



"EXTRAORDINARY  
MOVING FILM"  
— Women Cinemakers

"EXCELLENT"  
— The Utah Review



"SIGNED WITH  
INTELLIGENCE"  
— NYNW Voices In Film


"FILMED WITH  
MASTERY"  
— Médiaterranée

JESSICA DAMOUNI

BEN WILLIAMS

# LIKE SALT

A FILM BY DARINE HOTAIT

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, wearing white boxing gloves. She is in a boxing stance, with her hands raised and fists clenched. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on her face and gloves, and deep shadows elsewhere. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

When Living in diaspora  
turns into a boxing match,  
one learns to fight even  
with bare knuckles.

Hala, an Arab American female boxer in New York City, and Kendrick, an African American jazz musician, improvise their way through a passive aggressive America.



Original Title **LIKE SALT**

Director Darine Hotait

Producers Erika Rydell  
George Velez  
Tarek Yamani

Executive Producer Daquan Saxton

Production Company Cinephilia Productions

Co-Production Company Digital Bodega

RT 25 minutes

Language(s) English, Arabic, Hebrew

Subtitles English, French

Genre Narrative Fiction

Country of Production USA

Shooting Location New York City, Pennsylvania

Shooting Format ALEXA

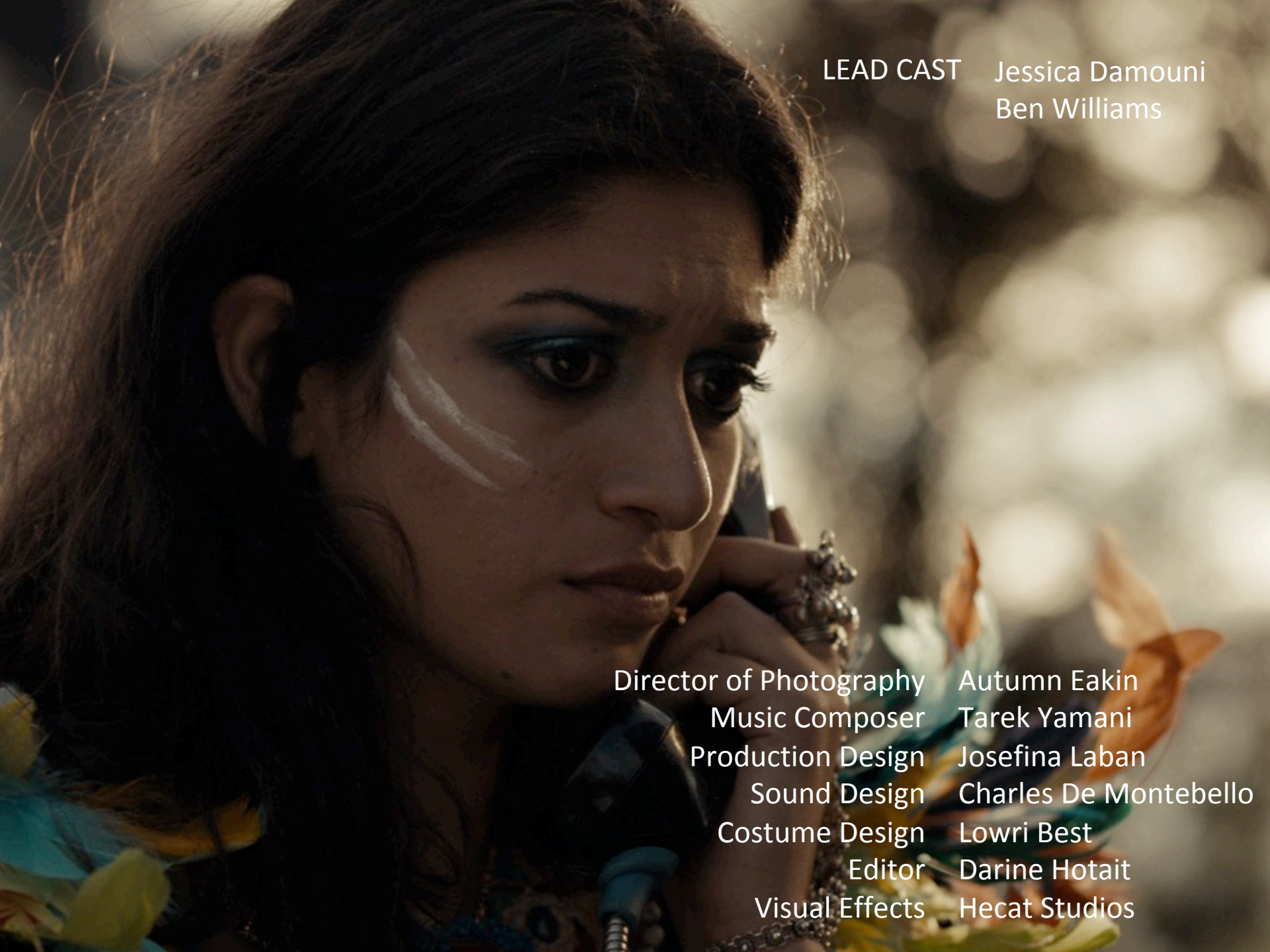
Preview Format Vimeo Private Screener

Screening Format DCP | Digital File (apple prores)

Release Date June 2018

Keywords Diaspora, Arab American, Immigrant,  
African American, Jazz, Boxing





LEAD CAST    Jessica Damouni  
Ben Williams

Director of Photography    Autumn Eakin  
Music Composer    Tarek Yamani  
Production Design    Josefina Laban  
Sound Design    Charles De Montebello  
Costume Design    Lowri Best  
Editor    Darine Hotait  
Visual Effects    Hecat Studios



***“WINNER BEST EXPERIMENTAL  
NARRATIVE FILM”***

***– 21<sup>st</sup> Reel Sisters Film Festival  
(Oscar Qualifying)***



***“EXCELLENT”***  
– The Utah Review



***“DARINE HOTAIT’S LIKE SALT IS  
A MASTERFUL WORK SIGNED WITH  
INTELLIGENCE AND A PRECISE  
SENSE OF HUMOR.”***

– New York New Women  
Voices in Film

***“EXTRAORDINARY  
MOVING FILM”***

– Women Cinemakers, Berlin

***“FILMED WITH  
MASTERY”***

– Mediaterranée Paris

OFFICIAL FILM TRAILER

[WWW.VIMEO.COM/276778573](http://WWW.VIMEO.COM/276778573)

## FESTIVALS OFFICIAL SELECTION

- . New Filmmakers Los Angeles, March 2019
- . Rotterdam Arab Film Festival, March 2019
- . 7<sup>th</sup> Latin Arab Film Festival, Argentina, March 2019
- . 5<sup>th</sup> Haifa Independent Film Festival, March 2019
- . HBO Roster GFS Showcase, February 2019
- . 13th Leiden International Film Festival, Netherlands, November 2018
- . 29th Journée Cinématographique De Carthage, Tunisia, November 2018
- . 21st Reel Sisters of the Diaspora, New York - USA, October 2018 (*Oscar Qualifying*)
- . 13th Tacoma Film Festival, Washington - USA, October 2018
- . 12th Boston Palestine Film Festival, Cambridge, USA, October 2018
- . 13th Twin Cities Arab Film Festival, St.Paul Minnesota, September 2018
- . 5th Olhares De Mediterraneo, Lisbon - Portugal, September 2018
- . 13th Lebanese Film Festival, Beirut - Lebanon, September 2018
- . 42nd Montreal World Film Festival - Canada | August 2018 (*Oscar Qualifying*)
- . 10th Marfa Film Festival, Texas - USA | July 2018 (Opening Night Film)
- . Festival Des Cinemas Arabes at Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris - France | July 2018
- . 15th Fear No Film at Utah Arts Festival, Salt Lake City - USA | June 2018
- . 13th Cinetopia Film Festival, Detroit - USA | June 2018



**Darine Hotait** is an Arab American fiction writer and film director based in New York City. Her narrative films were broadcasted on Sundance TV, AMC Networks, BBC Channel, IndieFlix & Shorts TV. Her work has screened at over 100 international film festivals, received numerous Best Fiction Awards, a Goethe Award nomination and an EMMY Blue-Ribbon nomination. She is the recipient of the New York Council On The Arts Award, New York Foundation For The Arts IAP literary fellowship, AFAC Cinema Grant and the Cimetta Fund. She was a fellow at Sundance Rawi Screenwriters' Lab and Cannes Film Festival Scriptwriters' Pavilion. She is the founder of the incubator Cinephilia Productions in New York.

**DIRECTOR**



**Daquan Saxton** is a Vice President of Digital Bodega and Executive Producer of their narrative division, a creative production house based in the South Bronx. Daquan has produced creative projects for major brands, including Nike, Google, NBC Universal, Sony, Warner Brothers, 21st Century Fox and Sprite. Daquan has taught cinematography, production and branded content with young artists for the past 7 years. Daquan is an alumnus of The Ghetto Film School.

**EXECUTIVE/CO-PRODUCER**



**Darine Hotait** (*writer.director*)

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