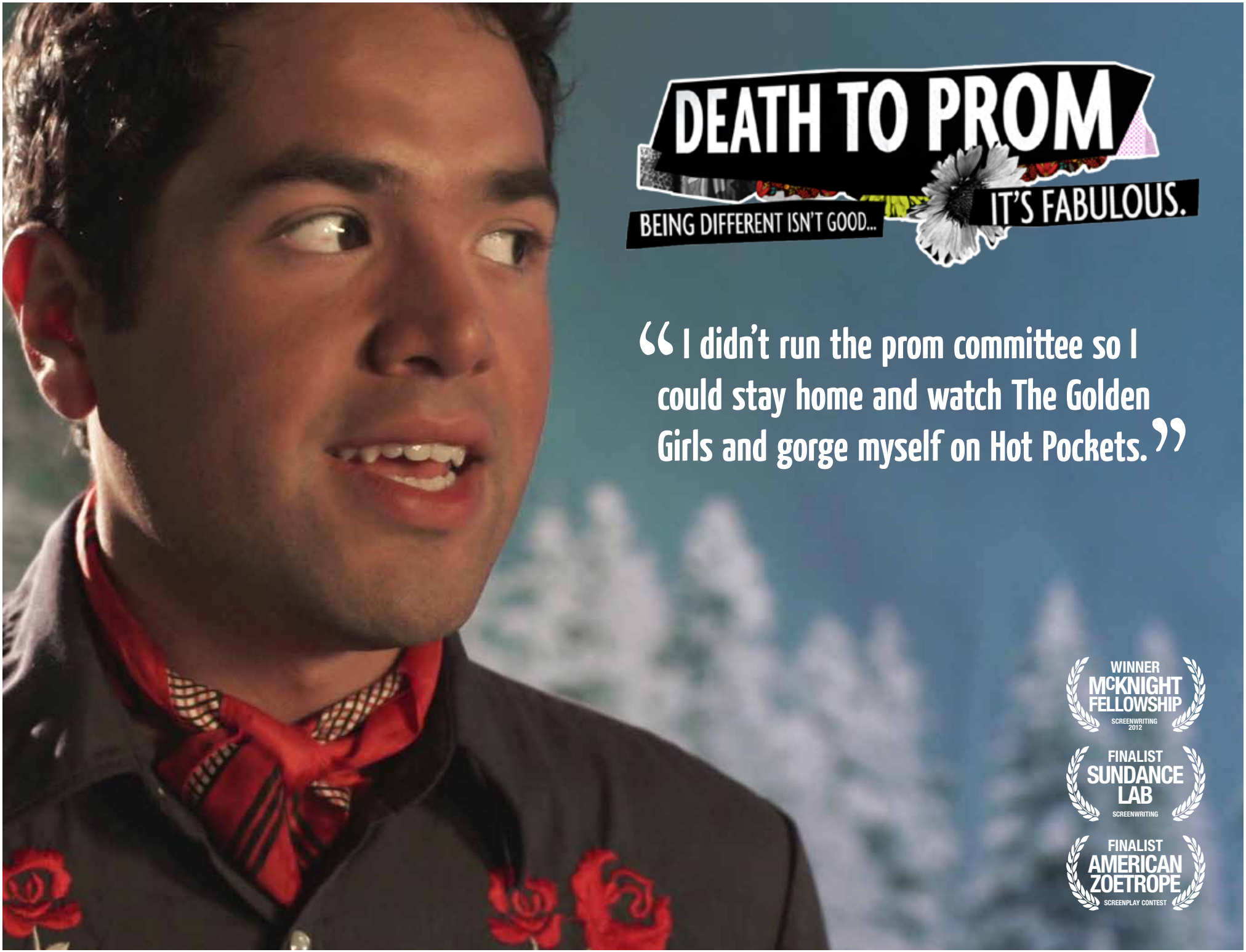
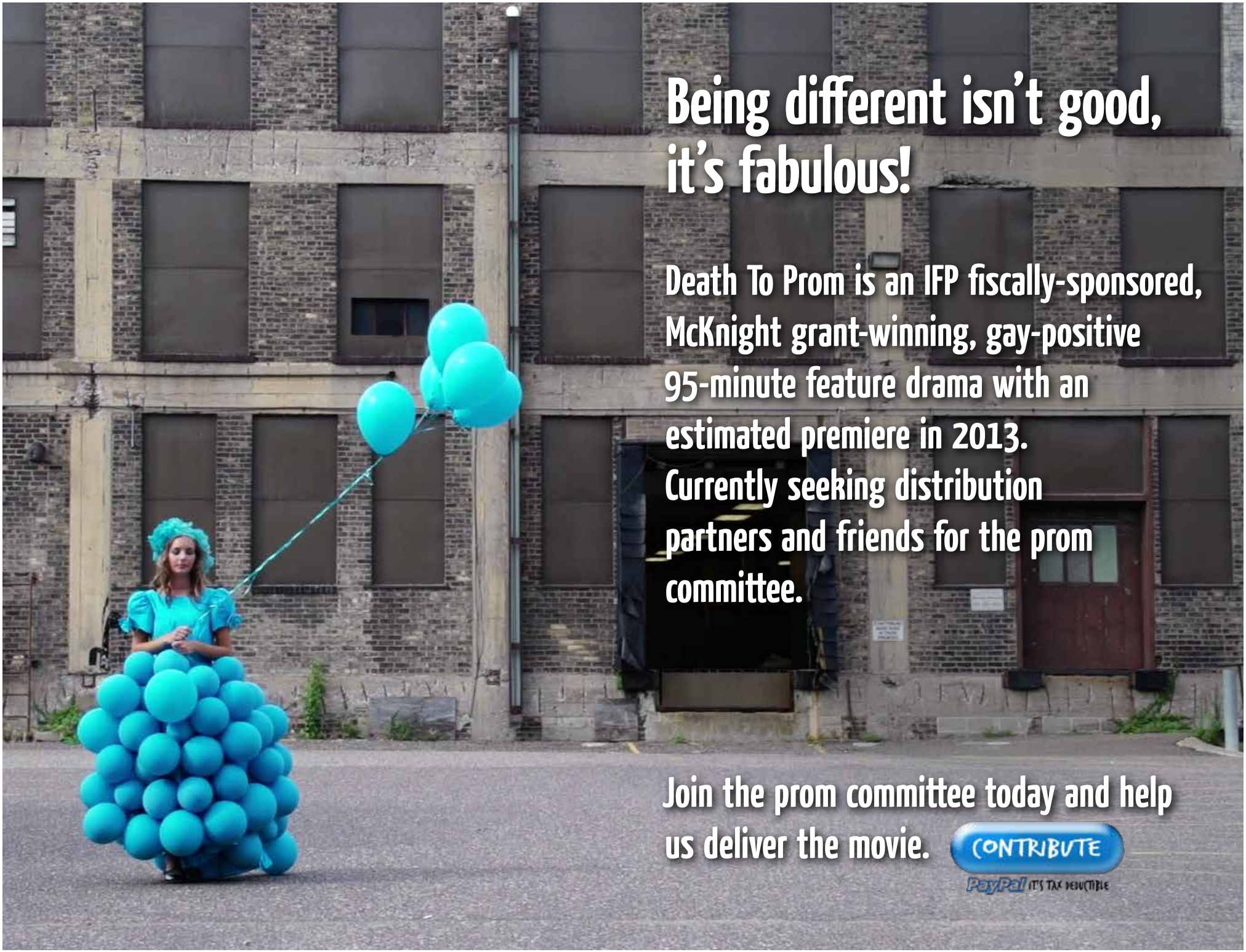

