

A Short Musical Film by Linco Media

QUEEN OF HEARTS



MICHAEL PULLEN AMBER KACHMAR DANIEL BRIDGMAN
DIRECTED BY LINDA HILDONEN AND COLBY MICHAUD
WRITTEN BY LINDA HILDONEN MUSIC BY COLBY MICHAUD

Synopsis

Jack is a lifelong collector who is trying to finish his deck of found playing cards. When he finds the four of spades, he realizes that he only needs one final card and is convinced that he's been given a sign: surely, when he finds the queen of hearts, he'll finally find love. But while he's looking all over for his queen, is he overlooking the people around him? This funny and poignant short musical film finds love in unexpected places, because when you play them right, love is always in the cards.



About the Film

The first version of *Queen of Hearts* was made as a submission to the Maine Film Association's 2022 Winter Film Challenge, a 72-hour filmmaking contest. Creative team Linda Hildonen and Colby Michaud received the parameters on a Thursday night: their randomly chosen genre selection, a line of dialogue that had to be included in the script ("It's not what it looks like!") and the prop that had to be featured: playing cards. Over the next three days, they wrote the complete script, including two original songs, composed backing tracks, worked with their actors, then filmed and edited together the original cut. The film crew consisted only of Michaud and Hildonen, and one other camera operator who worked on the film for a few hours on Friday afternoon.

The film had to be less than eight minutes long and submitted by 8:00 PM on Sunday. In a frenzy, they managed to cut down the piece to a runtime of 7:59, and submit it at 7:59 PM.

The original cut suffered from some technical problems, lacked polish, and left many of the script's best lines on the cutting room floor, but the pair still managed to walk away with the awards for "Best Music" and "Best Use of Prop."

For the next several months, the pair worked on the longer version of the film. While all writing, filming and editing happened in the initial 72-hour time period, almost all of the original footage was replaced with takes that the team did not initially have time to screen. After a much more careful and exhaustive editing process, all three actors came back in to replace the flawed sound with ADR. And perhaps the most important addition is Michaud's full score, which elevates the songs and the film itself to new emotional heights.



About the Filmmakers



LinCo Media is the creative collaboration between Linda Hildonen and Colby Michaud. Aside from *Queen of Hearts*, the pair has released the six-episode podcast musical *Once in a Lifetime*, an LGBTQ story about love in the time of Covid.

Visit www.LinCo.Media to learn more.

Linda Hildonen

Screenwriter • Lyricist • Co-Director

Linda is originally from Lisbon Falls, Maine, where she lives now in the house she grew up in with her husband, Daniel, and her children, Ezra and Oliver. She attended Southern Maine Community College and Southern New Hampshire University, and currently works as a Special Education Teacher. She has been working with Colby for the last six years on a number of projects, including the podcast musical *Once in a Lifetime*. She recently wrote a short theater piece, *It's Complicated: The Musical*, that she performed with her husband during Port Fringe and her short play *Someone to Watch Over Me* was selected to be produced in the Studio Theater of Bath's Festival of New Works in 2019.

Colby Michaud

Composer • Cinematographer • Co-Director

Colby is originally from Sabattus, Maine. In 2010, he cofounded Praxis Motion Pictures, a video production company currently located in Yarmouth, Maine, and he has owned and operated it since. In addition to working with Linda on LinCo Media productions, Colby recently produced an EP from local musician Samantha Dedian. In 2018, he scored the critically acclaimed short film *Mumatar*, which was awarded with "Best Score in a Short" at the 2019 Southhampton International Film Festival.

