

cinéart
presents

Skate Kitchen

A film by Crystal Moselle



STARRING RACHELLE VINBERG, DEDE LOVELACE, NINA MORAN, KABRINA ADAMS, AJANI RUSSELL, JULES LORENZO, BRENN LORENZO WITH ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ AND JADEN SMITH
PRODUCED BY LIZZIE NASTRO, IZABELLA TZENKOVA, CRYSTAL MOSELLE, JULIA NOTTINGHAM, RODRIGO TEIXEIRA, MICHAEL SHERMAN, MATTHEW PERNICIARO
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LOURENÇO SANT'ANNA, SOPHIE MAS, THOMAS BENSKI, COMPOSER ASKA MATSUMIYA, COSTUME DESIGNER CAMILLE GARMENDIA, PRODUCTION DESIGNER FLETCHER CHANCEY, CASTING BY JESSICA KELLY AND REBECCA DEALY
EDITOR NICO LEUNEN, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SHADIER KIRCHNER, STORY BY CRYSTAL MOSELLE, WRITTEN BY ASLIHAN UNALDI, CRYSTAL MOSELLE AND JENNIFER SILVERMAN, DIRECTED BY CRYSTAL MOSELLE

PULSE

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14

Skate Kitchen

un film de – een film van
CRYSTAL MOSELLE

USA – 105 MIN.

SYNOPSIS

NL

Camille is 18 jaar en dol op skateboarden. Dat vindt haar moeder maar niks, en na een blessure moet Camille beloven om nooit meer te skaten. Geen denken aan - de passie is te groot!

Via Instagram komt Camille in contact met 'The Skate Kitchen', meisjes die stuk voor stuk 'leven om te skaten'. Ze voelt zich meteen welkom bij de groep en dankzij hun wilde levensstijl gaat er een nieuwe wereld voor haar open.

Wanneer haar moeder gaat dwarsliggen, loopt Camille weg van huis en trekt in bij een van haar nieuwe vriendinnen. Tot de liefde hun fragiele band onder druk zet.

FR

A New-York, la vie de Camille, une adolescente solitaire et introvertie va radicalement changer en intégrant un groupe de jeunes filles skateuses appelé Skate Kitchen. Cette bande éprise de liberté et sa rencontre avec un jeune skateur énigmatique vont l'éloigner de sa mère avec qui elle s'entend de moins en moins.

ENG

A teen girl gets on the ride of her life when she joins all-girl New York skateboard collective Skate Kitchen and falls for a mysterious guy in the scene.

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR CRYSTAL MOSELLE

Skate Kitchen is a real skateboarding collective, and the cast is made up of real skateboarders. How did you meet them?

I was on the train and I was listening to them just chat, and they were super interesting and they had skateboards, and I asked them, "Would you guys want to do like a video project, something?" We exchanged numbers and when we met up we just started hanging out and chatting. I just was super inspired by them. I didn't really know much about being a female skater and how much intimidation they go through. I gave them the opportunity to do this short film with Miu Miu (*That One Day*) and I pitched them to do the short film. That went to the Venice Film Festival. From there it started to get a lot of attention and gain a lot of traction.

Why did you decide to make a narrative film instead of a documentary about them?

I was originally going to do a feature documentary film, but after doing the short, and hanging out with Kim Yutani, who is one of the programmers at Sundance, she was just like, "Why don't you do a feature version of this?" I was like, "Yeah, you're so right." I figured out a writer to work with. That January, we didn't have a script or anything. We kind of just had a summary of what we wanted it to be. We went to Sundance and just started having meetings and financiers, and got the budget.

I was doing these workshops with the girls and we eventually created a script, and that was maybe like a month before shooting. But before that, we would do these kind of improv classes where we would create these different scenes and ideas. I got super inspired to take notes from all those classes just talking with them and watching them and most of the things that are in the film actually happened in real life. But we wrote them into a script and they actually reenacted it; that being said, this film wasn't improv. It wasn't vérité, it was scripted. And, I think that's an important part about the film because a lot of people think that it's just more like me just sitting back and watching, and it actually isn't. The girls are incredible actresses, and they've taken on these personas that are inspired by their own selves, but it's actually like something that we've worked together for six months.

How much of the main story was based on something that happened in their real life?

That was a contrived storyline. We made that up. Everything with Jaden Smith is made up. The girls are all friends and they all hang out together. The boys are all friends. Everybody in the film is friends with each other.

