

A hand with blood on a tiled floor next to broken glass and a lipstick tube.

VITALY SUMIN AND VM PRODUCTIONS PRESENT:

Lipstick

Press Kit

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Logline

Prior to applying new makeup and lipstick, a beautiful woman wipes away the residue of an awful deed.



Synopsis

A beautiful young woman, dressed provocatively in tight black dress and heels, stands in front of her bathroom mirror, wiping the makeup from her face. With that accomplished, she wipes something else from her chest and the pearl necklace around her neck. Something red, splattered. She then applies new makeup and lipstick, which she uses to write a message on the mirror. As she strides out of the room, we get a glimpse of the terrible truth.

The Film Design

Employing its sheer brevity as an artistic device, *Lipstick* cinematically captures a mystery shrouded in the mundane. The simple, everyday act of cleansing the face of makeup slides seamlessly into wiping away the evidence of a horrific crime. The innovative editing with its smash cuts to black capture the stages of transition, a shedding of the past before applying new makeup and lipstick. The color scheme of the film, the pink tone, enhances the macabre effect by dint of its association with the feminine—and is now reflective of the denser hues of lipstick and blood. In the end, we're left with a message scrawled in lipstick on the mirror, containing a meaning which is both cryptic and strangely fitting in its allusion to the famous nineteenth century Russian novelist. *Sarabande* by G. F. Handel, reveals the story's classical, eternal vibe that compliments its mysterious feel.





Karen Tafa as the beautiful YOUNG WOMAN

Hailing from the Republic of Botswana and currently residing in Los Angeles, Karen Tafa is an actress, singer, songwriter, comedienne, and content creator whose YouTube channel has garnered more than 270,000 views. Karen is in her senior year at Loyola Marymount University, where she met and became friends with filmmaker Patricia Gunadi.



MUSIC: **George Fridric Handel**

Best known today for his operas and oratorios—*including most famously The Messiah*—George F. Handel also composed anthems, chamber music, and orchestral works. His iconic Sarabande provides the evocative underscore for this film.





DIRECTOR: Patricia Gunadi

Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, Patricia Gunadi moved to California for college in November 2014. After a year at Pasadena City College, she transferred to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, her dream school since she was four years old. In May, 2019, she graduated from LMU's School of Film and Television with a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Television Production. Since then, Patricia has hit the ground running as an up-and-coming young filmmaker, teaming up with VM Productions to create a series of short films, including Lipstick, Burglary, Jog, and Pages.

IMDb

PRODUCER: Vitaly Sumin

Vitaly Sumin is a producer, writer and director, known for **White Nights**, **Shades of Day**, **Notes from the New World**, **The Missing Screenwriter**, and the plurality of the other titles.

After receiving an M.S. degree in Oceanography, Vitaly Sumin produced ocean-related documentaries (Jacques Cousteau style) which eventually led him to abandon his scientific career to obtain a B.A. degree in film directing. He subsequently worked as a co-writer and producer on numerous productions.

Sumin's award-winning short film **From Womb To Tomb**, which he wrote, directed edited, and produced, made a world tour of important festivals. Following that initial success, Sumin's path diverged slightly - from filmmaking to game development. In 1988, he received a US patent #4,784,394 for "The World Belongs To You!" - an interactive tourist game (including video, reality TV and other versions).





Resuming his film pursuit, Sumin attended the Sorbonne in Paris under a study grant. His script *The Idiot*, which recast Fyodor Dostoyevsky novel as a contemporary international thriller, received a development grant from The Warner Bros Fund. Later Sumin moved to Los Angeles, California, and created VM Productions to develop and produce quality films based on original stories and masterpieces of world literature.

