



# LUPERCA

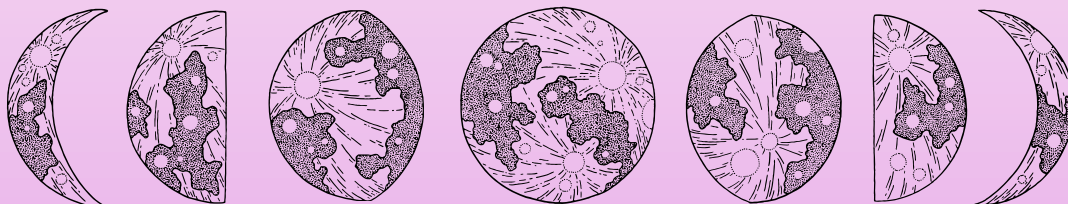
Written & Directed by Rainn Mowris

2023 / 15 min / USA / English / Drama

[lupercacafilm@gmail.com](mailto:lupercacafilm@gmail.com)

# Table of Contents

Starring / Key Crew	1
Synopsis	2
Q&A With Our Director	3
About Our Crew	6
Credits	8
Director's Statement	10
About Our Cast	11





## **STARRING**

Flower Estefana Rios  
Millie Rose Evans  
Sarah Elizabeth Wallis  
Mack Bayda  
Sydni Michelle Perry  
Axl Prophet

## **WRITTEN, DIRECTED, & EDITED BY**

Rainn Mowris

## **PRODUCED BY**

Grégoire Lartigue  
Sophia Snyder

## **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Nicole Zatkowski

## **MUSIC**

Vincent Fasano

## **CASTING**

Granville Davis



# Logline

A resilient young trans woman risks her life to escape an abusive past and finds new family in her former enemies, a tight-knit pack of queer werewolves.

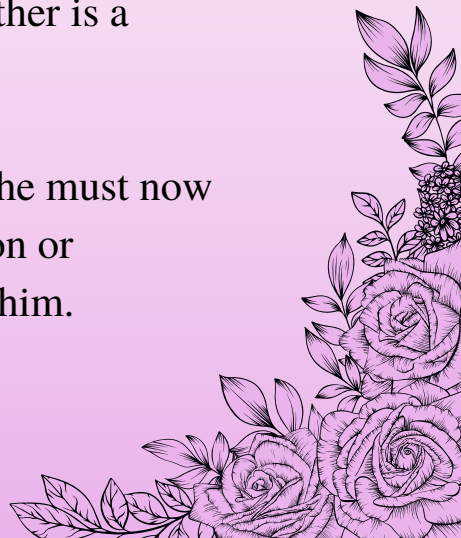
# Synopsis

After taking a rough stumble in the woods the night before, Ariadne awakes in the den of her enemies. The apparent leader of this werewolf pack, Cassian, allows Ariadne to stay and assigns a young fighter, Rowan, to keep an eye on her. They seem just as distrustful of her as she is of them, but they treat her with a kindness and respect she's never experienced before.

After a couple days with the pack, Ariadne has grown closer to the people she once saw as monsters. The scary stories her father filled her head with have lost their truth. One night, while everyone else sleeps, Ariadne takes out a family portrait and rips her father out of the picture.

After spending an afternoon sparring with Ariadne, Rowan returns to the pack's cabin home and discovers Ariadne's ripped family portrait. Ariadne overhears Rowan informing Cassian that her father is a hunter.

Having just found acceptance in the arms of strangers, she must now decide between following through on her father's mission or convincing her newfound family that she's nothing like him.





# Q&A With Our Director

*What was your inspiration for the film?*

When I set out to write Luperca I was first inspired by the setting. I had an idea for a film that took place at a cabin in the woods; I knew that I wanted the story to be queer, and I wanted it to feature either werewolves or vampires but I didn't have a clue what the story was at that point. I started collecting imagery on a Pinterest board that felt like it would belong in the world I was creating and that really helped to put my mind in a place where I could work out what the story was. Any time I had an idea I would jot it down in the notes on my phone. Over time the characters started to take form and then the ball really started to get rolling. I find it really hard to come up with a story without strong characters.

*How did the film get off the ground? What was the process?*

This film had a lot of stops and starts along the way. I initially funded the project out of pocket with the intention of doing some crowdfunding along the way to make up the rest and help fund post-production. I did a lot of work to put together a nice crowdfunding page and video and got a lot of support through word of mouth. I was really surprised with the amount of support I received from friends of my parents. I was raised in the south so I didn't expect a lot of support for a film about queer werewolves, but so many people loved the message of found family and helped support the project in one way or another.

