



Veil



About the Project

Jennalyn Ponraj, as Leila | Behind the Scenes on Set of *Veil*

Logline:

Veil is the story of Muslim teenager Leila's beliefs, religion and culture being tested when she conspires with her friend to change from her modest dress and into a more typical "American" dress at prom. Throughout the course of the night, she experiences who she thinks she wants to be, and what she might have to give up to become it.

Story:

Veil is a teen-drama about 17 year old Muslim girl Leila conspiring to secretly go against her cultural values by attending prom in a typical prom dress and engaging in prom activities that she would not normally feel comfortable doing. Moments after her arrival, with the help of her friend Valeria, she changes out of her conservative dress and into a typical "American" prom dress, which she believes is her ticket to becoming accepted among her peers. By putting on the new dress, Leila experiences a version of herself that she had never experienced before; a moment of liberation where she can finally dance and laugh amongst her schoolmates. However, she quickly learns that in order for her to act on her desires she also has to cross her cultural and religious beliefs. Conflicted between whether she should follow her heart or stick to her values, she learns that it takes more than changing a dress to be accepted by others, and to truly enjoy this new identity. The night ends when Valeria confronts Leila and becomes insensitive to Leila's struggles and leaves her, forcing her to realize that no matter how she changes her looks, she cannot devalue her beliefs to blend in.

Genre, Theme, Tone & Visual Style:

Genre: Teen- drama, Coming of age, Fish out of water.

The theme could be described as this quote: "unlike a drop of water which loses its identity when it joins the ocean, man does not lose his being in the society in which he lives. Man's life is independent. He is born not for the development of the society alone, but for the development of his self."



Writer/ Director

Zahra Golafshani, writer/ director | Behind the Scenes on Set of *Veil*

Writer/ Director's Bio:

Zahra Golafshani an award-winning, Iranian-Canadian writer/director. In 2017, she received her BFA degree with Honours from the Motion Picture Arts program at Laurentian University in Canada and recently completed her MFA in Directing at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. Amongst her body of work her accolades include: several consecutive nominations for three of her short films in many festivals, multiple awards at Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival, and monetary prizes from both BravoFact and Northern- Ontario Provincial funds for her short film Bullet- Headed (2014).

Zahra has received mentorship from accredited filmmakers such as Zal Batmanglij (The OA), Drake Doremus (Like Crazy) and Chinonye Chukwu (Clemency).

Personal Statement:

I started questioning who I wanted to be and the life I wanted to lead from an early age. I was born and raised in a conservative and extremely orthodox Muslim social community in Iran. However, I began to question the principles with which I had been raised once I moved to Canada at the age of thirteen. Before that I had only traveled to Arab and Middle-Eastern countries so everything in North America seemed like new possibilities for me.

This led to questioning my religion and culture as my desires and wishes conflicted with those values. As I got older, these questions, doubts, and curiosities grew larger. Naturally with my awakening sexual desire at that age, it became a bigger deal as I wondered how it would manifest within the limitations of my faith. The conflict, however, was far from binary.

My physical attributes as well as my cultural differences made being a minority even harder in a largely Western and/or Christian community. I had to explain every rule or restriction to my friends to make them understand why I could not partake in everything they were engaged with. The anxiety of having to make my closest friends understand what I was going through made transitioning into a larger social group much more difficult and ultimately, made me reserved and more of an outcast. Although the characters and plot are fictional, "Veil" has been shaped by my personal experiences as a result of questioning my identity as an immigrant in both Canada and United States.

"Veil" is the story of a young, Muslim teenager navigating two identities and her quest for assimilation, bonding and growing roots into something she desires while remaining somewhat unreachable.



Cast members



JENNALYN PONRAJ

Jennalyn Ponraj began professionally acting at nine years old and began studio recording at age 13.

She relocated to Los Angeles at 18, to fully pursue the silver screen. Jennalyn has worked with brands - Fujifilm-HIPPEAS, Live Nation, VIDEMUS OMNIA, Poppyseed & Co., NECTAR, Black Suede Studio, Hippie Chic Cosmetics, & WYLDE.



