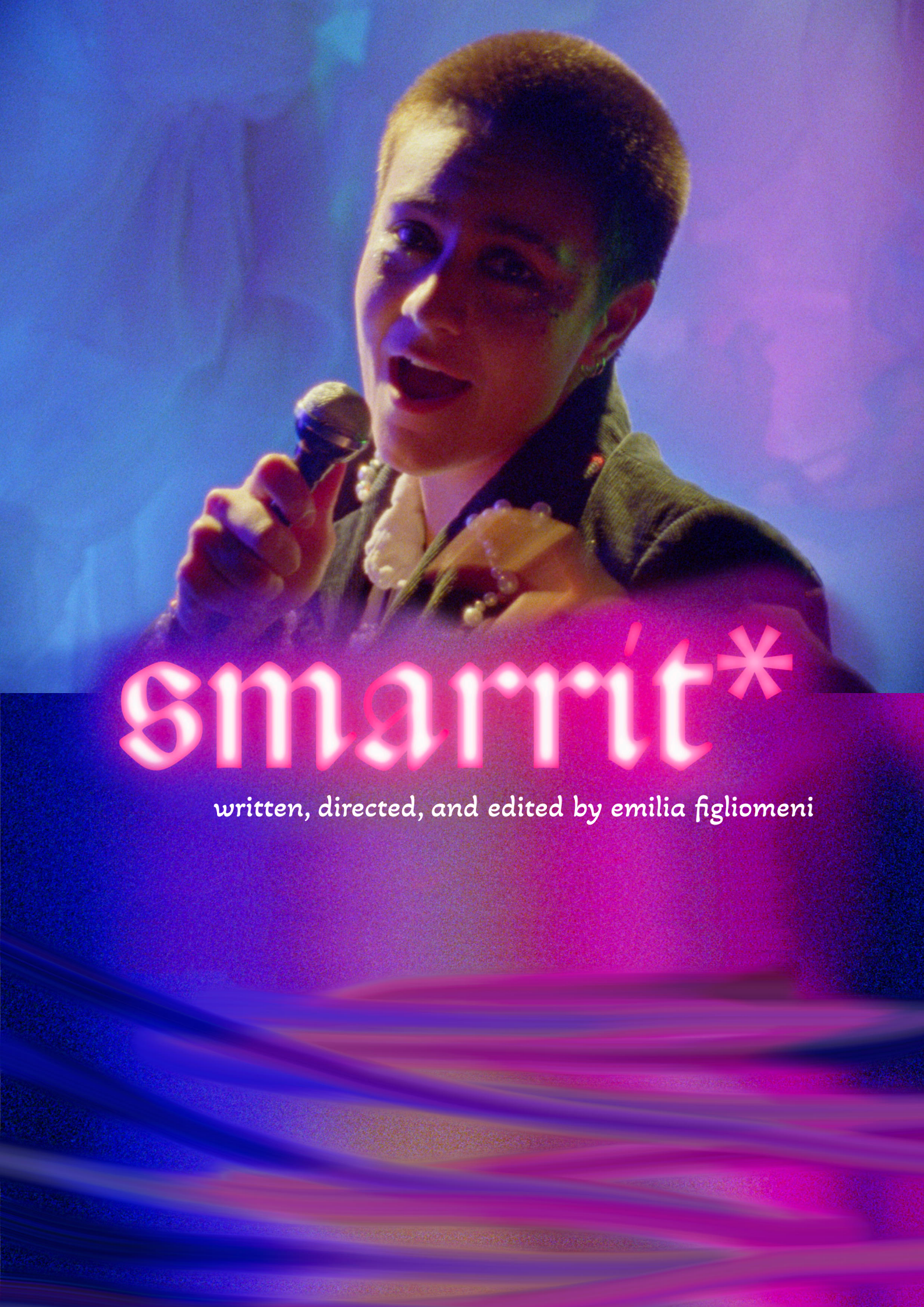


A woman with short dark hair is singing into a microphone. She is wearing a dark jacket over a white top with a large pearl necklace. The background is a mix of pink and blue light. The title 'smarrit*' is written in a pink, stylized font across the middle of the image.

smarrit*

written, directed, and edited by emilia figliomeni



LOGLINE

A lost twenty-something and their boisterous best friend encounter Dante Alighieri in 21st century Los Angeles, where they embark on a night-long journey across identity and language.



synopsis

Filo (late 20s) is out for one last night on the town with their best friend Diego (20s) before moving back to Italy. At a hell-themed bar, they encounter a server dressed as Dante Alighieri and follow him down the rabbit hole. After seemingly crossing the river Styx in a taxi-cab, they end up at a party. Dante misgenders Filo in Italian, a binary language, and Filo musters the courage to correct Dante and introduce him to a non-binary ending. A bizarre encounter with circus peanuts ensues, and the crew find themselves on an empty street. Filo confronts Dante about his role in shaping modern Italian, and they break out into a song about fostering a more fluid relationship to language.