*How long did you shoot?*

We shot for four days at a couple cabins in Blue Ridge, GA. Our original schedule for the shoot almost had to be scrapped. As the dates got closer I kept checking the weather, and it kept saying that it would rain every day of the shoot. About two-thirds of the scenes in the film are exteriors, so that would've meant rescheduling most of the shoot to another weekend. Thankfully we were able to re-work the schedule at the last minute to prioritize the scenes that we knew we had to get that weekend and the weather held off until the last day of the shoot (the only day that all of our scenes were interiors). It was hectic at times but I had a fantastic team that really rallied to pull everything together!

*What format did you shoot the film on?*

Our DP, Nicole, loves using Canon cameras, so we chose the Canon C300 to shoot the film. This camera gave us the option to shoot at a high resolution (4K) and to shoot RAW, which essentially means we had a lot of options once we got to post-production to get creative with our color options and VFX.



# Q&A With Our Director

*What do you think the film and its characters are about?*

I always tell people that the film is about family. I wanted to explore the idea of found family, especially as it relates to the queer experience. I think a lot of queer folks have different ideas of what family is beyond blood relatives. The film is about Ariadne realizing that a family is what you make it. She's tried her whole life to live up to her father's expectations but it was never enough. When she finds the Pack and they immediately treat her with kindness and respect, it really catches her off guard and makes her rethink everything that she thought about what a family is.

When I was writing the script I put a lot of myself into each of the characters. I was told they all had very distinct "voices," even before we cast the actors. I always had a very clear idea of what each of the characters' place in the Pack is. Rowan is a protector and they're very distrustful of outsiders. Dorian is very playful, they want to keep the fun in life but they know when to get serious. Eros is an empath, she's incredibly well aware of how others are feeling and she does a lot to make sure that they're taken care of. Cassian is a mother figure for all of them. I like the idea that she found each of them in the forest and adopted them as her own. This mirrors the way that queer communities grow together as family units even when they've been left behind by blood relatives.

*What did you learn while making this film?*

I think the biggest lesson I got from making this film was learning to trust myself. I know my strengths and I lean into them when filmmaking and I was very upfront with my team about the areas where I would need their help. I noticed that there were a number of times where I would ask others what their ideas were rather than trusting my own. That's not to say that I'll never ask for input in the future (some of the best shots in the film were ideas that my cinematographer or camera team had in the moment), I'll just trust my gut more often.

*What was your biggest challenge while making this film?*

My biggest challenge while making this film was keeping myself motivated. There were a number of times that I considered dropping the project in favor of working on someone else's, but I kept reminding myself that the story was important for me to tell. I'm so glad that I stuck with the project and saw it through to completion because of all the lessons I learned and the wonderful people I met along the way.

# Q&A With Our Director

*Where can people learn more about the film?*

You can learn more about the film by following us on our Instagram and Facebook pages [[@LupercaFilm](#)], our IMDb page [[imdb.com/title/tt16225246/?ref=ttfc\\_fc\\_tt](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt16225246/?ref=ttfc_fc_tt)], checking out our FilmFreeway page [[filmfreeway.com/Luperca](https://www.filmfreeway.com/Luperca)], or our website [[rainnm.wixsite.com/lupercafilm](https://rainnm.wixsite.com/lupercafilm)].

*What was your favorite memory from the shoot?*

My favorite memory from the shoot was on a day when we had to shift many plans last minute due to the weather. We wound up ahead of schedule and finished most of the scenes with stunts and VFX, but by the end of the night I was absolutely exhausted. As I was getting pulled in a million different directions, I had a conversation with our stunt coordinator, Matt Metzger. He always manages to calm my nerves and at the end of our conversation, he offered a hug and told me everything was going to work out. That moment really hit home for me and reminded me that I put together a team that really cared for me and the project just as much as the characters care for each other and their chosen family.

*Which character do you relate to most?*

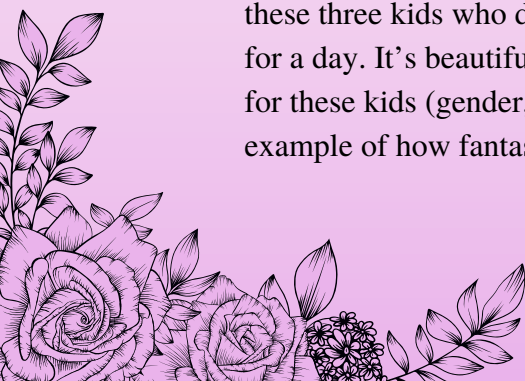
All of the characters have a special place in my heart. I think I relate a lot to Eros in the way she feels for others. She's always trying to make sure other people are ok and sometimes forgets to take care of herself. I also see a lot of myself in Dorian. They are very spunky and fun-loving. Sometimes I wish I was a bit more of a risk-taker like them, but I think I definitely have their protective nature in me.

*What's been most surprising about this film?*

I've been most surprised by the outpouring of support for this film. When I wrote the script, I knew it was something that I cared about but I didn't necessarily think about who would want to see it made other than myself. I want to see more queer representation in fantasy films and I want to keep making space for myself and others to be seen in media.

*What other directors, films, or TV programs influenced this film?*

I was most influenced by the film *Pojkarna* (2015). It's this beautiful Swedish film about these three kids who discover a plant that, when they drink its nectar, turns them into boys for a day. It's beautifully written and acted and touches on so many moments of questioning for these kids (gender, sexuality, what it means to grow up, etc.). I think it's an incredible example of how fantasy elements can further queer themes.



# About Our Crew



## **Rainn Mowris** - *Director & Editor*

Rainn Mowris is an Atlanta-based director and editor. They have a passion for post-production and enjoy the satisfaction of bringing together various "puzzle pieces" to create a cohesive and emotionally impactful final product. Their work includes a number of live-action and animated short films, documentaries, and web series including *Surviving Clotilda* (2021), *In His Image* (2023), and *Butterfly* (2022), and they hope to continue exploring even more genres and mediums as they help bring stories (both real and otherworldly) to life.



## **Grégoire Lartigue** - *Producer*

Gregoire Lartigue is a bilingual student, double-majoring in film and photography at SCAD. Since his freshman year of college, he has tested his versatility as a photographer, assistant cameraman, assistant director, and producer. His photography has been featured in SCAD exhibitions including: "Rest(Less)" and "Taking Shape." Lartigue enjoys working on film projects that explore different social concepts and cultures. He has a fascination for psychological, science-fiction, and adventure films.



## **Sophia Snyder** - *Producer & Post-Production Supervisor*

Sophia Snyder is a Junior Film and Television Major with a VFX minor at SCAD. She has worked in the post-production atmosphere for a few years as an editor and post-producer. She has recently worked in the editorial department on SCAD senior capstones, *Best Bud*, *Plant Parenthood*, and webseries including *All Hail Maukavaus* and *Multiplayer*. In recent months she has started working as a freelance editor outside of school and is excited to continue her career as a picture editor after her time at SCAD.

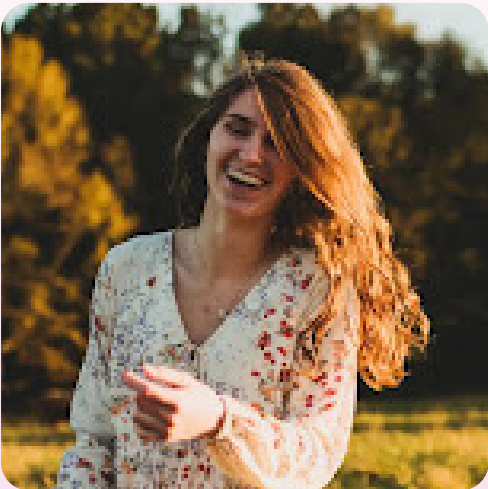


# About Our Crew



## **Brant Lewis** - *Co-Producer*

Brant Lewis is a producer, writer, and editor from Shreveport, Louisiana. They discovered their passion for filmmaking during their time as an undergraduate at Sewanee from 2015-2019. They love working on all types of films but have great passion for the horror genre. Deliver Me from Evil, a horror short they wrote and produced, has been doing well on the festival circuit and was a semi-finalist for best student short at Indie Short Fest and a finalist for the Most Original Concept Award at Austin After Dark.



## **Nicole Zatkowski** - *Director of Photography*

Nicole Zatkowski is a cinematographer based in Atlanta. Ever since she was young, cameras had always captured her attention. She is an upcoming senior, studying for her BFA degree for Film and Television at the Savannah College of Art and Design. While there, she was the DP on multiple films. Nicole is excited to continue capturing compelling stories to share with the world.





