



A film by  
**CHELLE TURINGAN & RILEY SPARKS**

# SMALL TOWN PRIDE

**Come out wherever you are.**

THE GAYEST SHOW EVER PRODUCTIONS INC PRESENTS AN XTRA PRODUCTION "SMALL TOWN PRIDE"  
EDITOR: CHELLE TURINGAN    COMPOSER: LISA CONWAY    CO-DIRECTOR: TRICIA HAGORILES    DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: COREY MISQUITA  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: DAVID WALBERG    ANDREW CHANG    KEN HICKLING    CONSULTING PRODUCERS: TIFFANY HSIUNG    PRODUCERS: RACHEL GIESE    CHELLE TURINGAN  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: CHELLE TURINGAN AND RILEY SPARKS

From the producers of  
**Unnatural Disasters, Bump!, The Gayest Show Ever**

**Xtra Magazine** and **Pink Triangle Press** present

# SMALL TOWN PRIDE

An intimate portrait of LGBTQ2S+ pride and queer life in small towns, told through the stories of people from communities across Canada.

**2021 | COLOUR | 60 MINUTES | DOCUMENTARY**

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## PRESS CONTACTS

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## SALES/DISTRIBUTION

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# SYNOPSIS & FESTIVALS



**Residents of Taber, Alberta celebrate the flag raising at Taber Pride in 2019.** Photo Credit: Xtra

*Small Town Pride* offers an intimate look at the joys and challenges of being queer in a small town. Filmed in Alberta, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories, the film follows LGBTQ2S+ people and allies as they prepare for their local Pride celebrations. Organizing in church basements, classrooms and around kitchen tables, they take on a conservative town council that won't fly a rainbow flag and bend some rules to create a safe space for youth to come out. Despite experiences of isolation and discrimination, they love their communities and strive to make them places where everyone, no matter who and how they love, can live and thrive.

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## FESTIVALS

- [Inside Out LGBT Film Festival \(2021\)](#)
- [FIN Atlantic International Film Festival \(2021\)](#)
- [Reel Pride Film Festival \(2021\)](#)
- [Rainbow Visions Film Festival \(2021\)](#)
- [Spotlight Documentary Film Awards \(2021\)](#)
- [Reel Affirmations Film Festival \(2022\)](#)



**Co-director Chelle Turingan films the parade march at Annapolis Royal Pride 2019.**  
Photo Credit: Andrew Tolson



**Norman Wells Pride 2019 parade marches towards the centre of the Northwest Territories town.**  
Photo Credit: Xtra



**Residents gather at the main stage for Pride Day at Taber Pride 2019.** Photo Credit: Xtra



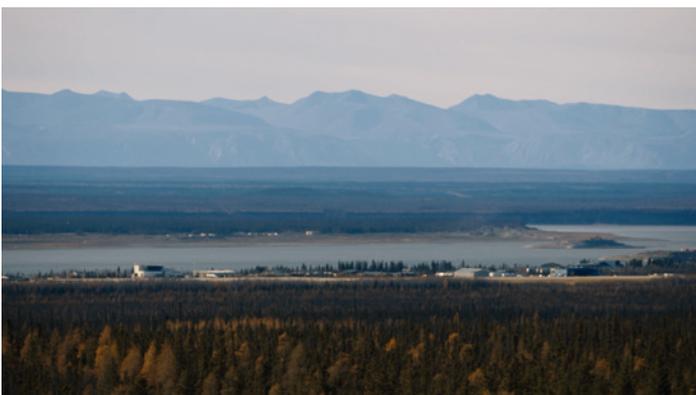
**Ava Pope, Sean Todd and Zeynep Tonak at Pride in Norman Wells, Taber and Annapolis Royal.** Photo Credit: Xtra



**Members of Rainbow United GSA at Mackenzie Mountain School meet weekly at lunchtime.** Photo Credit: Xtra



**(Left to right) Judy Pearcey, Norm Plant, Donna Peck and Jim Smith discuss queer life in Atlantic Canada and growing up as members of the LGBTQ2S+ community in the '60s and '70s.** Photo Credit: Xtra



**Norman Wells, Northwest Territories.** Photo Credit: Xtra



**Co-director Riley Sparks and director of photography Corey Misquita interview Sarah Kelly, supervising teacher of the Rainbow United GSA at Mackenzie Mountain School.** Photo Credit: Xtra

# DIRECTOR'S BIO & STATEMENT



**CHELLE**  
**TURINGAN**

Chelle Turingan is a Filipinx-Canadian filmmaker and video journalist based in Toronto, Ontario. They are a National Magazine Award-winning editor and cinematographer and their work has been featured in publications including *Maclean's*, *Chatelaine*, *Today's Parent*, and on *Sportsnet*. *Small Town Pride* is their first film.

