

A stop-motion animation scene featuring a character in a yellow dress and a dog. The character is seen from behind, wearing a yellow dress with a blue top and a green wristband. The dog is small and grey, looking up at the character. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a wooden table and a black tripod.

# Charlotte

a short film by zach dorn

Official Selection

**tiff**

Toronto International  
Film Festival 2021

A pop song transforms the life of Lena Black, an enigmatic folk singer, and her dysfunctional family.

Directed, written, and animated  
by **Zach Dorn**

Featuring the voices  
of **O-Lan Jones, Devin Schlatter, and Phoebe Jane Hart**

With Original Music by  
**Jenna Caravello**  
**Zhenya Golikova**  
and  
**Emerson Kitamura**

## Director's Note

I was in the home goods aisle of a Michael's Arts and Crafts shopping for fake moss, when Carly Rae Jepsen's cover of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" came on the loud-speaker. There, in suburban mundanity, the upbeat pop melody mingled with the painful and sincere echos of the original song. It was a strange feeling that shaped the film's characters Lena Black and T.Y.M.

Actor and musician, O-Lan Jones (whose mom once worked at one of the film's locations, Cafe Wha?) came across the script through a mutual friend and agreed to voice Lena Black. The part of Eli Black is voiced by first-time actor, Devin Schlatter.

After recording with the cast in 2020, I moved my mattress into my kitchen, and shot the film in my bedroom during lockdown. Eight months later, I am excited to share this story with you.

- Zach



## Bios

**Zach Dorn** (director) is a filmmaker, writer, and performing artist who creates miniature melodramas that explore the underbelly of childhood nostalgia through the disappointed eyeballs of adulthood. With puppets, paper dioramas, and a grotesque DIY craftsmanship, Dorn builds interweaving narratives tangled in homesickness and pop culture.

Dorn's puppet performances have premiered at Ars Nova (New York), St. Ann's Warehouse (New York), and REDCAT (Los Angeles). His films have screened at Slamdance (2020) and Sweaty Eyeballs (2020).

Dorn received his MFA in Experimental Animation from Calarts in 2021. [ LA Weekly, Interview, 2019]



**O-Lan Jones** (Lena Black) is an award-winning composer, sound designer, writer, and actress who has been consistently involved in experimental theatre, music, and opera since the age of sixteen. The press has referred to her as an “uncategorizable legend.”

As an actress, she has originated roles in many plays including those of Sam Shepard, Julie Hebert, and Beth Henley. Her screen credits include iconic works like *Natural Born Killers*, *The Truman Show*, *Seinfeld*, *The X-Files*, *Shameless*, *Edward Scissorhands* and two additional Tim Burton films.





Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/556375317>

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