

Copper & Wool

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN

SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR


Copper & Wool

A FILM BY
TYLER C. PETERSON

LUX DAZE MEDIA PRESENTS MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN AND SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR EDITED BY TYLER C. PETERSON
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA FERRARESE STORY BY MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN, AMANDA FERRARESE, SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR, TYLER C. PETERSON
PRODUCED BY MEI LIN LAU MANN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TYLER C. PETERSON AND AMANDA FERRARESE DIRECTED BY TYLER C. PETERSON



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SYNOPSIS

The week before her Orthodox Jewish wedding, Elisheva (Eli) escapes to a rented room in the mountains outside of Los Angeles to clear her head. While dodging calls from her mother and fiancé, Elisheva begins to form a life-changing bond with a writer named Meredith, the eccentric divorcee who owns the house Elisheva's staying in.

LOGLINE

The week before her wedding, a young Jewish woman seeks clarity in a hilltop getaway where she forms a life-changing bond with the eccentric divorcee who owns the property.

Principal Credits

DIRECTED BY
TYLER C. PETERSON

STORY BY
MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN
AMANDA FERRARESE
SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR
TYLER C. PETERSON

PRODUCED BY
MEI LIN LAU MANN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY
TYLER C. PETERSON
AMANDA FERRARESE

STARRING
MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN
SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
AMANDA FERRARESE

EDITED BY
TYLER C. PETERSON

MUSIC BY
NICK HUGHES

POST PRODUCTION SOUND SERVICES BY
SOUND DEPARMENT LLC

Team Biographies

TYLER C. PETERSON (he/him)

Executive Producer, Director, Story, Editor



Los Angeles based filmmaker, Tyler C. Peterson is best known as the Writer / Director of award-winning short film, SUMMER HILL and the founder of LUX DAZE MEDIA. Raised in rural Maryland, Tyler graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor's Degree in film and a thirst for challenging industry ideologies. Living in Baltimore, he began exploring both his voice as a Writer / Director and his own queer identity. With a passion for leading projects that put diversity as a priority both in-front of and behind the camera, he established Lux Daze Media in 2015.

Tyler's third short film, 'Summer Hill', premiered at the sold-out Lux Daze Media Showcase, where his involvement as a Co-Producer on feature documentary MOM & M was also announced. 'Summer Hill' has gone on to win Best Narrative Short at the North Beach American Film Festival 2019, Audience Choice for Narrative Short at the Cecil County Film Festival 2019, and play in nine festivals. Also garnering industry recognition, 'Mom & M' has received multiple awards, and been screened in over ten festivals including the Maryland Film Festival 2021 and Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival 2021.

AMANDA FERRARESE (she/her)

Executive Producer, Cinematographer, Story



Amanda Ferrarese is a Los Angeles-based Cinematographer by way of Baltimore. Her portfolio as a Cinematographer has grown to comprise a range of narrative, commercial, music video, and experimental pieces. Her CV includes clients such as Disney, Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Adidas. Amanda's work has also been featured on Good Morning America's, "The View", and in publications like Fader, TeenVogue, and Essence.

Previous story-based works include: COMMUTERS (EnergaCAMERIMAGE Student Etudes Official Selection, UVFV/KODAK VISION Award, ASC Student Heritage Nomination), YOURS TO BURY, & SUMMER HILL. She is also the creator of two celluloid experimental pieces, ELIXIR (Baltimore Student Showcase at MDFF) and HIRAETH (WAMM's Emerging Filmmakers Showcase).

Amanda holds an MFA from the American Film Institute Conservatory (Cinematography '20) and a B.A. in Electronic Media & Film from Towson University. In 2018 and 2021 she was selected as an American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) Student Heritage nominee by both institutions, respectively.

Her objective is to create work that transcends cultural barriers, and explores the emotional and psychological underpinnings of intra/interpersonal dynamics. She seeks to visualize and verbalize the smelly, fertile, rich cataclysm of life. The universal threads of love, and grief, and ache that tether us all.

MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN (she/they)

“Elisheva”, Story



Molly Shayna Cohen is a theatre and film artist based in New York. Her work centers on the performativity of gender and the ephemerality in all things. Her interactive interview-based multimedia installation WEAVING A NEW NARRATIVE was the recipient of the Maryland Humanities Major Grant Award and traveled across the state. She is a company member of the experimental theatre group The Acme Corporation, founding member of film collective Lux Daze Media, and Associate Artistic Director of Theatre of the Electric Mouth. She was the recipient of the Best Actor of Baltimore Award in 2020.

SUSAN LOUISE O’CONNOR (she/her)

“Meredith”, Story



Susan appeared on Broadway and in the National Tour of BLITHE SPIRIT w/ Angela Lansbury, receiving a Theatre World Award, the Dorothy Loudon Fellowship & an Outer Critics Circle Nomination. Other theater credits include over THIRTY WORLD PREMIERE productions Off Broadway and in theaters across the country. Her television credits include: LAW & ORDER(s): SVU & CI, NCIS, EUPHORIA, ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK, SOLVE, THE LINCOLN LAWYER and HOTEL DU LOONE. A lover of improv, Susan has trained and performed at THE

GROUNDLINGS, UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE and THE MAGNET. Her film credits include the 100% improvised feature HER & HIM, SNAGGLE-TOOTH (Tribeca 2019) and the upcoming LEXI and BOOMSLANG 2. Susan also teaches acting and believes that vulnerability is a super power.


