Philosophy Media Group Announces Production on Indie Comedy *Drought*

Philosophy Media Group announced this week that it will begin production on *Drought,* a single-camera indie sitcom pilot starring studio founder Ashlee Haze, from a script penned by award-winning screenwriter Marshall "gripp" Gillson. The two creators will serve as the show's Executive Producers, with Haze's PMG set to oversee filming with gripp's glassEyeballs overseeing writing for the nascent series. The script takes cues from Haze's 2020 book *Smoke,* and follows her as a touring poet whose stability is jeopardized as the COVID-19 pandemic slows her show opportunities.

The eponymous lead, Ashlee Haze is a spoken word artist from Atlanta by way of Chicago and one of the most accomplished poets in the sport of poetry slam. She is a three-time champion of the Queen of the South Poetry Slam, a two-time Women of the World Poetry Slam finalist, two-time National Poetry Slam semi-finalist, and recently appeared on NPR's Tiny Desk series alongside Queen & Slim composer Blood Orange. She founded Philosophy Media Group in 2020 as a multimedia production outlet for indie creators telling overlooked stories, and through it released filmed performance specials *Smoke: the Virtual Experience* and *Poets for the Revolution.*

gripp is a poet, screenwriter, and longtime arts organizer. They are the winner of several awards, including Best Pilot in the 2020 Table Read My Screenplay competition, Best Screenplay at the 10th SUNYWide Film Festival, and the Kay Bourne Emerging Filmmaker Award at the 2019 Roxbury International Film Festival. In 2021 they were added to the International Screenwriters Association's list of screenwriters to watch. Ian Louis, who previously worked with Haze on *Smoke: the Virtual Experience,* is attached to direct.

Casting will begin immediately with filming set to commence in Atlanta in late 2022. You can find casting breakdowns as well as updates on the project at https://drought.solar.