

ITVfest / PopConLA
- FILMMAKER INTERVIEWS

**A Q&A with Florencia Manovil
from the Drama
“Dyke Central pilot”**

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*So, Florencia, your background, where are you from and what motivated you to do a Drama?:*

I'm an Argentine filmmaker based in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm queer, and often find myself lamenting the meager offerings of queer media, and the lack of diversity *in* queer media. The idea of creating a dyke TV show that more closely represents our experiences of queer community in Oakland and the Bay Area at large - as opposed to the hyper-feminized, mostly white representations of L.A. lesbians - came up regularly in conversations with friends. But it wasn't until Arnetta Smith tried to convince me to co-create a dyke series with her that I gave it proper thought, and decided to do it.

*And your role with in “Dyke Central pilot” ?*

I co-created and co-wrote it with Arnetta Smith, who is new to the film/entertainment world. I also was the director and main producer of the pilot.

***How would you best describe your Drama?***

*Dyke Central* follows the funny, sexy, drama-filled twists and turns of a group of queer friends in Oakland, California - the ultimate dyke mecca.

***What was the best moment, for you in creating “Dyke Central pilot”?***

I think the best moment so far was the live premiere at the Grand Lake Theatre, in Oakland. 500 people attended the red-carpet event, which was hosted by the hilarious D'Lo, a well-known queer comedian, and featured musical performances and some other entertainment before the screening of the pilot. The audience was incredibly diverse, in every way (ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, etc), which affirmed our belief that many different kinds of people want to see this type of show. And the pilot received a standing ovation... It was just very fulfilling to see people be so warm and appreciative of what we're trying to do. It definitely refueled us to do the hard work of getting funding to produce the rest of Season 1.

***And the worst moment?***

I don't know that I can name a worst moment! But, there are always things that one has to compromise on during production. Especially when working with a very limited budget that allows no room for reshoots or too many extra elements. And those moments of compromise or of letting go of what one had envisioned can be very difficult... but, working with what we have is a big part of the creative process and it gives birth to new things, so it's not necessarily a negative thing.

***If you had one message to get across to the WORLD with “Dyke Central pilot”, what would that message be?***

Being queer is a lot of fun! (Haha). All joking aside - the message would be that queer people struggle with all the same human struggles that straight people do. In many ways, the life of a queer person is very much like other people's lives.

And yet, because our community has had to struggle for such a long time to carve our place in the world, there is a lot of creativity, joy and celebration in our world. And that's also something I want people to see.

***Everyone that enters a Festival wants to win an Award, what about your project makes it stand out?***

*Dyke Central* is bold. We are going where no one has gone before with a high-production value independent series: portraying a vast array of gender expressions, ethnicities, sexual orientations and personalities with a focus on humanizing them, as opposed to exploiting them for their "otherness". We want as honest a depiction of queer people's lives as possible - showing the beauty, the pain, the hilarity, the struggles, the sex, the addictions, the drama, the love. We believe audiences from all walks can connect with the characters and the stories and get hooked on the show.

***What is next for you?***

Hopefully, shooting the rest of *Dyke Central* Season 1 in the near future! I also have my second feature (a drama) in development, and hope to go into production for that sometime soon. And I'm starting to write two other features as well.

***Any last words or something I forgotten to ask you?***

I think a part of me can get very critical of my work, and there are certainly things I wish we'd been able to do differently with the pilot, but simply couldn't because we were working with such a tiny budget. I can't wait to get more adequate funding for the rest of the season, because we have very juicy plots and sexy new characters to bring to the screen that we know people will really get into!

***What are the credits for Dyke Central pilot?***

**Cast:**

Tai Rockett, Giovannie Espiritu, Comika Beaudry, Carla Pauli, Mercedes Gibson, Andre Amador Le Blanc

**Produced by:**

Florencia Manóvil

**Creators/Directors:**

Created by Florencia Manóvil and Arnetta Smith  
Directed by Florencia Manóvil

**Cinematography:**

Kristina Willemse

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*** *Where and When is "Dyke Central pilot"?*

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/DykeCentral

Web Site: <http://www.mynahfilms.com/dykecentral>

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2265269/>