MEI LIN LAU MANN (she/her)

Producer



Mei Lin is a Panamanian producer currently based in Baltimore, MD. Mei has a Bachelor’s degree from Towson University in Electronic Media and Film and a minor in Business Administration. Mei also has a Master’s degree from American University in Film and Media Production. As a freelancer, Mei has been involved in several commercials, feature films and well-known TV shows in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area. As a producer, Mei has overseen and led countless projects from pre-production to post-production. She is currently the Producer at Rock Shore Media, a

Baltimore-based production company producing corporate and commercial work.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt, is seated at a table. She is looking down at a plate of food in front of her. The table is set with several plates, some containing food, and a glass. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a wall with some decorative elements.

Director's Note

Copper & Wool is a collaborative film conceptualized and born by leaning into our filmmaking restrictions. After watching Alex Lehman and Mark Duplass' *BLUE JAY* (2016), Amanda Ferrarese and I were inspired to use her UFVF/Kodak cinematography grant to put towards a 16mm short film that took place in one location with two wildly different characters and a skeleton crew. In the spirit of mumblecore, I decided to keep the film scriptless, and cast two strong improvisation actors with writing backgrounds.

As a staple player in my work, I brought Molly Shayna Cohen aboard right away. After Amanda and I wrote a logline for the film, we passed it along to Molly who fully formed and fleshed out the character of Elisheva (Eli), a young woman from Los Angeles' Orthodox Jewish community who was in need of a retreat to contemplate her impending marriage. As a queer filmmaker, I was excited Molly saw with clarity that Eli's sexuality was what was holding her back in going forward with her marriage to Aaron, and it became the pivotal piece of the puzzle that brought the story together.

To play the owner of the house Eli is staying at, and who would serve as a source of enlightenment for her, I knew I needed someone who would provide the kind of outlook Eli wouldn't get at home. Around this time I watched Eric Michael Kochmer's *HER AND HIM* (2021), a fully improvised mumblecore film which starred Susan Lousie O'Connor. I was mesmerized by her performance, and knew that was our second lead.

Filming took place over two and a half days outside of Los Angeles in Montecito Heights and Sierra Madre. Using the Bolex H16 Rex-5 required every shot to be cut after thirty seconds so the camera could be powered again via hand-crack. Things came to a head on the final shooting day when we had only two rolls of film left and two scenes yet to shoot. The dialogue-heavy portion we needed to shoot was when Eli pries further into Mere's previous marriage while they are getting drunk. A scene that was intended to be shot rather traditionally, I radically shifted gears just before rolling to accommodate our lack of film. We instead shot the scene as an improvised one-take with Amanda picking up compelling shots throughout the run, and then we ran the scene again with just the audio once film ran out. In the edit, this was brought together into the dizzying montage you see now, and I couldn't be more pleased.

Tyler C. Peterson

January 2022
Los Angeles, CA

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long did production take?

TYLER C. PETERSON: Amanda Ferrarese and I came up with the concept in May 2021. At the end of August 2021, Molly flew in from Baltimore, MD for production. We shot the film in two and a half days outside of Los Angeles in Sierra Madre and Montecito Heights. Post production was completed at the top of December 2021.

Q: What was is like shooting on 16mm?

AMANDA FERRARESE: Part of the reason we wanted to shoot on 16mm was the challenge it presented. I think it's easy to overshoot on digital but with film there are limitations that prohibit you from doing so... especially when you're using a hand-crank camera like the Bolex. It meant we had to figure out ways to capture everything without capturing everything. In dialogue-heavy moments, I likened our visual approach to the way one interacts with another in real life— your focus isn't always on the person you're sitting across from. It flits around as you process external stimuli and internal thoughts. As a result, it was important the lensing remained rooted in Eli's POV throughout the film. This is how we compensated for not being able to get traditional coverage of each scene. Operating as if we were seeing the situation through her eyes allowed us to get the emotional "coverage" we needed to tell the story.

Q: Why take the risk to film improvised dialogue on 16mm?

TCP: This film was always meant to be as collaborative and free-form as possible. I not only wanted the actors to develop their characters, but to have a say in how scenes would play out and what their dialogue was. I recognized this was a risk since we were shooting on film, but it was a calculated one that paid off. Molly and Susan both have phenomenal performance instincts and have writing and improvisation experience on their own. Part of the fun here was setting up expectations for a scene, and then watching it play out into something wholly different and new.

Q: How did you develop the character of Elisheva?

MOLLY SHAYNA COHEN: Elisheva feels so familiar to me as we share many identities, though our life experiences are quite different. In my family, the generation above me is the one that shares more experiences with Eli, and I feel that their stories haven't had the chance to be told. I created Eli in their image as a way to start an important conversation about the intersectionality between religion and sexual identity.

Q: How do you interpret Elisheva's growing interest in Meredith as it relates to her hesitation in getting married?

MSC: Sexual attraction is never only just that- it contains many layers of interest, intrigue, comfortability, fondness, and much more. Elisheva is in such a difficult, and isolated, situation that meeting a new person brings up the opportunity to explore parts of herself she's never been allowed to. She sees this free woman, someone who is her true foil, who makes her question everything about herself and her life.



PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Genre: Drama
Language: English
Country of origin: United States
TRT: 12:24
Aspect ratio: 1:33:1
Screening Format: DCP
Shooting Format: Color, 16mm



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