

gloss

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VALENTINE'S
DAY
ISSUE

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Alexander Ananasso stars as **Marco** in the LGBTQ romance film **Sex Love Venice**.

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ON THE COVER & THIS PAGE: Photograph of **Alexander Ananasso** by **Marco Ontano**



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ALEXANDER THE GREAT

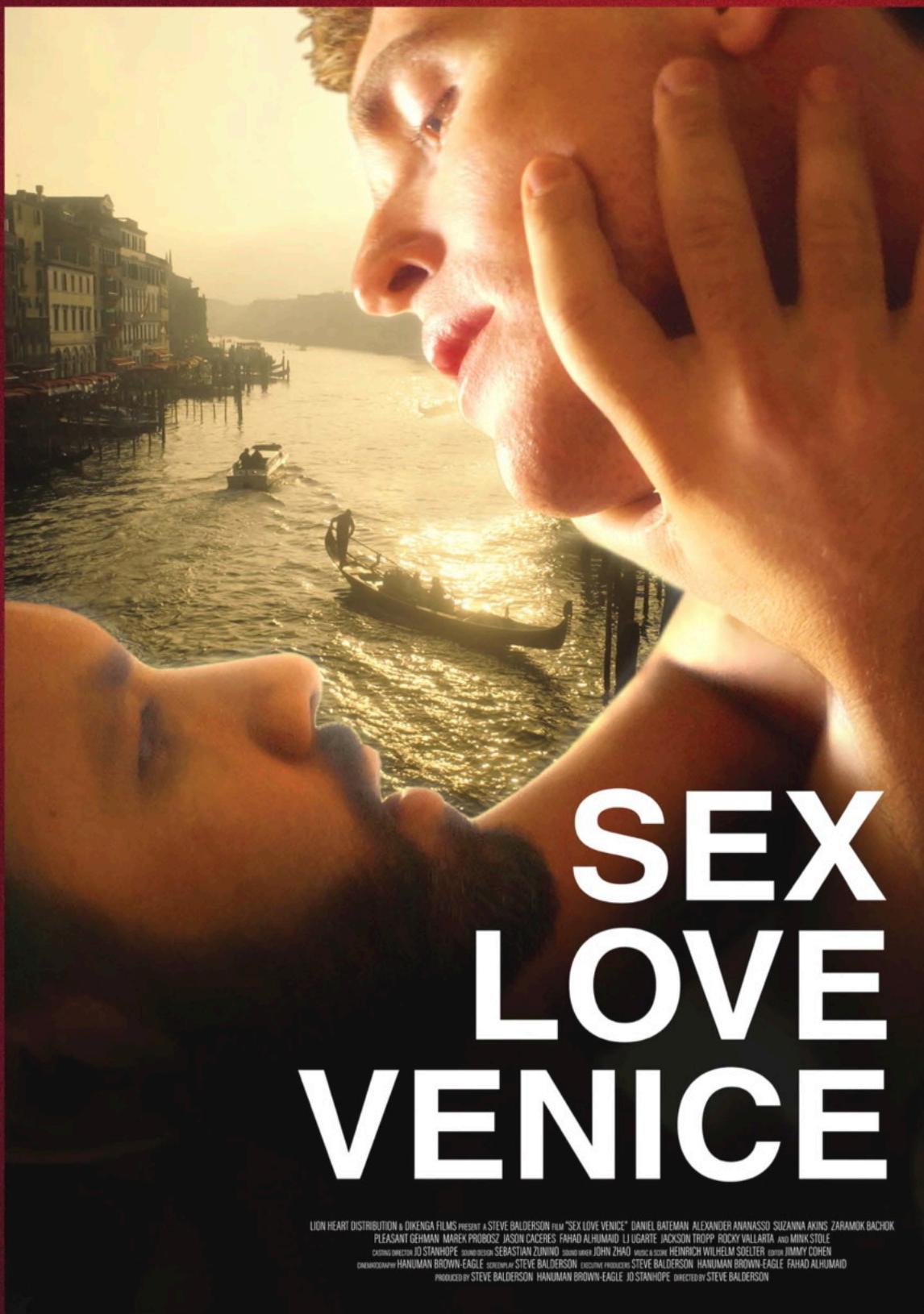
ALEXANDER ANANASSO STARS AS MARCO IN
THE LGBTQ ROMANCE FILM *SEX LOVE VENICE*

Words by Gerard Passaro | Photography by Marco Ontano

Alexander Ananasso brings his signature blend of soulful intensity and Italian charm to the role of Marco in the eagerly awaited queer romance film, *Sex Love Venice*. The Rome-born out actor delivers a spellbinding performance as the charismatic Venetian who guides Michael, a man jaded by hookup culture, toward rediscovering intimacy and love. Set against Venice's enchanting canals and iconic architecture, the film explores themes of desire, patience, and self-discovery, with Ananasso's portrayal anchoring its emotional core.

