

IRTIZAZ

إخراج وكتابة
سارة بالغنيم

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
SARA BALGHONAIM



ارتزاز IRTIZAZ

DIRECTED & WRITTEN BY SARA BALGHONAIM



REEM ALHABIB • RAND ALGOSAIBI

PRODUCED BY KAREN MADAR, SARA BALGHONAIM AND NOMAD PRODUCTIONS CO-PRODUCED BY JUMANA ZAHID, KHALID ALSUDAIRY AND KING ABDULAZIZ CENTER FOR WORLD CULTURE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCED BY BASSEL ZAOUK, MARYAM SINDI AND NEBRAS FILMS CO-DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY SOPHIA BENNETT HOLMES AND MARINA XARRI PRODUCTION DESIGNER SARA ALMUTLAQ

IRTIZAZ

Derived from the colloquial verb

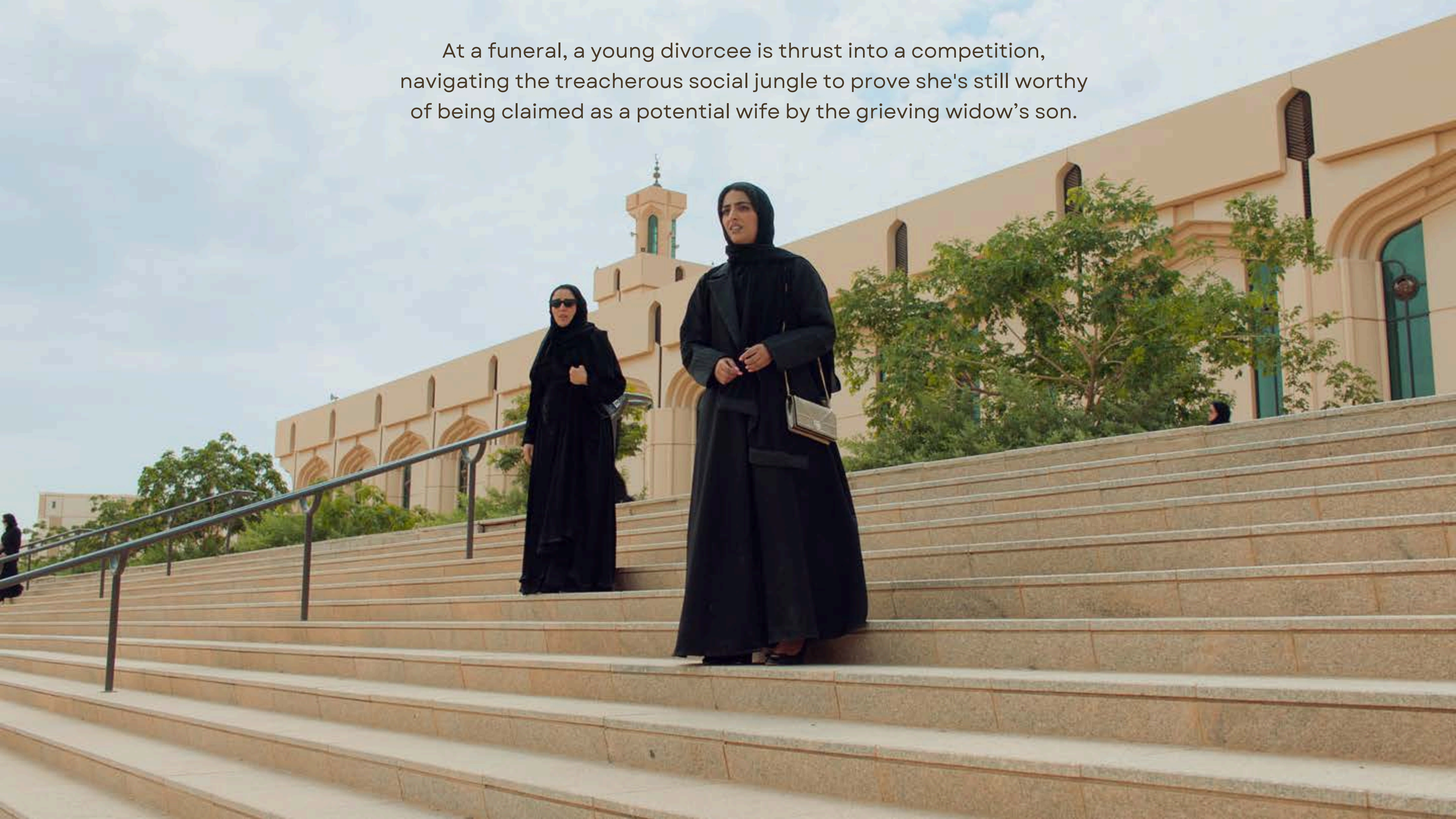
TARAZUZ

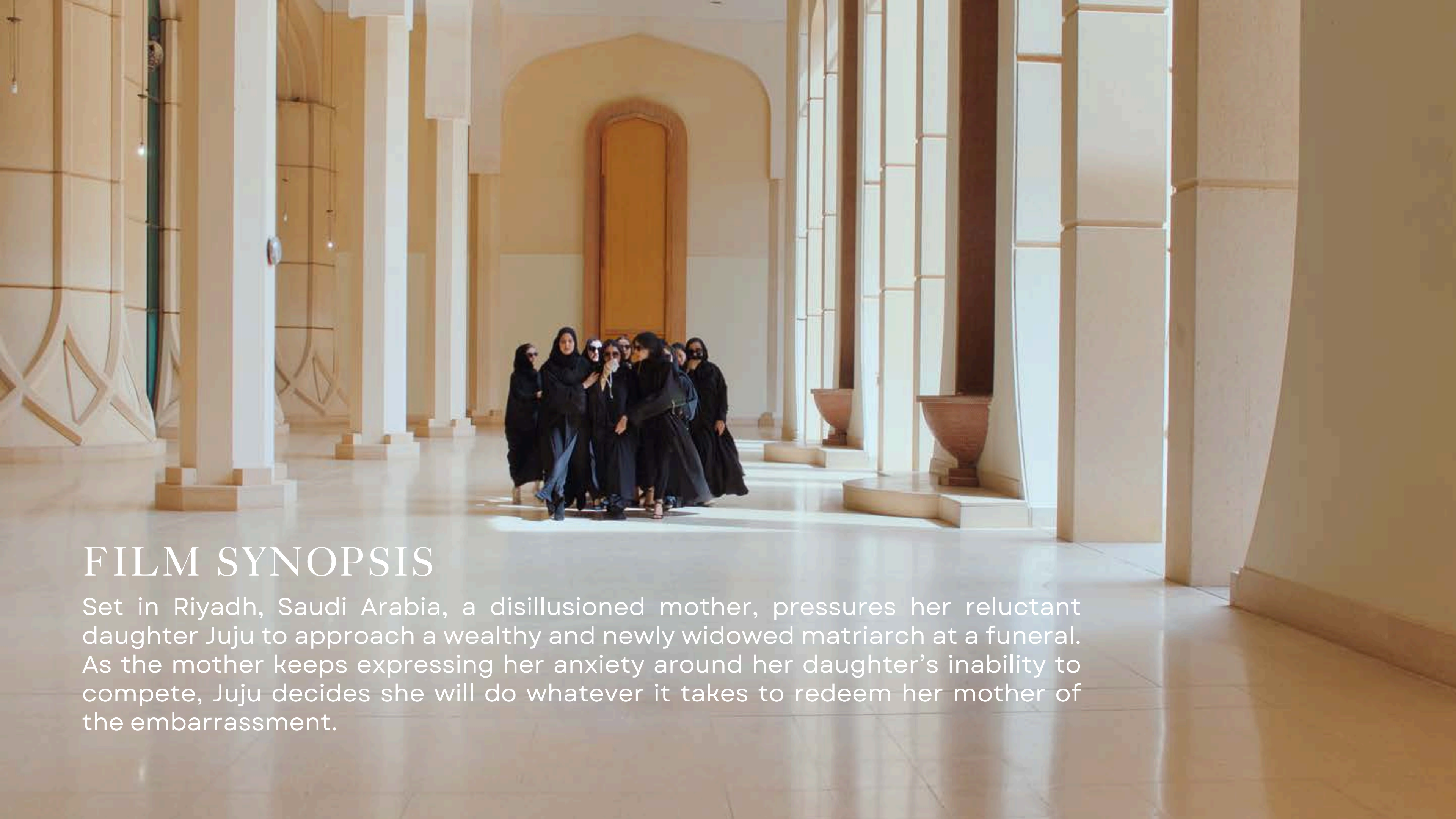
ترزز

and it means parading oneself to be noticed by others.