FILM CATEGORY

narrative short

GENRE

comedy/drama

PRODUCTION LOCATION

los angeles, ca

LANGUAGE

english & italian

SUBTITLES

english & italian

PICTURE FORMAT

digital

ASPECT RATIO

1.85:1

SHOOTING FORMAT

sony venice, 16mm kodak film

RUNNING TIME

14m

director's bio



Emilia Figliomeni (they/them) is writer/director/editor born & raised in Bologna, Italy and currently based in Los Angeles. Spanning fiction and documentary, Emilia's projects often center queer identities and human connection. After studying visual art and creative writing at Brown University, Emilia earned an MFA in narrative directing at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. During their time at UCLA, Emilia was a recipient of the John H. and Patricia W. Mitchell Fellowship, the Gerald Hughes Comedy Directing Fellowship, and the George Burns and Gracie Allen Scholarship and Fellowship in Comedy, among others. Their thesis film, *Smarrit**, was selected for the 2025 UCLA Directors Spotlight, and their previous films have screened at festivals across the US, including Oscar-qualifying LA Shorts International Film Festival.



director's statement

While I could tell you the Italian title **Smarrit*** simply means "lost," it could also mean confused, bewildered, or missing. The intended meaning crosses all of those words, as that is what it feels like to be non-binary in a binary language (or at least that's how I feel). This film sinks into the murkiness of those emotions and emerges with a catchy song that aims to inspire a change of heart and mind (alongside a change in language).

Part comedy, part drama, part musical. Part English, part Italian. Part digital, part 16mm. This film flows between world and underworld with Dante as its guide and the pushy non-binary best friend we all wish we had.

This film asks us to look deeper into our history and literature and imagine the connections and jumping off points they offer, rather than just the problems they may create.

a note on language:

While proposals for linguistic adjustments to Italian (a gendered language) exist, no consensus has been reached, especially as far as spoken language is concerned. The schwa (ə), asterisk (*), or u are interchangeably used to denote non-binary endings.



Though our image of Dante Alighieri, "il sommo poeta," the father of modern Italian, might be stiff and exacting, he is actually a perfect ally in this quest to reshape Italian because his work exemplifies a playful and innovative attitude towards language. He chose to write many of his works, including the *Divine Comedy*, in the language of the common people, rather than the Latin of the elites, so I turned to one of the popular mediums of today, the pop song, to communicate the film's message about language.

"...magari può sembrare poco importante,
ma il linguaggio modella il mondo,
e l'impatto è gigante."
(*smarrit** song)

cast



Mod Becher (he/they) as Filo

Mod Becher is a multidisciplinary trans artist working across film, stage, voice, and visual art. He approaches his craft as an evolving practice—one that continues to grow with each project and medium. His work is grounded in a belief that honest, inclusive stories can connect people across different lived experiences and bridge a form of common ground between strangers.

Sol Joun (they/them) as Diego

Sol is a SoCal born and raised performer and teaching artist dedicated to uplifting the stories of underrepresented communities, as art has always been one of the most powerful tools of social change. Some notable credits: "Smarit*" (Diego), "Sí Se Puede!" (Center Theatre Group), "Sama Sama" (East West Players). Sol is forever grateful for and inspired by the support of their family and the community of artists they surround themselves with.

Ottavio Taddei (he/him) as Dante Alighieri

Italian-born performer Ottavio Taddei moves seamlessly between screen and stage, blending acting with a powerful physical vocabulary shaped by dance.

His film and television work includes Ford v Ferrari, His Only Son, La La Land, Euphoria, and The Chosen. On stage, he has appeared at some of the world's most iconic venues, including the Met, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Royal Opera House of Muscat.

Ottavio has performed principal roles in productions of Midsummer Night's Dream, Freddie, Bolero, The Boatman, Anna in the Tropics, Firebird, Swan Lake, Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Body Parts, Qatar Marine Festival, I Promessi Sposi the musical, Lo Spettacolo Dell'Acqua, and many more.

From classical ballet to contemporary theater and opera, Ottavio's work spans continents and disciplines.





Ayesha Minocha • co-producer

Ayesha Minocha (she/her) is an Indian-American producer based in Los Angeles. Since her early youth, she has been fascinated by being behind the camera, often the designated director for every home video. She would watch Hollywood films with her brother during the day and Bollywood films with her mom at night; her obsession with consuming and creating media made her believe that even mundane events could be an adventure. While at UC Santa Cruz, Ayesha double majored in Film & Media Studies and History of Arts & Visual Culture. She came to Los Angeles in 2021 to work on her first feature film as a production assistant and fell in love with the energy of being on set. It was here she decided to take any job she could to stay on set, eventually taking these lessons and her education to pursue producing in 2023. From her love of films and capturing media as a young girl, to studying films and art in college, Ayesha aims to bring her scope of academic knowledge, on-set experience, and care into cultivating safe environments that lead to interesting and impactful projects.

