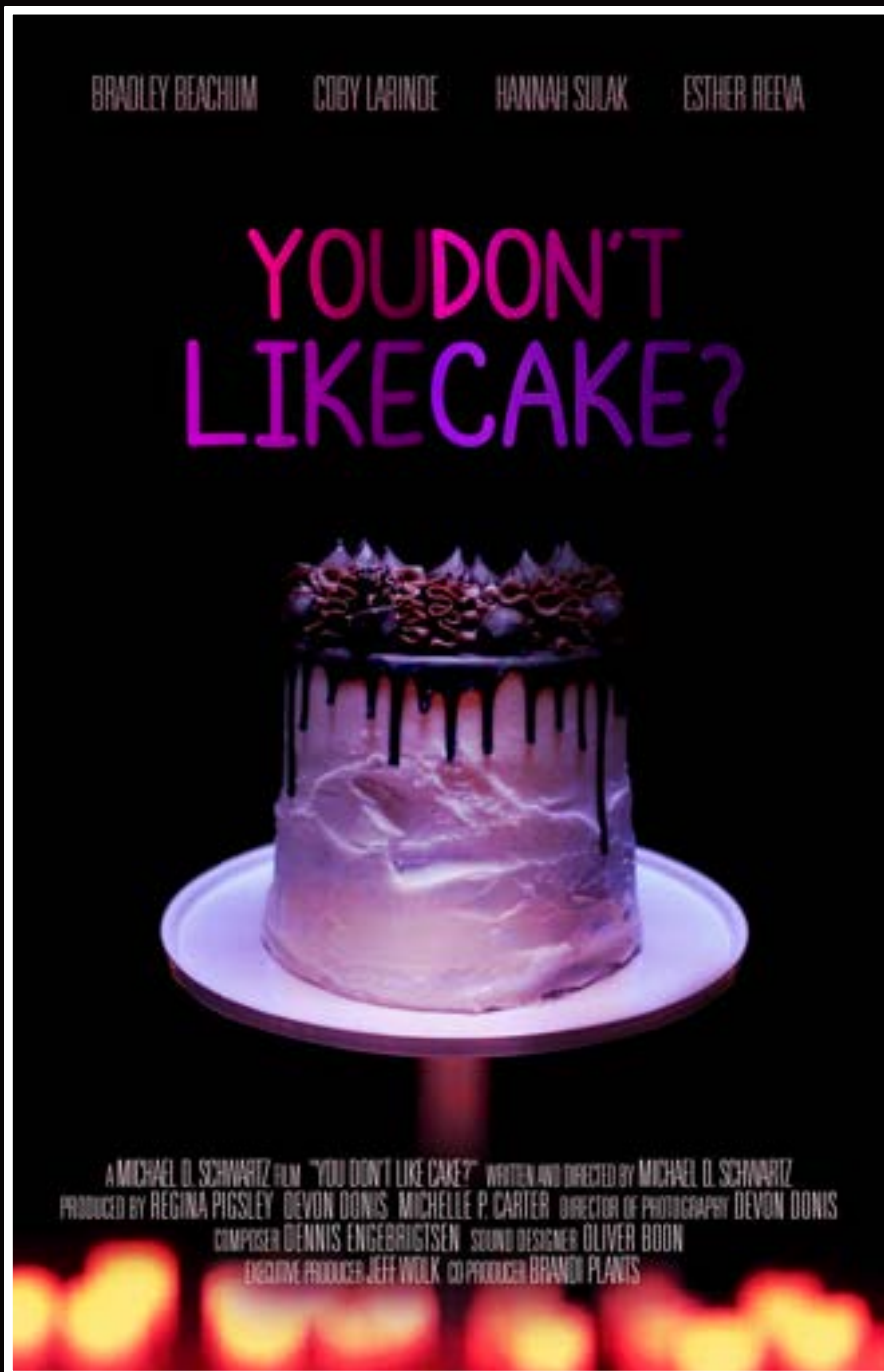
THE
FRAME RATE —————
23.976 FPS

THE
RUNTIME —————
11 min 46 sec

THE
LANGUAGE —————
English

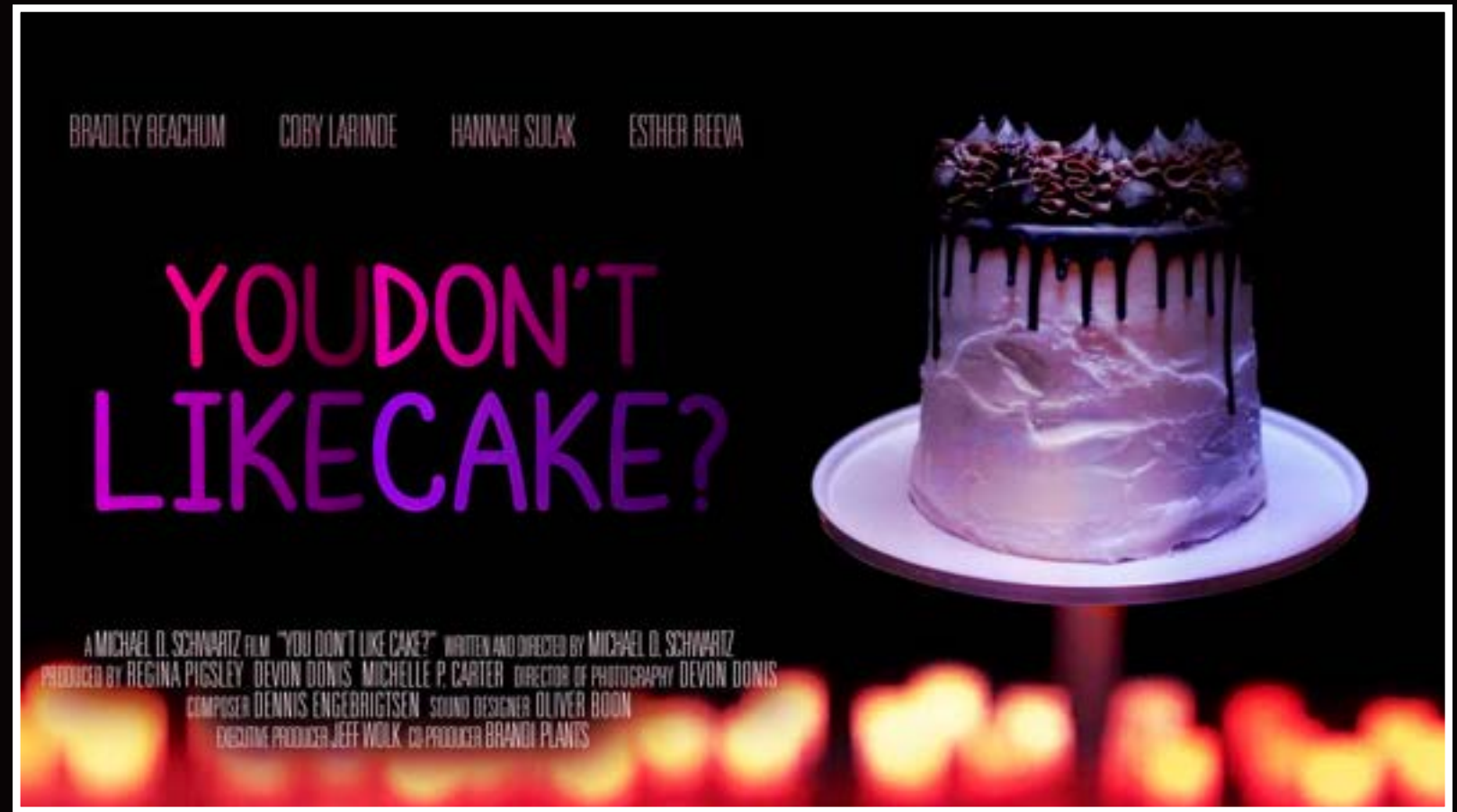
THE PROMOTIONAL ART





VERTICAL
11w x 17h

[DOWNLOAD >>](#)



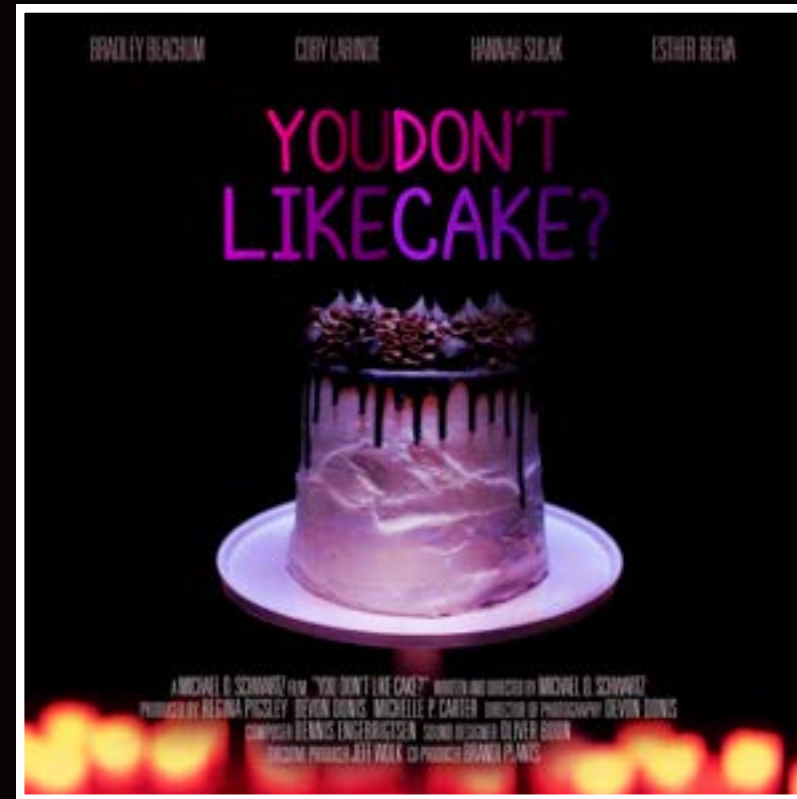
HORIZONTAL
16w x 9h

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YOU DON'T
LIKE CAKE?

TITLE TREATMENT
(STACKED)

[DOWNLOAD >>](#)



SQUARE
1w x 1h

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YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE?

TITLE TREATMENT (HORIZONTAL)

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YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE?



#F90095



#F000A7



#C700CD



#950CE2

A MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ FILM "YOU DON'T LIKE CAKE?" WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ
PRODUCED BY REGINA PIGSLEY DEVON DONIS MICHELLE P. CARTER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEVON DONIS
COMPOSER DENNIS ENGBRIGTSEN SOUND DESIGNER OLIVER BOON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEFF WOLK CO-PRODUCER BRANDI PLANTS



BILLING BLOCK

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A man with light brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to his right with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a computer monitor with some blurred light patterns. The overall lighting is low, with a warm, slightly orange tint on the man's face and suit.

THE MARKETING













A film set scene with a man in a suit on the left and a camera operator on the right. The man in the suit is looking towards the camera operator. The camera operator is a woman in a purple shirt, and another man in a blue shirt is assisting with the camera. The camera is on a tripod and has a 'BECA' logo on it. The background shows a grassy area with trees and a brick wall.

CONTACT

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