الترزاز

At a funeral, a young divorcee is thrust into a competition,
navigating the treacherous social jungle to prove she's still worthy
of being claimed as a potential wife by the grieving widow's son.





FILM SYNOPSIS

Set in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a disillusioned mother, pressures her reluctant daughter Juju to approach a wealthy and newly widowed matriarch at a funeral. As the mother keeps expressing her anxiety around her daughter's inability to compete, Juju decides she will do whatever it takes to redeem her mother of the embarrassment.



SARA BALGHONAIM

Director/writer

Sara Balghonaim is a Saudi filmmaker with a MFA in Film and TV production from New York University. Sara's directorial debut "Me & Aydarous" was in Official Selection at Aspen Shortsfest, Palm Springs International Shortfest, The Hamptons Int'l Film Festival, NewFilmmakers LA, and the Red Sea Int'l Film Festival in 2023. It also won the Jury award at the Saudi Film Festival and the Wasserman Award.

In 2022, Sara produced "Sweet Refuge", winner of the Director's Guild of America Student Award. Before her time at NYU, Sara starred in "Dunya's Day", winner of the Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival. The film toured over 40 film festivals, including Palm Springs ShortFest, San Francisco Int'l Film Festival, Cairo and Durban International Film Festivals. She also shadowed director Haifa Al Mansour while working as an Assistant Director on "The Perfect Candidate."

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Don’t miss the train, even if you don’t have a ticket,” is a saying I grew up hearing from the older women in my community. It meant: get married, no matter what it takes. Pin him down. Or better yet, pin his mother down.

Mothers and daughters will parade themselves around at any given opportunity for the chance to catch the eye of a prospective mother-in-law, and *Irtizaz* is a satire of this ritual.

Now that I have passed the “prime marriageable age” and have grown out of those values, I can’t help but to look back to the years I spent chasing that train: at weddings, mosques, and even at funerals! I was unaware of the conditioning, the grooming, the pressure placed not only on me, but on my mother, to keep me ‘eligible.’ To look a certain way, to speak politely, to remain visible and acceptable in the right social circles.

The story follows Juju, a young divorcée trying to reenter a game whose rules are stacked against her. Her divorce, her age, and her refusal to conform make her an outsider, yet she continues to try, seeking her mother’s approval. Through her struggle, I explore the absurdity of the performative rituals tied to marriage, and the emotional toll they take on young women (Saudi & otherwise) who are told their worth lies in being chosen.

As writer/director, I wanted to approach this world with both honesty and satire. *Irtizaz* is not just a critique, it’s an invitation to laugh at how bizarre, theatrical, and tragic these social dynamics can be. The film is a glimpse into this world, a look at the lengths that these mothers and daughters will go to at the cost of one’s happiness. As our main character fights for her train seat, combatting societal pressures and internalized shame, we come to understand the absurdity of this world.



CAST



RAND ALGOSAIBI

Rand Algosaibi is a Saudi actress most known for starring in Netflix's first Saudi original series *Tahir's House* (2023) and for her lead performance in the short film *Fishbowl* (2023), which won Best Actress at the MENA Film Festival The Hague and is currently streaming on Netflix MENA. Her other short films include *The Flat Belly Syndrome* (2022, Saudi Film Festival), the romantic drama *The Edge* (Red Sea International Film Festival 2024), and the horror short *Hope* (Chicago Horror Film Festival 2025). She has also appeared in acclaimed shorts such as *VHS Tape Replaced* (2022) and *Two Sisters* (2024). Rand has several projects in post-production, including *Irtizaz*, *Royal Dilemma*, the MBC Academy-supported *Bad Trip*, and the feature *Rise of the Witches*. On television, she has taken on roles in popular Saudi comedies such as *Sondos*, *Hazza*, and *Horooj*.

REEM ALHABIB

Reem Al-Habib is a Saudi actress, director, and filmmaker best known for her lead role in Netflix's first Saudi psychological thriller *The Matchmaker* (2023). She began her career in television with the folk drama *Haret Alshaikh* (2016), followed by roles in series such as *Thanaweyat Al Naseem* (2024), *Al Asha Street* (2025), and *Horooj* (2025). Her film work includes *Kandahar* (2023) and the award-winning short *Koora* (2022). In addition to her on-screen presence, Reem has directed and produced projects that highlight contemporary Saudi stories and founded Fasila Organics, a media platform promoting sustainable living.





