



**SUMMER**  
a short film by Pearl Gluck

(USA, 2017)  
RT: 18:00

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Developed in part with support from:



**SYNOPSIS:**

*Summer* is short film about two teenage girls in a Hasidic sleep-a-way camp who, despite their every effort to maintain their purity, explore a forbidden book which leads them to a sexual awakening neither of them are prepared to encounter.



## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: PEARL GLUCK**

In some ways, it should come as no surprise that I took up film to tell stories. The camera was always a presence in my family history, my Hasidic father behind the super 8, a silent witness to both the dissolution of a family and also its ultimate realignment. But where I come from, it's not part of the norm to watch movies, let alone create them, because it is considered a diversion from a life of piety, devotion, and modesty. Hence, the paradox of my cinematic projects: on the one hand, film has informed my entire life, on the other hand, it is entirely forbidden.

I was brought up Hasidic, and when I was in high school, I was the one who found the science books before the principal ripped out the chapter on Reproduction and Evolution. What I saw astounded me and I snuck into the library to uncover more of the censored world: I studied *Our Bodies Ourselves* like it was one of the five books of Torah without anyone discovering my secret self-awareness and sexual awakening. This is precisely why I am intrigued to see what may happen if I put the same book into the hands of two teenage girls in a summer camp. I, too, attended an all-girls Hasidic summer camps in the Catskills. I know what I encountered in that environment. What will they discover about themselves, their community, their faith, and their affinities.

In all my stories the gendered spaces are navigated through the power of individual choice and the intergenerational play between accountability, expectations, and the ensuing realities. My first narrative experiment, a short film I directed entitled *Where Is Joel Baum*, starring Lynn Cohen, Tibor Feldman, and Luzer Twersky, was shut down due to a Hasidic protest of 300 men at our first day of shooting. It is the story of an eighty-year-old Hasidic woman's renegotiation of her faith and her commitments to her family and community in the aftermath of a fatal crime. My first feature asks about the role of a self-perceived bystander with regard to the issue of sex trafficking at local truckstops. In many ways, and especially for *Summer*, all of my projects use ethnography and autobiography as guiding forces to explore the individual's role and her accountability to her community or family.

## **Biographies of the Filmmaking Team:**

PEARL GLUCK • Director/Writer



Pearl Gluck's work has been part of the Sundance Lab, and played at the Cannes Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, and PBS. Her first documentary feature film, *Divan* (2004) opened theatrically at Film Forum in NYC, was broadcast on the Sundance Channel, and played across the country and internationally at festivals. Pearl's first narrative short, *Where Is Joel Baum* (2012), won prizes such as Best Actor at the Starz Denver Film Festival and Best Film at the Toronto Female Eye Film Festival. She continues to make both documentary and narrative films that explore themes of class, gender, and faith. Pearl teaches Screenwriting and Directing at Penn State University and is currently in post production on her first narrative feature, *The Turn Out*, a film that deals with sex trafficking at local truckstops.

LAURETTA PREVOST • Director of Photography



Laretta is a documentary and narrative cinematographer who has been shooting for over a decade. Her documentary interests are strongly rooted in social justice, and contributing to work that can effect change. Laretta has shot documentary work in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Ecuador and the Galapagos, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Bermuda, and Japan, as well as across these United States. Her narrative interests are first and foremost rooted in strong stories, and using style and lighting to serve and strengthen storytelling.

MALKY GOLDMAN • Co-Producer, Art Director

Malky Goldman is an actor, artist, and producer currently located in New York City.



She was born and raised in a Yiddish-speaking home in Jerusalem, Israel. She relocated to the United States to study and graduated from Hunter College with a Bachelor's Degree in Studio Art. Her creative portfolio spans several visual media disciplines that include film, theater and painting, and sometimes a combination of all three. Her most recent work includes several short films and a feature, a couple of stage productions and various projects taken on as consultant and art director.