# Credits

Directed by RAINN MOWRIS  
Produced by GRÉGOIRE LARTIGUE  
SOPHIA SNYDER  
Cinematographer NICOLE ZATKOWSKI  
Edited by RAINN MOWRIS  
Co-Producer BRANT LEWIS  
Casting Director GRANVILLE DAVIS  
Visual Effects Supervisor SAM PRICE  
Music Composed and Performed by VINCENT FASANO  
Executive Producers MICHAEL BRADY  
SYDNI MICHELLE PERRY

## Starring

Ariadne FLOWER ESTEFANA RIOS  
Rowan MILLE ROSE EVANS  
Cassian SARAH ELIZABETH WALLIS  
Dorian MACK BAYDA  
Eros SYDNI MICHELLE PERRY  
Gabriel AXL PROPHETT

First Assistant Director GRANVILLE DAVIS  
Second Assistant Director BLUE DANIELS  
Third Assistant Director JAYDEN WHITE  
Additional Assistant Director BEDILU GREEN  
Stunt Coordinator MATT METZGER  
1st Assistant Camera/DIT NICHOLAS JENSEN  
Gaffer MUSTAFA TIKIWALA  
Grips BEDILU GREEN  
DANIL PERVUKHIN  
Special Effects Makeup Artist ANDY TROSTLE  
Art/Wardrobe PA JAYDEN WHITE

# Credits



Production Mixer	DARBY CHRISTENSEN
Boom Operators	SEBASTIAN HAID DANIL PERVUKHIN
BTS Photographer	EMILY COMBS
Props	ROBIN EASTER REBECCA MICHAUD
Post-Production Supervisor	SOPHIA SNYDER
Colorist	BRETT TAYLOR
Concept Artist	CHRISTIAN CLINE
Storyboard Artist	ROBIN EASTER
Modeler	SAMANTHA AMES
Rigger	JAMES JOHNSON
Animators	REGINA VERA KIT HICKMAN
VFX Artist	MARTHA SANCHEZ
Sound Editor	DARBY CHRISTENSEN
Re-Recording Mixer	PRAJWAL KANDEL
ADR Recordist	JACKSON LAURIE
Title Design	TATUM MASON
Poster Artist	CATRÍONA DINERO
Crowdfunding Coordinator	TASNEEM JAMNAGARWALA
Casting Support Services	BREAKDOWN SERVICES

Special Thanks	QUINLAN OREAR JEFF FISHER MARK ALLEN WILSON HÉLÈNE GIANVITI RANSOM MOWRIS MICHAEL BRADY JOSHUA CRAFTFORD
----------------	--

# Director's Statement

Luperca is a queer fantasy drama about how rejection from those we hold closest is often a catalyst for self-discovery. Ariadne was raised blind and deaf to the true nature of her world. She is a shrunken version of herself, stumbling through the uncaring world of her father's creation as she desperately searches for affection. Through that fruitless search, her eyes are finally opened, and her world shattered. She grows into her potential and becomes an integral member of the Pack.





# About Our Cast



**Flower Estefana Rios** - *Ariadne*

Flower is an actor, singer, and drag artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from South Texas, her previous experience is primarily in theater and playwriting, but is excited to make the leap to film!



**Millie Rose Evans** - *Rowan*

Millie is an actress and musician who graduated with a degree in film and women's gender and sexuality studies. She strives to play roles that provide positive, diverse representation and break the boundaries of gender conformity.



**Sarah Elizabeth Wallis** - *Cassian*

Sarah is so thrilled to be a part of this stunning project! She graduated from Savannah College of Art & Design herself in 2008, with a degree in Performing Arts and a minor in Music. Since then she's been in Atlanta working in theatre and arts education and has recently stepped back into the world of film & television as well! Sarah loves the collaborative nature of this industry and truly believes that good storytelling can open people's minds beyond their own experiences and make the world a more empathetic place.



# About Our Cast



## **Mack Bayda** - *Dorian*

Mack Bayda is an Atlanta-based actor, musician, YouTuber, and plant dad. He is proud to be out and open as a queer, transgender man and is honored when he has the opportunity to portray queer characters and be a part of telling LGBTQIA+ stories.



## **Sydni Michelle Perry** - *Eros*

Sydni Michelle Perry is an actress, director, and writer based in Atlanta, GA. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College with a degree in English- Creative Writing and minors in Music and Theatre. Sydni's dream role is to be a superhero or maybe a villain in the Marvel Universe. Until then, she continues to train and grow in her craft by being a part of projects like Luperca. This project was such a fun experience and it was awesome to work with such a fantastic director, cast, and crew.



## **Axl Prophett** - *Gabriel*

Axl can't escape his large and rugged features, which makes him perfect for the characters you fear or despise. But deep down? Axl is a big teddy bear. Originally an accomplished athlete from Boston who moonlighted in theater and comedy, Axl now lives in ATL with his wife - where he most enjoys being a father to his daughter, two dogs, and a spooky black cat.



“

I threw myself to the wolves,  
only to learn of the tenderness in their howl,  
and the loyalty in their blood.

*-Isra Al-Thibeh*



”