DANIELLE LARRACUENTE

From New York to Hollywood, Danielle began her career at the age of 4 with Snuggles as her first commercial. Her appreciation for the arts gave her the skills necessary to adapt to various roles as a diverse actress. From commercials to Film, TV, and her theater debut as "Young Nala" on Broadway's The Lion King, Danielle is a well rounded force to be reckoned with. Some of her television appearances include, ER, Without a Trace and SNL.



CHRISTOPHER AVILA

Christopher Avila was born in Culver City, CA. His interest in acting began around the age of 13. Being a Los Angeles native, growing up in the heart of the screenland and his natural ability to entertain people, the transition into the entertainment industry was inevitable for him. Christopher is a very successful commercial actor, having several national commercial campaign credits, as well as achieving much success in television, appearing on numerous shows on ABC, CBS, FOX, Showtime, Nickelodeon, Amazon, MTV and Hulu.

ALEX TREBEK

HOST OF JEOPARDY

Executive Producer

Alex Trebek, Host of Jeopardy | Executive Producer of *Veil*

Alex Trebek is one of our kind and generous Executive Producers. He came on board very early in support of our story and our cinematographer's excellent photography skills and keen eye for good storytelling. With his significant contribution to our film we were able to elevate our story and the production for our project.



Creative Mentor

Chinonye Chukwu, Writer/ Director of *Clemency* (Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in U.S. Dramatic entries) | Creative Mentor of *Veil*

With Chinonye Chukwu's mentorship we were able to condense, conform and elevate the story elements to much higher levels. Chukwu is not only the winner of the Grand Jury Prize in 2019 at the Sundance Film Festival, but is also an educator and a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. She is currently entering the pre-production phase of female Black Panther Drama "A Taste of Power."

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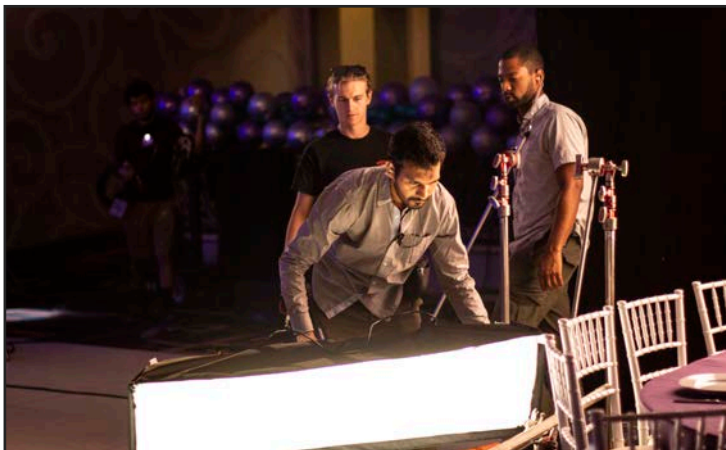




