

JAINE HAS OTHER PLANS.

NIKKI
SHAFFEEULLAH

LILY
DIONNE-JERMANOVICH

TRISTAN
D. LALLA

The Lower Plateau



DEPANNEUR FILMS PRESENTS A LIZ SINGH FILM "THE LOWER PLATEAU" NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH LILY DIONNE-JERMANOVICH TRISTAN D. LALLA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SURAH FIELD-GREEN MUSIC BY PATRICK STEELE EDITED BY LILY ALEXANDRE ANIMATED BY ARMANDO LOPEZ BIRCANN

PRODUCED BY LIZ SINGH CLARE RASPOPOV AMANDA MURPHY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LIZ SINGH 

Synopsis

A formerly successful Montreal musician trudges through the darkest days of winter, armed with a backpack full of weed and a repertoire of Alanis Morissette covers. Dogged by her ex-band mate's new hit song, Jaine mourns the loss of her career, her band and her self respect. In the heart of the city's independent music scene, the snow covered Plateau, Jaine encounters both allies and obstacles, including her best friend-slash-roommate Mari, her married ex-lover-slash-manager David, and her charming new customer-slash-potential love interest, Darren. When a glittering opportunity in the Emerald City of Toronto threatens to lure her into a shiny new life, Jaine struggles to sever old ties.

Her ex wants her to move on, her mom wants her to move to Toronto, her best friend wants things to stay the same forever, and her clients just want weed, but Jaine has other plans.





Director's Note

For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to be a writer. As a kid, I wrote day dreamy poetry. As a teenager I moved on to angst and theatre but I spent every weekend at the video store. My adult dream (and an adult is undeniably what I am now) is to write movies. I wrote this movie. I hope you like it.

(I don't know if it's any good but I wrote it and it's mine)

I am not a precise or orderly sort of person. I struggle to function the way other people seem to with ease - to "fit in" or to "get along". Some days, I write for hours. Some years, I haven't written for months. Usually because, like Jaane, something made me sad and all the words dried up. And then all the good time buds dry up too except the best ones, who stay and see you through. This movie's about that and about them.

It took a long time to make this movie, a lot of help from my friends, a lot of patience from my family, and fierce, inspiring determination on the part of the producers and crew.

The Montreal independent arts scene is insular, chaotic, incestuous and spectacular - I am grateful to exist on its periphery.

Drake says know yourself, know your worth. I agree - that's good advice.

Please enjoy the show,
Liz Singh



The Cast



NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH
LEAD ACTOR, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Nikki Shaffeeullah is a performer, director, writer, producer, and facilitator who works in theatre, community-engaged arts, and film. Based in Tkaronto/Toronto on Treaty 13 Territory, she is artistic director of The AMY Project, an award-winning performing arts mentorship program for young women and non-binary youth; and assistant artistic director of Jumblies Theatre. For four years she was editor-in-chief of alt.theatre magazine. Her artistic work is informed by years of anti-racist, feminist, and queer organizing, and a family who loves music, puns, justice, and food.



LILY DIONNE-JERMANOVICH | MARI
ACTOR, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Lily Dionne-Jermanovich is a communications professional based in Brooklyn. She currently works for Michel et Augustin, a French sweets company with ambitions of world cookie domination, and is training to be a certified pastry chef. Growing up, she skirted the line between jock and theatre kid, but hasn't been on the stage since her undergraduate years at McGill University. 10 years on, The Lower Plateau marks her eager return to acting and her first on-screen appearance. She holds a double Master's degree in Arts Management from Ca' Foscari University of Venice and ESCP Europe in Paris.



TRISTAN D. LALLA | DARREN
ACTOR

Tristan D. Lalla's career highlights include over 70 plays, musicals, and staged readings across Canada, as well as dozens of feature films and television shows (Nine Lives, 19-2, Brick Mansions, Red 2, Quantico, How She Move), and over 20 videogames (such as the Assassin's Creed franchise, Watch Dogs, Deus Ex, and Far Cry). He was recently nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his role in Angelique. Tristan is a Dawson College Professional Theatre honours graduate. Last season, he was a member of the 2015-16 ensemble at Canada's National Arts Centre. He has recurring roles on the television shows 21 Thunder for CBC, and The Disappearance for CTV/NBC.



