



JUNIPER

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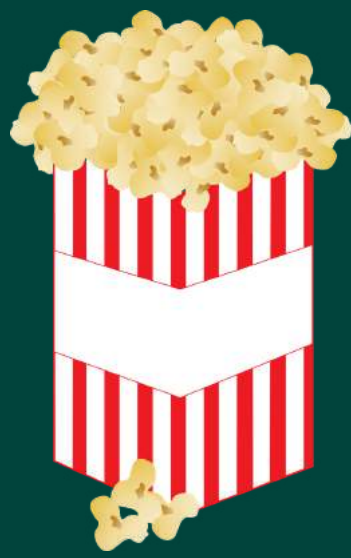


Directed by Katherine Dudas

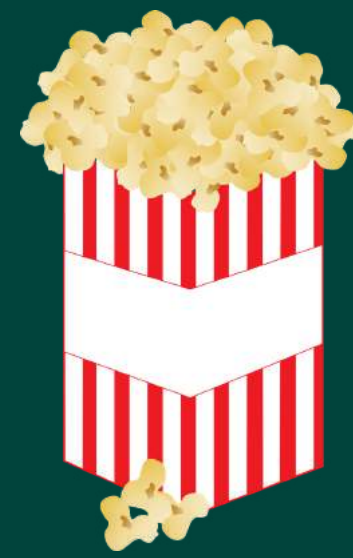
Written by Olivia Blue, Katherine Dudas,
Madison Lawlor, and Decker Sadowski

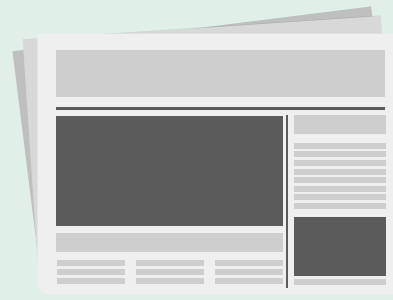
Starring: Madison Lawlor, Decker
Sadowski, Olivia Blue, Jacob Nichols, and
Adam Rodriguez

72 minutes | USA | English

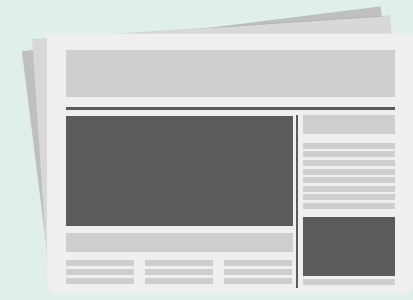



The Festival Run






Press and Reviews


ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS MUSIC NEWS LIFESTYLE DIGITAL MEDIA PODCAST

Interview: Katherine Dudas, Olivia Blue, Madison Lawlor & Decker Sadowski Talk Film 'Juniper'

On March 16, 2022. By PopTernative



We spoke with director and actors of the film *Juniper* which just premiered at the prestigious Santa Barbara Film Festival. Katherine Dudas (Director) and actress' Olivia Blue, Madison Lawlor and Decker Sadowski wrote, directed, and star in the film which is raw, real and explores the struggles of female friendship.





The Movie State

FILM FESTIVALS, UNCATEGORIZED

HIFF 2022: JUNIPER & PINBALL: THE MAN WHO SAVED THE GAME

OCTOBER 16, 2022 BEN SEARS LEAVE A COMMENT

Juniper


Vashon Island Film Festival 2022 Review - JUNIPER



VIFF Review JUNIPER


A young woman's plan to grieve alone at a remote cabin is disrupted by the arrival of her childhood friend.

Review by *Eric Hillis*



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JUNIPER

By [Andy Howell](#) | March 26, 2022

In *Juniper*, Mack (Madison Lawlor) decamps to her family's cabin on the anniversary of her sister's death, seeking some time alone to reflect. However, her solitude is interrupted by a surprise visit from her best friend Alex (Decker Sadowski) and Alex's friend, Dylan (Olivia Blue). Before long, Alex's brother Riley (Jacob Nichols) and his best friend Cole (Adam Rodriguez) show up as well. Tensions rise as the group struggles with different ways of processing grief, recall diverging memories of the past, causing long-buried secrets to be brought to the surface.