His project **Crime and Punishment, LA** became the winner of the European Co-Production Matchmaking Program, which was featured during the panel at **SXSW**:

Post Production (2020): **Dostoyevsky Reimagine-BTS** (97 min)

In Pre Production (2020): **Crime & Punishment, LA,**
Nick Investigates Robert Hurley Disappearance,
Shades of Blood

IMDb

FilmFreeway

Awards for Lipstick



Lipstick

Running Time **1 min 34 sec**

Genre **Thriller, Mystery**

Directed by **Patricia Gunadi**

Original Idea by **Vitaly Sumin**

Story by **Elle Gold, Patricia Gunadi**

Written by **Patricia Gunadi**

Starring **Karen Tafa**

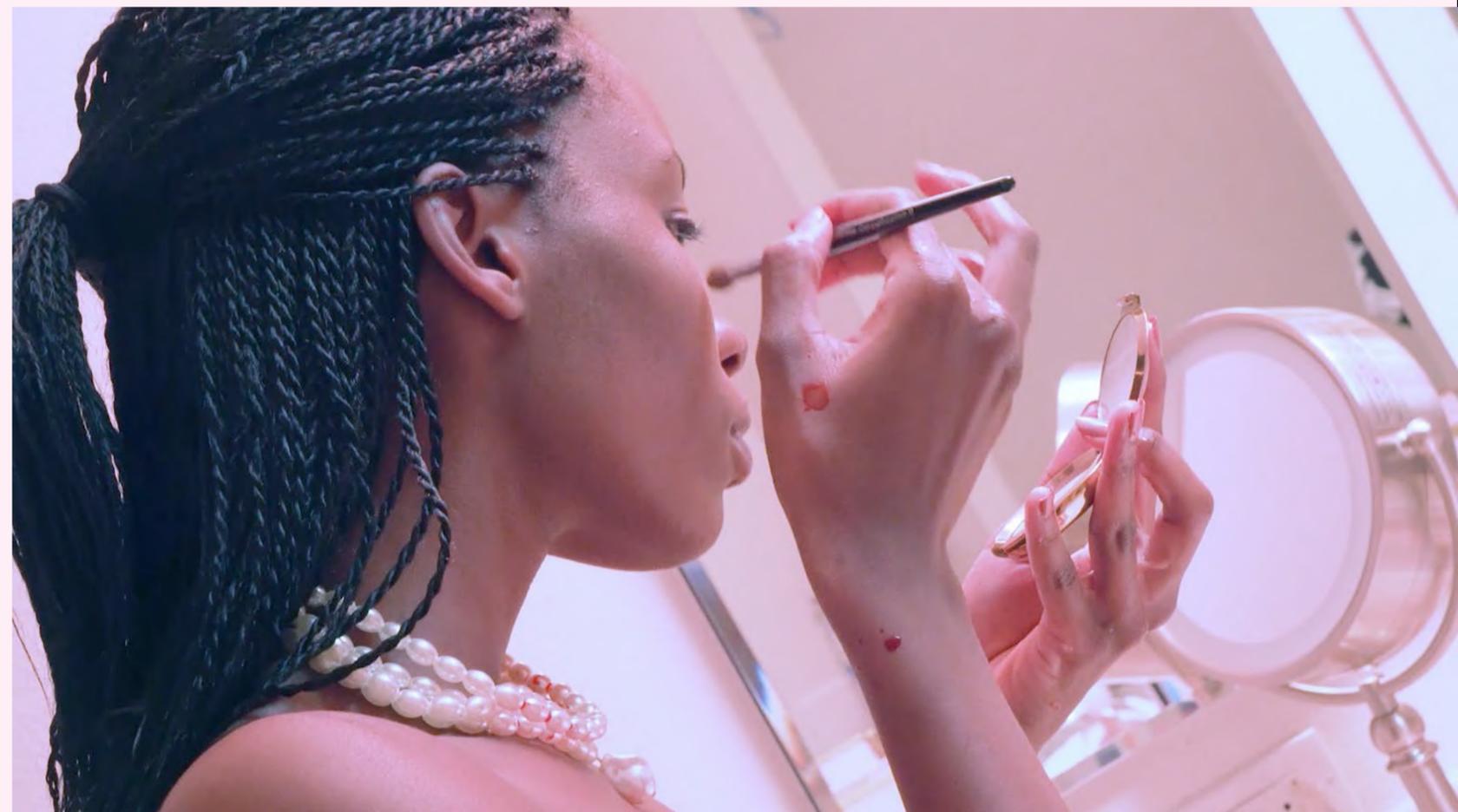
Partial appearance by **Maria Harjo**

Edited by **Patricia Gunadi**

Cinematographer **Patricia Gunadi**

Music by **George F. Handel**

Executive Producer **Vitaly Sumin**



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