

PRODUCTION NOTES



A film by Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor

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LOGLINE

As her freedom is threatened, Isio, a Nigerian migrant freshly placed at a UK asylum removal centre, searches for the will to battle the system and finds a kindred spirit who might help her through. Freedom is elusive, but love is eternal.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

After living illegally in the UK for two years, Nigerian migrant Isio is caught and sent to Hatchworth Removal Centre, where she hopes her plea for asylum will be given a fair hearing.

Isio is convinced that the only way out is to play by the rules, even when her charismatic new roommate, Farah, warns her otherwise. As Isio adjusts to life in the removal centre, she finds herself falling for Farah, and becoming close to her group of friends, Nana and Atefeh.

Her faith begins to wane as her asylum pleas are rejected, but as her feelings for Farah deepen, Farah suggests a plan to escape so that their love can survive. A stubborn Isio refuses, still fixated on doing things the right way, but when events beyond their control threaten the promise of a new life together, Isio realises that the only way forward is to create her own playbook. Freedom is elusive, but love is eternal.

LONG SYNOPSIS

After living illegally in the UK for two years, Nigerian migrant Isio finds herself caught in Hatchworth Removal Centre and the complicated asylum system. Isio believes that by playing by the rules, and laying out the repressive homophobia she faced in her birth country, she will be given freedom from living in the shadows as an illegal immigrant.

Isio is convinced that the system will eventually help her, even when her charismatic new roommate, Farah, now on her third appeal, tells her otherwise. Before long, with her caseworker interviews clearly going nowhere, she is denied asylum, and her faith begins to wane. Amidst her frustration, she gets into a fight with other detainees and ends up hitting a guard, which lands her in an isolation cell, further than ever from the freedom she is seeking.

Warming to Isio's intelligence and strength of character, Farah offers to help with her appeal submission, and they grow closer. However, when Isio's feelings for Farah become more intense than she can handle, she tries to break ties. She's not prepared to get attached to anyone in this place she so desperately wants to leave, but she can't help herself from falling for Farah's love and support. Nana and Atefeh, Farah's friends, also become Isio's friends and she starts to find community in the last place she could imagine this happening.

When Isio's appeal is rejected, Farah reveals that she, Nana and Atefeh, are planning to escape and suggests Isio should join them. Despite their bond, Isio cannot fathom going back to an illegal life. She handed herself in so that she could live freely and not worry about being caught. As much as her love for Farah is growing, she can't bear the thought of her previous life, so she refuses to join their plan.

Emotions run high in the rift between Isio and Farah, but eventually they come back together, thanks to some insightful mediation by Nana and Atefeh, who have witnessed the magic in their relationship. When Isio's appeal is rejected yet again, she finally agrees to join the escape plan. But it's too late, Farah is suddenly deported.

A heartbroken Isio is unsure of her next move, but she gradually surfaces from her grief and finds the will to fight. She appeals again, but this time she's not waiting for an answer. She realises that Farah was always right and can't bear the loss of her love; she has to take control. Isio devises her own escape plan, determined to track down Farah. She convinces the other women to join her, but in the end, only Nana and Atefeh escape. Isio is caught, seemingly forever trapped in an impossible system, but her will to fight only grows, and we feel sure she'll be reunited with Farah someday.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – JOY GHARORO-AKPOJOTOR

This is not a story of what it means to be an immigrant or how appalling the immigration system is, even though those things are true. This is a story about two women who find love in the most unlikely of places despite facing a very uncertain future. It's a story of believing in love when it seems out of reach. It is a story of hope and friendship.

This is a film that has lived with me for many years. It's about my life and the lives of other people I know. When I was 24, I sought asylum, and I had to prove that I was gay. I was one of the lucky ones. My accent and the fact I had lived in Dagenham – the same place my caseworker was from – helped. This man who was deciding my case hadn't seen my passport, my file, my evidence, nor my written statement. I remember my legal aid lawyer telling me prior to going for my interview that the Home Office wouldn't have seen any of those things and that was just how the system worked. Yet, after 202 interview questions, this man sat in front of me was going to decide my future.

Like any immigrant story, my story is different and personal to me, but at the same time, we all share the same experience. It is the hope that keeps you going; the hope of a better life and of the possibilities that you will have, whether that be a chance at love, or a chance at becoming a doctor, or just a chance at a dream.

Dreamers was developed with the belief that something so personal to me – and others caught in this same system – could resonate universally. That the relationship between Isio and Farah – the idea of pursuing something beautiful even though there may not be a future, which speaks to the idea of what it means to be an immigrant – would connect with anyone who has ever fought for a better life despite the future looking bleak.