MELISSA WEISZ • Co-Producer



Melissa Malky Weisz is an actress and co-founder of Malky Squared Productions. She grew up in a Hasidic home in Brooklyn, NY. She has appeared in award winning films such as *Felix and Meira* and *Romeo and Juliet in Yiddish*, among others. She had her stage debut to a sold-out New York Times critics pick in this year's *God of Vengeance*. She was honored to be amongst The Jewish Week's 2017 36 under 36 list "Millennials pushing change through compassion."

LISA GUTKIN • Composer

Lisa Gutkin is best known as violinist, vocalist, and Grammy-winning songwriter for the world renowned klezmer band The Klezmatics, for her appearance in *Sex and the City*, for her work with Sting in his Broadway production "The Last Ship," and most recently as co-composer and on-stage musician for Paula Vogel's Tony-award winning play *INDECENT* which opened on Broadway in April 2017. Lisa's acclaim includes the title of "one hot fiddler" by Cyndi Lauper, "hauntingly emotional" vocals according to the *L.A. Times*, having her song "Gonna Get Through This World," composed with the lyrics of Woody Guthrie described by Pete Seeger as "a piece of genius" and the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album of the Year. She was a founding member of the Celtic group Whirligig, a long-standing member of house band of the Fast Folk Songwriter's Collective, and has composed for film and television.



KRISTAN SPRAGUE • Editor

Kristan Sprague's second feature film, *Manos Sucias* (2014), is nominated for a 2015 Independent Spirit Award for Editing. The film also won Best New Narrative Director at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival. He edited the short film, *Mulignans* (2015), directed by Shaka King, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. His first feature film as lead editor, entitled *Newlyweeds* (2013), also premiered at Sundance, and won the Someone to Watch Award at the 2014 Independent Spirit Awards. Kristan learned how to edit by hand splicing 16mm film while an undergrad at Vassar College, where he edited a short documentary called *Stolen Moments* that went on to win 2nd Place for Documentary in both the Los Angeles Black Film Festival and the Cine Noir Film Fest in North Carolina.



## Cast:

Juliet Brett, SHANI

In film and TV, Juliet's credits include Noah Baumbach's *Mistress America*, *A Most Violent Year*, *Admission* with Tina Fey, *Adventures of Penny Patterson*, *Little Hope*. TV: *Red Oaks* (recurring), *Law & Order*, *Deadbeat*, *CSI:NY*. On the web, Juliet plays Amy in *Redheads Anonymous*. Off-Broadway: *Napoli*,



*Brooklyn* (Roundabout Theater), *What I Did Last Summer* (Signature Theater), *Desire* (59e59), Beth Henley's *The Jacksonian* (The New

Group). Regional Theater: Rajiv Joseph's world premiere of *Mr. Wolf* (Cleveland Playhouse), projects at NYSAF, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater.

Emmy James, BAYLA

Emmy James (formerly Tanzy) was born in Detroit, MI, where she developed a passion for acting at an early age, and graduated high school a year early to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. She has since studied with Anthony Abeson, Bob Krakower, and Matt Newton. Emmy can be next seen as a lead in the upcoming horror film UNWANTED (Opposite Katia Winter (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Dexter*), from director Eduardo Rodriguez (*Fright Night 2*, *El Gringo*) and executive producer Jay Hernandez (*Crazy/Beautiful*, *Suicide Squad*, *Bad Mom's*) and in *Sarah Q*, recently written about in the Huffington Post, as the title character (Directed by John Gallagher (*The Deli*, *The Networker*) opposite *Sopranos* stars Vincent Pastore, Frank Vincent, Tony Sirico, and Academy Award nominated actors

Sally Kirkland and Burt Young.

Thea McCartan, MRS. SCHOEN

Thea has appeared on various TV shows such as *Orange Is the New Black*, *Broad City*, *The night of*, and *Blue Bloods*. Her film work includes Ingraham's *Moonshine*, and Heinszerling's *Americana*. Her work includes commercials, theater, and screen.



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