

quaker

directed by Giovanna Molina



75th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Generation

At a Quaker school in Brooklyn, high school seniors gather for their last Quaker meeting together before graduation. During meeting, the students sit in silence together and take turns sharing a final message with each other. While the meeting opens with sincere messages of love, joy, and hope, it takes an abrupt turn when a student confesses that she has never felt connected to her classmates.



Director's Statement

During my fourteen years at Brooklyn Friends School, I sat in about five hundred Quaker meetings. In meeting, a community sits in silence for an hour. At any time during meeting, a community member can stand up and share a message. After they sit down, the room sits in silence for an extended period of time, processing that message until the next person stands. During my time at BFS, students shared messages of grief, social action, and even humor. Speaking your mind, or speaking “truth to power,” was encouraged.

Sitting in silence with my classmates and listening to their words served as an integral part of my week—like breathing. For most young people, the opportunity to have the space for reflection among their classmates and the empowerment to speak as an equal within their community feels foreign—especially in high school.

I set *Quaker* during the final meeting of the year, a time where seniors use the meeting to reflect on an important period of their life that's about to pass. While making this film, I also looked back upon this time in my life—a time that only now, ten years later, can I fully understand its fleeting importance. To convey this feeling of looking into the past, I chose to shoot the film in black and white, to emulate the feeling of flipping through a yearbook.







Giovanna Molina
Writer/Director

Giovanna Molina is a Mexican and Italian-American filmmaker from Brooklyn, NY. Her work explores stories of isolation, belief, and surrealism within a female coming-of-age context. She has been supported by grants and fellowships from Sundance, PBS, the Future of Film is Female, and the Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund.

Giovanna received her M.F.A. from UCLA in Directing and her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in Film & Creative Writing. She is in development on her debut feature, KISMET, which chronicles how a young teen channels her depression into her belief in aliens. The script for KISMET was selected for Wscripted's 2024 Cannes Screenplay List presented by MUBI.

Giovanna's previous short film: [HICKEY](#)

Zoey Pressey
Producer

Zoey is Head of Production at Radiance Pictures. She has produced a variety of award-winning short films, music videos, and commercials, including music videos for Tyla, Future, and Sabrina Carpenter, and shorts featured at Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, Slamdance, Berlin Commercial, Aesthetica Film Festival, TIFF New Wave, Palm Springs International Film Festival, as well as on Vimeo as a Staff Pick. Zoey is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Film & TV Production, and is currently in development on a feature film, KISMET, which was recently selected for WScripted's Fourth Annual Cannes Screenplay List.



(Left to right) Louisa Grenham (Writer/AD), Giovanna Molina (Director/Writer), Zoey Pressey (Producer), Vittoria Campaner (DP)



Vittoria Campaner
Cinematographer

Vittoria is a Los Angeles-based Italian cinematographer who has worked internationally in Italy, France, Norway, China, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States. Her work has been showcased in 100+ international film festivals, museums, and theaters, including SXSW, Telluride, and Palm Springs International ShortFest, and has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *Deadline*, and *IndieWire*. In 2020 she was selected as a Cinematography Fellow for the ASC vision program and Film Independent's Project Involve.



16m
USA
English
B&W + Color
4:3
World Premiere Berlinale
STILLS + POSTER

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