With this in mind, I felt very strongly about ensuring the film was full of colour to accentuate the love that Isio and Farah feel, and the richness of the friendship with Atefeh and Nana. Like Isio, I was naïve in the beginning of my asylum-seeking process, but unlike Isio I was one of the lucky ones. When I was going through my asylum-seeking experience, I only saw a colourful world because this is what kept me going. It was the hope that allowed me to think of the possibilities of the life that I could live. I wasn't

interested in telling a story about a system and its failures because this is something we can read about in any newspaper. What we rarely talk about and see are the individuals that these systems group together and dehumanise. I wanted to make a film that allowed audiences to relate to an individual and be frustrated at a failing system.

The basic action underpinning *Dreamers* is love. To face her demons, Isio must lean into her power and find love. Farah represents the conduit for this to happen. Isio leans into love and learns to love herself and what friendship means.

The Masquerade is an ancestral figure that embodies everything Isio must face and must equally let go of. This particular masquerade is ancestral, and represents power and courage. Some masquerades represent deities. As a child, I was always scared of masquerades because I didn't completely understand their power and their true meaning. They are spiritual beings reminding you of who you are, and that is something Isio realises through the course of the film. At first she is afraid of what is bubbling underneath her, but then she realises that in order to understand it, she must face it and dance with her demons, and that by doing so she can experience liberation.

BIOGRAPHIES

Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor (Writer Director)

Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor runs Joi Productions. In 2019, she produced the hit *Blue Story*, which became the top grossing film of its genre. In 2020, she was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and a BAFTA Breakthrough, as well as Joi Productions receiving a BFI Vision Award. At the end of 2021, she produced Aml Ameen's debut, *Boxing Day*, the first all-black Christmas film out of the UK. In 2022 Ringside Studio acquired a stake in Joi Productions.

In 2021, Joy directed *For Love*, a short film with the support of BBC Film, which premiered at BFI London Film Festival with a Best Short Film Nomination. It was later nominated for Best Short Film at SXSW in 2022 and won an Honorable Mention in the Best Short Film category at BlackStar Film Festival and Best Short at DeadCentre Film Festival. The short has been to Aspen and Outfest to name a few more.

Emily Morgan (Producer)

Emily Morgan is a BAFTA and BIFA winning producer working on a slate of film and TV projects through Quiddity, with collaborators across the world.

Emily's first feature production was the BAFTA-winning *I Am Not a Witch*, written and directed by Runagno Nyoni that screened in Cannes, Sundance and TIFF. She went on to produce *Make Up* written and directed by Claire Oakley via iFeatures and *Supanova* written and directed by Harry Macqueen, starring Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. More recently she was UK producer for Felipe Gálvez's *The Settlers* that premiered in Cannes 2023 and *Swimming Home* written and directed by Justin Anderson, starring Christopher Abbott, Mackenzie Davis and Ariane Labeled that screened in Rotterdam and Tribeca 2024. Before expanding Quiddity, she worked as a producer on *Do Not Hesitate* for Lemming Film and as co-producer on *Chevalier* for Element Pictures and Searchlight.

Previously, Emily was an in-house Producer at UK independent distributor Soda Pictures. She started her film career in distribution at Studio Canal and as a freelancer for companies such as Partizan, The Bureau, Hot Property Films and Steel Mill Pictures. She is a member of BAFTA, the European Film Academy and ACE Producers.

Claudia Yusef (Executive Producer)

Claudia Yusef is Commissioning Executive at BBC Film. She has Executive Produced a number of features and shorts for BBC Film including Clio Barnard's *Ali & Ava*; *Pray*, novelist Caleb Azumah Nelson's debut short as a director; *In Camera*, Naqqash Khalid's debut feature starring Nabhaan Rizwan; *The End We Start From*, the debut feature of Mahalia Belo, written by Alice Birch and starring Jodie Comer; *The Outrun* directed by Nora Fingscheidt, based on the best-selling memoir by Amy Liptrot and starring Saoirse Ronan; Athina Rachel Tsangari's *Harvest* starring Caleb Landry Jones, Harry Melling and Rosy McEwen; and, *September Says*, the feature directorial debut from Ariane Labeled based on the novel 'Sisters' by Daisy Johnson.

Prior to BBC Film, Claudia was Head of Development at Number 9 Films where she oversaw the film and television slate. Claudia was previously Talent Development Executive at the Scottish Film Network, part of BFI NETWORK, where she established several new short film programmes and first feature talent development initiatives, and commissioned a series of shorts and first feature developments, working with emerging filmmakers including Ruth Paxton, Cara Connolly, Morayo Akande, and Ben Sharrock.

