

GRAB YOUR DREAMS BY THE THROAT

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a pink baseball cap and a blue jacket with red stripes on the sleeves, is sitting on a blue chair. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side. The background consists of vertical blue and yellow stripes.

Who's Annie

A COMEDY SERIES BY SOPHIA PEER

STARRING AND ABOUT ANNIE PISAPIA

LOGLINE: After jail-time, 12-step programs and five marriages, Annie begins her acting career in her mid-fifties with the help of a young director she met at a Burger King. In this show within a show, Annie tackles both her gigs as an actor and the role of herself in her own life story.

A woman named Annie, wearing a pink cap, a dark blue jacket over a light pink shirt, and dark blue track pants with a red stripe, stands in the center of a gymnasium with her arms outstretched. She is surrounded by three young girls in athletic wear. The background features a wall with alternating yellow and blue vertical stripes and a basketball hoop. A large orange starburst graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image.

WATCH
THE
TRAILER

SYNOPSIS

Who's Annie? is a 30-minute scripted comedy both starring and about Annie Pisapia, a New Yorker in her fifties who's out of prison now, and fiercely determined to become a famous actor. It's a show about the making of a show based on Annie's real life. This is Annie's second (or sixth?) chance after surviving family abuse, domestic violence, and drug addiction. After more than 20 years sober, Annie is now working almost full-time as a professional extra.

Annie plays herself in the series- a middle aged woman who is struggling to get acting roles, accepting any part she can get. When Annie meets a young director, Sophia, at a Burger King, their respective goals combine into the making of this series. Sophia's scripts are inspired by real life events, but she also creates fictional characters giving Annie all the roles she could ever want, and even some that she doesn't. The series portrays dramatized versions of their actual journey, both in the production of this series and off set. Annie continues to accept acting gigs outside of the show, landing hapless roles like an inmate, the dead body in a CSI type-show, and a senior in a life insurance ad. Through these varied scenes, the series explores the limits of the on camera roles available for women.

Sophia is broke, living with her grandparents and plotting nefarious strategies to fund the pilot. They are both counting on this series to make all their dreams come true. In this meta show-within-a-show, Annie is always on a set that is being masterminded by Sophia, often sparring with the very director who put her there. Sophia takes things to the next level and hires an actor named Kim who is younger, naive and cloyingly desperate, to play her in this series. These three women from different generations and backgrounds try to get their piece of the pie via the creation of this series. Along the way, there's theft, money laundering, injuries, betrayals, and misunderstandings.

Annie's story and the telling of it is the main plot, but it's also a comedy about a trio of misfits, sometimes odious, sometimes audacious, but ultimately lovable and relatable in their frenzied attempts, and the mistakes they make as a result of their single-minded goal of making a TV show. The series follows Annie (A plot), Sophia (B plot) and Kim (C plot) as they try to create a show, barely scraping by at every turn.

SERIES SETTING & FORMAT

In this show-within-a-show, Sophia Peer directs Annie, the rarely seen middle-aged female ex-con protagonist, in a wide variety of scenes, some based on her real life, both past and present and some fictional. The fictive scenes harmonize with her real stories. Peer plays a version of herself as she directs an actor who is playing the role of Sophia, bringing this show to a meta-meta level. Annie's limited experience creates challenges for both her and the director to overcome. She takes on roles that are both difficult and ill-suited for her, and as a result, Annie fluctuates between gratitude and frustration towards the director.

