

Talking Points for My Pitch

1. Starting with a personal story about how I was a loner at school, I didn't find it easy to make friends or meet like minded people. Since then I've been fascinated by 90s/2000s tween movies containing female friendships, like *The Craft*, *Clueless*, *Girl, Interrupted* and *Mean Girls*. Films about female companionship and the complexities of their relationships are the ones I hold most dear. When starting a project, I like to gather visuals that inspire me, when doing so for this one, the images I was most drawn to were of girly, empowered environments, but at the same time they seem sad, melancholic. Like they are waiting for something, like their deeply relying on each other...these initial themes are what drove the rest of my story.
2. Logline, this film is a drama, coming of age story about a lonely girl, who finds friendship with three girls she meets on the street. These girls are all sexworkers and introduces her to their lifestyle, with their sexual empowerment and protection of each other.
3. Intro to characters, this film almost acts as an assemblage piece. The 4 girls all are the stars, all with their individual lives and backstories. To play the protagonist, I would ideally like to cast Sky Ferreira. She is an American singer, songwriter, model, and actress. As predominantly a musician, her acting experience is limited to a handful of low budget productions, cast in supporting roles. However, her persona is exactly how I imagined Rachel, with her too cool attitude and superficial apathy. Her style fits the character also, a bit grungy/scruffy. So, even though she isn't the most experienced actress, the character is similar to how she really is as a person. The antagonist Lex is almost the ringleader of the group, the mother/protector, she feels that this is her duty. She has pride and honour in who she is and what she does. After years of abuse and discrimination, she had to teach herself to behave a certain way as a survival mechanism. Lex is a black trans woman, therefore I only find it fitting for the actress to be cast as her to also be a transgendered person too. Indya Moore is an American actor and model. They are known for their role as Angel Evangelista in the FX television series *Pose*. Again her experience is limited, however her pride and the way she holds herself is how the character would, as you can see in these pictures... Stella is another one of the girls in the group. She was brought up in a cult/commune, leading her to run away from that life. When on the road she ended up with a bad crowd, bickers and drug dealers. Eventually, homeless and an addict she ended up on the streets. This is where Lex founds her and brought her in under her wing. Stella is very spiritual, however she uses this persona she's created to hide her insecurities. To play this role I would ideally cast Jemima Kirke. She is an English-American artist and actress. She played Jessa Johansson on the television series *Girls*. She made her feature-length debut in the independent film *Tiny Furniture*. Alike the others, she has mainly been cast within indie productions. I chose her as the characters she plays are always very free spirited, head-in-the-clouds types. Therefore, she would be fully capable to convincingly play this role, as from what I've seen in interviews as well, her calm manor is how I see Stella acting. Like Stella, Baby-doll is another supporting actor within the group. Baby comes from a broken home and her dad left her from an early age, so she's always seeking

validation from others to fill this void in her. Baby has the most clients within all these girls, as a cam girl. Her currency is having multiple sugar daddies online. To play her role, I was thinking the singer Kali Uchis, she has little to no acting experience. However, within her music videos and onstage presents is very much characteristic. She acts as if she's a spoiled Barbie doll, just how I wrote Baby too. All these casting ideas mentioned above, even with minimal filming experience, will significantly add to the budget, for they all have quite a well established following. Not only that but 3 of them are American, therefore they would need a dialect coach for them to do a believable British accent, we need to keep these costs in mind too...but more on the budget later.

4. Key plot points. This film follows a traditional 3 act structure. At the beginning we see that the protagonist grew up in foster care and doesn't have a stable relationship with her foster parents. Because of this she's detaches herself other people, however she wants nothing more than to be like these girls she meets and to be one of them. After they all meet she makes the impulsive decision to move out/runaway of her foster home and move into the girls' house. At the midpoint, we see them all build connection to each other, how they teach the protag about their work. Acting to break presumptions about sexwork, how it should be someone's choice to do as they please with their body without judgment and with the protection of the law. However, Rachel the main character wants these girls approval so much that she wants to get into the adult industry too. Lex, the mother of the group is all too aware about the dangers these girls face within the industry, this is where Lex and Rachel argue about what's best for her. Lex believes that Rachel is naive and doesn't know what she's getting herself into. Leading to the climax, Rachel does what she does best and runs away from her problems, wanting to prove herself she turns to street work. Ultimately she is the subject of a violent sex crime. After this assault she goes back to her new home, with the protection of her found family, her optimistic perception of the girls' lifestyle is shattered due to her facing the horrors that sexworkers are subject to within their work.
5. I'm wanting to set this piece within a ambiguous city within the UK. I want this nowhere-in-particular place to be the backdrop of the film, as if was set in modern day Britain. With derelict buildings and forsaken streets, to highlight the how deserted these girls feel from the rest of society. Currently in the United Kingdom there are law in place that criminalise sexworkers or their clients. Prostitution within the UK isn't regulated, preventing sex workers having the safety of working with others and this unregulated industry exists in the shadows, making prostitutes vulnerable and those who are already in a vulnerable position, even more so. There is a call by those who do sell sexual services and insist they are not being exploited to allow them to trade safely, this is precisely the topic I want to explore within my film with my characters.
6. How I envision the film's poster to look, is a photo with lots of negative space, conveying how lonely/lost the protagonist feels, photography with girls all lying on each other is a motif that symbolises how much these girls protect and rely on each other with this film also. When it comes to the soundtrack, two songs stick out to me the most, Pynk by Janelle Monae, holding themes such as female empowerment and REALiTi by Grimes, a

song about an apathy towards life. For these are both topics that my protagonist goes through within my film.

7. To compare this projects to others, would be Lost In Translation meets Pretty Woman, with a subject matter of sex workers and the relationship Julia Roberts has with her best friend. And with in L.I.T. there's minimal dialogue, not seemingly saying much but all the true meaning is within the subtext. Pared with their intentions visually illustrated with cinematography, containing shallow DoF, perspective eye lines and the main characters mostly being the main viewpoint within the framing. The melancholic tone, containing a disconnect with the society they're in.
8. In the end, I would like to see this entered in festivals. Then after that circuit, it would be published online, ideally on my website. This also means we would have to price the film higher if festival entries are involved. That with the multiple casting, this will be a high budget production. On average, I've found that the cost of making a (low budget) short film is around **\$500 — \$1,000** per minute of completed film. However through all the elements involved, I price this film to be made with £50, 000. To keep costs down as most of the budget will be spent on the cast with their expenses of travel from USA, dialect coaches as three of them don't have British accents. I'll keep crew small. I could also location scout in real places, houses, clubs and shops etc... This also adds to the authenticity of the piece's tone as well.
9. Marketing for this film would primarily be on social media, including Instagram and that platforms demographic is the same of my film, young women (ages 20-25). To get sponsored by this network will cost £5-6 per day, depending on how many views.