

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning forward and reading a book. She is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, tan pants, and black boots. The scene is set outdoors at dusk or dawn, with long shadows cast across the concrete. In the background, another person is visible, sitting on a similar ledge and looking away from the camera. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

lux daze media presents  
a film by tyler peterson

# LEADBEATER

press kit

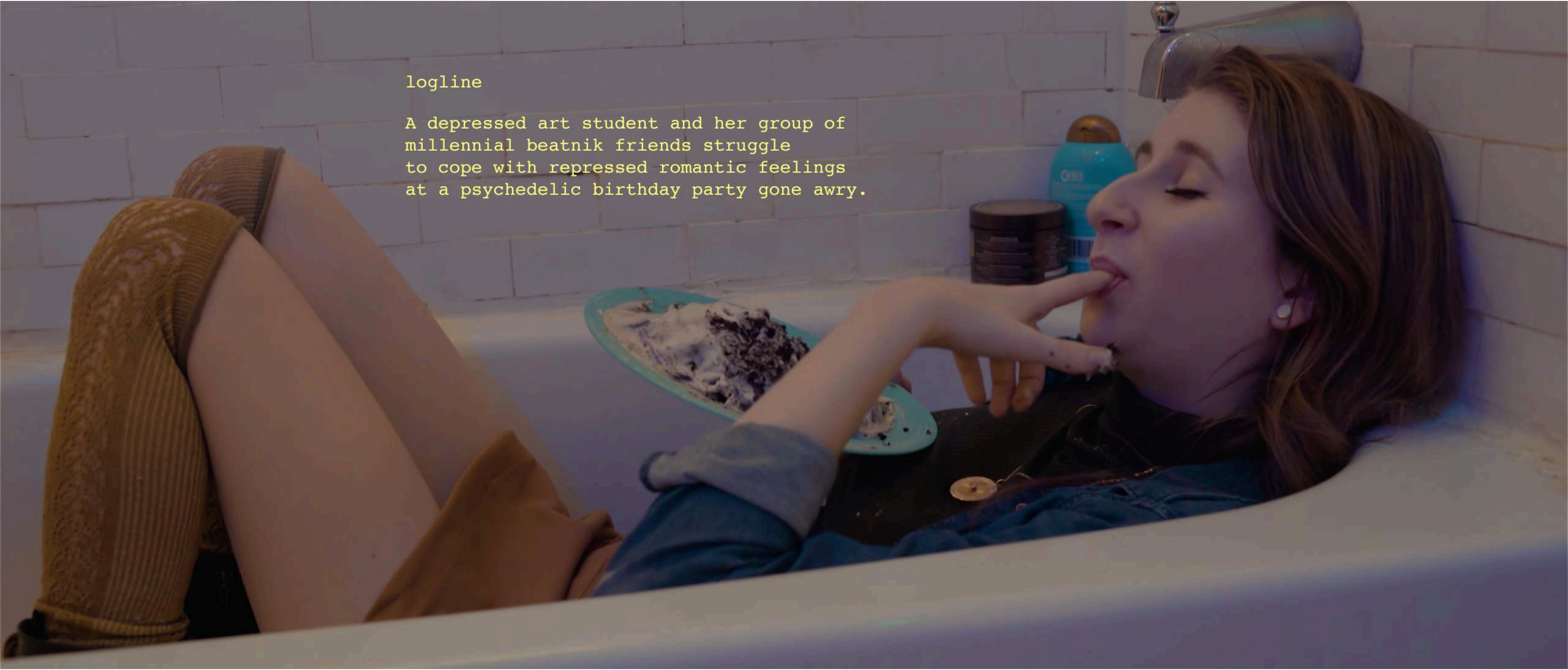






logline

A depressed art student and her group of  
millennial beatnik friends struggle  
to cope with repressed romantic feelings  
at a psychedelic birthday party gone awry.





## synopsis

The night of her twenty-first birthday, Laurel, a depressed illustration student studying in Baltimore, declares to her inner circle of friends that before midnight she is going to kill herself. Her group of quirky friends, led by brooding photographer Bandit, kidnap Laurel, and force her to attend her own surprise birthday party in attempt to postpone the suicide. Before long, the psychedelic birthday party goes awry, and Laurel, Bandit, and the whole crew are forced to confront their relationships with each other, and repressed feelings.





principal crew

writer & director  
producer  
director of photography  
16mm cinematographer  
production designer  
editor  
music

sound design  
colorist

TYLER PETERSON  
JEB BURCHICK  
ANDREW CAPINO  
BETHANY MICHALSKI  
LAURA GEDE  
TYLER PETERSON  
REAGAN CATS  
CAZZ CERKEZ  
JOHN DEBOLD  
ANDREW CAPINO  
SKYLER JENKINS

principal cast

laurel  
bandit  
ricardo  
danny  
pete

MOLLY COHEN  
LAURA GEDE  
KAYA VISION  
GANNON WEBB  
STEVE BARROGA



## director's statement

Leadbeater is the intimate observation of a group of romantically reserved college students in Baltimore's flourishing art scene. An incredibly personal project for the entire cast and crew, I strove to craft a film that celebrated both the landscape that my classmates and I had come to embrace during our own arts education, and the colorful real life characters we met, befriended, and became. From filming in locations that the actors and crew actually lived in, to working with a local band that I was already a fan of, and casting actors with previously built relationships—it was a personal affair all around.

These characters my actors and I created are complicated, problematic, and real. The struggles that they face with their complex interpersonal relationships are real. Laurel struggles with mental illness and emotional repression. Bandit is manipulative and shaming. Ricardo is brusk. Danny's head is in the clouds. Pete is oblivious. At the end of the day though, these are all well intentioned people that share an intense bond with one another like any other group of college friends.

Most importantly though, Laurel, Bandit, Ricardo, and Danny are queer. Be clear, it's not important because their sexualities define them, but because they *don't*. It's not enough for filmmakers to create queer characters for our stories anymore, but to create queer characters that are as well developed and defined as their straight counter-parts, and are not forced to meet tragic fates.

This is what Leadbeater is set out to accomplish. To entertain, validate, and reflect the young artists of today.

-Tyler Peterson







16mm

The choice to shoot portions of the movie with 16mm film came after director Tyler Peterson saw Bethany Michalski's previous work in the medium. A Bolex 16mm camera was then chosen to shoot the flashback portions of the film, creating a dreamy aesthetic to mirror the nostalgia associated with memories. By having two separate cinematographers for the present and past of the story, this created two distinct looks to bring to the film.



A close-up, profile shot of a man with a beard, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, playing an electric guitar and singing into a microphone. The background is a blurred stage scene with warm, golden light from a spotlight above. Other band members are faintly visible in the background.

the music

Reagan Cats are an indie rock band from Baltimore, formed in 2013. The group crafts a shimmery sound that blends wistful guitar with dreamy melody and powerful rhythm. After releasing two EP's, *running man* (2015) and *sand man* (2016), the band is currently preparing for their first full-length release later this year.

Band member Cazz Cerkez was the music supervisor on the film, and worked directly with director Tyler Peterson to hand pick which of Reagan Cats' songs to place into which points in the film. They picked from the band's catalog of released music as well as their then unreleased songs. Cazz and musician John DeBold then worked together to create the film's more electronic scoring for the opening and finale.



title..... Leadbeater  
year of produciton..... 2016  
duration..... 17:20 min  
genre..... dark comedy  
shoot format..... HD & 16mm  
ratio..... 2.35:1 & 1.33:1  
language..... english







# LEADBEATER

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