

A FILM BY SAMANTHA LEE

# billie & emma



## Summary

Set in the mid-90's, the film tells the story of Billie, a troublemaker from the big city, who finds herself exiled to San Isidro to live with her spinster aunt who is also the town's religion teacher. Determined to change her ways and get through the last year of high school without incident, Billie hides herself from the world until she meets Emma, the ambitious, star student who coaxes Billie out of her shell. They soon fall in love but things get complicated when Emma finds out that she's pregnant. Together, they explore the fleeting nature of love and life on this journey of growth, laughter and music.

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## Director's Statement

I've always said that my films are the kinds of films my younger self needed to see, to make her feel less alone, to tell her everything will be okay. Growing up without seeing representations of myself in local media made me feel invisible, like I didn't really matter. I never thought I would ever see an openly gay movie lead in my lifetime.

Which is why I never thought this would ever happen, or that I would ever get the chance to help make it happen: Billie and Emma is a queer film, made and written by a queer director, with queer actors playing queer roles. This film stands on the shoulders of the films and actors and directors that have come before us, who may not have had the privilege to have lived and spoken their truths openly but we believe it's about time we got to tell our own stories in our own way.





## Director's Bio

Samantha Lee is a filmmaker who advocates for better representation of women and the LGBTQ+ community in local cinema. Her first film, "Baka Bukas" (Maybe Tomorrow) has screened in Frameline, Outfest, Newfest, Twist, Osaka Asian Film Festival, Vancouver Queer Film Festival and more. It won the Audience Choice Award at the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and Lee won the "Emerging Talent Award" at Outfest 2017.

"Billie & Emma" is her second film.





Zar Donato as Billie (@zardonato)

Zar Donato is a Filipina actress born in the Philippines on March 8, 1997. She landed the role of Billie after responding to a casting call in social media asking for queer actors to star in the film. Billie and Emma is her first film.

"My favorite part about playing Billie is that I get to visit some old memories, that feeling of being a high school student again"

Gabby Padilla as Emma (@gabbygpadilla)

Gabby Padilla grew up in Iloilo, and graduated a theater major in Manila. She has since performed various roles on stage and onscreen, the most recent of which was Dolores Nable Jose in GOYO: Ang Batang Heneral. This is her first lead role in a film.

"My favorite part about being Emma is how much I could relate to her - her strengths and flaws. And how her struggle is common to women from all over the world."





T-REX Entertainment is an independent Filipino company committed to make productions that matter. Built on the vision to create quality, relevant and compelling stories that cuts through the consciousness of its audience, it endeavors to explore innovative and integrated approaches to creative content production. Its roster of films include: *Esoterika: Maynila* (2015), *Patay Na Si Jesus* (Jesus Is Dead) (2017), *Deadma Walking* (2017), *Bakwit Boys* (2018).

Running Time: 107 minutes \*approx

Language: Filipino/English

Premiere Date:  
October 22, 2018 QCinema International Film Festival,  
Manila

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Sound: 5.1/ Stereo

Shooting format: 4k

Screening format: DCP/ 2k / Prores mov

Social Media: @billieandemmafilm

Press photos and screener available upon request:  
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