

LOOKING FOR LEIA

A DOCU-SERIES ABOUT WOMEN AND NON-BINARY FANS
WHO FOUND IDENTITY, CONNECTION, AND PURPOSE IN
THEIR LOVE OF THE GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.



Official Site: www.lookingforleia.com

Publicity Materials: www.lookingforleia.com/press

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Produced & Directed by: Annalise Ophelian

U.S. Release Date: TBA Fall 2019

Series length: Limited, 6 - 8 episodes, ~10 mins each

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Twi'lek cosplayers at Star Wars Celebration Orlando, from *Looking for Leia* ©2017 Floating Ophelia Productions LLC

LOG LINE: A docu-series about women and non-binary fans who found identity, connection, and purpose in their love of the galaxy far, far away.

SHORT SYNOPSIS: *LOOKING FOR LEIA* is a docu-series that explores the culture of *Star Wars* fandom from the unique perspective of women and non-binary fans who have been a substantial presence in the global phenomenon of *Star Wars* fandom since its debut in 1977, but have gone largely unrecognized until recently.

LOOKING FOR LEIA features the stories of intergenerational and culturally diverse female fans who discuss their entry point into the *Star Wars* universe and the passion and creativity with which they demonstrate their fandom. The series explores expressions of fandom: The stories we tell, what we build, what we preserve, when we see ourselves, how we Carry on, and the ways fandom transforms what we love into something new. The series reaches far beyond the legacy of Leia to examine how stories of women's fandom speak to experiences of gender resilience and resistance.

LOOKING FOR LEIA is a joyous gender justice project that shifts the traditionally male-dominated narrative of "geek culture," and highlights and humanizes stories and voices rarely centered in a series format. Sit back, because we're about to fem-splain *Star Wars* fandom.

LOOKING FOR LEIA is currently has been featured in Good Morning America, BBC Newsnight, The Verge, Nerdist, The Mary Sue, CNET, Syfy Wire, io9, and The Advocate. **Full media coverage available at www.lookingforleia.com/press**

EPISODES:

IT'S A WHOLE GALAXY

Since its debut in 1977, Star Wars has revolutionized the way we watch movies, interact with our heroes, and express our fandom. From the feature films to animation, books, games, comics, and more, there's an entry point for every generation. But it's what fans *do* with their love of the galaxy far, far away that's truly special. Unique, heartwarming, and funny, women and non-binary fans share how they first fell in love with the saga.

THE STORIES WE TELL

Before Twitter and Tumblr, chat rooms and Listservs, early fandom was written and recorded in fanzines. From a few sheets of paper to thick volumes, women wrote and edited hundreds of Star Wars fanzines in the period between 1977 and the early 1990s. These are our fan foremothers: The earliest communities built around connection and creativity, fueled by their love of story. Fan writer, artist, and publisher Maggie Nowakowska takes us on a tour of her extensive print fanzine collection, and describes how fandom helped shape 40 years of community.

WHAT WE BUILD

Star Wars fans are among some of the most passionate builders and makers. Meet Naila, Psy, and Christina: Three women with no previous building experience who immersed themselves in 3D printing and coding to build screen accurate, fully functional droids. From free-rolling BB-8s to custom astromechs, women droid builders talk about the confidence and accomplishment that comes from building favorite their favorite mechanical characters.

WHAT WE PRESERVE

In 2013, Star Wars A New Hope became the first major motion picture to be translated into Diné, as a Navajo language preservation effort. Voice actors Clarissa Yazzie (Princess Leia) and Geri Hongeva (C3PO) join translator Jennifer Wheeler to describe the process and impact of the project. Star Wars has been translated into 50 languages, but this translation ensures that the Navajo language will always be preserved in the galaxy far, far away.

THE FAKE FANGIRL

While women and non-binary fans have always existed in geek spaces, we're frequently subjected to the "fake fangirl test." Authors Cecil Castellucci, Preeti Chhibber, Bonnie Burton, and Tracy Deonn Walker discuss the ways their fandom is frequently tested, stereotypes about women in fandom, and the differences between fandom expressed through acquisition versus original creation.

WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES

What happens when under-represented fans see ourselves on screen? It's a relief of audience labor for marginalized fans, an inspiration, but also validation and essential permission to exist in the fantasy worlds we love. Documentary photographer Rhynna Santos shares her portrait projects that center plus size fans and fans of color; cosplayer Tansura Thomas talks about how Finn welcomed them into the Star Wars universe; author Preeti Chhibber discusses shifting cultural attitudes about representation in media.

HOW WE CARRIE ON

From her on-screen creation of one of film's most iconic heroines to her off-screen work as an author and mental health advocate, Carrie Fisher made an indelible impact on generations of fans. We remember Carrie with some of her classic interview appearances, and share stories of the ways she's inspired us to demand respect and live fearlessly and without apology.

FILMMAKER BIO:

Annalise Ophelian (producer/director) is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, psychotherapist, and media consultant whose work includes *Diagnosing Difference* (2009) and *MAJOR!* (2015), which received 20 festival awards for Best Documentary. Dr. Ophelian's work focuses on centering marginalized voices and highlighting stories of gender and racial justice. She's queer identified and lives in San Francisco with her partner of 13 years and their three Chihuahuas. She doesn't often cosplay, but when she does, it's as Han Solo.



PRODUCTION STILLS available at www.lookingforleia.com/press:

