



TECHNOLOGY IS COOL. NOW, CAN I BE YOUR PRINCE?

# VHS TAPE REPLACED

A FILM BY MAHA AL-SAATI

SARAH TAIBAH  
HATOON ALREFAIE  
ANAS ALOMAIR

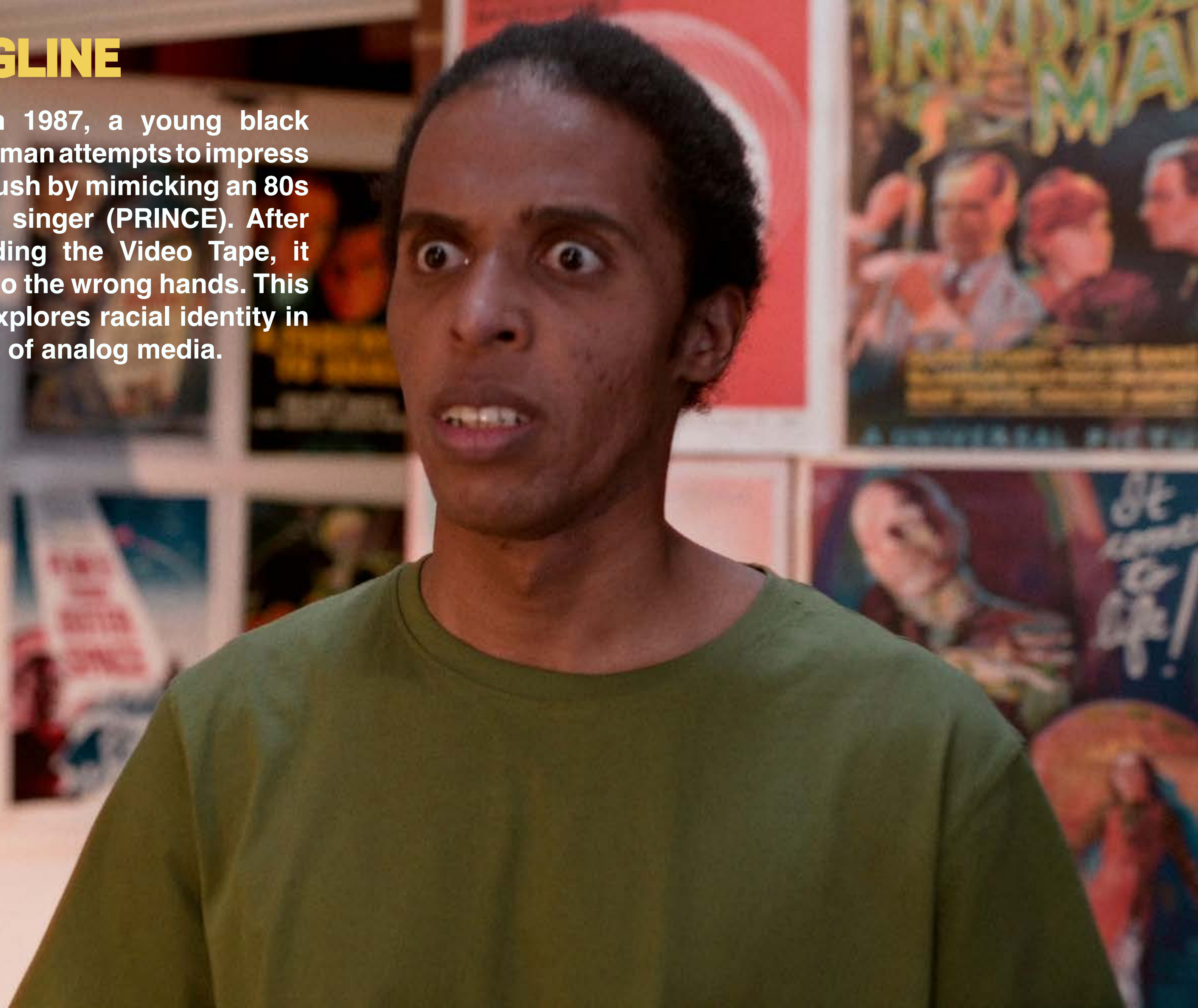
MOTASEM NASSER  
AYSHYA ALREFAE  
MAJED ALTURKI





## LOGLINE

Set in 1987, a young black Saudi man attempts to impress his crush by mimicking an 80s iconic singer (PRINCE). After recording the Video Tape, it goes to the wrong hands. This film explores racial identity in a time of analog media.





# PROJECT INFO

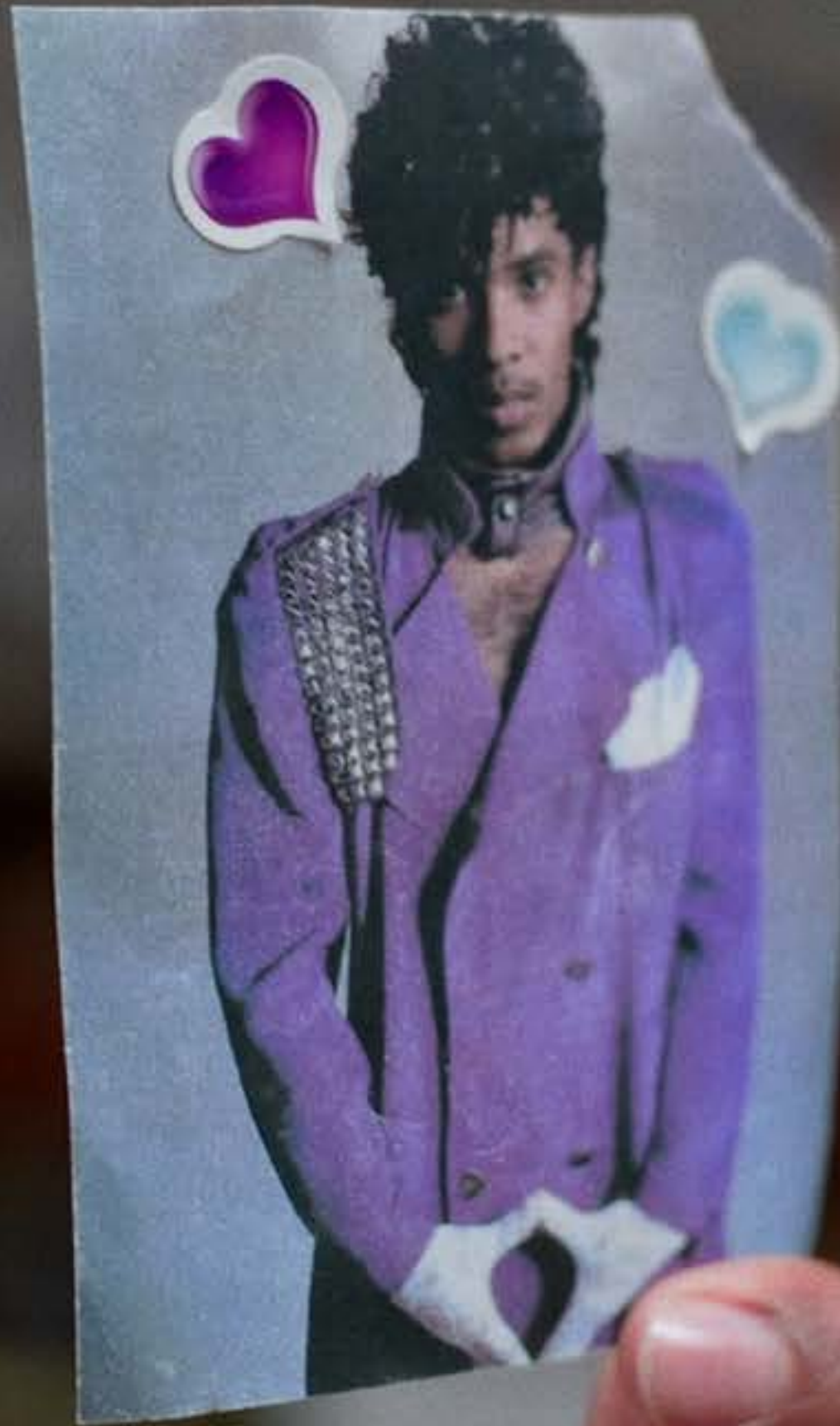
**Genre:** Drama Comedy  
**Duration:** 17:10 min  
**Language:** Arabic

**Director:** Maha Al-Saati  
**Producer:** Aziz Twaijri  
Jomana Alquraish

**Production Companies:**  
Mas Studios  
3-Leg Cat Productions

**Edited by:** Sultan Rabea

**Cinematographer:** Ahlam Fadel







## SYNOPSIS

Set in 1987, Eyad, a black young Saudi, waits for his sister in the school parking lot, but is assaulted with a juice can by a bunch of bullies who call him names. Areej, his sister, asks if they can drive her friend Mashael back home. They play her favorite song. He attempts to call her landline later on but she shuts the phone in his face. Later on, his friend advises him to mimic Crown (based on Prince), the black singer who Mashael loves.

When he plays the music video on VHS tape during the family's gathering, the mom is enraged by the dance moves and hides the tape. Areej asks if she can borrow the tape, but he says no. Instead, he mimics Crown, videos it with his friend, then returns the tape to his sister to give to Mashael, in hopes she would be impressed.

However, the video store owner calls the mom to ask her to return the tapes. The mom places all tapes for return, including the one Eyad recorded. Someone rents the video, and Eyad's dance goes viral. He attempts for the last time to impress Mashael by appearing at school with his new style, confronts the bullies and throws a juice box at them, but they beat him up. At home, his sister and mom yell at him after hearing about the video. Eyad is depressed, the phone rings insistently, he answers, a love song plays. Then Mashael speaks, she loves his video. A large smile appears on his face.



