



SHAFTESBURY AND HOLLYWOOD SUITE ANNOUNCE FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY *QUEERING THE SCRIPT*

A sneak peek will be shown at SXSW panel discussing the power of queer superfans

Shaftesbury hosts Canada House Official Launch Party at SXSW with KCP Loft & Telefilm

TORONTO, March 7, 2019 – [Shaftesbury](#) and [Hollywood Suite](#) today announced the completion of production of the upcoming feature length documentary *QUEERING THE SCRIPT*, directed by Gabrielle Zilkha (*Stop Calling Me Honey Bunny*). The film gives queer fandom a voice in the conversation about LGBTQ+ representation while examining the rising power of the fans and audience shaping representation on TV and movies, the relationship between fandom and activism, and what lies ahead for visibility and inclusiveness.

Shaftesbury also announced that SXSW attendees will get a sneak peek of the documentary during the “Queering the Script” panel presented by Shaftesbury, Wattpad, and Telefilm this Friday. Taking place on International Women’s Day at SXSW, the panel will host an inspired conversation on the power of queer fandom.

QUEERING THE SCRIPT looks at the queer superfan, and their relationship to the creators that make their favourite TV idols, examining how a fan fiction community developed into an organized audience lobbying content creators for better and more authentic, positive representation. The documentary interviews talent, showrunners, and producers including Lucy Lawless (*Xena: Warrior Princess*), Stephanie Beatriz (*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*), Gloria Calderón Kellett & Mike Royce (co-showrunners of Netflix’s *One Day at a Time*), Ilene Chaiken (creator of *The L Word*), Tanya Saracho (*VIDA* showrunner), and many more, as well as spotlighting the diehard fans who power these shows to renewal – and find a community in.

“We’re proud to be partnering with Hollywood Suite on such an important film that marks a shift in the industry towards supporting women of colour, transgender and non-binary characters,” said **Christina Jennings, Executive Producer, *QUEERING THE SCRIPT* / Chairman & CEO, Shaftesbury.** “Shaftesbury continues to champion diversity both on screen and behind the camera and we’re excited for audiences to immerse themselves in the story.”

“Hollywood Suite’s audience is interested not only in story-telling, but the story behind the story” says **David Kines, President, Hollywood Suite.** “We are thrilled to be shining a light on the diverse voices that contribute to these rich visual narratives.”

QUEERING THE SCRIPT is executive produced by Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, and Jay Bennett, produced by Stephanie Ouaknine, and directed by Gabrielle Zilkha, and produced in association with Canada Media Fund and Hollywood Suite.

Moderated by *The Mary Sue*'s Princess Weekes, the "Queering the Script" panel takes place at SXSW on Friday, March 8 and is presented by Shaftesbury, Wattpad, and Telefilm. Panelists include Shaftesbury's Kaaren Whitney-Vernon and Stephanie Ouaknine, Wattpad's Chris Stefanyk, and **QUEERING THE SCRIPT** director Gabrielle Zilkha. Shaftesbury will also host the opening night of Telefilm's Canada House at SXSW on Sunday, March 10.

About the "Queering the Script" panel, presented by Shaftesbury, Wattpad, and Telefilm Canada:
<https://schedule.sxsw.com/2019/events/OE39343>

When: Friday, March 8, 2019, 5:10pm-5:30pm

Where: Palm Door on Sixth, 508 E 6th St., Austin, TX

Moderated by Princess Weekes (Editor/Contributor, *The Mary Sue*, *Bust Magazine*)

Panelists: Kaaren Whitney-Vernon (SVP Branded Entertainment, Shaftesbury), Chris Stefanyk (Head of Brand Partnerships, Wattpad), Stephanie Ouaknine (Producer/Development Executive, Shaftesbury), and Gabrielle Zilkha (Director, *Queering the Script*).

For more information on the Canada House Official Launch Party, hosted by Shaftesbury, KCP Loft, and Telefilm:

<https://schedule.sxsw.com/2019/events/OE39299>

When: March 10, 2019, 1pm-2am

Where: Bungalow, 92 Rainey St., Austin, TX

Visit us at Canada House, the best Canada has to offer in film, tv, gaming, music & tech.

6pm: Meet the Canadians @ SXSW Reception hosted by Shaftesbury & Tourism Vancouver

With special guests Michelle Mylett & Dylan Playfair of *Letterkenny*

8pm-2am: Canada House Official Launch Party Hosted by Shaftesbury, KCP Loft & Telefilm

Featuring DJ Oshow, Blondtron, Ingrid Hakanson & DJTizy

-30-

To download this release and for more information on this and other Shaftesbury series, please visit the Shaftesbury media site at shaftesbury.ca/media.

About Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film, digital, and brands. Shaftesbury's current slate includes 12 seasons of *Murdoch Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and ITV STUDIOS Global Entertainment, two seasons of detective drama *Frankie Drake Mysteries* for CBC, UKTV, and Kew Media, three seasons of critically acclaimed thriller series *Slasher* for Netflix, as well as new primetime series *Hudson & Rex* for CityTV/Rogers Media, and *Departure* for Global/Corus Entertainment. Shaftesbury's digital arm produces original digital, convergent, and branded entertainment projects including the global phenomenon and MIPTV Brand Content of the Year award winner *Carmilla*. Shaftesbury's branded entertainment division drives profitable engagement with millennials using scripted series, turning brands into executive producers. Recent brand partners include Nokia, Walmart, Interac, U by Kotex®, and RBC.

About Hollywood Suite

Hollywood Suite owns and operates four exclusive HDTV channels featuring the iconic movies that defined the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s, plus essential Hollywood classics from the Golden Age, always uncut and commercial-free. With hundreds of movies every month on four HDTV channels, Hollywood Suite On Demand, the Hollywood Suite GO app and hsgo.ca, Hollywood Suite provides an unparalleled value to consumers. Visit hollywoodsuite.ca for more information.

For more information please contact:

Judy Lung / Director, Communications & Marketing / Shaftesbury / 416-363-1411 x186 / jlung@shaftesbury.ca

Meg Campbell / Manager, Publicity / Shaftesbury / 416-363-1411 x163 / mcampbell@shaftesbury.ca