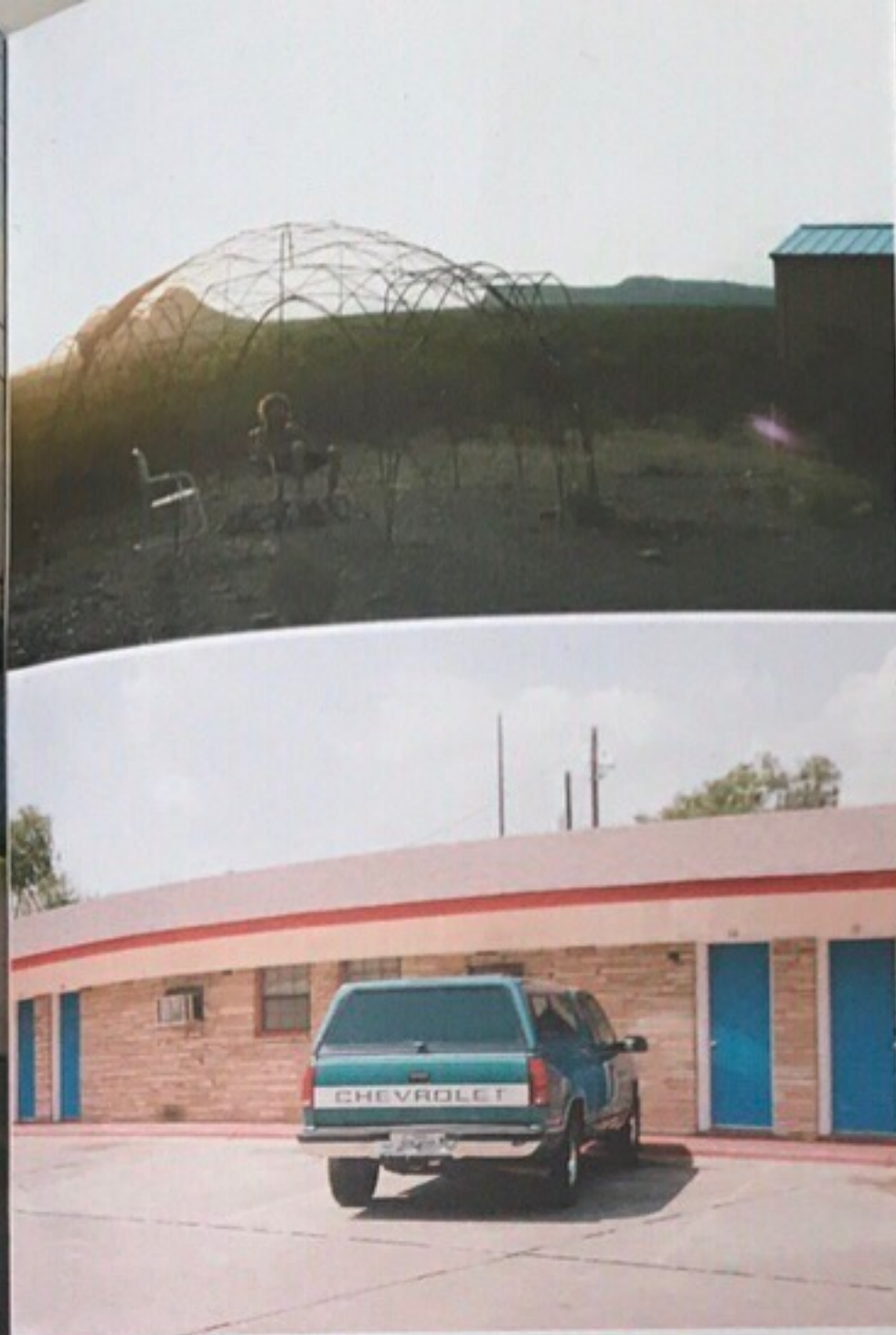


# Pitch



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Creative Women



## Lucy Tcherniak

DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER AT RADICALMEDIA & INDEPENDENT TALENT

"I'm most alive when I'm out of my comfort zone," says director and screenwriter Lucy Tcherniak, who as we speak, is about to leave her LA home and start filming her first TV series in England - *The End of the Fucking World*. The statement comes as no surprise. This is a woman after all, who has made friends with sex workers and frequented bullet-hole-ridden bars in Texas, all in the name of research.

And it's not just herself that Tcherniak likes to challenge. "It's always satisfying to play with film grammar to confound the audience's expectations: to coax them into assuming one thing and then pull the rug from under their feet, to show a character or place in a different light and offer an alternative perspective to the one we know," she explains.

Last summer, the director found herself on a first-name basis with strippers across LA, after an intensive few months interviewing women, customers and DJs in clubs around the city. Tcherniak uncovered what she calls a goldmine of stories and fascinating relationships, ripe for the writing, which form the backdrop for a pilot she's working on - described by the director as a dark ensemble tragicomedy.

"I was drawn to the idea of humanising these characters, who are otherwise so often objectified," adds Tcherniak, who is represented by RadicalMedia and Independent Talent.

For the director (who has made commercials for Bud Light, Auto Trader and charity Plan International) immersing herself in

the stories of places and people is an essential part of being a filmmaker. Tcherniak's feature *Jesus and the Jetpack*, which is in development with Electric City Entertainment (*Blue Valentine*, *Captain Fantastic*), is a road movie, that took the director on a trip of her own through Texas, following the same route the characters take, and writing and taking 35mm photographs along the way.

A love of Americana - possibly influenced by a childhood watching Westerns with her dad - has also found its way into *The End of the Fucking World*, which will be released on Netflix and E4 later this year. Tcherniak is directing the second half of the series. A comic-book adaptation, the series is a dark, unconventional coming-of-age love story, which tells the tale of two teenagers who run away from home and find themselves caught up in events that lead them

down an ever increasingly screwed up and surreal path. "We're not shooting it like it's England at all," explains the director, who has been challenged with shooting lesser known parts of the Home Counties in a way that's reminiscent of a uniquely English version of the American South. "The comic is based on is American, and although the characters are British, the Americana aesthetic is an expression of how the characters want to see the world around them - as if they are characters in a 1970s road movie."

"That's what excites me," she adds. "It's discovering material that's untapped, finding a different angle, creating something that is challenging and unexpected, funny and moving, all at the same time."

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