

**A film about a clown**

Written & Produced by  
ZINA ROSE GOODALL



**and her lively libido.**

Directed by  
EMELIA BENOIT-LAVELLE

**TRAMP**

# Synopsis

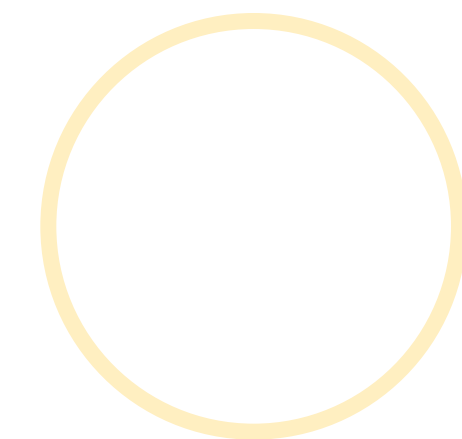
A silent lady clown just wants to get off. She finds herself juggling dignity and desire, while bumbling through the absurd world of modern dating, sex, and reproductive health.





## Log Line

A silent clown and her lively libido search for a hot night under the Big Top of modern dating.





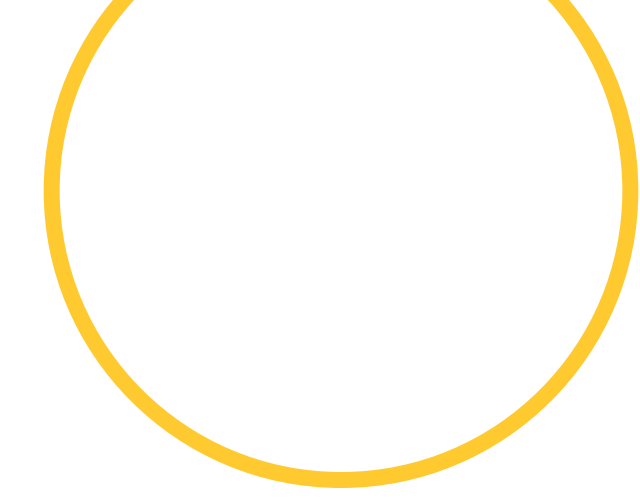
# Director's Statement

**THROUGHOUT THE WRITING, REHEARSAL, AND SHOOTING PROCESS** I was constantly asking myself: where does the clown world intersect with our real world and how do I make choices from that place? How do we honor the Tramp's roots in silent film while telling a story that's relevant to today's hookup culture? I had to imagine a world where you could queef bubbles but still had to worry about getting pregnant.

The beauty of the camera is the way it highlights the actor's thought process, the subtle muscle changes of the face, and in doing so accentuates the character's vulnerability. Because the Tramp is silent she uses her body to communicate, but I didn't want to lose that potential for intimacy by focusing on gags and showing her only in wide shots. It wasn't that we had to lose her big gestures, we just had to internalize them. It was as important to me that she was a real person as she was funny.

Our DP came up with this idea to use an ultra-wide angle lens and to leave it on for the close ups. This created a slightly warped look that gave the footage some wonkiness with the emotional benefits of a close-up. All of this gave rise to a weird little world where the Tramp is funny not despite her body's humanness but because of it.





# Writer's Statement

**MY LOVE OF FILM ARRIVED ON THE SHOULDERS OF CLOWNS**—Chaplin, Keaton, Marx. As a child I wanted to follow in the footsteps of stage clowns, Bill Irwin and David Shiner. As a second-generation feminist, I thought it was bizarre how “everyman” characters were always men. Silent clowns speak the universal language of movement, so why should they only tell men’s stories?

The majority of women in our lives navigate sex and dating with a sense of humor, an appetite for arousal, and an eye always on the responsibilities of the next morning. While our culture is oversaturated with stories about women’s bodies as sexy, motherly, or traumatized, I crave stories about bodies that are sites of pleasure and hilarity.

**TRAMP** is about an evening many women in my life might experience casually. While neither intensely traumatizing, or deeply romantic, a one night stand is full of the absurdities that come with having a woman’s body, having sex, and trying to stay in control.

The humor and humanity of The Tramp archetype comes when he is dignified amidst debasement, hapless in his quest for love, and can walk into the sunset unbothered. This is not why women are often called tramps, but shouldn’t it be?

# Creator Bios

**EMELIA BENOIT-LAVELLE** is an actress and director based in LA. She strives to make projects that celebrate humanity and diversity, are challenging and make people laugh. Her work can be seen on Jill Soloway's Wifey TV, Huffington Post, Stareable, Lady Parts Film Club, and in a bunch of commercials. She co-created a web series, Other People's Kids (short films about fictional NYC families, told through the perspective of their babysitters). More info at [EmeliaBL.com](http://EmeliaBL.com)

**THADDEUS MCCANTS** (He/Him/His) is a Brooklyn based writer, performer originally from Madison, Wisconsin. As a performer he has worked Off-Broadway, with HBO, and performs weekly on Upright Citizens Brigade's Mainstage. As a writer his work has been a semi-finalist for the National Playwrights Conference and his pilot 'FAKERS' is an official selection of ITVFest, DTLA Film Festival (Best Webisode), Portland Comedy Film Festival (Best Series Episode), Atlanta Comedy Film Festival and more. He holds a B.F.A. from Ithaca College and is currently pursuing his M.F.A from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Dramatic Writing.

**ZINA ROSE GOODALL** is a writer, producer, and performer from Oakland, California. She has produced immersive art exhibitions, cabaret nights, ballets, and independent comedy events in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area. Zina is trained in clown and mime technique, juggling, and acrobatics. TRAMP is her first short film.

**BEN RUFFMAN COHEN** is a filmmaker from Berkeley, California. He studied writing & literary studies at the New School & Berkeley City College. He is interested in grey areas, compassion, and celebrating the infinitesimal. He is a co-creator of the series Other People's Kids. His work has been featured on Wifey.TV, HuffPo, and at the WNYC Greene Space.





# Full Credits

Produced by.....Emelia Benoit-Lavelle & Zina Rose Goodall  
Screenplay by.....Zina Rose Goodall  
Directed by.....Emelia Benoit-Lavelle  
Shot by.....Ben Ruffman-Cohen  
Edited by.....Ben Ruffman-Cohen  
Score by.....Mark Ettinger  
Sound by.....Boris Palacio  
Sound Mixing by.....Marcelo Añez  
Art Direction by.....Gelsey Maslanka  
Locations by.....Alissa Quinsaas Newman  
Production Assistants.....Henry Oliver  
.....Grace McCants



Thank you.