



## SYNOPSIS

"*Were You Gay In High School?*" is the story of two queer, Asian American women who share their awkward, closeted stories from high school. Hannah and Kelly open up about their uncomfortable, coming-of-age moments as closeted teens and find commonalities in their stories while learning about the people they used to be. They reminisce about the boyfriends they didn't like kissing and the straight-girls who were definitely flirting with them. Told through live action and animation, the stories shared are both cringeworthy and silly; painful and hilarious.



**NIKI ANG (Co-writer, Director)** is a queer, Singaporean-Chinese American writer and director who was born and raised in Singapore before moving to the States at a young age. Her short film "Were You Gay In High School?" was awarded the Frameline Completion Grant and the Inside Out re:Focus Fund and will premiere in 2020. Her first feature film script, *Wide Open Spaces* was accepted into the 2020 class of the CAPE New Writers Fellowship and featured on the 2020 CAPE List in partnership with The Black List. Previously she was a producer/director at BuzzFeed Motion Pictures where her work amassed over 250 million views across digital

platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Amazon, and Hulu. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her wife and is the quintessential middle child.

**KAREN DU (Co-Writer, Cinematographer)** is a queer, Chinese-Vietnamese American filmmaker from Denver, Colorado. She most recently co-directed and was the cinematographer on the short documentary "Radlasses," highlighting Sydney Olson, one of the top female parkour athletes in the world. Her work has been showcased at the Hollywood Comedy Shorts Festival and BEA Festival of Media Arts, and has been featured on popular digital platforms including BuzzFeed and Mythical Entertainment (Good Mythical Morning). In her spare time, she can be found co-hosting the podcast MORNING WOOD, attending concerts, dabbling in new hobbies, and perfecting old ones.



**SITE:** [WWW.NIKIANG.COM/WUGHS](http://WWW.NIKIANG.COM/WUGHS)  
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**Inside  
Out**

**RE:Focus  
Fund**

**Frameline  
Completion Fund**



## PRODUCERS

**ANDREW AHN (Producer)** is a queer Korean-American filmmaker born and raised in Los Angeles. His latest feature *DRIVEWAYS*, starring Brian Dennehy and Hong Chau, premiered at the 2019 Berlinale. His first feature film *SPA NIGHT* premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and won the 2017 John Cassavetes Independent Spirit Award. In 2017, Ahn directed the entire first season of the Sundance Now original show "This Close" from creators Shoshannah Stern and Josh Feldman. He has promoted diversity in the arts by mentoring youth filmmakers through programs like Pacific Arts Movement's Reel Voices, Outfest's OutSet, and the Sundance Institute's Native Filmmaker Lab. He graduated from Brown University and received an MFA in Film Directing from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).

**KIMMIE KIM (Producer)** has extensive experience producing live shows, special events, and films. Her acclaimed documentary *LIVE FROM NEW YORK!*, a film that chronicles the 40 year history of SNL, premiered at the opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival in 2015. Most recently, Kimmie produced the Ed Sheeran documentary *SONGWRITER* which world premiered at the 2018 Berlin International Film Festival and had its North American premiere at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival. Kimmie is actively developing multiple projects across various genres, and she plans to continue her creative journey by telling stories that make the world laugh, think and be inspired.

**DIANA WARD (Producer)** is a Los Angeles-based producer of Australian and Chinese Malaysian descent. Her feature documentary *ROLLER DREAMS* premiered at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival, winning the Foxtel Audience Award for Best Documentary and the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the 2018 Calgary Underground Film Festival. *ROLLER DREAMS* is distributed by Gunpowder & Sky. In 2018, Diana completed production on "Liberty" for writer/director Faren Humes (winner Best Narrative Short SXSW 2019 and Special Jury Prize Berlinale Generation 14 Plus Best Short Film 2019) and stop-motion animation "The Coin" with Siqi Song for Film Independent's Project Involve, as well as "Full Beat" with writer/director Kase Pena for NALIP's Latino Lens Incubator. Diana is honored to be a Film Independent Fellow and recipient of the 2018 Project Involve Amazon Studios Visionary Filmmaker Fellowship.