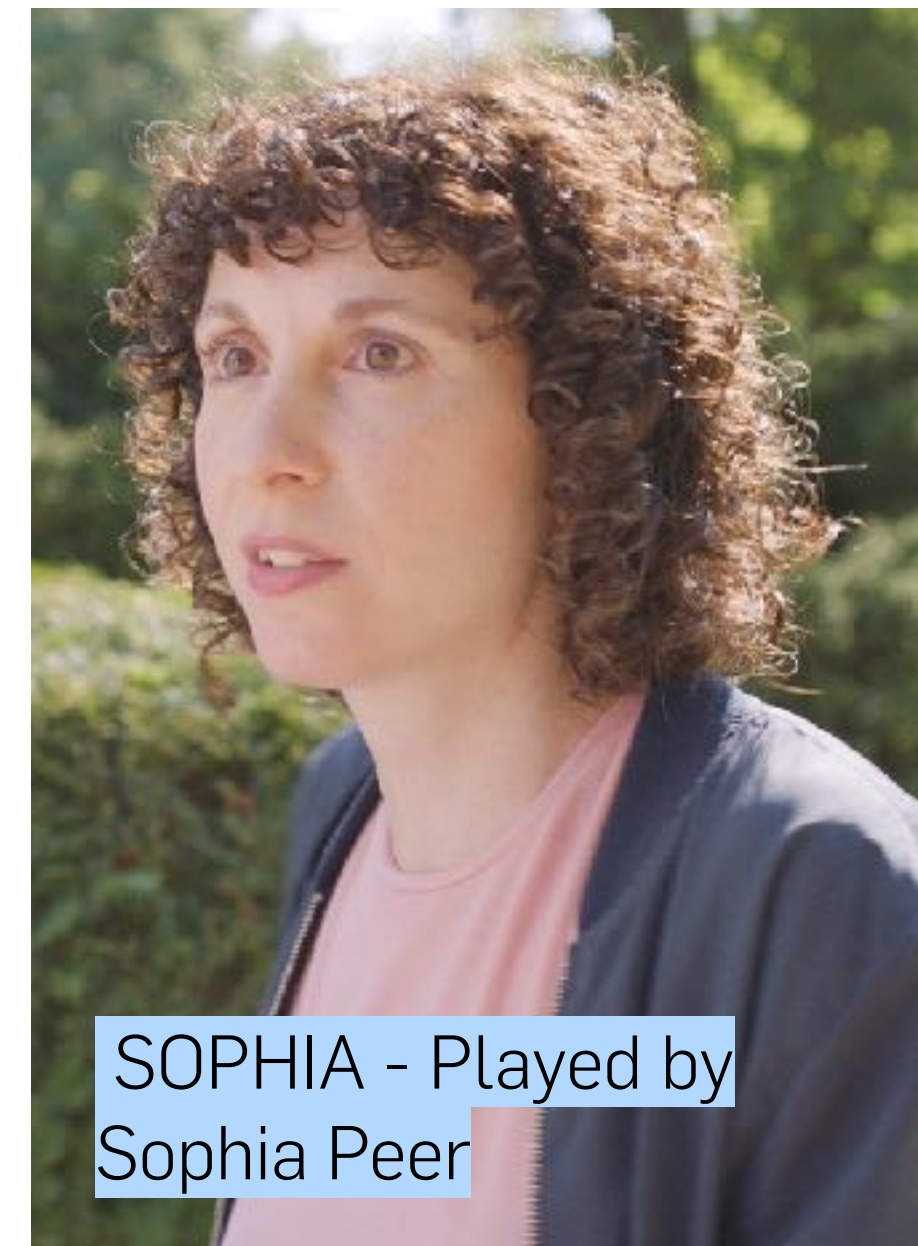
Annie's often says she's "climbed out of the NYC sewer" and that there's "no place to go but up." She spent her whole life hustling in this city and ***Who's Annie?*** is equal parts love letter and scathing review of New York. The series takes a deep dive into Annie's past, Annie's present which is filled with a wide variety of film and TV shoots, visits with her mother on Long Island, and her relationship with her fifth husband, Lenny, and her Pomeranian Jocco Casanova.

Sophia moves in with her grandparents in Flushing, Queens, where she tries to get back on her feet after taking a lot of career risks. Her grandmother obviously supports her as Sophia does things like use their basement as an Airbnb. Sophia finds ways to get access to wild shoot locations for the series and the fictional scenes take place all around the world, but we are always on a set that exists in New York.

The men in these women's lives are seen and not heard, never getting lines, existing as sounding boards. For example, Lenny, Annie's fifth husband, is only shown from behind, revealing only his beefy frame and shaved head. This world is run by women who are doing everything and anything they can to fight against the odds and get the opportunity to represent themselves in a medium that has never represented them.



PRIMARY CHARACTERS



Sophia, the creator and director of the series, is masterminding this entire operation. She's a petite 30-something with curls, but she's a force of nature as she fights to level up in her career. Sophia has a "by any means necessary" approach to all her life goals, often lying, manipulating or taking shortcuts that get her into trouble. Her purpose is consistent, but her methods are unpredictable.



Kim, also known as "Fake Sophia", is a 20-something, irritatingly optimistic, aspiring actor whom Sophia cast to play the role of Sophia in the on-set scenes. We're just getting to know Kim in the pilot but she becomes a much larger part of the show as the series progresses. Kim is a resilient, risk-taker with high hopes and blind faith which often leads to her getting taken advantage of or mocked. She wants nothing more than to perform and be loved.