CREW



KAREN MADAR

Producer

Karen Madar is a French filmmaker based between New York and Paris, and a dual MBA/MFA graduate of NYU Stern and Tisch. She is a 2025 Sundance Producing Fellow as the Mark Silverman Honoree and the 2024 recipient of the PGA Debra Hill Fellowship.

Through her production company, NoMad Productions, Karen has produced more than 15 short films, including *Grandma Nai Who Played Favorites* (dir. Chheangkea, 2025 Sundance Jury Award for International Fiction), *Skin Can Breathe* (dir. Chheangkea, streaming on Max), *Wassupkaylee* (dir. Pepi Ginsberg, SXSW 2025), and *Let* (dir. Alyssa Loh, SXSW 2024).

She is developing Chheangkea's debut feature *Little Phnom Penh* (Sundance Labs, HamptonsFilm) and Pepi Ginsberg's first feature *The Mirex* (HamptonsFilm, Melissa Mathison Award).

Her work champions stories that resonate deeply on a human level while introducing audiences to unfamiliar places, perspectives, and communities. Previously, she worked as Associate Producer on *Sisters in Arms* (2019, dir. Caroline Foubert) and holds a BSc in Politics and History from the London School of Economics.

JUMANA ZAHID

Co-Producer

Jumana Zahid is a Saudi film producer and a founding board member of the Saudi Film Association, the Kingdom's first professional body for local filmmakers.

She began her career in journalism before moving into film, where she produced acclaimed shorts including *Madinat Almalahi* (2019), *The Girls Who Burnt the Night* (2019), and *Zero Distance* (2018).

Beyond production, Jumana played a central role in shaping the Saudi film ecosystem, leading the Red Sea International Film Festival's Red Sea Lodge training and development program across three successful editions. She continues to champion emerging talent and the growth of the Saudi creative sector.





KHALID AL SUDAIRY

Co-Producer

Khalid Al Sudairy is a freelance cinematographer and producer based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has contributed to numerous feature films, including *The Perfect Candidate*, *Zero Distance*, *Last Visit*, and *Tickling Giants*. His work also spans independent documentary projects with BMC Films, as well as personal projects such as the *Doxiadis* documentary.

Khalid has been actively involved in the film industry, with projects screened at both local and international festivals. *Me & Aydarous* premiered at Aspen and Palm Springs, winning awards at the Saudi Film Festival, while *Malika* earned multiple nominations and won Best Short Film at the Toronto Arab Film Festival.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Film and New Media from Wheaton College, where he also spent a semester at FAMU Film School in Prague. In addition, he has completed intensive programs with the New York Film Academy and the Saudi Film Council in collaboration with Studio Institute Global in Los Angeles. Most recently, Khalid founded Saudi Arabia Fixer, a production services company dedicated to supporting international productions in the Kingdom. The company has already contributed to high-profile projects, including the Saudi Pavilion for Expo 2025 in Osaka.



SOPHIA BENNETT HOLMES

Co-Director of Photography

Sophia Bennett Holmes is a writer, director, and cinematographer from Brooklyn, New York. She studied fine art at Cooper Union and earned her MFA in Film from New York University in 2024.

She finds inspiration in the questions people ask online about what it means to be “normal.” She received the Nestor Almendros Award for Cinematography for her work on *The Dalles*, which premiered at Sundance 2023 in the Shorts program.



MARINA XARRI

Co-Director of Photography

Marina Xarri is a French Basque filmmaker and cinematographer raised between Bangkok, Seoul, and Hong Kong. She holds an MFA in Writing-Directing from NYU Tisch, where she was supported by the Maurice Kanbar Scholarship and named a finalist for the Wasserman King Award.

Her thesis film *Habitat Hotel* received the Craft Award for Thesis Achievement and will premiere at the 73rd San Sebastián International Film Festival. As a cinematographer, she has shot internationally on films including *PhDing While Black* (dir. Ifeyinwa Arinze, USA, 2024).