## ANIMATORS

**SARA GUNNARSDÓTTIR (Animator)** is born and raised in the capital area of Iceland, Reykjavik. She has a BFA degree in Fine Arts and received her MFA degree in Experimental Animation from California Institute of the Arts in 2012. Sara has been working in film for almost two decades, making animation her main medium in recent years. Her work as an independent filmmaker include a few animated shorts in addition to music videos and experimental work. Her thesis film, animated documentary short named *The Pirate of Love*, premiered at Telluride Film Festival in 2012 and was nominated for student Academy awards, alternative category in 2013. She went on to create animations and original artwork for *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* (2015), directed by Marielle Heller. That film premiered at Sundance Film Festival and went on to win The Grand Prix of the Generation 14plus International Jury at Berlinale. Sara's latest project as animation director is on the HBO docu-series *The Case Against Adnan Syed* (2019) directed by Amy Berg.

**AMANDA BONAIUTO (Animator)** is an animator and artist originally from Massachusetts. Her work has screened worldwide at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, Slamdance, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Ottawa International Animation Festival, Pictoplasma, Stuttgart Festival of Animated Films, and more. She has worked as a freelance animator for The Atlantic, Viceland, The Redford Center, Grand Jury Records, and Paper Bag Records. Her work has been featured on Vimeo Staff Picks, CartoonBrew, It's Nice That, Good Moves, and TVBooooooom. She is a 2017 Princess Grace Honoraria in Film. She graduated with an MFA in Experimental Animation from CalArts in 2018.

## FEATURING

**ALEX SONG-XIA (Kelly, left)** is a writer, actor, and comedian. She has written for TV shows including *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* (NBC), *Night of Too Many Stars* (HBO), and *It's Personal with Amy Hoggart* (truTV). As an actor, her film and TV credits include *High Maintenance* (HBO), *The Week Of* (Netflix), and *Soojung Dreams of Fiji* (Amazon). Alex trained at the William Esper Studio and is a longtime performer at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York.

**SIERRA PUETT (Hannah, right)** is a professional dancer, actor, choreographer, acrobat and writer based in Los Angeles. Some of her credits include being a soloist in *Le Rêve Cirque Du Soleil*, dancer and feature high school student in *The Prom*, an upcoming Ryan Murphy Netflix movie—originally a Broadway musical—starring Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman and Kerry Washington. Sierra has produced, directed and choreographed a full length sold out dance show in Los Angeles, choreographed and danced on a national tour for *Zolita*, performed for Quentin Tarantino, has been in music videos for Noah Cyrus, The Kills and BANKS, modeled for Samsung, Quest nutrition, Jeffrey Campbell shoes, and worked and performed at Disney Land, Universal Studios and LA Opera.

## FULL CREDITS

13 min | 2:39:1 | Stereo | 23.97 | English | 2020

Directed by: Niki Ang

Written by: Niki Ang & Karen Du

Produced by: Andrew Ahn, Kimmie Kim, Diana Ward

Executive Produced by: Kimmie Kim, Jennifer Goodridge

Animation by: Sara Gunnarsdóttir & Amanda Bonaiuto

Cinematography by Karen Du

Edited by Autumn Dea

Original Score by Carla Patullo

Cast: Sierra Puett, Alex Song, Sophia Konat, Kita Grayson, Joshua Canada, Alaina Rook, Ryan Bergara, Tai Chan Ngo, Gwen van Dam, Lara DeFord, Talia Blaney, David Ariniello, Laura Ang, Josh Singleton

Director of Photography: Karen Du

1st AC: Dan Rachlitz

2nd AC: Vida Robbins

Unit Production Manager: TJ Marchbank

First AD: Matthew Real

Gaffer: Haniel Sky Kim

Key Grips: Annie Dean-Ganek, Cassandra Mulcahy

Best Boy Grip: Josiah Platte

Location Sound Mixer: Dillon Kane

Production Designers: Cindy Chao, Michele Yu

Standby Props: Monie Vitalia

Art Production Assistant: Jason Ramirez

Costume Designer: Tina Trinh

Key Hair and Make-up: Yukina Mitsuhashi

Additional HMU: Akiko Russell

Production Assitants: Kady Le, Shannon Kumar, Matthew Johnson, Hannah Ji

Camera Courtesy: Camera Division

Grip & Electric Courtesy: Express Lighting & Grip Rentals Inc

Assistant Editor: Stephen Castro

DIT: Vida Robbins

Digital Intermediate: Neptune Post

Colorist: Persephanie Engel

DI Producer: Samantha Gurton

Sound Designer/Re-Recording Mixer: Christina Gonzalez

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