Who did you collaborate with on the script?

There was a certain point in time where we had to shift the story and simplify it a lot more and Aslihan Unaldi came in and worked on it every day for like three months. We completely re-shifted the whole thing. She was really my collaborator on this, but it was all my ideas, and I wrote a lot of the script. I've never written a script before and we had to make this happen so quickly, because we had to shoot this film before these girls grew up, because right now they're already too old for the film.

How did Jaden Smith get involved with this project?

One day he hit Rachelle Vinberg up on Instagram! He just thought she was cool because she skateboards and he skateboards and we were like, "Oh, he should be in the movie." I randomly know his agent, so I was just like, "I have this film idea that Jaden might be into," so his agent got me a meeting completely separate from Rachelle. And it was months after that. And then I showed him the short film and he was like, "Oh I know that girl." We wanted his character to really authentically lead into the subculture of New York City skateboarding.

How much time did you spend with the girls and how did you get involved in their world?

I completely immersed myself into their world for a year. The girls lived with me at my house for quite some time. Rachele Vinberg lived with me for the entire summer. I got to know the boys through the girls. We made Jaden come and hang out too. I put together a group of boys just to be friends with him. Now they're all friends and he comes into town and doesn't call me, he calls them now. They ride for his skate brand, it's pretty cool. There was this kid Alex, he was like the honorary Skate Kitchen boy. He's in the film as Charlie. We ended up hiring him as a cultural interpreter, because he would literally sit and help Jaden with his skater accent. They all have the craziest slang that nobody knows besides them. We wanted it to feel authentic to their world and the way they talk and stuff.

How long did you shoot for?

We shot for 37 days in the summer. It was mainly a rigorous 12-hour day, five days a week. Sometimes six days a week.

What were the biggest challenges of making your first narrative feature?

The script was like 110 pages and our rough cut was four hours and forty-five minutes. So, I think that next time I would have a better gauge of what parts of the story are necessary and not necessary. We had to cut a lot out and change it a lot in the edit, which is something that I'm used to as a documentary filmmaker, so it was fine that it happened. I should have listened to my instinct. I didn't need to shoot 10 endings to this film.

Even though your last feature was a documentary, Skate Kitchen feels very similar to The Wolfpack in a lot of ways. How would you describe your interests in filmmaking?

First I just get attracted to the characters. That's usually what draws me in first. And then, figuring out the story. I like coming-of-age stories and young people that are incredibly passionate. I like people that are a little outside of society, a little different. I like strong women flipping the switch. I like breaking rules in a way that isn't hurting anybody.

Were you looking for a story for your short film when you ran into the girls?

No, I don't look for stories. I've never looked for stories, they just come to me. They approach me afterwards.

I'm guessing the skate park is where the girls actually hang out. What about their bedrooms and other locations?

Yeah, all the locations are the actual places that they skateboard. All the interiors were production designed.

How would you describe the group Skate Kitchen to the uninitiated?

It's a group of skateboarders in New York City that empowers people to skateboard. It's especially inspiring for women because it's pretty intimidating to get out in the park and actually learn. Because when you're learning you fall a lot, and it's inspiring to see these girls that just don't give a fuck and do their own thing. Also, they're not your traditional skateboarder chicks, not all of them are tomboys. They're very diverse, which I think is very cool. They're really just super open-minded. They're not mean girls at all, which to me is probably the coolest thing about them. I feel like we've kind of hit a new stage with women where women are here to support each other rather than compete with each other. There's really not a competitive aspect of their world. I mean, there is, because of the skateboarding, and every sport is to some extent. But, they're there to support each other.

Out of the group of girls, how did you decide to make Rachelle Vinberg the main character, Camille?

She and I bonded over her story from the short film. But also she's in film school, she's interested in the process of filmmaking and we've been collaborating and bonding over the story. And also they helped me keep the entire thing authentic. I was constantly asking their opinions on things. They were always on set and giving me notes.

Could you talk about the importance of social media in your film and how that mirrors what they do in real life?

Yeah, social media is something that's really big in their lives, and that's how they communicate with the skate world, and how they communicate with each other. It's a big part of bringing their world together so we definitely had to involve that. Nina Moran and Rachelle actually met from YouTube. They were commenting on each other's clips and now that they have Skate Kitchen, which has a ton of followers. So they build their online presence, and they have a really huge community of people that follow them and everything they do. So, it was an important aspect of the film to include the world of Instagram.