Joecar Hanna Zhang
EDITOR

Joecar Hanna Zhang is a Lebanese-Chinese filmmaker and a graduate of the MFA Film program at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Before moving to New York, he worked as an editor on six feature films, including one nominated for a Goya Award, as well as a television series. He directed the hybrid documentary-fiction *La Otra Educación*. His NYU thesis short *Deliver Me* (2023) premiered at SXSW in the Narrative Shorts Competition, where he also served as writer, director, editor, and actor. He is a recipient of the Ang Lee Scholarship, the Black Family Prize, and the Marcie Bloom Fellowship, and was nominated for a BAFTA Scholarship.



Sara Almutlaq
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Sara Almutlaq is a Saudi designer, curator, and visual artist with a Master of Architecture from Columbia University. Her work spans installation, new media, and cultural initiatives, including contributions to Diriyah Art Futures and Fenaa Alawwal. She has exhibited at Noor Riyadh, the Misk Art Institute, and internationally, developing a practice that blends architectural precision with conceptual research. As a production designer, Sara draws on this interdisciplinary background to create immersive, layered environments that elevate cinematic storytelling.



Quelque Bourdon
MUSIC COMPOSER

Quelque Bourdon is a Paris-based composer and musician whose work fuses traditional instruments with modern synths to create intimate and textured soundscapes. Self-taught, he is also a clarinetist with the ambient ensemble Le Radeau Consort, and enriches his compositions with instruments he fabricates himself, from flutes and metallophones to hand-collected bells. He has composed original scores for films including *August Visitor* (Aspen Shortfest 2023) and *Out the Window Through the Wall* (Cannes Cinéfondation Second Prize, 2024).



Maryam Sindi
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Maryam Sindi is a Saudi-American filmmaker and producer. She holds a BA in Media and Culture from the University of Amsterdam, where her thesis examined the “Arabia” effect in Hollywood. She is pursuing an MA in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California alongside the John H. Mitchell Graduate Certificate in the Business of Entertainment. She co-produced *Me & Aydarous* (2022), winner of the Golden Palm Jury Prize at the 2024 Saudi Film Festival, and has produced various USC shorts and thesis films. She is also producing the feature-length documentary *Remind Me To Forget* (dir. Lama Jamjoom).

GENRE SUBCATEGORIES	Drama, comedy		ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	Arabic
TOTAL RUNNING TIME	14 minutes	PRODUCTION YEAR	2025	
PRODUCTION COMPANY	NoMad Productions King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture - Ithra		EXHIBITION FORMATS	Digital Projection (DCP) 2k Rec 709 (2.4 Gamma)
PRODUCTION LOCATION	Saudi Arabia	SUBTITLES	English	
ASPECT RATIO	16:9	FRAME RATE	23.98	

PRODUCED BY

إثراء
ithra

مبادرة أرامكو



NoMad
Productions



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
SARA BALGHONAIM

PRODUCED BY
KAREN MADAR
SARA BALGHONAIM
NOMAD PRODUCTIONS

STARRING
REEM ALHABIB
RAND ALGOSAIBI

CO-PRODUCED BY
JUMANA ZAHID
KHALID ALSUDAIRY
KING ABDULAZIZ CENTER FOR
WORLD CULTURE (ITHRA)