DEATH TO PROM
BEING DIFFERENT ISN'T GOOD...
IT'S FABULOUS.
"I didn't run the prom committee so I could stay home and watch The Golden Girls and gorge myself on Hot Pockets."
WINNER
McKNIGHT FELLOWSHIP
SCREENWRITING
2012
FINALIST
SUNDANCE LAB
SCREENWRITING
FINALIST
AMERICAN ZOETROPE
SCREENPLAY CONTEST


Being different isn't good, it's fabulous!
Death To Prom is an IFP fiscally-sponsored, McKnight grant-winning, gay-positive 95-minute feature drama with an estimated premiere in 2013. Currently seeking distribution partners and friends for the prom committee.
Join the prom committee today and help us deliver the movie.
CONTRIBUTE
PayPal IT'S TAX DEDUCTIBLE


“I said he could kiss me
if he kissed René first.
Just to be fair and stuff.”

SYNOPSIS

Two best friends make the most of going to high school by dreaming up high-fashion photo shoots, and bribing their siblings to model for them. René loves his fashion magazines and designing clothes. Frankie lives for her camera and punk rock. The drama they dream up in their fashion shoots becomes very real when they end up fighting over their classmate, Sasha, a shy soccer player with a soft spot for poems by Pushkin.

When the three of them are caught between competing invitations to prom, their high-fashion drama could destroy their friendships — along with the entire prom.

