

# FOREIGN



## LOGLINE

New York, 2019: Julia, an undocumented immigrant from Brazil, falls in love with her boss. The two women live a profound love story endlessly threatened by Julia's legal status.

## SYNOPSIS

JULIA, 28, is an undocumented immigrant from Brazil trying to survive in Brooklyn. Julia's dreams of becoming a singer are far left behind and she now searches the city for a safe place to work as a server. After being assaulted by DAVIS, 53, a businessman who takes advantage of her status, Julia ends up hired under the table by BARBARA, 51, a dedicated restaurant owner. Julia and Barbara impact each other's realities. They live a profound love story, threatened by Davis and the Immigration and Customs Enforcements.



JULIA

CHARACTERS



A black and white close-up photograph of a woman's face and upper torso. She has long, wavy blonde hair and is looking slightly to her left with a soft expression. She is wearing a dark, patterned top with intricate lace or embroidery. The background is plain and light.

BARBARA



IAN



# DAVIS



# LAURIE



LOCATIONS

# THE PUB





JULIA'S HOME



## BARBARA'S HOME





PHOTOGRAPHY MOOD



IMMIGRATION

EXT. JULIA'S BUILDING – CONTINUOUS

THREE ICE FEDERAL OFFICERS follow her. Julia looks. She realizes what's going on. Julia runs fast. OFFICER 1 catches her. Julia moves quickly and escapes. OFFICER 2 grabs her arm and knocks her down. BACKPACK drops. Julia on the floor. Preventing her from screaming, they drag Julia away. Silence. A summer breeze hits the trees.



LGBTQ+

INT. LAURIE - BASEMENT- BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

They stare at each other. Something shared in the look. Julia kisses her. Barbara kisses her back. Julia's eyes wander down to Barbara's skirt. She unbuttons Barbara's blouse and slides her mouth down Barbara's belly. Julia is low enough and kneels down. She kisses over Barbara's skirt and slips her hands under it. Julia lies on the floor and removes her top. Barbara's body is pulled in her direction. Barbara on top of her. Julia embraces her. They make love.

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julia and Ian drink WINE and dance in the living room. Gloria Gaynor's *I Am What I Am* starts playing from Ian's playlist. It's a party. They both suddenly walk really 'campy' and act extravagant. Ian keeps his head high and sips his drink. After a glamorous spin, Julia spills her wine and they both laugh. The mess can't stop them!



LGBTQ+



## ASSAULT

INT. THE PUB - DAVIS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

As Julia backs away. He grabs her by the neck and pins her against the wall. She freezes. Davis rips her shirt open. She fights him. He throws her back against the wall. Julia hits the back of her head. She stops fighting. Davis licks her neck. Sucks her skin to leave a hickey. Once he's finished, he uses the back of his hand to wipe off the drool.

## About the WRITER:

Ma Troggian is a native Brazilian based in New York City whose artistic identity revolves around acting, writing, creating music and performing. She graduated from the Stella Adler Studio of Acting Professional Conservatory.

In 2016, Ma was considered for Best Actress at Brazil's biggest film festival, Gramado Film Festival for her role in Gustavo Spolidor's movie *O Jardim Dos Amores de Woody Allen*. Ma also co-founded the Evox Collective, an award-winning collective dedicated to promote Brazilian culture abroad. In 2017, the collective produced the play *The Seven Kittens*, for which Ma got another Best Actress nomination at the Brazilian International Press Award, and for which the collective won the award for Best Local Production.

In June 2017, Ma had her playwright debut with *Norma Jeane Was A Brunette*, a play she wrote and starred in. The play was selected to be part of the Manhattan Repertory Theatre. She recently finished writing her first feature film script. The screenplay won the award for Best Screenplay at the 2020 Feedback LGBT Toronto Film Festival.

Besides her love for acting and writing, Ma is a trained DJ and music maker. She graduated from AIMEC DJ School and later on became the DJ and promoter of Lez Girls Party, a monthly event created to support the LGBTQ community in her hometown of Porto Alegre. In New York, Ma continued to pursue music while working with Grammy Award winning music producer Bob Brockmann on the singles *Black Money* and *I Want Ur Luv*.

Check her out at: [www.matroggian.com](http://www.matroggian.com)



## About the DIRECTOR:

Gabriela Ribeiro is a Brazilian filmmaker, based in São Paulo. She got her filmmaking degree from PUCRS University in Brazil. While attending school, Gabriela was hired to be the Artistic Director of the short film *O Das Bananas*.

Later, Gabriela produced the short film *Trilha de Gaitas* and made her directorial debut with the documentary short *Meus 18 anos*. She also had the intimate and unique experience of directing the experimental short *A Missão*, which followed the journey of the famous theatre company *Terreira da Tribo* as they put up the production of the play *The Mission* by Heiner Müller.

Gabriela started her masters in Filmmaking at UNISINOS, Porto Alegre in 2006. There, she developed a theory and wrote an article about the relationship between cinema and dreams.

In 2011, Gabriela moved to São Paulo to follow her studies with screenwriter Eliseu Altunaga, who teaches at Cuba's International School of Film and TV, founded by Gabriel García Márquez. Later, she wrote, produced and directed her most personal film; *Cutting*, which won Best Short Film at the German 4Chances Film Festival.

After *Cutting*, Gabriela moved to New York City for a year, where she directed the lyric video for the song *Black Money*, by artist Ma Troggian, and the short film *I Love This City*.

Check her out at: [www.gabrielaribeirocinema.com](http://www.gabrielaribeirocinema.com)