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SCENE

'Juniper': The emotional exploration of friendship


By J.P. Spoonmore | September 19, 2022 | No Comments




REVIEWS FEATURES INTERVIEWS SHORT FILM CONTEST TRAILERS CONTRIBUTORS

Juniper is the first feature-length film by director Katherine Dudas, co-written by Dudas and three of the film's stars, Olivia Blue, Madison Lawlor, and Decker Sadowski. It was produced by Dudas, Blue, Lawlor, Sadowski and Jacob Nichols, who also stars in the film. The film was a pandemic project supported by *Seed & Spark*, supported by over 1,000 people with a budget of \$75,000, and premiered earlier this year at the prestigious Santa Barbara Film Festival.

The film explores deep friendship and love through a lens of grief, and is bolstered by some phenomenal performances of surprising depth. As someone who is currently still navigating my own very real deep grief, the authenticity of this cast of young actors tapping into complex layers of friendship and loss was fascinating to watch unfold.



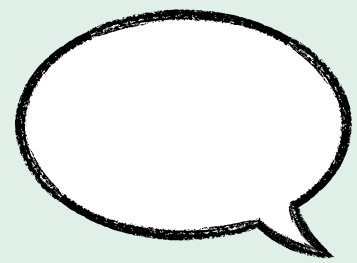


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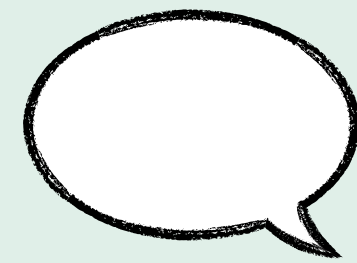
Juniper Film

It's time to feel EMPOWERED. It's time to feel BOLD. It's to feel FREE. Directed by Katherine Dudas and featuring Olivia Blue, Madison Lawlor, and Decker Sadowski, JUNIPER is a film that these beautiful ladies wrote, directed, and starred in...Ok, queens! The storyline is raw, real and really explores the struggles of female friendship giving you an intimate look at the dynamic world of womanhood. What makes this project stand out, even more, is that it was filmed and produced during the COVID-19 pandemic for a low budget. They had a dream and they made it happen! And we love it...

Ladies! Wow, what a project this is. Tell us more about how you all came together to make this happen.



Pull Quotes



"Juniper gives you an intimate look at the dynamic world of womanhood. And we love it..."

-Bello Magazine

"Lawlor, Blue, and Sadowski are captivating."

-Film Threat

"...thoroughly and unapologetically a female-centered film"

-Film Threat

"one of the more interesting movies to emerge from the pandemic."

The Movie Waffler

"Katherine Dudas directs the film with intimacy"

-The Movie State

"Highly recommended."

-Hammer to Nail

"...has something novel to say."

-The Movie Waffler

"This is a grounded, intimate coming-of-age dramedy that feels as authentic as ever centering on female friendship. It immediately took me in with its initial story setup and relatable characters."

-STX Entertainment

"...this cast of young actors tapping into complex layers of friendship and loss was fascinating to watch unfold."

-Hammer to Nail

"...I can't give much higher praise to an indie film."

-Hammer to Nail

"...raw, real and explores the struggles of female friendship."

-Popternative

🌸 **Logline** 🌸

When an individualistic young woman escapes to the woods to reconcile her sister's tragic death, her solitude is quickly squashed when her relentless childhood friend shows up unannounced.

🌿 **Synopsis** 🌿

MACK attempts to spiritually connect with her recently deceased sister by escaping to her family's rustic cabin. But her seclusion is quickly cut short when her Type-A childhood bestie, ALEX, crashes the private grief retreat, bringing her own offbeat friend, DYLAN, along with her. Tensions rise as the group struggles with different ways of processing grief, causing long-buried secrets to be brought to the surface.



Theme & Style

Juniper is an intimate look at the lives of young women struggling with the line between girlhood and womanhood through female friendship.



The actors in this film are real life friends. Through improvised dialogue, we were able to capture female friendship in all its confusing messiness.