Death to Prom is a bizarre love triangle loaded with enough glamour and attitude for "Project Runway" & Vogue, but with enough heart to make Molly Ringwald bite her lip with anticipation.



CAST

Ricardo Vázquez : René Castillo / Hina Khan : Frankie Jain
Andrew Keives : Sasha Orlov / Catherine Hansen : Holly / Addie Johanson : Kim
Andrew Borger : James / Sam Noble : Danny / Joher Coleman : Mr. Jain

Dale Pfeilsticker, Paul Economon, Camilla Hempleman, Ross Destiche, Antonio Duke, John Potter, Kirsten Gregerson, Scotty Reynolds, Tony Czech, Ashawnti Ford, Vincent Balbo, Lexi Duffy, Yumi Nagaoka


“I’m still not going to prom... I’m going to watch a horror movie instead.”


“I’m thinking that you think prom is a nerd event, but we could make it fun, and, well... Would you be my date?”

Six Questions with director/screenwriter Matt Stenerson

Q: Were there any films or filmmakers that inspired Death to Prom?
The biggest influence was obviously John Hughes' *Pretty in Pink*. When I sat down, I thought: I want to write a Pretty in Pink/Breakfast Club/Some Kind of Wonderful, but with a gay character. I loved John Hughes movies while growing up and still love them. I always felt like Duckie (from *Pretty in Pink*) and Watts (from *Some Kind of Wonderful*) were really gay characters. I felt I could really identify with them, but they still wound up being straight at the end of the movie.

Q: What motivated you to write Death to Prom?
I wanted to write a movie where sexuality and ethnicity weren't really an issue. I wanted the issues to be more about friendships, similarities between people, first crushes, creativity and individuality. I feel like the young people of today are moving on and the adults are the ones who are hanging onto old ideas and boundaries when it comes to gay or race issues. I also really wanted to show the unique bond between gay guys and straight girls. So many movies gloss over that bond.
The bullying of gay students was also in the back of my mind while I was writing the script. The film doesn't focus on bullying, but it does have moments with that tension. I wanted to have a character that was already out and proud, but who still faced the realities of high school pressure. There's also a straight-gay alliance that is formed in the story that I hope teens can learn from. I know a lot of straight students these days are secure enough in themselves to not have issues with gay students, so I wanted to show that as well.

Q: What is happening with the film now?
We have just wrapped post-production with the edit and final color, sound and music and have been submitting to festivals. We had a very successful kickstarter campaign and shot the entire film over 19 days in June 2012. Everything went well and we had some special locations most people don't get access to use. We also had a lot of fun making the initial promo video, but that was super bare-bones. We sold bicycles and furniture to fly our actors back home to Minnesota. Our lead actress had to sleep in the bedroom set we made in my dining room. We begged businesses to let us film in their locations for free, and survived five days of humid 95+ degree weather! As you can tell, we were, and still are, highly motivated.

Q: Death to Prom has a unique look. What led you to this aesthetic?
I was inspired from everyone from Alexander McQueen to Pedro Almodovar. The biggest thing I wanted for Death to Prom, was for it to be colorful. I feel like I see teens wearing thrift store clothes just because they're a great color or pattern. I picked wardrobe from Goodwill and Salvation Army that I loved, but am "too reserved" to wear. In a way, I'm living out my obnoxious fashion dreams through the characters.

