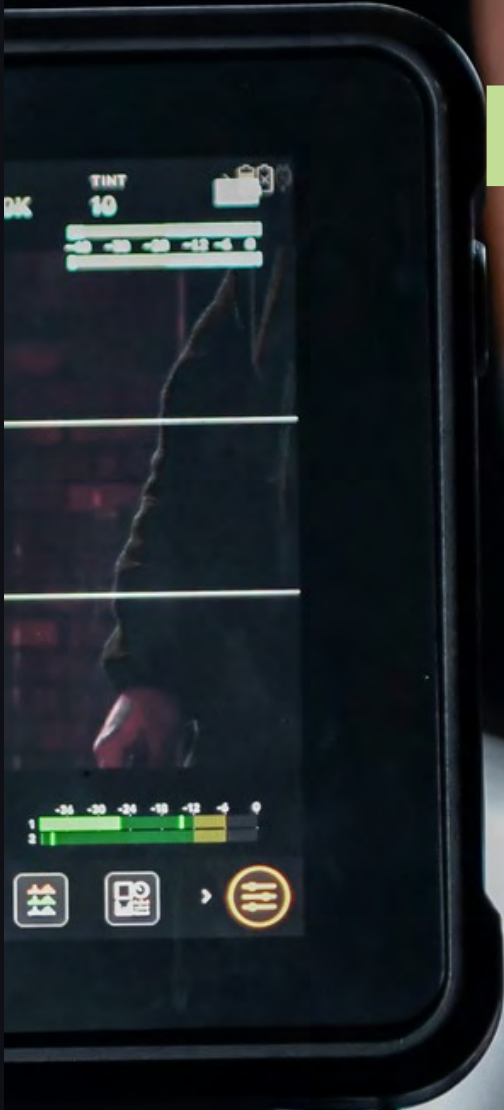


October 2025 | 1

COMMON

thread

MAGAZINE



INDIE ART SPOTLIGHT

Emerging indie shorts, series, poetry, stories and the artists who are making them

ACT RIGHT BY DAIIZY

We chat about all things Daiizyy, from new music to where she finds inspiration

FEATURES FROM THE CREATORS
OF AWARD WINNING
DANI(EL) AND TAZER-GIRL

PAGES

3	LEAP A poem by Axel Santos.	
4	DANI(EL) Creating pre and post pandemic, self expression through art and how Catalina Croitoru's award winning short film came to be.	
8	ALL THINGS DAIIZY Daiizy talks the release of her new single DOOM, her journey into music and her process.	
12	TAZER-GIRL Using storytelling to imagine a brighter world, hold a mirror to reality and taser the bad guys, an award winning short born from rage.	
16	LUCKY A short story by Tim Flannigan.	
18	CHANGING THE VOICE OF MODERN COMEDY Q&A with Sasha Latoya and Dortehea Darby, founders of Lady Loud Productions, on their brand new series Date Me Not.	
22	TIMOTHY SAMULES DOP Timothy discusses his journey into cinematography and keeping creative integrity in a world that rewards chasing trends.	
24	THE LAST DANCE a love letter by Kash Douglas. A candid interview with the Actor, Writer, and Director on his upcoming short film.	
25	MY BABY BOY AMIR a poem by Takiyah Campbell.	



CONTRIBUTORS



Catalina Croitoru



Axel Santos



Kash Douglas



Takiyah Campbell



Daiizy



Sasha Latoya



Tim Flannigan



Dortehea Darby



Deanna Arthur



Timothy Samuels

hellothreadandframe@gmail.com

Photographers

Rod Ramsey, Deanna Arthur,
Claudia Cantarini, Corry Raymond,
Timothy Samuels



FROM *THE* EDITOR

YOU CAN'T BUILD A REPUTATION ON WHAT
YOU ARE GOING TO DO - *HENRY FORD.*

Henry Ford faced a lot of obstacles and a shedload of doubt from peers, friends and investors. His life's work was considered a foolish hobby. Cut to: it's safe to say it all worked out – and Henry did pretty well for himself.

The first ever edition of Common Thread Magazine, is full of beautiful hand picked indie art and incredible artists who, much like Henry, ignored any doubts. They ignored the voices in their head and any hint of feeling that what they wanted to do, couldn't be done. They reached a point where they stopped talking about their plans, and started to make them happen. Now we get to talk about them!

I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate independent artists and their work. I hope you enjoy hearing about the making of these projects and the artists's individual processes. Oh, and thanks for coming, come back for round two.



DATE ME NOT.

SEASON 1

LOVE IS
OFF THE
MENU.

Date Me Not, is a razor-sharp comedy that dives headfirst into the chaos of modern dating. It follows two best friends Maya and Jay, navigating a world of awkward first dates, romantic red flags, and the wild characters that come with love in the digital age. From “the slurper” to “the money man” every episode is a hilarious and painfully relatable snapshot of today’s dating disasters across both the queer communities and the hetero-normative dating world. What makes Date Me Not stand out isn’t just its wit, but its heart. Beneath the laughter is a story about friendship, self-worth, and finding your voice in a world that’s constantly telling women what they should want. With its cinematic style, lipstick-bold aesthetic, and infectious energy, the show feels both laugh-out-loud funny and undeniably fresh.



