



Love is a vicious cycle...

Synopsis

The Spinster is a short psychological thriller that follows Phoebe, a cycle vixen in search of true love into the dark, shadowy depths of romance. It will appeal to fans of horror films, thrillers, films with strong female characters and of course, to cyclists. *The Spinster* celebrates the bicycle community, on and behind the camera.

The Spinster was shot in late 2012 in San Francisco on a Canon 7D DSLR. Many of the scenes involved participation from the local bicycle community, as extras, as crewmembers, as cargo bike conductors, as caterers and actors in numerous scenes. So this film is unique not only in genre (horror on bikes), but also in its methodology of involving our target audience in the making of the film.

Length: 17:45
Credits: Written and directed by Kristin Tieche
Produced by Kristin Tieche and judy b.
Starring Gabriela Sosa, Chris Hudak, and judy b.
Edited by Jesse Spencer
Status: Completed
Format: HD
Contact: Kristin Tieche, tel: 323-243-1585 or ktieche@mac.com
judy b., tel. 415-902-9851 or jb@onzeproductions.com
Producers and cast available for interviews by request

Director's Statement

I wanted to make a horror film about a woman with a dark side.

When I first started telling people about the name of the film – *The Spinster* – some people wondered why a woman director or any woman at our age, especially a single woman, would want to be associated with a term that Webster's defines as “an unmarried woman past the common age for marrying”?

Why? Because all the unmarried women in my life defy the insinuation that they are somehow lacking. Today, a woman's worth isn't tethered to her age or to her marital status. Unmarried women are smart, ambitious, healthy and outgoing. We seek deep meaning in our lives. We refuse to be taken for a ride. We set high goals for ourselves. We won't settle for less than we deserve. So the old implications no longer hold water.

I wish I could say that I decided to make this film as a feminist statement – that as a woman director, I wanted to provide more complex portrayals of women in film, especially in horror films, in which women are usually the victim. But that's not really the truth. To be honest, I wanted to make *The Spinster* because I thought it would be a fun film to make, plain and simple. But after digging into this project, I quickly realized the value that this story brings to women in film. *The Spinster* has it all: strong female characters, strong women behind the camera in many crew member roles and a fresh feminist perspective in a largely male-dominated film genre.

I've loved horror films since I was a kid, and now, as a filmmaker, the genre appeals to me even more because these films are so intensely visceral and imaginative. Horror pushes metaphor to the extreme. Your lover sucks your blood and all the life out of you. The dead burst from their graves and walk again. That shadow behind you could be your maker. Fear of the dark leads to your untimely death.

As humans, we cycle through extreme emotions that take us to dark places. I often let my imagination deal with my dark moods. That I am a woman and a filmmaker is what lead me to write *The Spinster*. My female perspective inspired a screenplay that flips the horror genre on its head.

The Spinster is strong, athletic, capable, independent, witty and fierce. She is at once the protagonist and the antagonist. You love her and you fear her.

She is single, and she rides a bike, hence the title. In this film, being unmarried and riding a bicycle are normal lifestyle choices for smart, urban women, just as they are normal lifestyle choices for real women in real life.

Ultimately, *The Spinster* is a fantasy, as all horror films are. I hope you enjoy Phoebe's wild ride to the dark side as much as I have.

Filmmaker Bios



Kristin Tieche (Writer/Director/Producer) is an award-winning independent filmmaker, producer and editor. She has produced and edited notable programming for public, cable and satellite networks such as Al Jazeera America, Current TV, PBS, Fox Worldwide, CBS-5 (KPIX), Link TV, Fine Living Channel, Food Network, Home and Garden and Smithsonian-On-Demand. She has edited documentaries that include the Sundance 2008 Audience Award winning *Fuel*, and the 2009 PBS/Independent Lens film, *Power Paths*.

Furthermore, Tieche is a producer of independent film. She recently crowdsourced over \$10K for post-production costs for her current film *The Spinster* - a short bike-themed horror film. Tieche's 2011 film, *Forms of Identification* won Best Experimental Film at the Reynolda Film Festival 2012. She is also the founder of the bicycle fashion blog *Vélo Vogue*, listed as one of the world's top 50 bicycle blogs.

Tieche holds a Master of Arts in Television, Radio and Film from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

judy b. (Co-Producer) is the author of the fiction collection [Stories for Airports](#) and in her former life as a journalist, wrote and edited for various newspapers and websites across the country. She has produced and directed daily news programs for Sirius satellite radio and environmental news shorts for the CBS Radio Network. She has taught bicycle safety classes and for three years produced the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's dating game show Love On Wheels, which garnered a San Francisco Bay Guardian Best of the Bay Award. She currently teaches creative writing at SafeHouse in San Francisco and works as a freelance writer and editor.



Cast Bios



Gabriela Sosa (Phoebe/The Spinster) Blame it on Lucas. Gabriela left her brilliant career at the Panamanian Foreign Service to move to LA so she could be in Star Wars. She hopes *The Spinster* will land on J.J. Abram's desk and you will see her in the next trilogy. In the meantime, like Phoebe, Gabriela is trying to save the planet. She was recently in Istanbul with Al Gore and the Climate Reality Leadership Corps after which she wrote her first novel, *Love in the Time of Taksim*. When she isn't writing screenplays, she works as a producer and interpreter. Her work has been nominated for an Oscar and she won an Emmy in Field Production in 2010. Gabriela spends her free time learning new languages, practicing martial arts and light saber forms. May the Force be with her and you, always.

Chris Hudak (Michael) is a writer, game designer/scriptwriter, former San Francisco Zoo penguin recorder, frequent-flyer junkie, self-proclaimed lucid dream expert, pool-shark-in-minnow's-clothing, flaky-but-passionate student of all things Japanese, video-gamer-with-a-life and moonlighting actor (including a turn as private eye Nick Chambers in Spinster VFX editor B.J. West's film *The Smiling Man*) in his copious spare time.

Chris writes weird fiction and loves travel, literature, movies, technology, the Age of Sail and penguins (more or less in that order).



He is the editor of Game Theory Media and also works behind the keyboard and/or in front of the camera for Machinima, Crave Online, Playboy, Wired and whoever else has money. Chris is the protagonist of the Harlan Ellison short story "Keyboard"—seriously, look it up—and someday wants a [house](#) in Walt Disney World.

judy b. (Karla) is the author of the fiction collection [Stories for Airports](#) and has read her writing throughout the Bay Area, including [LitCrawl](#) in San Francisco. She gives bike tours during which she reads passages from her book at locations that appear in the stories. judy b. also performs in [Action Fiction!](#), short stories acted out live, onstage.

Along with S.M. Peters and [Josef Auquee](#), judy b. founded Saucy Algonqs, a writing collective that staged readings throughout the Bay Area. She originated the role of Barbara in Peters' play

Piece of You at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts and has contributed vocal stylings to Aukee's poésie performances.

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