🌟 The Conception 🌟

Juniper was birthed out of fear. I love how layered my relationships with women are, but I've also experienced immense heartbreak from them. Juniper came from that place of vulnerability. We made this movie in the midst of 2020, when all we wanted to do was make art with people we love. For us, that meant writing an outline over zoom, sharing mood boards and memories, and finally, shooting our film in 12 days.

-Olivia Blue





Director's Statement



So many women have been raised to be “good” girls, to support their men in their “masculine” rituals (sports; boy’s club office culture), and never be too ambitious themselves, or run the risk of being called bossy or difficult. Juniper welcomes all of those feminine “flaws.” When young women flock to something, the subject of their rapt attention (see: teen girl fandoms) is often belittled and discredited. Juniper champions those who find their power in the feminine, showcasing connection to themselves, each other, and Mother Nature. We explore this phenomenon through witch culture, an unignorable movement of new-age spirituality that the next generation is using as a tool for identity.

For Mack, the loss of her sister is the impetus to find this feminine spiritual connection. It’s her last attempt at feeling whole again. While this is the central relationship of our piece, Juniper celebrates women in all the ways they are connecting to this culture. Dylan shares her abundant cosmic energy effortlessly, and while Alex uses it simply as a playful tool, it’s an integral part of their bonding experiences. Mack is looking to find a vulnerable and grounding spiritual relationship in an attempt to heal herself. Though these relationships are different, both are valid in how the next generation explores identity and the world around them. Juniper is a part of a movement.



♊ Madison Lawlor (she/her) - Producer, Writer, "Mack"

Madison hails from South Dakota, aka motorcycle country! She can be seen in *Dear White People*, Zoe Saldana's *The Honor List*, popular kid's shows on both Nickelodeon and Disney, as well as Sundance and Youtube Red's *I'm Poppy*.

♈ Olivia Blue (she/her) - Producer, Writer, "Dylan"

Olivia grew up in the experimental theater scene of San Francisco. She is a recent graduate of NYU Tisch, and just wrapped Adam Sherman's latest film (in theaters 2022). Catch her on the last season of *Animal Kingdom* in 2022 on TNT.

♋ Decker Sadowski (she/her) - Producer, Writer, "Alex"

Decker grew up in Santa Barbara, CA. After studying Mechanical Engineering at Dartmouth College, she lost her mind and decided to study theater at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. She can be seen on NBC's hit show *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* and award-winning indie films.

♌ Katherine Dudas (she/her) - Director, Producer, Writer

Katherine is an award-winning comedy writer and director. Her work has been featured on WhoHaHa, Funny or Die, Reductress, HelloGiggles, and Bustle. She's performed Off-Broadway, on a team at UCB, and at Under St. Marks Theater. She's written and directed over a hundred comedy videos that have amassed millions of views on Instagram and Tik Tok.

♍ Jacob Nichols (he/him) - Producer, "Riley"

You can watch Jacob's work in Netflix's Halloween Anthology Series or in BET's *Situationships*. He holds a degree from NYU in acting and producing. He produced his first Off-Broadway show the same year he graduated.

♈ **Steven Shulgach** (he/him) - Director of Photography

Steven grew up surrounded by artists in his family, and began his career in film through his love for visual effects and animation at age 14. He is most known for his work on *Most Guys Are Losers* (starring Mira Sorvino and Keith David) and Terrance Smalls' *Lost Kings*.

