

*A Spell For Queer Home*  
a film by Amanda Madden





## Logline:

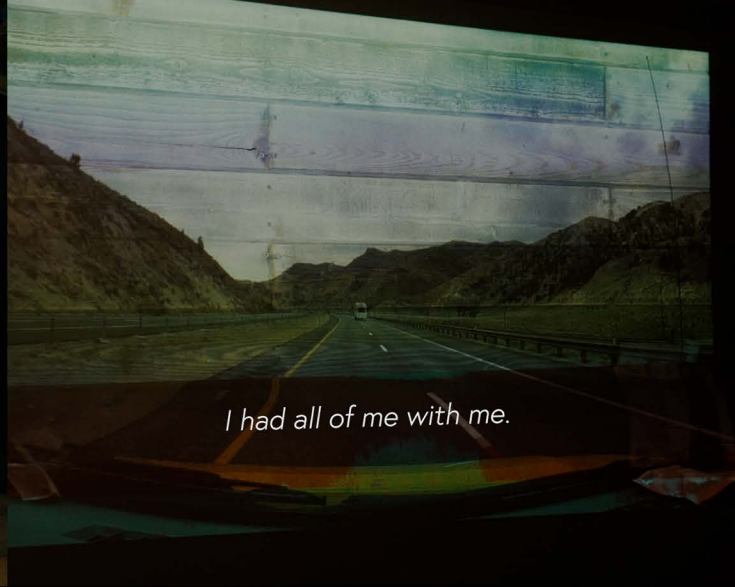
*Braiding together embodied exploration, stories and wisdom from a collective of queer and trans folks, and original spell songs, this film is a meditation and reflection on the notion of queer home and the casting of a spell.*

## Synopsis:

*This film is made of layers. The embodiment layer consists of filmmaker Amanda Madden's performance in heat and solitude, meditating, reflecting on, and performing the questions and yearning that had grown in them about queer home. They use movement, intuition, and magic to film their exploration of these questions in their body, letting the wild and sacred shapes of the ghost town guide them. They call 18 queer and trans friends across the country and asked them about queer home. Participants include a trans faggot witch, a yoga teacher and herbalist, a sex worker advocacy leader, writers, performers, a hiker in the middle of the Pacific Crest Trail, actors, scientists, caretakers. These interviews weave beneath the performance footage as a collective story and wisdom. Throughout the film, text is layered over the footage to provide context and framing for the performance and interviews and offering practices one might utilize in their own exploration of queer home. Lastly, original spell music created by 3 queer musicians is layered underneath, shaping emotionality, holding containers for themes, and marking moments of magic. These layers all weave together to explore, dance with, grieve, and transmute ideas around landscape, belonging, shame and wounding, enough-ness, lineages of queerness, intuition, wild hope, home in the body, messiness, and imperfection,*







I had all of me with me.

# NOT ENOUGH TOO MUCH

Home feels so much more complex for me

That doesn't feel safe.





## Director's Statement:

*The wild landscape of Utah was the first place to hold me. Then I had to leave to find myself. After a decade in New York, where I named and settled into my queerness and transness, I returned to Utah in the summer of 2020. I was a fragile and unrooted thing. I craved queer community and a sense of belonging. In July of 2021, I was a resident artist at the Home of the Brave residency in Cisco, a ghost town in Southern Utah. I spent 3 weeks there filming the performance layer of the film and interviewing queer and trans friends. This time in the desert was a cathartic deepening and release. I edited the film over the next year, weaving together my embodied exploration, the interviews, text and music. The process of making this film has in itself been a queer home for me. I am so moved by the collective stories and wisdom we hold. I believe, deep in my bones, that queer home is possible, radical, and happening.*

*I've been working with this definition of a spell: a magical formula intended to trigger a magical effect.*

*This is how I shaped my film and my hope for the film. The magical formula is the layers of the film plus screenings, conversations, and advocacy. I hope that the effect is that we can reflect ourselves to ourselves and each other with love, compassion, and wisdom, that we can validate our questions and aches and remind ourselves and each other that we are not alone in those, that we reveal homes we are part of and homes we want to create, and that we can inspire ourselves and each other to know our enough-ness, to feel our belonging, to care for the webs that are ours to tend to, and to know that queer home is possible, radical, and happening.*



**Music:**

*Orion Johnstone  
Em Wexler  
Amelia Diehl*

**Re-recording Mixer:**

*Brian Goodheart*

**Colorist:**

*J.Manzo*

**Filmed at:**

*Home of the Brave  
residency - Cisco, UT*

**Featuring:**

*Eileen Muza  
Orion Johnstone  
Tash Wilder  
Michelle Walker  
Dash Pinheiro  
Jackie Rivera  
Jen Anaya  
Bloom Davis  
Freddy Edelhart  
Jacoby Ballard  
Yin Q  
Jade Swayne  
Chris Bryce  
Megan Powell  
Margaret McGuirk  
Rhett Duncan  
Sammy Walker  
Poppy Liu*





## AMANDA MADDEN

*Writer, Director, Producer, Editor*

*Amanda Madden is a filmmaker and facilitator whose work experiments with queer evolutions of intimacy, identity, landscape, and connection. They are rooted in their commitment to creating films and experiences as portals for breaking binaries, embodied experience, and a way to see and be seen. Their directing work includes award winners such as the TV pilot, *Mercy Mistress*, and documentary projects, *Home Abyss* and *Dear Elsa: 10 Letters + 10 Experiments*. Their editing work includes narrative, documentary, and experimental films, commercial projects for MTV, Refinery29, Condé Nast, and NBC Universal, and the feature documentary, *Roleplay*. Their work has been exhibited internationally. They hold an MFA in Nonfiction Media from Hunter College.*







Screenings:

*Thomas Edison Film Festival*  
February - December, 2024  
Virtual  
JURY'S CITATION AWARD

*Merced Queer Film Festival*  
September 9, 2023  
Merced, CA  
NOMINEE

*Damn These Heels Queer Film Festival*  
October 12-15, 2023  
Salt Lake City, UT

*NewFilmmakers Los Angeles*  
June 17, 2023  
Los Angeles, CA

*Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest*  
September 16-24, 2023  
London, UK

*Queer Spectra Arts Festival*  
May 20-21st, 2023  
Salt Lake City, UT

*Pride Film Fest*  
Best of Pride Film Fest Midlength Films  
May 3 - 14th, 2023  
Virtual








Additional Resources:

[\*🔗\* Trailer](#)

[\*🔗\* Stills](#)

[\*🔗\* Website](#)



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2023