Annie, the star of this story, is like a real-life Joe Pesci character- a total wild card, mildly threatening and hilarious. She's in her 50s, out of prison, and after 20+ years drug-free, her new addiction is acting. Annie has a great deal of energy, optimism and straight-up chutzpah and each scene will serve as a test of just how much that counts when trying to achieve a goal, while also revealing all the ways in which passion and drive come with some serious blind spots.

Annie is perpetually hitting up against obstacles, often creating them herself. She is a round character, learning and changing with each conflict, but the trauma from what she refers to as her "prior life" has left her with permanent trust issues.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I met Annie at a Burger King in Queens, close to where I grew up and where she currently lives. Annie told me that she had just started her career as an actor several months prior. She alluded to having a difficult past and wanted to make up for lost time by charging forward full force to achieve her dream of being an actor. I found Annie's confidence and tenacity inspiring. I imagined all the characters Annie could play; the idea of her in the role of herself in her own life story was the most intriguing.

Since childhood I've been making short videos that are scripted but come from some version of reality. I'd have my immigrant parents play American sitcom characters that accentuated the divide between them and the parents on TV. *Who's Annie?* is a continuation and escalation of a process I began before having an understanding of what was driving my inclinations.

Annie will be representing all different kinds of women including herself, challenging traditional roles because this time, a hard-as-nails woman in her 50s is portraying them. Placing Annie in these roles will spotlight the ridiculousness of societies expectations, while also allowing Annie and I to break down the discriminatory barriers we've been battling as two women from different generations who've been handed some raw deals.



SELECT REVIEWS

Reel News Daily

“A farcical meta delight... This “series within a series” is wildly entertaining and wholly bizarre.”
“It’s a head-scratching role, and I could not look away.”
“Wide-eyed and perfectly cast, Dobrushin appears both afraid and at home in coordinated chaos. I adored her.”
“...these three women exquisitely complement one another.”
“It is eye candy that never gets boring. It is pure silliness, and I’m dying for more. It’s Comedy Central meets Mad TV. There is a lot of meat on the bone for series development”
“Annie Pisapia owns the screen, as her comic timing is something to behold. Her rough exterior feels part false flag, part true identity. She is so convincing it is genuinely tough to discern between Annie’s real life and the script.”

Overly Honest Reviews

“A refreshing and entertaining look into the world of acting and the entertainment industry... masterfully crafted by its creator and director, Sophia Peer”
“Annie is instantly relatable, with a determined spirit and an optimistic outlook. Her charismatic presence and unwavering resilience are both inspiring...the relationship between Annie and Sophia, who bring the show to life.”
“WHO’S ANNIE? is a must-see for those who appreciate unique and character-driven comedies... [it] boasts impressive writing, acting, and direction, although it may suffer from a slightly shortened runtime... my only real knock was that I wanted more.”

Film Snob Reviews

“It’s funny, charming, and spunky thanks to its brilliant and magnetic lead Annie, playing herself with perfect comedic timing and expression.”
“I quite enjoyed the Big Little Lies reference and was laughing all the way through it”
“A fun invitation to the strange, endearing aura of actress Annie Pisapia, this pilot Who’s Annie? offers a lot of comedy potential as it keeps you chuckling and laughing throughout.”

Bain’s Film Reviews

“This is her story told in an incredibly unique way”
“It’s hilarious what Writer-Director Sophie Peer is able to create, because it’s intentionally redundant—but it’s simply spectacular that she’s been able to develop a story about the larger-than-life actor that no one has heard of.”
“What could have become a jumbled mess remains accessible throughout its entirety, and I imagine, considering all of the content present in this thirty-minute pilot, that was a difficult task.”

Unseen Films

“Pisapia is fantastic. This could be a star making performance. She is a real person who never seems like she is acting. She is fully invested in everything that she is doing. I was enraptured. Watching the show all I could think was what I was going to see her in next and when will the awards roll in. I’m serious. She is that good.”
“Definitely worth a look”
“Annie Pisapia is destined for greatness.”

Beyond Chron

“The director/writer/star of Who’s Annie? certainly deserves props for having such creatively ambitious goals.”

Gay City News

“Peer shows a gift for broad pastiche”

SLUG Magazine

“a delightful comedy with characters that you can’t help but root for, both onscreen and off.”

