

A cartoon illustration of a living room scene. A large yellow parrot with a black beak and red markings around its eyes is perched on a dining table. A young boy with dark hair, wearing a green shirt and blue pants, is playing a violin. The room features a red sofa, a coffee table with a television and various items, and a dining table with chairs. The floor is a warm orange-brown color. The text "FRANKIE WANTS APPLAUSE" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center. The signature "MADE BY ANT" is in the bottom right corner.

FRANKIE
WANTS
APPLAUSE

MADE BY ANT

Synopsis

Frankie, an envious but mediocre musician, is asked by his talented rival Alex to look after his home.

In the process, Frankie accidentally loses Alex's prized parrot, Stronzo. When Stronzo mysteriously returns, Frankie sees a chance to redeem himself—by impressing the bird with his musical talent.



But the more he tries to control and outshine Stronzo, the more he reveals his own flaws, until Stronzo's final escape leaves Frankie alone, confronting the applause he craves but cannot earn.



Director's Statement

Have you ever felt like you're just a monster no one likes? Frankie Wants Applause exaggerates that quiet fear — the fear of being a try-hard, annoying brat that people simply tolerate. Sometimes I wonder if I'm someone who just doesn't fit in, someone who ends up trying way too hard to impress others... or in this case, a parrot who's clearly had enough.

Frankie's desperation is a punishment. But I wanted to see if, by the end, he could answer something I've been quietly asking myself: Can someone like him — like me — still change? Still be loved? I'm not sure if he did.

Director's Bio

Anthony Lee (he/him) is an emerging writer and director working in theatre and film on what is colonially known as Vancouver.

As a Hong Konger, his works investigate the impacts of post-colonial Hong Kong anarchism. His last two films, Don't think about the Pink Dolphins and Spilled Water Never Returns, explores the trauma and grieves for the loss as an immigrant suffer from political turmoil. His work received numerous nominations and presentations at film festivals internationally.

In theatre, his work challenges the existing immigrant narratives and challenges formal norms through participatory theatre and site-specific works. Two of his directing credits "Selfie by Christine Quintana" and "Discounted Hotpot Centre" both presented across Canada and has received overwhelmingly positive receptions.

Anthony received his BFA in Film from Simon Fraser University in 2021. He was selected for the Filmmaker Assistance Program by the National Film Board in 2022, the VIFF Catalyst mentorship program in 2023 and the Director's Lab North in 2024.

He currently works as an Apprentice Producer with Radix Theatre.

GFHG SDGM





Key Themes:

“Frankie Wants Applause” follows an envious musician tasked with caring for his rival’s parrot, only to spiral into obsession when the bird refuses to love him back. Writer/Director Anthony Lee explores insecurity, envy, and the hunger for validation through a darkly comedic fable about a man trying to earn applause where it can’t be given.

- Ego & Validation - A portrait of one man’s desperate need to be seen, applauded, and loved
- Jealousy & Rivalry - How envy twists our ability to care, turning connection into competition
- Dark Comedy Lens - Using absurd humor and cruelty to reveal insecurities we often hide
- Use of Animation - Rotoscoping & 2D animation makes a blend of realism and the bizarre
- Formal Experimentation - Breaking of the 1:1 aspect ratio in the narrative

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- **Format:** Digital Short Film / Animation
- **Genre:** Comedy / Fantasy / Animation
- **Premiere Status:** World Premiere
- **Country of Origin / Production:** Canada
- **Running Time:** 12:30 minutes
- **Language:** English
- **Subtitle:** Burn-in
- **Aspect Ratio:** 1:85:1
- **Sound:** Stereo / 5.1
- **Screening Format:** DCP / Digital Screening File



Key Crew and Cast:

Cast

Frankie - Avery Chapman

Alex - Conor Wylie

Stronzo - Sam Luk

Director, Writer

Anthony Kit Chun Lee

Stronzo Animation

Theodora Chrysanthopoulos

Rotoscope & Compositing

Anthony Lee

Background

Aiken Chau

Sound Designer

Colin Williscroft

Editor

Anthony Lee

Paige Fast



Funders



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