



Desperately Seeking Commitment

A Film By FINISE AVERY

www.electricdreamsproductions.com



Overview

LENGTH: 15:39 Minutes

GENRE: Comedy, Short

BUDGET: \$22K

SHOOT: 3 days of September 2025 (12,13,14)



Logline

Hopeless romantic Sophie tries to engineer destiny with her supposed soulmate only for her increasingly unconventional pursuit to land her in mediation court facing accusations of stalking.



Synopsis

Sophie, a hopeless romantic girl, is on a quest for love, believing that fate needs a little nudge. Her daily routine is a whirlwind of orchestrated 'chance' encounters with Mark, a man she believes is her soulmate. From subway rides to Pilates classes, Sophie meticulously plans her interactions, even hiring a delivery guy, Yuri, to spy on Mark.

However, her efforts backfire when Mark discovers her schemes, leading to a tense mediation session. Despite the chaos, Sophie remains undeterred, convinced that destiny is on her side. As she navigates the fine line between romantic initiative and stalking, Sophie learns that true connection cannot be forced. In a humorous twist, she finds herself drawn to the mediator, hinting that perhaps fate had a different plan all along.



Tone & Genre

- > **GENRE:** Romantic Comedy / Satirical Short
- > **TONE:** Grounded, character-driven romantic comedy with escalating situational absurdity — Fleabag meets 500 Days of Summer.
- > **VISUAL TONE:** Bold reds, whimsical pastels, and B&W fantasy flashbacks.
- > **AUDIENCE:** Festival audiences, rom-com fans, and anyone who has ever tried a little too hard to manufacture fate.



Director: Finise Avery

Finise Avery is a New York-based filmmaker, writer, and producer celebrated for character-driven storytelling and a bold, inclusive vision. A member of the DGA and SAG-AFTRA, she has worked across major studio productions and earned more than 20 international awards for her directorial debut *Living With Grandma*.

Her passion for witty, emotionally resonant comedies fuels *Desperately Seeking Commitment*, a dance-infused rom-com that reimagines the genre with vibrant New York energy and a fresh female perspective. Avery's proven track record, combined with her leadership as founder of Reel Solidarity and as a DGA Focus on Women representative, positions her to deliver a film that is both commercially appealing and socially impactful.

Director's Statement

Love in the modern age is curated, awkward, and a little desperate — and Sophie is determined to prove that fate can be engineered. *Desperately Seeking Commitment* plays with the rom-com behaviors we're told to root for: grand gestures, "accidental" run-ins, and the mythology of "the one."

By pushing those tropes just a little too far, the film exposes how funny, familiar, and uncomfortable they can become. My approach was performance-driven and grounded — letting timing, tension, and real New York energy carry the comedy — while using selective stylized moments to reflect Sophie's romantic imagination. Ultimately, this is a story about learning that connection can't be forced, even when you really want it to be





Visual Style

OVERALL APPROACH

Desperately Seeking Commitment embraces a grounded, character-driven comedic style. The humor comes from performance, timing, and awkward realism — not exaggerated camera tricks or hyper-stylized framing.



CAMERA LANGUAGE

The film avoids overly flashy camera tricks in favor of motivated, performance-driven movement. The camera remains observational but fluid, allowing awkward moments and comedic tension to unfold naturally.

Shots are framed to support performance and comedic timing, often holding just long enough to let discomfort breathe. Movement is subtle and motivated — primarily stabilized and intentional rather than flashy.



CINEMATOGRAPHY

Shot on the Sony Venice, the film blends composed Steadicam work with motivated camera movement, creating a clean but kinetic visual language that supports performance-driven comedy.

Warm ambers and subtle magenta undertones ground the romantic world while maintaining a polished, contemporary New York aesthetic.



Meet the Cast



MARGHERITA BARBIERI

Sophie

A quirky, determined woman
desperate to find love



TYLER HAM PONG

As Mark

A composed man in his own
right, the object of
Sophie's affections.



SHEVY GUTIERREZ

As The Mediator

The handsome mediator
who offers Sophie a
potential romantic interest.

Meet the Cast



ALI FINK

As Claire

Sophie's married friend
who envies her single life.



IOANNA ENESCU

As Jenny

Sophie's supportive lawyer,
humorous and grounded.
Sophie's blunt and
sarcastic best friend.



CHRISTINE McBURNERY

Mark's Mother

Mark's mother who thinks
Sophie is perfect for
her son.