ASSOCIATE PRODUCED BY
BASSEL ZAOUK
MARYAM SINDI
NEBRAS FILMS



CREDITS

CO-DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

SOPHIA BENNETT HOLMES
MARINA XARRI

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

SARA ALMUTLAQ

SOUND ENGINEER

DAVID KRAMER

CASTING DIRECTOR

NADA AL-MOJADEDI

COSTUME DESIGNER

REEMA ALSUDAIRY

GAFFER

MARINA XARRI

CAST

LEENA AL-NASSER
ALDANA
ABDULLAH ISAM HIZAM

EXTRAS

MIRA HAMOOD
RANA BASEM MOHAMAD
KHAYAL ABALKHAIL
SALEH ALSHIRYAN
MUSTAFA AL-MUBARAK

PRODUCTION DESIGN CONSULTANT

SADRA TEHRANI
AHMED BAAGEEL

ART ASSISTANT

ZINA BAZARBASHI
LAYAL ALKHATEEB
YUSUR ALKHATEEB
TALA ALGHAMDI

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

NEDAA BARNAWI

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

GHAIDAA MARWAN ABUAZZAH

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

SALMAN ALABOUDI

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JALAWI MOHAMMED AL SAEED

SET MANAGER

AHMED TAHR

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER

ABDELBAKY MOHAMED ALY

KEY SET

ASIM OSMAN

LOCATION ASSISTANT

SAIF FAISAL ALMUHARBI

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

FAISAL ALSUMIRI
ABDULRAHMAN DAHER
MARLON BLACK
MARLON MUNAR
NASR ABDULJADAYEL
SAAD ALDEEB

LAWYER

MATTI ROCKENBAUCH

CREATIVE CONSULTANT

RAMI ALZAYER
ABDULAZIZ ALBRAIK

ART DIRECTOR

AHMAD ASKARIYA

COSTUME SUPERVISOR

NORA BUHAIRI

COSTUME ASSISTANT

DANIAH ABDULLAH

CASTING

NADA AL-MOJADEDI
SALMAN ALABOUDI
LAYAL MOUSA
WAFARIZQ ALASHARI

HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST

LAMA HATIM
SAFI OMAR

NEBRAS FILMS

SERVICE PRODUCER

ABDULRAZZAK SIDDIQUI

2ND AC

HERBERT RAVAGO

3RD AC

KENNETH MACATO

GRIP

HILBERT VELAYO

ELECTRIC

JHONATAN CASTRO

GRIP ASSISTANT

ROKUN MIAH

GRIP ASSISTANT

MOHAMED SAGAR

DRIVER

MOHAMMED NASER



Casting Powered By

مجتمع تمثيل
TAMTHEEL COMMUNITY

By Nada AlMojaedi

EDITORS

SARA BALGHONAIM
JOECAR HANNA ZHANG
KHALID ALSUDAIRY

POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

MARYAM SINDI

MUSIC COMPOSER

QUELQUE BOURDON

PERCUSSIONIST

FRANCISCO RODRIGUES BENTO

KRIN PLAYER

SIMON LEWIS

SOUND DESIGN & MIX

DAVID DOUBTFIRE PELLICER

COLORIST

AYUMI ASHLEY

VFX

SAM MOTAMEDI
JAAFAR ALNABI
ARMIN RANGANI

GRAPHICS & TITLES

ARMIN RANGANI

ASSISTANT EDITOR

ALIA TOORANI

BTS PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

RAED ALQARNI

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

LISA MILINAZZO
SAMEH ZOABI
TODD SOLODZ
JOHN TINTORI
CAROL DYSINGER
ASLIHAN UNALDI
ANDREW OKPEAHA MACLEAN
ANNIE J. HOWELL
MAURICIO ZACHARIAS
JULIA SOLOMONOFF
SOFIA CAMARGO
MIRIAM FURNISS YACOUBI
HANNAH GRAY ORGANSCHI
HASAN HADI
NAY TABBARA

KING SAUD UNIVERSITY

DR. ABDULLAH AL-SALMAN
DR. MONA ALMALKI
ABDULRAHMAN ALOMAR

كلية
الفنون
College of Arts

جامعة
الملك سعود
King Saud University



SPECIAL THANKS

ABDULRAHMAN ALNAFISAH
SAAD ABUTAILY
WALEED ALQAHTANI
SALMAN ALDUKHEIL
NOUF ALRASHED
JASMINE CONCEPCION
R HOUSE
MASHARY BALGHONAIM
KHAIRIA ALASKA
FAHAD ALSUWAYAN
ALJOHARAH AL ATHEL
HESSA AL ATHEL
ABDULLAH AL ORABI
SAAD BIN NASSER BIN SHARI
ALQAHTANI
ZAIRA EMRAN
MAHA ALROGAIEY
FARAH ALBAHLI
KIT CATERING BY RAKAN AL
ORAIFI
FAISAL ALSHATHRY
SULTAN ALSHATHRY
RABIAH ROWTHER
ABDULRAHMAN KHAWJ
SARAH ELNAWASRAH
SAUDI FILM FESTIVAL
FERAS ALMUSHARRIE
ABDULAZIZ SULAIMAN AL-
TUWAIJRI
ALJADI COUNTRYSIDE RESORT

SPONSORS



VERNIS
NAIL SPA



VEN
CHOCOLATE & SWEET



لؤلؤة
L'OLIVO

SAUDI
ARABIA **FIXER**



CONTACT

sara.balghonaim@gmail.com
maryamksindi@gmail.com