

Press Kit

Bio

Summer Moran is an emerging filmmaker who hails from the oft-forgotten borough of Staten Island. A three-time Minty Award winning and Gershwin Award winning actress, her passion for performing is matched by that for creating. She is constantly writing and shooting her own work; Most recently, she wrote, directed, and starred in the narrative short *Popular Vote* (her thesis film for Marymount Manhattan College) and comedy web series *Big Hit Pending*. Her goal in her work is to make people laugh.

She thoroughly enjoys working with others and in the past, has collaborated with media makers Anthony Louis Lee and with Christy Gomez. She would really like to win a Kid's Choice Award. Her favorite holiday is Christmas. In her free time, Summer likes to eat Mexican food, cruise the Caribbean and go to Disney World with her loved ones.

Project Description

Popular Vote is a wacky comedy that makes a strong commentary on fame, popularity, and image in American culture as it relates to finding one's identity. The film focuses on a high school underdog, Josh, who impulsively decides to run for Student Council President. He quickly learns that looks and charm are necessary to win -- neither of which he has. With help from fellow classmates and of course, social media, Josh reinvents the person everyone thinks he is, and actually stands a chance in the election, forcing him to choose between winning and being true to who he is.

Americans today live in an age and a culture that is entirely saturated with image. We're exposed to it twenty-four/seven. We get tiny glimpses into lives that seem a thousand times more exciting than our own. *Popular Vote* takes a critical and hysterical look at the images we construct and the "stars" we make for ourselves.

Artist Statement

Becoming a filmmaker was sort of a happy accident. Right up until the last minute, I planned to go to college for musical theatre and the dream was Broadway, and that was all it was. When I was sixteen I developed an interest in television writing after watching a few episodes of Tina Fey's *30 Rock*. It was a passing fascination, I thought, a hobby. But in March of my senior year of high school, something within me turned on a dime and I decided I had to pursue communication arts, which encompasses my love for writing, performance, and a subject that was entirely new to me -- filmmaking. Before I knew it, I was hooked on production, being on-set, and movie magic.

In the last three years I have produced several projects, including a comedy web series, *Big Hit Pending* (collaboration with Christy Gomez) and a feature screenplay, *Disenchanted*, about a grumpy old man who goes to work in DisneyWorld. However, my favorite achievement to date is *Popular Vote*, my capstone film for Marymount Manhattan College. It follows Josh, an awkward high school senior who impulsively decides to run for Student Council President. It's the classic underdog story with a couple of twists and turns for good measure. The story was inspired by a class I took in my sophomore year of college called *Communicating Image: Fame, Popularity and Identity in American Culture*. I was really intrigued by it. It was sort of like deconstructing a huge part of our society: image. Through my art, I want to make people think, and my goal with *Popular Vote* is to make people think about themselves, and their identities, in relation to image, and question what exactly is reality. The film does that in a humorous, fluffy way with outrageous, uncensored characters and zany, ironic situations that will surely leave the audience feeling happy.