



## **Erica Orofino, Filmmaker**

“The friendships I made at PCHS have lasted a lifetime and my teachers made a lasting impression on me. During my high-school years, my strengths were English and creative writing and my teachers always recognized my skills. They really encouraged me to be myself and to explore my creativity.

I'm grateful for the lasting friendships I made and for the support I received at PCHS. The hallways were dark (because there were no windows in them) but the memories shine bright like the fluorescent cafeteria lights! Thank you PCHS.”

Erica is an award-winning filmmaker based in Toronto, ON. Her work focuses on the female perspective, sexuality, complex familial relationships and mental illness. Erica's latest dramatic short *She Keeps Me* won Best Canadian Short at the 2022 Pendants film festival in Toronto.

*She Keeps Me* focuses on the relationship between two sisters navigating one's mental illness. Her latest comedy short, titled *Hanna Has H\*rpes* is currently in post-production and explores (and makes fun of) the misconceptions and stigma surrounding sexually transmitted infections.

Her first short *Fantome* (2017), wowed audiences at genre film fests including the Bloody Mary Film Festival (2018) and the Women in Horror Film Festival (2017).

*Fantome* was also developed as a feature-length screenplay which landed in the top 15 projects nationwide in Cineplex's Cinecoup film accelerator program. Her first comedic short film *Tampon* (2019) won the Audience Choice Award at the Vancouver Short Film fest, and was nominated for Best Comedy at the Austin After Dark Film Festival. She was nominated for Best Writing at the Women In Horror Film Festival (2020) for her script, *A Noise That Carries* (2019).

As a filmmaker, Erica is passionate about stories by underrepresented voices, and her work is fueled by the desire to bring people together to make social change.