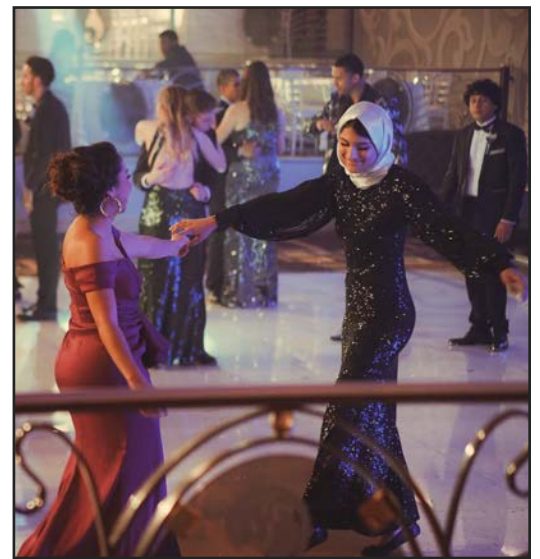




Behind The Scenes



Behind The Scenes



Behind The Scenes



Still Photos



Still Photos



Still Photos



Still Photos



PRODUCED BY

AFI Conservatory Presents



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

ZAHRA GOLAFSHANI

PRODUCED BY

DANIEL LEIGHTON

CO- PRODUCED BY

MIL ALCAIN

WHITNEY SHUMAKER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY

ALEX TREBEK

& MICHAEL WARDEN

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

MATHIEU SÉGUIN

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY

MORGAN COLEMAN

EDITED BY

KRISHNA SANCHEZ

CAST

starring **JENNALYN PONRAJ** as **LEILA**

KEVIN	CUTTER RAY PALACOIS	VALERIA	DANIELLE LARRACUENTE
DJ	SEP DADSETAN	MILO	CHRISTOPHER AVILA
MILO'S DATE	CARLI WRIGHT	LAURA	TREW MULLEN
MUSLIM GIRL	NEHA PIRATLA	ALEX	DANA KOOPS
MUSLIM GIRL FRIEND #2	ELEANOR GEBALLE	MUSLIM GIRL FRIEND #1	PANI KIANI
MILO'S FRIEND #1	JULIAN KAZENAS	MILO'S FRIEND #1 DATE	RUBY HETHERINGTON
MILO'S FRIEND #2	LUIS DELGADO	MILO'S FRIEND #2 DATE	JORDAN MARIE DEARMOND
MILO'S FRIEND #3	TRAVIS NEAL	MILO'S FRIEND #3 DATE	KATY KEY

EXTRAS

PAXTON AMOR	CHIKA ENWERE	CARTER LEE	ADRIANAN SHOCK
QUEZ KEION ARNOLD	JABRIEN ERBY	KERISA LIN	JUSTIN SLEPICOFF
LIA ASHER	JAKE GAO	JOSEPH ENLAI LORA	MELISSA SPOLAR
JOSHUA AZALI	MELAYNI GRACIA	DARIUS MAXEY	LISANDRA STEBNER
ELLA BABAKHANYAN	ANNA GREENE	AIDAN MILSTED	ARIEL STEWART
GOR LEO BABAKHANYAN	MARCELUS HARRIS	TORI MITCHENON	MAURICE TILLMON
XAVIER BENERISSA	HANNAH HARRISON	VINCENT MORALES	MICHELLE TOMASIAN
JOY BROWN	HAYLEY HERMS	JEAN MORALES	KONG VANG
JAVAR BROWN-SCOTT	SANA HICKS	SHIYAO ZHOU	DANNA WALLACE
NATALIE CAMOU	REBECCA HURT	LONDON MURRAY	EDEN WILLIAMS
GAVIN COLE	DANNY KING	NIA NOELLE	JASMINE WITH
JESSE CONTENTE	MATTHEW LABAYAN	THERESA PHILOMENA	ELENA XU
AYBERK DEMIR	CHASE LASKEN	ANDRE RANDLE	MARVIN YOUSSEF

CREW

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER MEI-LE APALUCCI
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JUSTIN DAERING
SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SALEH ALEM

COMPOSER RAMIN KOUSHA

CASTING DIRECTOR MICHAEL STONEWALL BEAUDRY

CAMERA OPERATOR MATHIEU SEGUIN
B CAMERA OPERATOR DELANEY O'BRIEN
FIRST ASSISTANT A CAMERA JOEL SCHAEFFER
SECOND ASSISTANT A CAMERA EMMA JUNCOSA
FIRST ASSISTANT B CAMERA LUCIA RINALDI
SECOND ASSISTANT B CAMERA DERRICK AXTELL
STILL PHOTOGRAPHER LEAH O'CONNER
DIT / BTS VIDEOGRAPHER THOMAS SIMON

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR ALEXANDRA WOLFF

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR JESSICA SABAKEA

GAFFER AAKASH RAJ
BEST BOY GRIP DIEGO TRENAS
KEY GRIP ERIQUE DUBOISE
DOLLY GRIP KEN KINOZAKI
GRIP AUGUSTINE ESCALERA
BEST BOY ELECTRIC KISHAN PATEL
ELECTRICIANS GABRIEL H LEE
CAL PARSONS
SAM PEMBERTON

2ND SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS NATALIE CAMOU
ILAN BEN-YEHUDA

ASSISTANT EDITOR BEN TOLENTINO
STORY EDITOR MILENA KOROLCZUK

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER SCOTT ESTERLY

ART DIRECTOR JAKE VOLLMER
ART PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS CAMERON BURSTEIN
MAGDIEL CARRANZA
PERRY FERNANDEZ

COSTUME DESIGNER ALEJANDRA MADRIGAL-AVINA
COSTUMER DESIGNER ASSISTANT KATJA VAN EERSEL
COSTUMERS RACHEL HOUGH
MIKE O'HORA
KAT SANCHEZ

Credits

KEY HAIR & MAKE-UP MOUNG HUI "KELLY" PARK
BACKGROUND HAIR & MAKE-UP ARTISTS ANZHELIKA BEM
AMIN LEE
EMMA PARK
EDEN WILLIAMS
BACKGROUND HAIR STYLIST DANIEL PILLAR

POST SOUND MELODYGUN GROUP
SOUND SUPERVISOR / STUDIO MANGER HAMED HOKAMZADEH
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR / SOUND DESIGNER THOMAS OUZIEL
MIXED AT ANARCHY POST

DIGITAL COLORIST TOM REISE

DRIVERS MIKE HELLERSTEIN
MIKE O'HORA

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS BRIAN BURNS
JEREMY DAWSON
JAKE GAO
KERISA LIN
FAVOR MITCHELL
JASMINE MAE WITH

CATERING B & G CATERING
CRAFT SERVICES FAVOR MITCHELL

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CATHERINE TAYLOR
2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PORTLYNN TAGAVI

B CAMERA OPERATOR LEO PURMAN
FIRST ASSISTANT A CAMERA DARREL HAM
SECOND ASSISTANT A CAMERA MORGAN CHASE
SECOND ASSISTANT B CAMERA PAVEL GAZDYUK
STILL PHOTOGRAPHER ROY SUN
DIT KRISHNA SANCHEZ

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER COURTNEY SHUMWAY

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR SAM BEASLEY

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR SYDNEY MORAN

ELECTRICIANS FELIX MALMS
DEXTER MARSH

Credits

ART DIRECTOR AMANDA AUROA BONILLA
SET DECORATOR MERVE DOBAI
ART PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS PERRY FERNANDEZ
WYNNE RENEAU
HAIR / MAKE-UP HALI MCGOWAN
BACKGROUND HAIR / MAKE-UP JADA MOUTON

DRIVERS MANNY VELASQUEZ
GUILLERMO VIDALES

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS ALEXANDER ATIENZA
ALI JAEJL

CATERING SCHOOL HOUSE CATERING

MUSIC

"WORSHIP"

WRITTEN BY: ERIK ROBERTS
PERFORMED BY: SYCOSIS FEATURING THE
HOMIE CHRIS
COURTESY OF: ARTLIST.IO

"PAPER STARS"

WRITTEN BY: CARLA CAPP, ALEXANDER
BANDES, STEVEN JOSEPH GIRARDI
PERFORMED BY: WEST COAST MASSIVE
FEATURING CAPP
COURTESY OF: MUSICBED

"PAPER STARS" INSTRUMENTAL

WRITTEN BY: CARLA CAPP, ALEXANDER
BANDES, STEVEN JOSEPH GIRARDI
PERFORMED BY: WEST COAST MASSIVE
COURTESY OF: MUSICBED

"DO IT LIKE THIS"

WRITTEN BY: YUVAL MAAYAN
PERFORMED BY: YUVAL MAAYAN
COURTESY OF: ARTLIST.IO

"FIGHT FOR YOU"

WRITTEN BY: DARAMOLA
PERFORMED BY: DARAMOLA
COURTESY OF: ARTLIST.IO

"AFTER ALL"

WRITTEN BY: NIV BEN ELI
PERFORMED BY: EILL
COURTESY OF: ARTLIST.IO

"GOODNIGHT"

WRITTEN BY: KIPP WILDE
PERFORMED BY: KIPP WILDE
COURTESY OF: ARTLIST.IO

"SMOKE"

WRITTEN BY: JENNALYN PONRAJ
PERFORMED BY: JENNALYN PONRAJ
COURTESY OF: JENNALYN PONRAJ

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