# COVER LETTER



This film was a collaborative effort between me and my screenwriter/lead actor, Motasem Nasser. In 2019, we sat together talking about our experience of being bullied by racists while growing up in Saudi Arabia, him for being black, and myself for looking Asian. Although I grew up in the 80s and he in the 90s, we connected over those experiences. We didn't want to explore the film in a sad or serious tone, the Arab world is filled with sad and depressing films. Coating it in a comedic, absurdist style was intentional. We wanted the audience to relate through laughter, and give them a light hearted sweet film in the tradition of romantic comedies. This film is also a homage for Prince, an iconic

black figure of the 80s, whose feminine style is very relevant today, and portrayed by Saudi Gay model Saad Almowalid, whose research on Saudi black history informed the writing this film. The selection of traditional Saudi songs which sang about "dark skin" were also informed by his research. The Arab world still lags behind when it comes to issues of race, and black pride is still hidden behind songs that glorify and refer to blackness as "dark skin". This film captures the zeitgeist of that period as lived, in hopes that the new generations would identify with the protagonists from decades ago.



# CAST

**MOTASEM NASSER**  
as **EYAD**

**ALSO THE CO-  
WRITER OF THIS  
FILM**





# CAST

**SARAH TAIBAH**  
as **MASHAEL**

**HATOON ALREFAIE**  
as **AREEJ (THE SISTER)**





# CAST

**AYSHAH REFAE**  
as **THE MOM**





# CAST

**MAJED ALTURKI**  
**as BU DAHMI**  
**(THE FRIEND)**





# THE BULLIES





## **MAHA ALSAATI** **DIRECTOR/ WRITER**

Maha Al-Saati is an independent filmmaker interested in exploring femininity, gender, and women's issues in the Arab World. She is also an honorary recipient of the TIFF Filmmaker Lab Fellowship – Share Her Journey Award and The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) residency 2021. Her short films include: “Cycle of Apples” (2019), “Fear: Audibly” (2017), and “Hair: The Story of Grass” (2018), a satire about how body hair shapes beauty standards and defines gender in the Arab world, and an official selection of Fantastic Fest 2018, Slamdance 2019, HollyShorts 2019.







## AZIZ TWAIJRI PRODUCER

A Saudi producer, who's interested in exploring the new struggles Saudis face spurred by the dynamic modern time. His most notable achievements are the founding of MAS Studios, which is focusing on supporting independent filmmakers, and working with Telfaz11 as the new Digital Content Producer.

## JOMANA ALQURISH PRODUCER

Jomana Alquraish is a writer, content producer and entrepreneur, she is a scientist turned filmmaker with a passion for mental health awareness. She is Co-founder of Drámaturgys, a creative consulting company for film and theater development

and producer of the live interactive film Yajuj: Curse of Iram, currently in development with the Red Sea Lodge. She has previously collaborated with Alsaati in co-producing her short "VHS TAPE REPLACED"





A close-up portrait of Ahlam Fadel, a woman with dark hair, looking thoughtfully off-camera with her hand resting on her chin. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh lights.

Ahlam Fadel is a passionate cinematographer and a graduate of Effat University (2019), a Berlinale Beirut Talents 2019 and Berlinale Talents 2022. Her cinematography work includes “Human for Real”, Abdulrahman Khawj’s, Jawaher Alamri’s “Sadaya left Sultan” and “Kareemat Sumaya” from the Red Sea Funded feature “Becoming”. Her recent 2022 projects include Aseel Bafarat’s “When you grow older”, Maha Alsaati’s “VHS TAPE REPLACED” and Hania Bakheshwain’s “The Journey”.

**AHLAM FADEL**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

A man with a beard and curly hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark strap across his chest. He is holding a bottle and looking down at it with a slight smile. The background is a blurred wall with the text "July 2021".

**SULTAN RABEA**  
**EDITOR**

Sultan is a director/editor most known for his comedic shorts: An Egg Rebelled (2021) and Barseem’s Great Secret (2022).



# **MALIK ZUBAILAH**

## **COMPOSER**

A music producer/writer/songwriter who is passionate about storytelling and narrative design and their integration in different types of mediums. He is the co-founder of the Saudi band “Statues of Sinking Men”, which combines the art of electronic music, vocals, and visuals in a distinctive innovative way. He has over 5 years of experience in Music Production, and a strong enthusiasm for teaching as an English Language Graduate. He has previously collaborated with director Maha Alsaati in the vocals of “Fear Audibly” (2017) in addition to her newest short “VHS TAPE REPLACED” (2022) in which he created original 80s music, including the theme song inspired by Prince.



# **ABDULLAH ALDHAMIN**

## **COMPOSER**



# **ALI ABDULKAREEM**

## **ORIGINAL MUSIC**

