



Summon

an experimental short
by madison calicchia

MAVENUE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "SUMMON" ADAKU ONONOGBO ARIEL LARMOND KINGA NOWAK
MOLLY JOHNSON PAOLA SANTIN KOZLOVIZ RACHEL SEWON BAE POPPY LIU AND MADISON CALICCHIA

CASTING BY MADISON CALICCHIA SOUND DESIGN BY ROMAN FUSCO COSTUME DESIGNER GABRIELLE CHRISTENSEN

EDITOR CRAIG THOROGOOD PRODUCTION DESIGNERS KAI CHUAN AND EASTON SELF

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SARA LAUFER PRODUCED BY CRAIG THOROGOOD

STORY AND DIRECTION BY MADISON CALICCHIA

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ABOUT THE FILM

LOGLINE

Summon is an experimental short exploring themes of female interaction and identity, particularly focusing on the consumption of the female body and the relationship of white women and women of color.

SYNOPSIS

Once The Goddess conjures up her images, there is a progression of versions of reality. Sometimes there is harmony, sometimes there is discord, and sometimes, the perception of what is in harmony and what is in discord stems from the viewers own experience and identity.

If you're looking for answers, *Summon* isn't the film for you. But if you are willing to explore your perceptions, *Summon* might be the film that challenges you to find the answers inside of yourself.

PRODUCTION STILLS



THE CREATOR

MADISON CALICCHIA: WRITER/DIRECTOR

Madison Calicchia is a filmmaker based out of New York whose work collectively centers around female experience, exploring these stories in a non-linear way. Madison frequently focuses on themes of sexuality and emotional complexities while attempting to translate the nuanced reality of non-verbal experiences into a moving image. She has worked on a number of different projects, including an experimental short shot in Paris and has developed a number of feature film concepts, one she plans on producing in 2019.

This film is Madison's festival debut. When not creating her own content, she works as a writer/producer for brand creative at MTV, VH1, and Logo at Viacom.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

WHY I MADE THIS FILM

Every time I come up with an idea for a film – whether it be experimental or narrative – it comes to me in my dreams. I imagine this is because the films I make are always extremely personal and dictated by what I constantly ruminate on and what goes on in my subconscious.

I had the extreme privilege to be part of a group of student filmmakers that went to Paris to shoot experimental films, and the entire experience, along with the film, was incredibly introspective. I spent a lot of time by myself, recounting my experiences and delving into my own perception of self. The film I made in Paris reflected the person I was while I was there, and fully represented my headspace at that time.

But the greater experience was the widening of my worldview, sparked not only by where I was, but by the incredibly strong, diverse, and complex women I had the pleasure of working with. These women helped me realize that the film I created, though somewhat universal, was extremely specific to my own experience, but that there are so many specific, yet equally compelling stories I

could have told to express the experience of womanhood. I wanted to dig deeper and give voice to experiences that I had yet to fully understand.

During this phase of introspection, I finally looked up and saw hundreds of women who looked just like me -- white women of privilege; I started to think: how many of these women would fight

for women of color on a daily basis, and I began to question my own behaviors. I realized my problem was that I was fighting in my head, but not in real life. I was part of the problem.

From that point onward, my dreams began to shift until I had the same dreams and nightmares over and over; those dreams have become the film I have created today. There's no way I could ever presume to know the experience of a woman of

color, and this film doesn't intend to do that. Instead, it has grown out of a desire to show variations on a truth – no experience is more true or less true because it is still a human experience. It focuses on the individual rather than the general.

This is a film where I'm trying to do better, not only as a filmmaker, but as a white woman, and as a human on this earth.

"...I had the same dreams and nightmares over and over; those dreams have become the film I have created today."

BTS PRODUCTION PHOTOS



CREATIVE TEAM

SARA LAUFER: CINEMATOGRAPHER

Sara is a NYC-based cinematographer and photographer. She is fascinated with ideas of memory, expression, and visual culture. In each project, she aims to create content that is visually stimulating and emotionally evocative. She is co-founder of VISCERAL8, a platform where visual artists interpret one word through eight-piece series. The project can be viewed online at www.visceral8.com.

Sara was attracted to this project for its focus on women as forces of nature; beautiful and diverse minds and forms. This film tackles the inherent power in and of women by exposing form and vulnerability, but also the restraints and constraints women face and endure - in relationships, in history, in political, social, and sexual contexts.



CRAIG THOROGOOD: EDITOR AND PRODUCER

Craig Thorogood is a New York based editor and creative producer. His dedication to this film and the message behind it pushes the film to its farthest reaches. Craig has an excess of experience producing both high level student films and independent productions.

Craig joined this production to be a part of a multi-dimensional and thought-provoking piece that brings unique, important voices to the screen.