CAST AND CREW BIOS

RACHELLE VINBERG / Camille

Rachelle is a founding member of "The Skate Kitchen" – an all-female skate crew. She has previously modeled for Free People, Adidas, and Volcom.

She will next star in Crystal Moselle's SKATE KITCHEN which premieres at Sundance January 21st. She previously starred in Moselle's Miu Miu short THAT ONE DAY and Cary Fukunaga's Samsung commercial A PERFECT DAY.

JADEN SMITH / Devon

Jaden Smith is making his mark in Hollywood as a fashion icon, talented actor, and musician. Jaden Smith made his big screen acting debut in *The Pursuit of Happyness* in 2006. Starring opposite his father, Jaden won an MTV Movie Award in 2007 for "Breakthrough Performance" as well as universal acclaim for his nuanced and heartwarming performance. Other film credits include *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, the box office hit *The Karate Kid*, and *After Earth*.

In music, Jaden dropped his latest album "Cool Tapes Vol. 2" in November 2014 exclusively on his new app Jaden Experience. The app is the first to be released in a new platform that allows artists to distribute their music directly to their fans creating an album-like experience through a dedicated platform. His first mixtape, "The Cool Café," was released in 2012. Jaden also hosts his own program on Apple Music's Beats 1 radio show. Jaden's greatest endeavor has been starting his own clothing/lifestyle brand called MSFTSrep. The clothes range from hoodies and T-shirts to trousers and vests.

Jaden is currently the face of Louis Vuitton and recently voiced the character of "Kaz Kaan" in Netflix's anime series "Neo Yokio." He was last seen in Baz Luhrmann's music-driven Netflix period drama "The Get Down." Next up, Jaden will star in the upcoming film "Life in a Year" alongside Cara Delevingne.

Jaden is an advocate for a cleaner world and was recently honored for his leadership and action on environmental issues at the 2016 EMA Awards with the "Male EMA Futures Award." Jaden recently co-founded JUST Water, the most environmentally conscious water bottle sold commercially. The ethically sourced 100% spring water comes in a paper bottle that reduces harmful greenhouse gas emissions by up to 74% when compared to traditional PET plastic water bottles. Additionally, the water is sourced in Glens Falls in Upstate New York where a unique trade partnership with the city is revitalizing the local community, restoring industry thereby providing jobs and protecting the watershed.

Jaden is a Co-founder of recently started JUST Impact - a 501c3 focused on galvanizing direly needed early-stage funding for cleantech startups mitigating climate change. The charity works closely with and was a founding grantor of The Prime Coalition - a similar non-profit founded by Sarah Kearney (MIT'13) while she was attending The Sloan School of Business at MIT. Notably, JUST Impact and The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation made a recent Program Related Investment in Anfiro - a radically new reverse osmosis filtration membrane startup coming out of a MIT (Jaime Mateus). This breakthrough technology will significantly reduce energy load and cost in existing reverse osmosis technology making it more affordable for new groups to gain access to potable water.

CRYSTAL MOSELLE / Director/Writer

Crystal Moselle is a New York based director best known for her Sundance, Grand Jury Prize award winning documentary, *The Wolfpack*. In the past she was a producer on the critically acclaimed documentary film, *Excavating Taylor Mead*. In the last decade she has been working with short-form storytelling for publications such as Vice and The New York Times, where she created a series called "Something Big, Something Small," featuring talent such as Pharrell

Williams and Shepard Fairey. Later collaborations with Pharrell included, "Meet the Bae's," a series profiling the artists back up dancers. Moselle is also a regular contributor for "Nowness" creating original work including viral sensation, "Shapeshifting," on a pack of 14-year-old Ballerinas. Most recently she directed a documentary short series for National Geographic entitled "Our Dream of Water" about women dealing with water crisis in Haiti, Peru and Kenya.

ASLIHAN UNALDI / Screenwriter

Aslihan Unaldi is a writer and director based in Brooklyn and Istanbul. She is interested in exploring big social and political themes through intimate and psychologically complex stories of ordinary people. Aslihan's award-winning provocative short *Razan* premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival in 2006 and her documentary *Overdrive: Istanbul in the New Millennium* at the Istanbul Film Festival in 2011. Aslihan was a writer on Mete Gumurhan's *Young Wrestlers*, which won a special mention at the Berlinale in 2016, and Crystal Moselle's *SKATE KITCHEN*. Her work has been supported by the Berlinale, Thessaloniki Film Festival, Sloan Foundation, New York Women in Film and Television, the American Turkish Society, Netflix, the World Resources Institute and Film Independent. She is currently developing a narrative feature that she plans to direct in Summer 2018.