She has an MFA in film from Columbia University, where she received the Hollywood Foreign Press Association scholarship.

Ronkẹ Adékoluḡjo (Isio)

Ronkẹ is a Screen International Star of Tomorrow 2023 who recently appeared in “Rain Dogs” (HBO/BBC), playing the loyal yet chaotic godmother and best friend, ‘Gloria’, opposite Daisy May Cooper and Jack Farthing. For this performance, Ronkẹ was nominated for a RTS (Royal Television Society) award for Supporting Actor – Female. On the big screen, she was seen this year in *Chevalier*, starring alongside Kelvin Harrison Jr, Samara Weaving, and Lucy Boyton. Ronkẹ portrayed ‘Nanon’, the mother of the illegitimate ‘Chevalier’. The film debuted at TIFF 2022. She will soon be seen as the lead in *Dreamers*, a feature film directed and written by BAFTA Breakthrough Brit Joy Gharoro-Akpojoto and produced by BAFTA and BIFA-winning producer Emily Morgan.

Further television credits amongst others include the leading role of ‘Jack Starbright’ (‘Alex Rider’s American primary carer and mentor) in 3 series of the Amazon Prime spy thriller “Alex Rider” and “Doctor Who” where Ronkẹ played ‘Penny’ alongside Peter Capaldi and Pearl Mackie. Ronkẹ also led the Channel 4 pilot “Big Age”.

Ronkẹ also starred in the Netflix musical *Been So Long*, directed by Tinge Krishnan, playing ‘Yvonne’, best friend of ‘Simone’, played by Michaela Coel. The film was showcased at the 2018 BFI London Film Festival. In the short film *Lascivious Grace*, Ronkẹ played ‘Demi-Lea Sadler’, a performance that earned her a nomination for Best Actor at the Underwire Film Festival. Her other notable film roles include parts in *Christopher Robin* and *Ready Player One*.

On stage, Ronkẹ is currently leading at The National Theatre in “The Importance of Being Earnest”, playing the role of ‘Gwendolen Fairfax’ opposite Sharon D Clarke, Ncuti Gatwa, Eliza Scanlen, and Hugh Skinner. Last Autumn, she was seen leading at The Donmar in “Clyde’s”, directed by Lynette Linton. Previously, she starred in “Blues for an Alabama Sky” at The National Theatre, directed by Lynette Linton, for which she was nominated for Best Actress at the 2022 Evening Standard Theatre Awards. Ronkẹ also performed in the one-woman show “Lava” at The Bush Theatre, which won Best Performance Piece at The Offies.

Ronkẹ’s other stage credits include “Three Sisters” at The National Theatre, where she was nominated for the Ian Charleson Award and Best Female Actor in a Play at the Black British Theatre Awards, “The

Mountain Top” at the Young Vic, “Twelfth Night” at the Filter Theatre in Hammersmith, and “Pride and Prejudice” at the Sheffield Crucible.

Ronkẹ was named as part of the 2019 BAFTA Elevate cohort and is a graduate of The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Ann Akinjirin (Farah)

Ann can currently be seen in The BBC’s “The Famous Five” where she plays Aunt Fanny. She also known for her recurring roles as ‘DS Vanessa Ekwensi’ and ‘Dee’ in BBC Two’s “Trigonometry”. Ann appeared as ‘Bobbi’ in Marvel Studios’ “Moon Knight” on Disney+ and played ‘Alissa’ in Michaela Coel’s BAFTA-winning “I May Destroy You”.

Her other television credits include “Beforeigners” (HBO), “Electric Dreams: The World of Philip K. Dick – The Commuter” (Channel 4), and “Brave New World” (DreamWorks). On film, she has appeared James Marsh’s *King of Thieves*. Ann will soon be seen in the feature film *Old Guy* and *Dreamers* which premieres at Berlin Film Festival.

In 2010, Ann founded the theatre company Harts, where she served as Artistic Director until 2020. She has also worked with Deafinitely Theatre as a movement director and with the National Youth Theatre as a writer and director, creating inclusive productions for audiences with hearing and visual impairments. She currently sits on the Creative Board of Frantic Assembly, contributing to the development of innovative theatre projects.

Aiysha Hart (Atefeh)

Aiysha Hart is a ‘Screen International Star of Tomorrow’ and was named one of Variety Magazine’s ‘International Stars You Should Know’. Aiysha began her acting career starring alongside Paddy Considine in the British independent thriller, *Honour*. Since then, she has starred in movies such as *Colette* alongside Keira Knightley, as well as Riz Ahmed’s indie feature, *Mogul Mowgli*. Last year Aiysha completed production on the independent feature, *Salvable* starring opposite Toby Kebbell, and has just wrapped filming on Kenneth Branagh’s highly anticipated, *The Last Disturbance of Madeline Hynde*, led by Jodie Comer. When it comes to the small screen, Aiysha has starred in “Line of Duty” on BBC One and can currently be seen in both seasons of the much beloved Channel 4 comedy series, “We Are Lady Parts”. Next she will be seen appearing in “Down Cemetery Road” alongside Emma Thompson and Ruth Wilson, for Apple TV+.