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I grew up as a closeted queer teenager in Scarborough in the mid-90s. The Toronto suburb wasn't always the easiest place to navigate. But I was fortunate to live minutes away from downtown and Church Street's Gay Village, with ready access to the LGBTQ2S+ community.

I didn't realize how much I took that for granted until I met my partner. She also grew up as a closeted queer teenager in the mid-90s, but in a small town nestled in the Ottawa Valley. This was before GSAs existed in high schools, and before the internet and social media made it easier for us to connect with each other. In 2018, her hometown of Smiths Falls celebrated its first annual Pride. The event moved my partner to tears. "I just never thought I'd ever see this day," she says.

That's why *Small Town Pride* is special to me: it's a love letter to all the queer and trans folks who grew up in small towns—past, present and future. The film offers a chance to reflect on where we are now and where we still need to go, and serves as a reminder that the LGBTQ2S+ community is so much larger than our downtown enclaves.



**RILEY**  
**SPARKS**

Riley Sparks is a filmmaker and journalist from Vancouver, B.C., now based in Toronto. Previously, he covered international and Canadian news as a video and print journalist for publications including the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*, before focusing on making documentaries. *Small Town Pride* is his first film.

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We often see Pride as it's presented in big urban centres: colourful, loud, exciting and over-the-top affairs with hundreds of thousands in attendance. They're an opportunity to be loud and visible on a large scale. There's nothing wrong with that—but in small towns, that's not the most important thing. When you take away the crowds, the concerts, the floats and the corporate sponsorships, what is Pride really about?

With *Small Town Pride*, we explore what Pride means in places where the annual parade might be just a few dozen people. We hear from the people working to make their homes more inclusive, safe and open, and about the power of being out and visible in the community—whether it's alongside a million people or just a few.

# TEAM BIOS



**TIFFANY  
HSIUNG**  
Consulting Producer

Tiffany Hsiung is a Peabody award-winning filmmaker based in Toronto, and was listed as one of DOC NYC's 40 under 40 this year. She recently won the inaugural Toronto International Film Festival Share Her Journey Short Cuts Award after the world premiere of her recent film *Sing Me a Lullaby* (2020).



**RACHEL  
GIESE**  
Producer

Rachel Giese is an award-winning journalist, best-selling author and the editorial director of *Xtra*. Her writing on politics, gender, sex and feminism has appeared in numerous publications in Canada and the U.S. She is the author of *Boys: What It Means to Become a Man*.



**COREY  
MISQUITA**  
Director of Photography

Corey Misquita is a Bahraini-born filmmaker and artist based in Toronto. She recently worked as an editor on *Shine True*, a documentary series for Fuse TV. Her films have been showcased at the San Francisco Indie Fest and in *Xtra Magazine* and *Fader*.



**TRICIA  
HAGORILES**  
Colourist

Tricia Hagoriles is an award-winning, Toronto-based filmmaker. In 2015, she received the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Award at the Inside Out Toronto LGBTQ Film Festival for her first short film, *Beat*. Her most recent shorts include *Huwag Mataranta* (one of 10 cinematic tributes to the 2020 Polaris Prize Short List nominees) and *Lola's Wake*, which garnered the WIFT-T Film Award at the 2020 Reel Asian Film Festival.



**LISA  
CONWAY**  
Composer

Lisa Conway is a B.C.-born, Swiss-Canadian songwriter and sonic adventurer. She has collaborated with filmmakers, dancers, theatre directors and performance artists, been nominated for a SOCAN Songwriting Prize (as part of Del Bel) and completed creative residencies from New Brunswick, Canada, to Aubagne, France. An alumni of the Canadian Film Centre's Slight Music Residency, and one of two Canadians selected to be part of the renowned Red Bull Music Academy 2018 in Berlin, her work both in live performance and in the studio has garnered critical acclaim, drawing comparisons to Beth Gibbons, Laurie Anderson, PJ Harvey and Björk.

# CREDITS SHEET

## Written and Directed by

Chelle Turingan and Riley Sparks

## Producers

Rachel Giese

Chelle Turingan

## Consulting Producer

Tiffany Hsiung

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Andrew Chang

Ken Hickling

## Director of Photography

Corey Misquita

## Editor

Chelle Turingan

## Music Composer

Lisa Conway

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Chelle Turingan

Riley Sparks

## Additional Editor

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## Archival Producer

Riley Sparks

## Transcription

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Daily Hive

GoToVan

Kaye Azusawa

Yasir Khan

Amar Shekhar

Andrew Tolson

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## POST-PRODUCTION

### Online Editor

Andres Landau

### Title Design

Michelle Ellen Lee

### Colourist

Tricia Hagoriles

### Sound Design + Dialogue Mix

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## MARKETING & SALES

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### Marketing and Brand Manager

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### Design Manager

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### Sales and Partnership Manager

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