JENNIFER SILVERMAN / Screenwriter

Jen is a New York-based playwright. Her work has been produced off-Broadway by the Playwrights Realm (*CRANE STORY*), Actor's Theatre of Louisville (*THE ROOMMATE*, *Humana* 2015), and *THE MOORS* (Yale Rep). She is the recipient of a Lilly Award and the Inge Center's Otis Guernsey New Voices Award for *THE MOORS*, and the 2015 Helen Merrill Fund Award as an emerging playwright.

LIZZIE NASTRO/ Producer

Currently developing several films, Nastro is in post production on *Skate Kitchen*, a feature film written and directed by Crystal Moselle, starring Rachele Vinberg, the Skate Kitchen crew, and Jaden Smith. The film is set to premiere at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. She most recently premiered *Carmen*, a short film, written and directed by Chloe Sevigny, starring Carmen Lynch at the Venice Film Festival and is in post production on *One Cambodian Family*, a short film written and directed by Anna Martemucci, starring Emily Mortimer and executive produced by Refinery 29 and TNT. She produced *Kitty*, a short film written and directed by Chloe Sevigny that premiered at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival in the Critic's Week section. She is in post-production on the feature film *Look Away*, starring Shannon Tarbet, Aidan Turner, Benjamin Walker and Chloe Sevigny, executive produced with Locomotive Films. She produced *The Wannabe*, a film directed by Nick Sandow, starring Patricia Arquette and Vincent Piazza, which premiered at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival and was released nationwide by Momentum Pictures December 2015. Prior to *The Wannabe*, she was a producer on *Bluebird*, a film directed by Lance Edmands, starring John Slattery and Amy Morton.

Nastro previously spent nine years at IFC Films as Director of Acquisitions & Co-Productions. Some of the deals she negotiated include Lena Dunham's *Tiny Furniture*, several Joe Swanberg films, *Medicine for Melancholy*, directed by Barry Jenkins, *Myth of the American Sleepover*, directed by David Robert Mitchell. A few highlights of co-productions include Susanne Bier's academy award nominated *After the Wedding* and Olivier Assayas's *Carlos*, for which the lead actor won an Emmy. Additionally, she worked on films directed by Andrew Haigh, Joshua Marston and Antonio Campos. She has served on panels at the LA, Locarno, and SXSW film festivals. She was a 2017 Sundance Lab Creative Producer Summit invitation recipient.

IZABELLA TZENKOVA / Producer

Izabella Tzenkova is an independent film producer working with writer-directors treading between documentary and narrative features. She produced Crystal Moselle's award-winning film, *The Wolfpack* which took the 2015 Sundance Grand Jury Prize for best documentary and has teamed up with Moselle on her narrative feature debut, *SKATE KITCHEN*. Her upcoming projects include a verite documentary about the artist Christo,

directed by award winning director, Andrey Paounov and a Vice feature documentary on the artist, *Dash Snow* directed by Cheryl Dunn.

SHABIER KIRCHNER / Cinematographer

Image maker. Observer. Vulnerable.

Living in Brooklyn NY but born and raised in the Caribbean island of Antigua & Barbuda, Shabier's feature film work as Cinematographer includes; Thomas Woodrow's *We've Forgotten*, Amiel Courtin-Wilson's *Empyrean*, Matthew Porterfield's *Sollers Point*, Crystal Moselle's *SKATE KITCHEN*, Harry Wootliff's *Only You* and served as 2nd Unit Director of photography on Benh Zeitlin's *Wendy*.

ASKA MATSUMIYA / Composer

ASKA is classically trained pianist and an LA based musician and composer who has been creating work for the past 13 years. As a key figure in the Los Angeles music scene, she has collaborated with the likes of Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Nick Zinner (YeahYeahYeahs), Alex Ebert (Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros) and Money Mark. As a performing artist she has opened up for Maroon 5, Cat Power, Daedelus, AA Bondy, Warpaint, and others.

In 2010, one of the songs from her first EP was featured as the theme song for the Spike Jonze short film "I'm Here" and won the award for Best Original Music at the AICP Awards. This was the turning point for her career as she realized that scoring films was her true passion.