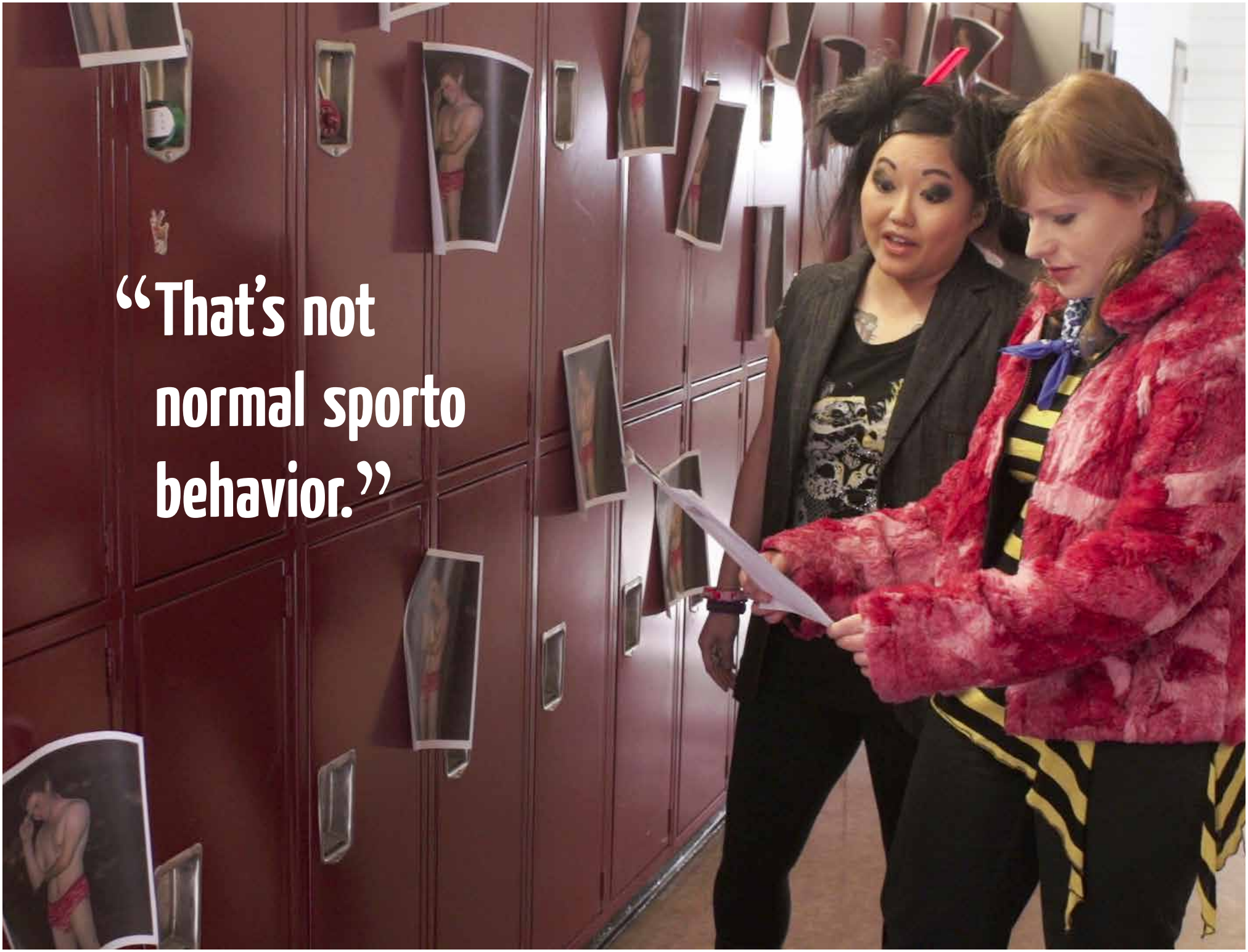
Q: Are there any real-life elements in Death to Prom?
Death to Prom is most definitely all fiction, but some of my close friends inspired a lot of fun lines, looks, and ideas. The René character was mostly based on a friend I met when I lived in Austin, Texas. His irrational commitment to fashion was insane and fun. One fall, he traded in a silver car for a gold one to match his Halloween outfit. He lived (and still lives) for fashion, color, design and fun. He's a rarity in New York, (where he lives now) but was a SUPER rarity in the middle of Texas!

Q: What was your prom experience like?
I actually had a pretty mellow prom experience. I was totally exhausted because my friends and I all camped out the night before in Afton, MN and we never went to sleep. I was so tired that I barely made it down the grand march!


“ You never said anything
about setting my outfit
on fire. ”

Produced and Directed by: Matthew Stenerson & Jeremy Wilker
Written by: Matthew Stenerson
Executive Produced by: Raoul Benavides, Simón Martinez, Stenerson, Wilker
Cinematography by: Jeremy Wilker
Editing by: Cassie Wentlandt
Gowns designed by: Christopher Straub




“That’s not
normal sporto
behavior.”



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Runtime: 1 hr 35 min (95 min)
Sound Mix: Dolby Surround 5.1
Aspect Ratio: 2.40:1
Camera: Sony FS100
Lenses: Zeiss ZF.2 Primes
Language: English
Editing: Final Cut Pro 7
Color: DaVinci Resolve

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Shoot length: 19 days
Cast & Crew: 60 people
Production: June/July 2012
Locations: Twin Cities, Minnesota
Funding: Kickstarter, Private Sources
Support: IFP MN, MN Film & TV Board
Editing & Color: Splice Here
Audio Mastering: Undertone Music


“I prefer
soccer players...
better legs.”


DELMONICO'S
GOLD BOND
VOGUE



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Jeremy Wilker
jeremy@deathtoprom.com

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