SELECT FILM FESTIVALS



SEASON ONE EPISODES

1 Somebody Dies

After jail-time, 12-step programs, and five marriages, Annie begins her acting career in her mid-50s with the help of a young director she meets at a Burger King. Annie finds herself in the hapless role of a dead body.

2 Crimes

Sophia deals with the repercussions after stealing money from her trust-funded ex, in order to pay for the pilot. Haunted by memories of her past arrests, Annie unwittingly helps Sophia navigate the consequences of her check fraud.

3 Money

The show must go on, but now that the production has run out of money, Annie is forced to take on unglamorous and degrading extra roles. Similarly, in an act of desperation, Sophia directs a Thanksgiving-themed nail-art video, while continuing to scheme to fund the pilot.

4 Friendship

Annie and Sophia bond over their shared hatred for Kim. Kim struggles to find friends on set and in an attempt to appear cool she starts to wear a backwards cap and invites avant-garde musician, John Zorn, to set.

5 Betrayal

Sophia gets a new (used) car and Annie thinks she bought it with secret money she is earning from the production. In retaliation to the imagined deception, Annie takes on a paid job to star in a life insurance commercial, ruining a full shoot day for *Who's Annie?*.



6 Home Sweet Home

While picking up a cake for her mother's 90th birthday, Annie gets caught stealing a peanut chew, making her late for the party. Meanwhile, Sophia turns a cot in her grandparents basement into a lucrative vacation rental, hosting unsuspecting guests from the Czech Republic.

7 True Story

A storm hits a shoot location trapping the cast and crew in a remote Pennsylvania cabin. Annie shares engaging personal stories and Kim loses a front tooth while reenacting a racy scene from *Moulin Rouge*.

8 Power

After regaling the cast and crew in the cabin with stories from her past, Annie writes her own script, threatening to quit the show unless it gets made. Sophia reluctantly complies, resulting in a meandering hodgepodge of disjointed snapshots of Annie's life.

9 Desperate To Diva

With newfound fame from her starring role in a life insurance commercial, Annie becomes increasingly demanding and unavailable, causing Kim to quit and Sophia to question the entire production.

THROUGHOUT

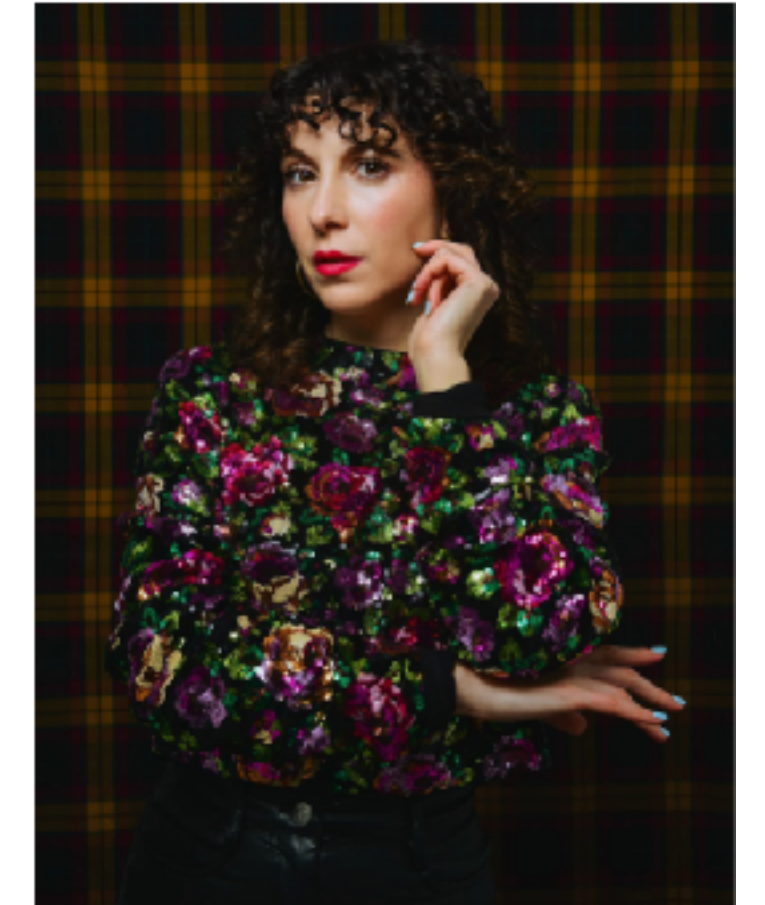
Annie will tell us stories about her life, in her own words, that are in theme with the episode. Her hardships will be shared as if she's already well-established and being interviewed on camera, referencing *Oprah's Master Class*.



