

PRESS RELEASE

LOVE TAKES THE STAND

IN AN IDAHO-MADE
COMEDY



Boise, Idaho – Director Chelsea Smith presents THE TRIAL – a short courtroom satire offering a fresh take of modern romance and hookup culture, which will be premiering at Sun Valley Film Festival in early March.

THE TRIAL brings a fantastical Court of Relational Justice to the screen, where even an unanswered text is a punishable offense between scored lovers. Heartbroken protagonist “Shae” sues oblivious ex -boyfriend “Nicky” for his failure to communicate. Meanwhile, attorneys skillfully and comically dissect their relationship forcing the couple to confront their flaws and redefine expectations.

The film was a collaboration between Idaho-based director, producer and songwriter (of Cactus Moon) Chelsea Smith and her brother Benjamin Christopher, an LA-based writer and producer. It was a labor of love for the siblings. “There’s some of our own personal dating woes woven into that script,” says Smith, “and it was a wonderfully cathartic and fun experience for us to work on it together”.

Los Angeles actors Christina Birdsall (Lucy) and Jack Mikesell (Fear the Walking Dead, The Rookie) star in the film alongside local talents Nick Garcia and Hollis Welsh. The backdrop of the film includes picturesque Boise locations and the Gooding County Courthouse which generously donated use of their space.

The sharp cinematography of Boise-based Lila Streicher (A Black Rift Begins to Yawn) beautifully contrasts the film’s naturalistic dating scenes with the feel of a classic courtroom drama. The film is supported in part by Alexa Rosa Foundation, Idaho Film collection and Idaho Commission for the Arts, as well as individual contributors on Indiegogo.

The film will premiere at the 2024 Sun Valley Film Festival on Saturday March 2nd at the Argyros Theater, 11:45 a.m.



THE TRIAL

When a budding romance falls apart, a broken-hearted woman takes her oblivious ex to trial in a fantastical "Court of Relational Justice" where even an unread text is a punishable offense. But the scorned lover's campaign for justice will open the door to some uncomfortable truths.



Press Contact:

Chelsea Smith

muses.delight@gmail.com | 503-724-9403

[Trailer](#) | IG: [@musesdelight](#)

Runtime: 14 minutes