LADY LOUD PRODUCTIONS: CHANGING THE VOICE OF MODERN COMEDY

FOUNDED BY SASHA LATOYA & DORTHEA DARBY, LADY LOUD PRODUCTIONS IS FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE UK’S MOST EXCITING FEMALE-LED PRODUCTION HOUSES. A NEW CREATIVE TEAM BUILT ON BOLD STORYTELLING, UNAPOLOGETIC HUMOUR, AND A PASSION FOR ELEVATING WOMEN’S VOICES ON SCREEN.

Lady Loud Productions is quickly carving out its space in the industry as a production house that champions female creators, celebrates diversity, and isn’t afraid to say what everyone else is thinking. With Date Me Not, they’ve proven that indie comedy can look high-end, feel fearless, and still deliver the kind of relatable content that audiences crave.

As Sasha Latoya puts it, “Lady Loud is about women owning their stories loudly, proudly, and on their own terms.”

And if Date Me Not is any indication of what’s to come, Dorthea Darby states “Lady Loud Productions is just getting started.”



Q&A WITH SASHA LATOYA AND DORTHEA DARBY

What is one misconception people often have about your work or your creative field?

Perhaps that it's a waiting game, and to be patient! Yes there is an element of patience yes there is an element of waiting. But that doesn't mean sitting back. You have more power as creative than you think, and more help out there than you know! Being Pro active is the way forward, if this is what you love, then chase it in any way you feel pushed to. Whether that's constant training, short clips with friends, or creating a production company. The support is out there, the desire to see artists thrive is out there! Just always remember your creativity, and the rest will follow.

What does success look like to you, and has your definition evolved?

Massively evolved! There will always be different layers of success, different things we want to achieve, but setting a goal and continuously pushing for it to the point where you make yours is an amazing feeling! An actor said to us one day on set "Thank you for doing this, you've given so many of us the opportunity to actually step on a set" in that moment we looked at each other, hugged each other and said "we did it" and in that second we felt every level of success! From the Gratitude and Joy to the overwhelming feeling of pride! We had created something and from that thing others found Joy, no matter how far Date Me Not goes, we know, WE DID IT!

DORTHEA

"CASTING WAS SO DIFFICULT.
THERE ARE SO MANY TALENTED
PEOPLE IN THIS INDUSTRY, WOW.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW
CASTING DIRECTORS MAKE
THESE DECISIONS EVERY DAY."

"LIKE ANY TRUE ROMANCE, DATE ME NOT, WAS AN ACCIDENT, WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ONE NIGHT STAND, TURNED INTO A FULL BLOWN MARRIAGE." - DORTHEA DARBY

Where did the idea for the show come from and what inspired it?

DORTHEA

I came to Sasha with one little funny idea, and the drive to be creative. Next thing I know she has a DOP and a Director and wants 3 more scripts!

"Here we go" I said and from there 1 turned to 3 and 3 turned to 9 and before we knew it, we had a team of supportive creatives, a bunch of funny words, and a passion for screen. And so the idea of Date Me Not became a series. Sasha and Dortehea became Lady Loud Productions.

Working together has taught each of us the value of individuality. We dream the same and dream big, and we attack differently! But therein lies our strength. Our voices are both bold, but like a great team they sing in harmony, we have learnt how to push each other, how to support each other and how to even reign in each other!.

SASHA

I read Dortehea's script and loved the concept. I had been craving something that was similar to the *Bold Type*, *Gossip Girl* and *Sex & The City* style shows, but set in London. So we put this incredible team together. It was crazy how many people were excited about this and suddenly we had 9 episodes in pre-production. Yes, tremendous amounts of hard work went into it... but we felt that everything just started to align and so we kept this momentum up all the way through and we're still going.

We are so lucky to have found our tribe of brilliant people to help make this series possible. It feels as though every single person involved holds Date Me Not as close to their hearts as we do. People from all levels of experience in the industry worked together seamlessly and created a little Date Me Not family. We had laughter in every scene. We love them all silly amounts!



What's your favourite or most memorable reaction from someone who has watched the show?

D:

Mine came during the premiere hearing the reactions to the biggest plot twist of the season! The introduction of the character Lousie and her story was the biggest writing arc for me, seeing people's response, their investment into the story and desire to see this plot twist start twisting, was as reassuring as it was encouraging in the elevation of Louise's story! Lets not give too many spoilers! But head to Episode 2 to see the plot twist!

SASHA

My favourite reaction from someone watching the show was at the launch – it was the episode called Sweaty and I can't really reveal a spoiler yet, but there was one moment and the entire room just erupted with laughter and that's the moment I thought... Thank goodness I'm not the only one who finds this funny. You never really know how something is going to be received and there is no greater honesty than that of a live audience.

Do you have a set process when bringing a character to life that you can talk about or does it vary?

DORTHEA

When im writing, it really varies, I would say, sometimes if its something ive pulled form thin air, i can go as wild as i want and then pull back, other things hold some kind imitation to something i've seen or heard or lived and in that case, I try to really go into the truth but still hold the comedy of it. However with Maya and Jay, I needed them to feel relatable, I needed the two to have their differences but have their balance, I needed a pair that looked like they would always need each other, so when writing them I needed to understand what the other would need and how they would complement each other. Luckily Sasha and myself were just a true representation to pull from! Hahah

"LADY LOUD PRODUCTIONS IS A FAMILY" - SASHA LATOYA