BIOS

Sophia Peer - Creator/Co-Writer/Director

Sophia Peer (she/her) is an award-winning filmmaker, born and raised in Flushing, Queens where she began her career as a child, directing her parents in short films. She experiments with conventions and creates visual content that effortlessly balances artistic austerity with meme-worthy humor. The pilot episode of WHO'S ANNIE?, a comedy series Sophia is creating, co-writing, and directing, premiered at Slamdance 2023, has been having a stellar festival run, with a UK premiere at Raindance. Sophia was awarded Best Director at Seriesfest. The Gotham, Shore Scripts, and Screencraft have recognized and supported her screenwriting. Her extensive portfolio of music videos includes artists such as Paramore, Julien Baker, and The National. Sophia's work has been featured at the Whitney Museum of Art, Hauser & Wirth, Abrons Art Center, Anthology Film Archives, The Queens Museum, and MoMA. Sophia is currently developing several new projects, including a surreal cooking show, her first feature film, and a doc/scripted hybrid series.



Ryan Cunningham - Executive Producer

Ryan (she/her) is a queer writer/director and Emmy and Peabody award-winning producer. She's EP/Director on the docuseries EXPECTING AMY (HBO Max) about Amy Schumer's pregnancy, and the standup specials ILANA GLAZER: THE PLANET IS BURNING (Amazon), and CLUB CUMMING PRESENTS A QUEER COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA! (Showtime), hosted by Alan Cumming. Ryan recently launched the development company Running Woman with the goal of telling stories that haven't been heard before. She represented the TV projects THE FUGITIVE GAME (2018), TRANSMANIA (2019) and MARY (2020) in The Gotham Project Forum. Ryan is very passionate about promoting women's issues, LGBTQ+ stories, and neurodiversity in her work. Select TV producer credits include BROAD CITY and INSIDE AMY SCHUMER (Comedy Central), SEARCH PARTY and THE LAST O.G. (TBS); LOUIE (FX); STRANGERS (Facebook); THE SHIVERING TRUTH (Adult Swim); HORACE AND PETE (Hulu); THE ELECTRIC COMPANY (PBS), as well as several prominent stand-up specials for Netflix and HBO, including Executive Producing AMY SCHUMER GROWING for Netflix.



BIOS

Annie Pisapia - Star

Annie (she/her) is an award winning actor born and raised in Queens. She can be spotted in many of the big series you've seen for the past six years playing roles such as Inmate, Police Officer, Drug Addict, Bartender and Janitor. Annie was the recurring character "Smoking Woman" in HIGH FIDELITY, scene partners with Bobby Cannavale in THE WATCHER, and held the role of "Agitated Woman" on NEW AMSTERDAM. Other shows include INVENTING ANNA, BETTY, MANIFEST, BILLIONS, BLUE BLOODS, ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK, CRASHING and THE OA. Annie's swagger, charm, and New York attitude make her very hard to miss, even when she's playing a background role. There are more than ten recent projects in which Annie plays a major role including "Senior Biker Chic" in AWKWAFINA IS NORA FROM QUEENS, "Sister Joseph" in Jennifer Esposito's directorial debut FRESH KILLS, "Cathy" in the Netflix A24 comedy series SURVIVAL OF THE THICKEST, and "Florence" in the HULU body horror film, APPENDAGE.



Sofia Dobrushin - Co-Star

Sofia (she/they) is Bicoastal, Biracial and Bisexual. They love to be at the intersection of many things and we see that reflected in their craft as an actor, director, comedian and musician. Some of Sofia's credits include HBO's HIGH MAINTENANCE where she spills milk, Apple TV's WECRASHED where she yells at Anne Hathaway, and Mary Dauterman's BOOGER where she dies. Sofia recently completed an Ars Nova Residency CAMP (Comedy Artist Makers Program) and is excited to make her feature film debut in the MEAN GIRLS MUSICAL coming this January.





CONTACT

SOPHIA PEER

Creator, Co-Writer &
Director

917-847-7291

sophiapeer@gmail.com

sophiapeer.com