JungYoon "Faith" Choi • co-producer

JungYoon 'Faith' Choi (she/her) was born in Busan, South Korea, and has since split time living in Seoul, New York, and Los Angeles. She worked as an editor and operations coordinator at a major Seoul-based webtoon company for a few years before moving to LA and pursue filmmaking in 2023. She now works as a producer and translator, focusing on supporting friends and collaborators who are non-binary creatives, women, or people of color. Her producing and translation work includes over a dozen short films and commercial projects, including K-pop music videos, USC and UCLA MFA productions, and shorts that have gone on to screen at Oscar-qualifying festivals like the LA Shorts International Film Festival.

Maita Eyzaguirre • composer

Maita Eyzaguirre (she/her) is a composer, producer, and multimedia artist born and raised in Italy, to Chilean and Trinidadian/American parents. She studied composition at the Eastman School of Music and Brown University and enjoys writing music that is accessible to broader audiences, drawing inspiration from her global background and the beauty that emerges in liminal spaces.

Maita has had works premiered by performers such as the Phillips Academy Andover Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Dal Niente Ensemble, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. More recently, she composes film scores for director Emilia Figliomeni (they/them,) and is working on releasing her first album of tracks composed for Figliomeni's short film Smarrit*.

crew bios

Gabriela Spampinato • director of photography

Gabriela is an LA-based Latina cinematographer. Raised in the vibrant cultural landscape of South Florida, Gabriela moved to Los Angeles in 2018 to attend the prestigious MFA program at UCLA, where she honed her technical skills and artistic vision through rigorous training and numerous opportunities to collaborate with emerging filmmakers.

Since earning her degree, Gabriela has shot two feature films, numerous narrative short films, and music videos, showcasing her versatile talent behind the camera.



Zoe Mathewson • production designer

Zoe (she/they) is a production designer and filmmaker from NC, based in LA. Zoe has a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and MFA from UCLA. Drawing on their fine arts and film background, Zoe got their start in the Art Department working as an art PA for AMC's NOS4A2. They served as the art director on the Y2K coming of age feature film, Over/Under by Sophia Silver, and have worked as a production designer for a handful of shorts. They enjoy world building and love to work with directors to find the visual language that best suits the story, tone, culture, and context of the film.



Alexis Sarabia • costume designer

Alexis Marcela Sarabia was born and raised in San Diego, California and is proud to be Filipino American. Alexis is a Los Angeles based designer, craftsman, and artist. Her work is eclectic and is influenced by color and sustainability.

Alexis completed her BA in Theater, with an emphasis in Design and Production, from UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Alexis continues to work on both stage and screen productions, most recently being Wardrobe Supervisor at East West Player's world premiere production of Paranormal Inside.





crew

g&e swings

Jasiah Potter

Trent Miller

Masha Egorova

Hannah Sam

Juwan Howard

Hasan Iqbal

Aram Winter

Ender Waters

art director...Eileen McNulty

art assistants

Ryan Fajet

Paloma Ronquillo

Hagar Mouhktar

Michelle Li

Bora Rex

hair & make-up...Gabby Flores

production assistants

Nezi Matutu

Sarah J. Simon

Ahmad McCutcheon



stills



1st assistant director...Nyelah Sawyer

additional 1st assistant director

Jazmyne Black

2nd assistant director...Jazmyne Black

1st assistant camera...Jaqueline Chan

2nd assistant camera

Nina Tipton

Samantha Umbay

Karly Bang

Lissy Aschieris

Shucheng Yan

film loader...Paloma Ronquillo

DIT...Jessy Sherif

BTS photographer...Ilgin G. Korugan

colorist...Gabriela Spampinato

script supervisor...Merry May Ma

additional script supervisor...Rhett Hipp

production sound mixer

Shizue Roche Adachi & Michelle Li

boom operator

Hasan Iqbal & Aram Winter

post-production sound mixer...Ron Eng

gaffer...Raquel Hagman

key grip

Harrison Orwig & Nissryne Dib





"...anche se sono non-binari*//ə//u, ti prometto che non sparisco..."

smarrit*

WRITTEN, DIRECTED, & EDITED BY
EMILIA*FIGLIOMENI

PRODUCED BY
AYESHA*MINOCHA

S T A R R I N G
MOD*BECHER
OTTAVIO*TADDEI // SOL*JOUN

PRODUCED BY
JUNGYOON*FAITH*CHOI

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
GABRIELA*SPAMPINATO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
ZOE*MATHEWSON

COSTUME DESIGNER
ALEXIS*SARABIA

COMPOSER
MAITA*EYZAGUIRRE

smarrit*

written, directed, and edited by emilia figliomeni



trailer



stills packet