It's been a long road to this point. How excited are you about the release of *Sex Love Venice*?

I can't wait to see myself on the big screen and I'm so hopeful that moviegoers will love the film as much as I do!



SEX LOVE VENICE

LION HEART DISTRIBUTION & DIKENGA FILMS PRESENT A STEVE BALDERSON FILM "SEX LOVE VENICE" DANIEL BATEMAN ALEXANDER ANANASSO SUZANNA AKINS ZARAMOK BACHOK
 PLEASANT GEHMAN MAREK PROBOSZ JASON CACERES FAHAD ALHUMAIM LJ UGARTE JACKSON TROPP ROCKY VALLARTA AND MINK STOLE
 CASTING DIRECTOR JO STANHOPE SOUND DESIGNER SEBASTIAN ZUNINO SOUND MIXER JOHN ZHAO MUSIC & SCORE HEINRICH WILHELM SOELTER EDITOR JIMMY COHEN
 CINEMATOGRAPHY HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE SCREENPLAY BY STEVE BALDERSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVE BALDERSON HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE FAHAD ALHUMAIM
 PRODUCED BY STEVE BALDERSON HANUMAN BROWN-EAGLE JO STANHOPE DIRECTED BY STEVE BALDERSON

What initially attracted you to the role of Marco?

Marco is very different from the man I am and he presented a challenge that I felt up for. He gave me the opportunity to turn on my magnetism and charm, but also tap into my vulnerability and quirkiness. I couldn't make him come across as too self-assured! I think Marco's playful and curious, which I am too.

Marco believes in the transformative power of cultivating desire, maintaining that the things we long for most are infinitely sweeter when savored with patience and attention. Do you agree with him?

Yes, I do. I'm a very patient person. If something or someone is worth it, I can wait and put my energy into preparing and building up to a climax.

Have you tried the transformative power of cultivating desire in real life?

I think I have. Not sure I was as disciplined and determined as Marco is, though.

As an out actor, what does it mean to bring authentic representation to the screen in a love-themed film?

It is great to see real LGBT people on screen portraying LGBT characters. It is inspiring and motivational, and makes me feel like I belong when, at times, I often feel like I don't. As an actor, it's not only a privilege to be the one chosen for a role, but also an honor. It's incredible to think that someone out there might be inspired and touched by what I do and say on screen.

What was the most memorable moment on set during filming?

There were many! One scene I really enjoyed filming was the one we shot in the famous book shop, Libreria Acqua Alta. It is often visited by tourists, so we weren't sure we were going to be able to get permission to shoot there, but that day they opened the shop a half-hour earlier and kept the customers outside for us to shoot. The scene we shot wasn't the one we originally had planned on doing. The dialogue wasn't in the script! Daniel and I were able to improvise with each other and create on the spot, which was fun.

I'm surprised you didn't say the bed scene.

Well, yes, I suppose if I had to pick one *really* memorable moment in the film, the bed scene would be it. It was really beautiful and powerful.

You and Daniel have wonderful on-screen chemistry. If you could pick any celebrity to star alongside you in your next romantic film, who would you choose?

Andrew Scott. He's my favorite actor. He communicates vulnerability and





emotions so specifically and powerfully. I love watching his work.

What do you hope audiences — both LGBTQ+ and beyond — take away from *Sex Love Venice*?

I hope the film stimulates them beyond their regular way of thinking and that it challenges them to be more open-minded and open-hearted when meeting new people, whether they be potential friends, colleagues or lovers.

What's next on the horizon for you?

I love theatre and I would love to bring my solo show *A God Who Can Speak* to the states. I'm also writing a new piece about online dating and mental health.

Is mental health important to you?

Everything I do has to do with healing and personal growth. I'm a big believer in self-discovery and awareness.



SEX LOVE VENICE OPENS IN SELECT THEATRES ON *FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14*, AS WELL AS ON STREAMING PLATFORMS INCLUDING AMAZON PRIME & APPLE TV.