About the Cast

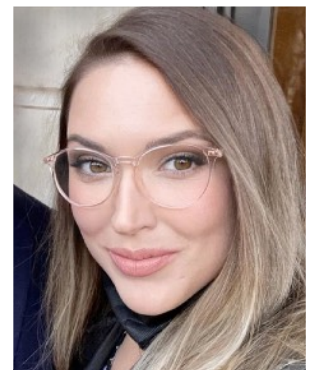
Michael Pullen
“Jack”



During the regular workweek, Michael is an insurance product research analyst; on nights and weekends, he occasionally transforms into a Boston-based actor and singer, performing both on stage — and in front of the camera. Originally from Oakland, he is no stranger to the Maine theater scene and has had the pleasure of working with many of the state's historic community theaters. Similarly, on-screen, Michael has worked with multiple Maine film producers: Catharsis Media (*The Eighteenth Hour*), D. Muijderman (*Lighthouse*), and LinCo Media (*Queen of Hearts*). Though most of his credits are in his home state, Michael works on projects throughout New England. Michael originally attended the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, completing coursework in musical theater before shifting his academic focus, choosing instead to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maine. When he is not thinking up insurance solutions or preparing for acting roles, Michael enjoys spending time at home with his extraordinarily supportive fiancé, Tori, and his cat, Macaroni. For all inquiries, email: michael.e.pullen@gmail.com.

Amber was born and raised in Maine, and after spending several years living and studying in south Florida, she now lives in Southern Maine with her husband and two children. Growing up, Amber performed in several small community theater productions, and while completing her bachelors degree in Psychology even moonlighted as a lounge singer. She has recently rekindled her love of performing through her partnership with LinCo, including the role of Jill in the musical short film *Queen of Hearts*, and the role of April in the Podcast Musical *Once in a Lifetime*. Amber has worked for many years as a recruiting and marketing professional, and she has sat on boards and championed projects devoted to equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace. She has recently taken some time off to explore other creative and professional interests and looks forward to continuing to grow as an artist and person.

Amber Kachmar
“Jill”



Daniel Bridgman
“Pete”



Daniel is originally from Yarmouth, Maine, and now lives in Lisbon Falls with his partner, Linda, and two sons. He graduated from the Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, attended the university of Maine at Farmington and has worked for the last eight years as a special education teacher. He was a regular performer at The Thread Theater in Lewiston Maine. In LinCo's Podcast Musical *Once in a Lifetime*, he played the role of Jordan. He is currently working on his Masters' Degree in Special Education at the University of Southern Maine.

Credits

Directed By

Linda Hildonen and Colby Michaud

Written by

Linda Hildonen

Music by

Colby Michaud

“Jack”

Michael Pullen

“Jill”

Amber Kachmar

“Pete”

Daniel Bridgman

Barista

Andrew Allen

Director of Photography

Colby Michaud

Camera Operation

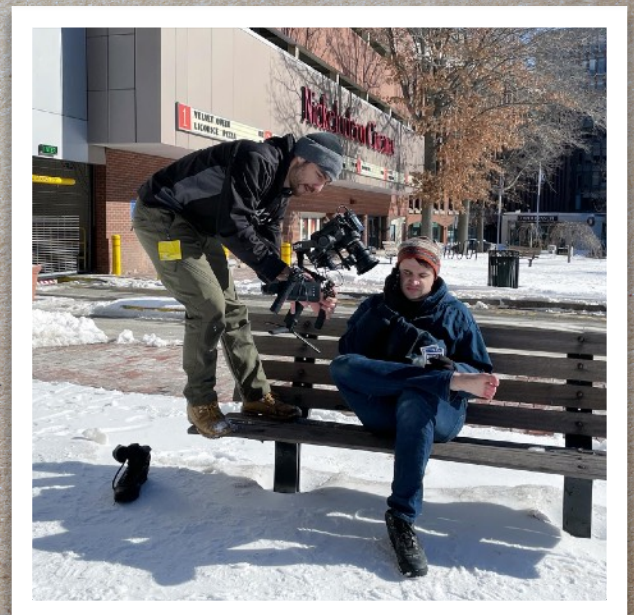
Colby Michaud
Zachary Stearn

Design/Press Kit/Website by

Linda Hildonen

Special Thanks To

Coffee By Design
The Maine Film Association
The City of Portland, Maine



Production Stills