CREATIVE TEAM

ROMAN FUSCO: SOUND DESIGNER

Roman Fusco is a sound designer and re-recording mixer based in Los Angeles. Studying at NYU Tisch, Roman worked on a variety of student projects both as a production sound mixer and sound designer.

What drew him to "Summon" was the freedom to create an experimental soundscape to pair with Calicchia's stark imagery.



LIFE ON SET

ANECDOTES FROM THE SET OF SUMMON

FILMING THE "TOUCHING FACES" SEQUENCE

Filming the sequence of the film where a number of hands reached across and touched the actors faces was one of the more powerful and emotionally complex experiences on set, partly because of the true emotion and pain that came to the surface during the process. The challenge, though, was getting something that felt true while using an 18mm lens with the camera 4 inches from the actors' faces.

This sequence was shot in three phases of intensity. The first was simply about the discomfort of being touched unwillingly, the second, fighting against the hands, and the third, about the intolerable pain brought about by an unwanted experience. In the final phase - the section seen toward the end of the film - I tried an unusual, though surprisingly effective approach.

"The challenge, though, was getting something that felt true...with the camera 4 inches from my actor's faces."

I asked each actor for the one word that was most painful to them. One actor said the word "loner" was the hardest to hear. As the hands began to reach across her body and face, I (with her knowledge and permission!) began to taunt her with that word, ramping up the intensity as we continued with the shot.

Ultimately, it escalated to the point where I was screaming at the top of my lungs and she was screaming back at me. When you see these women screaming silently on screen, you're seeing them truly scream back at me, fighting not only against the hands that touch them, but against the voice yelling at them.

That evening, as my team and I checked out of the studio one floor down after wrapping on production that day, we found out that, even one floor away, the screaming could be heard, and the studio staff almost came in out of concern. Luckily, we had our "recording" light flashing, so they knew that it wasn't (completely) real!

BTS PRODUCTION PHOTOS



CAST



ADAKU ONONOGBO



Adaku Ononogbo is a British-born actress living in the NYC area for quite some time now. Once she settled in the States, she had a bit of a culture shock. Growing up in school, she was known to the other children as the black girl with a funny accent. Soon she found her peace and friends. In 2006, Adaku had the opportunity to follow her true passion, being an actress. Since then Adaku has worked on numerous productions from major motion films to independent projects. She has worked with talented actors, from Jeffrey Wright to Sacha Baron Cohen.

CAST

KINGA NOWAK



Kinga is a NYC based actor originally from Wroclaw, Poland. Working both on stage and in front of the camera, actively training to develop her craft

She loved every minute being on set for the *Summon*. The crew was extremely professional and friendly and Madison's enthusiasm and love for art was highly contagious. It was an honor to be involved in a project that talks about all shades of Womanhood in a most vivid way that



ARIEL LARMOND

Ariel Larmond is a first generation American from Orlando, Florida. After graduating from college she moved to New York City to pursue her passion of storytelling. *Summons* illustrates the trials and experiences women encounter and speaks to Larmond's own sense of determination and resiliency

CAST

MOLLY WATTS



Molly Watts was born in Toronto, Canada and grew up in Bermuda. She is an actor, director and writer. Molly seeks to create work that holds its own elasticity and lives in the world with purpose and intention.



PAOLA SANTIN



Paola Santin was born in Uruguay and has lived in both Barcelona, Spain and New York. As an AMDA graduate, Paola has worked in theater, film, and commercial productions both in the US and abroad.

CAST

POPPY LIU



Poppy Liu is a queer, first generation, Chinese American actor, poet and full spectrum doula. They are a creative director of Collective Sex which has the mission of healing through story into the radical queer future.



EVIE BAE



Evie Bae is an actress and interdisciplinary artist. She has worked on several shorts ranging from the drama to experimental genre. She is interested in filmmaking, primarily video essays that utilize various other art forms such as painting, drawing, experimental cinematography/editing, and animation techniques.

FULL CREDITS

WRITER DIRECTOR

Madison Calicchia

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Sara Laufer

EDITOR/PRODUCER

Craig Thorogood

SOUND DESIGNER

Roman Fusco

CONTACT

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CAST

Adaku Ononogbo

Ariel Larmond

Kinga Nowak

Molly Johnson

Evie Bae

Paola Santin

Poppy Liu

Madison Calicchia

CREW

First AD: Rachel Lambert

First AC: Idil Eryurekli

Gaffer: Morgan Gardiner & Matthew Foundoulis

Best Electric/Gaffer: Christian Shi

Key Grip: Maxwell Roberts-Pereira

Grips: Nicholas Hansell, Tamera Davis, Henry DaCosta

Production Designers: Easton Self & Kai Chuan

Costume Designer: Gabrielle Christensen

Hair/Makeup: L. Dan Nguyen Phan

PAs: Sidney Costello, Claudia Davis, Leah Gross



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COMING SOON