Meet the Cast



JOSEPH COLLINS

As Yuri

The comical delivery driver
tasked with spying
on Mark.



MICHAEL CAVALLARO

As Mr. Grey

Mark's serious and
professional lawyer

Cast & Crew

FILMMAKERS

Written & Directed by
Executive Producers
Producers
Associate Producer

Finise Avery
Susan Smith, Finise Avery
Joseph Collins, Connor Lawson
Luisa Oparanozie

CAST

Margherita Barbieri
Tyler Ham Pong
Shevy Gutierrez
Michael Cavallaro
Ioanna Enescu
Ali Fink
Joseph Collins
Christine McBurney

Sophie
Mark
The Mediator
Mark's Lawyer
Sophie's Lawyer
Claire
Russian Delivery Guy
Mark's Mother

DANCE

Choreographer
Dancers

John Hebert
Isaiah "Ace" Davis, Vincent Law

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Lucas Seitz Miller, A.J. Jacoby, Harvey McLendon, Sheraine Randall, Kai Holmes, Avinash Mohan-Ram, Fritz Philogene II, Bani Kaur Sandhu, Hoffmann West, Michael Olderr, Suheyra Noyan, Tristan Ashwal, Nelly Gugala, Vincenzo Carroll



CREW

CAMERA

Director of Photography
Steadicam Operator
1st AC
2nd AC
Additional Steadicam
Stills Photographer

Connor Lawson
Trevor Wolfson
Nick Misisco
Dante Fuller
Lily Mars
Andrew Senteno

PRODUCTION

1st Assistant Director
Key 2nd Assistant Director
Script Supervisor

Emilio Torriente
Kate Graubart
Luisa Oparanozie

CASTING

Casting
Background Casting

Kesh Casting
Rakesh Shah

GRIP & ELECTRIC

Gaffer
Key Grip
G&E Swing

DeLany McFate
Aden Kahr
Santiago N. Pineda Leyton

ART DEPARTMENT

Production Designer
Art Director
Props Master
Art PAs

Apache Gonzales
Patrice Davidson
Audrey Neyer
Leticia Arcari, Baani Kaur Sandhu

COSTUME & MAKEUP

Costume Designer
Costume PA
Hair & Makeup

Ellie Mae Ryan
Isabel Cooper-Perales
Vera Stromsted

SOUND

Sound Engineer
Boom Operator
Sound Utility
Playback

Joe White
T.R. Boyce Jr.
Raymond Heinichen
Ben Wood

POST-PRODUCTION

Editor
Colorist
Sound Mixer
Creative Consultant

Luis Lagera
Andrew Senteno
Cristi Dobrica
Anastasia Djedjeja

MUSIC

SCORE

Musical Score & Arrangements

Trumpet

Saxophones

Trombone

Upright Bass

Guitar

Drums

Keyboards

Female Lead Vocal

Recording Music Director

Ian McGregor Smith

Robert Fazecash

Len Temelini

Michael Stone

Ryan Fontaine

Andy Tattersall

Brandon Lefrancois

Ian McGregor Smith

Ruby

Anthony Parish

ORIGINAL SONG — “LOVE TODAY”

Written & demo created by Finise Avery

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A heartfelt thank you to our amazing cast, crew, and supporters. This film wouldn't have been possible without you!

SPECIAL THANKS

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Gotham Sound & Communications, Inc.

Hand Held Films, Inc.