The Crew

LIZ SINGH
WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Liz Singh is an independent filmmaker based in Montreal, Quebec. This is her second feature film as a producer (*Farah Goes Bang*, 2013) and her first as a writer and director. She also produced short films, *A Better Place than This* (2012) and *Losing Gracie* (2011) and was assistant director on the short films, *Boy in the Woods* (2015) & *Mira's Night* (2011). She is a graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts with an MFA in Film Production.

AMANDA MURPHY
CO-PRODUCER

Amanda Murphy is a creator and community worker based in Montreal. She loves helping others to realize their artistic endeavours, solving problems, and building communities. *The Lower Plateau* is the first feature she has helped to produce. She is also currently working on the film *hron: a country of ghosts*, which is being produced by a queer anarchist collective.

CLARE RASPOPOW
PRODUCER

Clare Raspopow is a first-time producer based out of Montreal, Quebec. A graduate of both McGill and Concordia with an extensive background in both communications and management she has to date been working in the educational sector at McGill University, and in administration at ACTRA Montreal. Together with her fellow producers, Clare looks forward to making *Depanneur* films a thriving production house and a vital part of the Montreal film-making community.

SURAH FIELD-GREEN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Surah Field-Green is a non-binary cinematographer and photographer living in Montreal and working on queer, trans and bi-poc representation everywhere. A few years back, Surah dropped out of film school and bought a camera. Since then, they have been director of photography for several music videos and short films; *The Lower Plateau* was their first feature. They are currently working on a visual album for indigenous musician Mich Cota, and developing a web series about non-binary Montrealers, which they hope to shoot in 2018.



The Crew

LILY ALEXANDRE EDITOR

Lily Alexandre is a videographer and musician based in Montreal. Her work focuses on issues of class relations, gender identity, trauma, and survival in the face of structural oppression. Having previously worked on mostly online content - including shooting several music videos for the Trans Trenderz record label and directing MTL Plug's Red Cup Café series - this is Lily's first feature film credit.

PATRICK STEELE COMPOSER

Patrick Steele has been composing music since the early 2000's. He has taught at Recording Arts Canada, worked for Indica Records as a studio engineer and been a music director at CHU089.1FM. Although he used to perform and tour, he has now changed his focus to studio work. Currently, he works for the SaaS mastering company LANDR while running his own studio and boutique artist service company, Chit-Chat Distro.

ARMANDO LOPEZ BIRCANN ANIMATOR

Armando Lopez Bircann grew up in Dominican Republic and moved to the USA where he received a BFA in Fine Arts at the Corcoran College of Art + Design in 2013. During his time in Washington D.C. he participated in the Arts as an individual, a member of queer art collective Boys Be Good and also produced collaborative projects as Animals & Fire : Performance Art Platform. His efforts led him to receive an Artist Fellowship Grant from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities. His notable animation contributions include The Center for Public Integrity's award winning documentary Time is Money and DC's Art(202)TV. He later obtained a Graduate Certificate in Design From Concordia University where he studied mediated, queer identities in a globalized media landscape.





Depanneur Films

Depanneur Films is film production company which started as a pop-up movie theatre project under the name of Cinéma La Vox. We aspire to make films that are scrappy, honest and grounded. Depanneur Films strives to cultivate a progressive, socially engaged filmmaking culture on- and off-screen.

We live and work on the unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people on the island of Montréal which is known as Tio'tia:ke in the language of the Kanien'kehá:ka.





Specs

RUN TIME	79 mins
FORMAT	HD 1920x 1080, 23.975
SOUND	5.1
COUNTRY	Canada
LANGUAGE	English
YEAR	2018

Contact

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