♊ **Layne** (they/them) - Composer

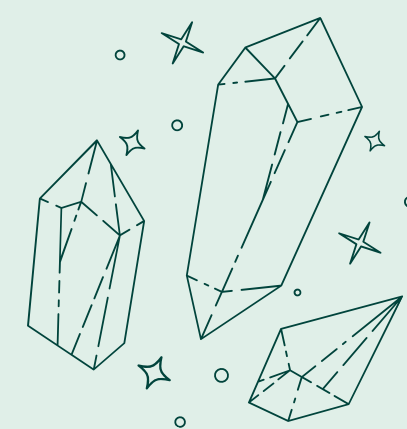
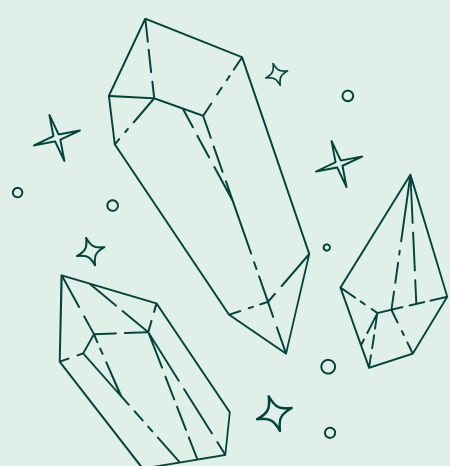
Layne is an artist, producer, and musician, originally from South Dakota. They have been scoring for film and TV, as well as producing, songwriting, and music directing for other artists since 2019. Layne's music has over 7 million plays on Spotify, and can be heard on all streaming services.

♈ **Em Steel** (she/her) - Visual Artist

Em is an LA-based branding consultant and visual artist. Educated from Parson's New School of Design, Em's credits include Disney, Netflix, Amazon, Warner Bros. and more. She's created incredible posters for shows like *Lovecraft Country*, and *The Leftovers*, and for films such as *Judas and the Black Messiah*, *Ad Astra*, and *The Little Things*.

♏ **Dani Okon** (she/her) - Animation

Dani is a NY-based creative director and GFX artist. Formerly the creative director for Nylon Magazine, and a graduate of NYU Tisch's Film & Television Program, Dani specializes in video production, art direction, and animation. Dani's work has featured celebs like Jameela Jamil, Camila Mendes, Jenny Slate, and some of your favorite drag queens from *RuPaul's Drag Race*.



Main Credits

Directed by	Katherine Dudas
Written by	Olivia Blue Katherine Dudas Madison Lawlor Decker Sadowski
Executive Producers	Jeff Nichols Robin Lee
Produced by	Olivia Blue Katherine Dudas Madison Lawlor Jacob Nichols Decker Sadowski
Director of Photography	Steven Shulgach
B Camera Operator	Karis West
Music Composition	LAYNE
Production Design	Christian Carvallo
Edited by	Katherine Dudas Michelle Botticelli Jacob Nichols

Cast

Madison Lawlor	as Mack
Decker Sadowski	as Alex
Olivia Blue	as Dylan
Jacob Nichols	as Riley
Adam Rodriguez	as Cole

Crew Credits

Associate Producers	Dan Pastewka Tracy Sklar Hilary Cerbin Brett Lawlor Tracy Bollag Deby Xiandani Katja Amirkhanian Melissa Carr Marty Moretti Alex Amirkhanian
Co-Producers	Eric and Nina Philips Denise Decker Peter Sadowski
1st AD	Adam Rodriguez
Script Supervisor	Adam Rodriguez
Unit Production Manager	Decker Sadowski
Original Art	Leonardo Amirkhanian
Colorist	Dan Edwards
Animator	Dani Okon
1st AC	Karis West
2nd AC	Jacob Nichols
Light Department	Eddy Laurent
Consultant	Loie Plautz
Post Production Sound	SOUND DEPARTMENT LLC
Dialogue Editor	Kevin Hill, CAS Cazz Cerkez
Rerecording Mixers	Juan Campos Kevin Hill, CAS
Sound Effects Editor	Cazz Cerkez
Audio Post Coordinator	Jaime Harrington Luisa Marina Schouffert
Production Sound Mixer	Ruben Briones
Boom Operator	Ruben Briones
ADR Recording	Jacob Nichols
Catering and Craft Services	Jewish Mama Robin Lee
Pick-Up Director of Photography	Dan Watt
Pick-Up Sound Mixer	Jacob Nichols
Additional Footage	Shutterstock
Camera and Lens Courtesy	Vault Rentals AbelCine

☀️ Contact Us ☀️

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Website: www.juniperthefilm.com

IMDb: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13259952/?ref_=nm_filmg_act_4

