

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Media Release 2 November 2020**

**Lesflicks is proud to release *Dancing Alone* and *Take Me Back*, two intensely beautiful and thrillingly dramatic short films, available to watch from 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Lesflicks continues to dedicate itself to bringing you the best fresh new lesbian and bisexual content on the market with the upcoming release of *Dancing Alone* and *Take Me Back* on 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 respectively, thoroughly establishing itself as the go-to on demand streaming platform for queer womxn.

### **ABOUT DANCING ALONE**

Jennifer (Jane Marlow), a woman struggling to overcome the loss of her partner, Tina (Karen Lawman), has shut herself in her home and become fixated on completing the Observer cryptic crossword. It was a part of Tina's weekly routine and now completing the crossword has become Jennifer's way of staying close to her partner and diverting her mind away from her loss. When Jennifer finally completes the grid, it's a breakthrough moment but to be in the running to win the prize, Jennifer needs to get her entry in the post by the end of the day. Hamstrung by her bereavement-induced agoraphobia and her need to complete this final homage to Tina, will Jennifer succeed in finally leaving her house and confronting her loss?

*Dancing Alone* is the directorial debut of Jane Marlow, an actress and experienced TV screenwriter. Her ambition to direct led her to pursue a creative collaboration with her old friend, Nick Swannell, whose own first short feature, *Eating Jesus*, had been released a year prior, in 2016. A minimalistic production with a small cast and budget, *Dancing Alone* explores Marlow's own experiences of grief and loss as well as themes of claustrophobia, resulting in a deeply personal and honest tale which pulses with emotion and from start to finish. *Dancing Alone* received praised from critics and award bodies, as Marlow was recognised by the Discover Film Awards where the film won 'Best British Drama' and Marlow won 'Best Actress' for her performance as Jennifer.

Marlow said: "Our story explores how changing the way we think can change the way we feel and the idea that it can be something mundane that unlocks that process. We chose to put Jennifer, a gay woman and mother, at the centre of this narrative because it was important for us to tell a story about a gay woman in which her sexuality is not her defining feature. Ultimately, we set out to make a film about the power of love and the moment when memories of the past become inspiring rather than inhibiting. The themes of isolation and loss are perhaps even more resonant today as we cope with life during a pandemic."

### **ABOUT TAKE ME BACK**

Take Me Back is an intense drama following Sophie (Jane Marlow) who undergoes hypnosis in an attempt to recall the identity of the person who mugged her. However, it quickly becomes apparent that the therapy becomes an opportunity for her to re-examine her struggling relationship with her girlfriend, Vanessa (Karen Lawman). As Sophie finds herself engulfed in memories of Vanessa, their relationship, and their love, the nefarious mugger rampages through her memories, resulting in chilling consequences.

Made in 2018, Take Me Back builds on Marlow and Swannell's prior collaboration with Dancing Alone the year before. By bringing on board Virginia Orr as producer, the team were able to up the ambition and scale of their storytelling. Centred around the fear of hypnosis and the potential capacity for memory manipulation, Take Me Back features a complex cinematographic palette, as colour saturation and creative editing drive home the chilling vision of the filmmakers. The result in an aesthetically dramatic and visually suspenseful film which has won awards for editing and cinematography.

The partnership between Marlow and Orr was so successful, they went on to form Donut Films in 2020 having produced TV pilot, They Them Us. Virginia Orr said: "Donut Films' vision is to create content that challenges stereotypes and cultural constructs around gender, identity and sexuality. By focussing on voices that disrupt the status quo and upholding their integrity in a mainstream environment we create unique stories that touch hearts and change minds. We are thrilled that our two award-winning short films will now be available to view on Lesflicks VOD." Naomi Bennett, Founder of Lesflicks said: "When I came across Donut Films I was immediately excited; as the only subscription platform in Europe focused on lesbian & bisexual stories specifically, I am always looking for local talent to accompany the vast selection of American content. Having a catalogue that is as global and diverse as our audience is important to us. Donut Films are creating excellent, much-needed representation of both British and mature queer women and I'm delighted to give these films a home on Lesflicks VOD."

Dancing Alone and Take Me Back will be the first of Donut Films projects to be featured on Lesflicks, and we have a great feeling that they will be the first of many! When released, these dramatic short films will be among a vast collection of queer womxn's films which can be found on the Lesflicks VOD platform. Since its creation in 2019, the rapidly growing Lesflicks VOD has been ranked within the top 5 LGBT SVOD platforms in regard to the amount of lesbian and bisexual content available to rent, stream, and watch online across the globe. With each addition to the platform Lesflicks continues to strive toward increasing the knowledge of, and access to, wlw content worldwide.

Both Dancing Alone and Take Me Back will be available on subscription from Friday 6 November and Friday 13 November 2020 respectively.

Trailers:

Dancing Alone [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX1p4\\_qJOMs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX1p4_qJOMs)

Take Me Back

Link to films:

Dancing Alone <https://lesflicksvod.vhx.tv/dancing-alone>

Take Me Back <https://lesflicksvod.vhx.tv/take-me-back>

*[links to films will go live on the release date]*

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Please contact Naomi for any images or further information. We can provide film screeners, and access to filmmakers and cast for interviews and images.

### **ABOUT LESFLICKS**

Lesflicks is both a film enthusiast and film events company that offers a global video-on-demand (VOD) service showcasing and promoting an array of content created by lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women, for LBQ women. Lesflicks exists to increase the knowledge of, and access to, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (LBTQ+) content; the overarching mission being to create a diverse and international community of LBTQ+ film fans and content creators via a single platform. In addition to connecting LBTQ+ users to the films they want to see, Lesflicks also works with film distributors and cinemas to share existing and future LBTQ+ content with its intended audience.

Lesflicks has identified an issue with the ease of access to LBTQ+ video content, related resources, and community spaces. For example, whilst a large amount of content exists, many queer women aren't aware of its existence and therefore it never reaches its intended audience. To date, there is no other platform that provides an offering which encapsulates the three elements as mentioned above: content, resources, and community. Furthermore, there is no clear market participant working with content distributors and cinemas to bring LBTQ+ content to the intended audience, which subsequently results in a lack of investment in future films. In light of these issues Lesflicks is creating, developing, and building the following items:

Website: <https://www.lesflicks.com>

VOD Platform: <https://lesflicksvod.vhx.tv>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lesflicks>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/lesflicks>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/lesflicks>

Our VOD platform is growing by the day, with more films being added each week and more subscribers joining all the time. Since our launch in September 2019, we have added 18 feature films, 55 short films and 7 web series with more content lined up. We have significantly fast tracked our new content to meet the increased demand during Covid-19.

### **About Donut Films**

Donut Films' was established by Virginia Orr and Jane Marlow in March 2020 and aims to expand on our success in short film by moving into continuing short-form drama as well as features. They have come from different but complimentary backgrounds in the creative industries, and have a vision is to create content that challenges stereotypes and cultural constructs around gender, identity and sexuality.

By focussing on voices that disrupt the status quo and upholding their integrity in a mainstream environment we create unique stories that touch hearts and change minds. We believe that an inclusive, collaborative process is the most creative.