ASKA and filmmaker Crystal Moselle started collaborating on fashion films and short films for *NOWNESS* in 2010, and later contributed to Moselle's Sundance award winning film "The Wolfpack," which received the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary in 2015. Later, she also composed music for "BLANKA", a feature length film that received the Sorriso Diverso Award and the Lanterna Magica Award at the Venice Film Festival. Recently, she worked on the 12th installment of Miu Miu's Women's Tales, the short film "That One Day" directed by Moselle, as well as her latest feature film "Skate Kitchen" which will premiere at Sundance 2018, plus a new TV series for *Viceland* coming out in the Fall.

ASKA knew from a young age that she was destined to make a life in music. Many years later, she still believes that it's the purest form of expression, aside from love. While words have geographical limitations, nothing can limit music's power to transform and communicate.

JULIA NOTTINGHAM / Producer

Julia's credits include *The Possibilities Are Endless* (SXSW 2014), *All These Sleepless Nights* (Sundance 2016), *One More Time With Feeling* (Venice 2016), *Trophy* (Sundance 2017), *Kingdom of Us* (London 2017) and *Skate Kitchen* (Sundance 2018). Currently she is in post production on an untitled documentary film about the musician D'Angelo and *XY CHELSEA* a documentary on the transgendered whistleblower Chelsea Manning. She is developing director duo Ed Lovelace and James Hall's first narrative project with support from the British Film Institute.

RODRIGO TEIXEIRA / Producer

Rodrigo Teixeira is one of Brazil's top movie producers, having founded RT Features in 2005. RT Features is an innovative production company that focuses on developing, producing and financing high quality content ranging from original projects to acquisitions, for both film and television. The company has had a banner year in 2017 with two of the most anticipated films of the year premiering to critical acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival: Luca Guadagnino's *Call Me by Your Name* starring Armie Hammer, which Sony Pictures Classics released, and Jeremy Jasper's *Patti Cake\$*, which Fox Searchlight released.

Teixeira developed *Ad Astra* with director James Gray and produced the sci-fi thriller starring

Brad Pitt. He also produced Crystal Moselle's feature debut about the female skateboarding scene in NYC, which stars Jaden Smith and is producing Olivier Assayas' next film, *Wasp Network*. Teixeira won an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature for Robert Eggers' *The Witch*, which was distributed by A24 in 2015.

Since launching RT Features, Teixeira has produced, co-produced and financed a remarkable slate of feature films including: Ira Sachs' critically acclaimed *Love is Strange* for Sony Pictures Classics and *Little Men*; James Schamus' *Indignation*; Noah Baumbach's *Frances Ha* and *Mistress America* for Fox Searchlight; Kelly Reichardt's *Night Moves*; and Gaspar Noé's *Love*. Other feature projects include Teddy Williams' lauded *The Human Surge*; Dominga Sotomayor's *Late to Die Young*; and Karim Aïnouz's *The Invisible Life of Euridice Gusmao*. TV credits include "The Hypnotist" for HBO Latin America.

Dedicated to working with talented young directors since its inception, Teixeira formed a joint venture with Martin Scorsese's *Sikelia Productions* which aims to produce films from emerging filmmakers worldwide. Their first project, Jonas Carpignano's *A Ciambra*, premiered in Directors' Fortnight at the 2017 Cannes International Film Festival and was selected as Italy's entry to the Academy Awards.

Teixeira started his career in the financial market, followed by a shift into development and finance for up-and-coming authors in Brazil, where he found his passion for development of the written word.

Teixeira currently resides in São Paulo, Brazil.

ABOUT BOW AND ARROW ENTERTAINMENT

Bow and Arrow Entertainment was founded in 2014 by Matthew Perniciaro and Michael Sherman to create a focus on artist driven narrative and documentary motion pictures. Recent films include Crystal Moselle's *SKATE KITCHEN* and Josephine Decker's *Madeline's Madeline* premiering in Sundance 2018 and Sundance 2017 entries Jeff Baena's *The Little Hours*, Alex Ross Perry's *Golden Exits* and Dustin Guy Defa's *Person To Person*. The company will next produce an adaptation of Richard Wright's famed novel "Native Son", adapted by Suzan-Lori Parks and to be directed by Rashid Johnson.

ABOUT RT FEATURES

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