Walton Hauling, New York

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Electric Dreams Productions

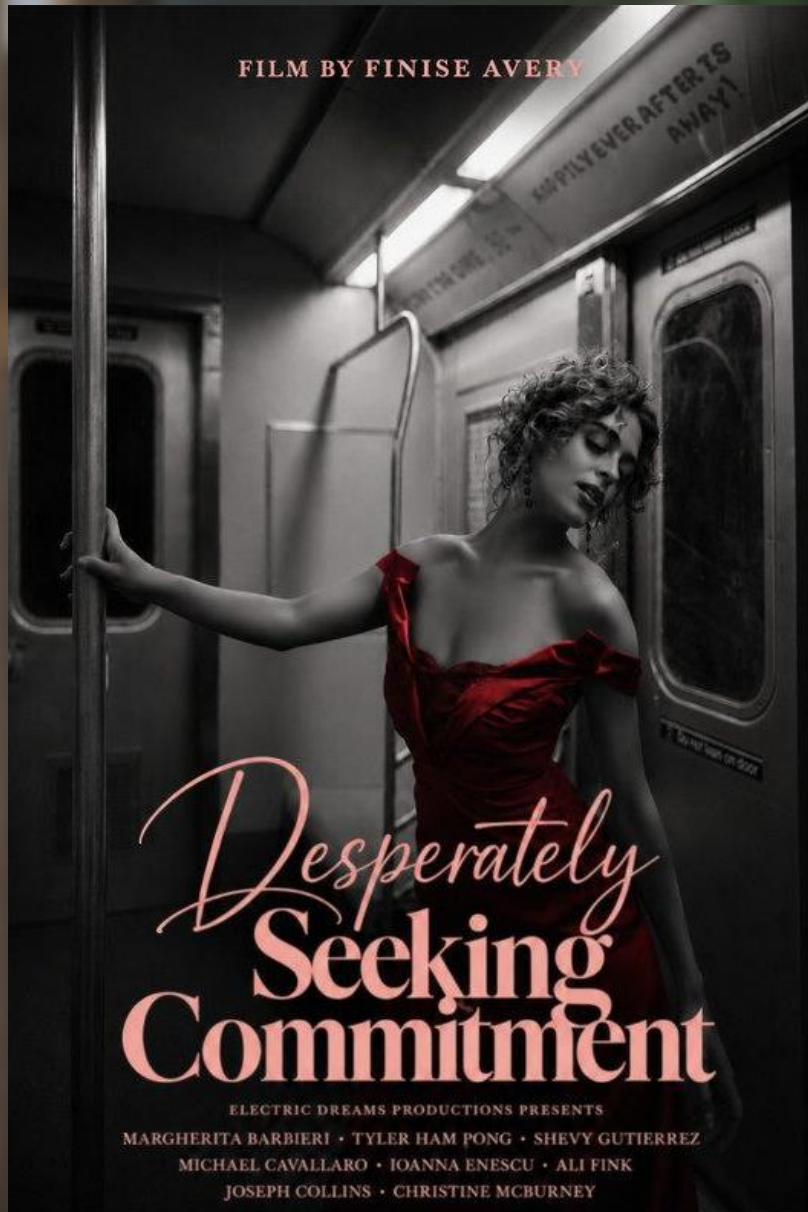
WHERE DREAMS ILLUMINATE SCREENS

Electric Dreams Productions, founded by Finise Avery, develops and produces character-forward film, television, and short-form projects with a bold comedic voice and an elevated visual sensibility. Built on a foundation of professional production experience across studio and independent sets, the company is committed to high-quality storytelling that connects with audiences and champions inclusive creative collaboration. Electric Dreams Productions aims to deliver distinctive, emotionally resonant entertainment that feels both current and enduring.



[Electric Dreams Productions](https://www.instagram.com/desperatelyseekingcommitment)

Contact: electricdreamsproductionsint@gmail.com · Instagram @desperatelyseekingcommitment



Major Wins

- **Oniros Film Awards (April 2026)**
Best Short Film · Best Director – Finise Avery
- **New York International Film Awards (April 2026)**
Best Director – Finise Avery
- **Roosevelt Island Film Festival (2026)**
Best Comedy Short
- **Best Shorts Competition (2026)**
Award of Excellence, Special Mention – Film Short
- **Cannes World Film Festival**
Best Short Film Script
- **ICE Movie Awards (December 2026)**
Nominee – Best Director

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

- ICE Movie Awards, French Alps (Dec 2026) – Best Director Nominee
- Windsor International Film Festival (Nov 2026) – WIFF Local Shorts
- NY Shorts International Film Festival (Oct 2026) – Cinema Village, NYC
- International Film Arts & Hearts Film Festival (Oct 2026) – Long Beach, CA

SCREENPLAY HONORS

- Finalist – B!tchFest Film Festival & Screenplay Contest (Los Angeles)
- Finalist, Best Short Film Script – East Village New York Film Festival
- Semi-Finalist – WIKI: The World's Fastest Screenplay Contest
- Quarter-Finalist – Big Apple Film Festival (Women's Spotlight) · Pitch Now Screenplay Competition · Santa Barbara Int'l Screenplay Awards

WHAT READERS SAID

“A bold, witty, and self-aware romantic comedy.”

— J.R. Elliott, Scores & Analysis

“A sharp, marketable high-concept romantic comedy with dark edges.”

— J.R. Elliott, Scores & Analysis

“Truly a delightful, funny, enjoyable piece.”

— Screenplay coverage · Dialogue 10/10