Diana Yekenni (Nana)

Diana Yekinni is a British Nigerian actress, from Peckham, London, with a dynamic career spanning film, television, theatre, and voice work. She honed her craft at the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles and The Brit School in London.

Her theatrical credits include significant roles in acclaimed productions such as “Three Sisters” at the

National Theatre and “Mrs. Cole” with *Complicité*.

Diana’s film career includes *For Love* (BBC), as well as *Heart of Stone* (Netflix), where she starred opposite Gal Gadot. Her television credits include “Midsomer Murders” (ITV), “Doctors” (BBC) and “Murder Island” (Channel 4) demonstrating her versatility across a range of genres.

Her extensive voice-over work has further solidified her as a multi-talented performer, and she continues to explore new and exciting creative opportunities. You can currently see Diana in Mike Leigh’s *Hard Truths*. Her most recent role in *Dreamers*, where she plays Nana, gave her the opportunity to shed light on an important story. With a deep passion for her craft, Diana is committed to sharing her talent and connecting with audiences at every step of her journey.

Harriet Webb (Holly)

Harriet is a consummate theatre and television actor, equally at home in comedy or drama. She plays Kirsty in Sky’s “Mr Bigstuff”, Shannon in C4’s “Big Boys”, Karen in BBC3’s hit “Wreck,” and Theodora in BAFTA winning “I May Destroy You”. Harriet also plays series leads in “Sandylands”, “Scarborough” and “White Gold”. Harriet was nominated for Best Actress at the 2021 British Independent Film Festival (BIFF) for short film *The Gospel According to Gail*.

Anna Patarakina (DOP)

Anna Patarakina graduated from the All-Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow in 2012. Since completing her studies, she has developed a professional career shooting feature films in Sweden and the UK, including *Zoo* (2018), *Breaking Surface* (2020), and *How To Stop a Wedding*, which won best debut at the International Warsaw Film Festival in 2014.

Her professional experience includes cinematography work for television series such as “Insomnia”, “The One”, and “The Midwich Cuckoos”. She has collaborated with networks like Apple, Netflix, BBC, Sky, and Paramount+, and directed music videos for artists like Matt Maltese, Love Ssega, Marina, and Hannouneh.

Based in London since 2018, Patarakina is a member of the Swedish Society of Cinematographers (FSF) and is represented by Worldwide Production Agency (WPA). Her recent work includes the psychological thriller *The Lesson*, directed by Alice Troughton, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, and she continues to develop projects in film and television.

Arttu Salmi BFE (Editor)

A cinephile from an early age, Arttu dropped out of engineering studies in favour of fool-hearted filmmaking ambitions. Originally from Finland, he studied editing and post-production at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences – working part-time as a film projectionist at the local cinema, with a whirlwind semester of film studies at the prestigious FAMU (Prague) and finally completing a Master’s degree in film editing from the National Film + Television School (UK).

Based in London for more than a decade now, he enjoys crafting stories with their distinct feel, language and form. Already exhibiting a wide variety, through commercials, animation, music videos, arthouse, experimental and dance films, he consciously tries to pick projects that offer new challenges and learning opportunities.

Along with *Dreamers*, his latest feature work includes the bold erotic gay identity drama *Sebastian* (dir. Mikko Mäkelä), which premiered at Sundance 2024 (World Cinema Dramatic Competition), the A24-produced fantasy dramedy *Tuesday* (dir. Daina O. Pusic) starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, which premiered at Telluride in 2023, and the dystopian drama *The End We Start From* (dir. Mahalia Belo) starring Jodie Comer, premiered at Toronto Int. Film Festival 2023 and garnered him a nomination for BEST EDITING at the British Independent Film Awards 2023.

Victoria Boydell (Editor)

Victoria Boydell began her editing career cutting the features *Hard Men* (1996) and *Jilting Joe* (1998), before editing the British drama *Wonderful You* in 1999. It was not long before she received her first RTS award nomination in 2000 for SHOCKERS “The Visitor”, starring Daniel Craig.

She then went on to edit prestigious television dramas such as the first series of “Hustle”, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, a TV movie with Rafe Spall and Rebecca Hall, four episodes of “Coming Up” with directors Tom Harper and Peter Mackie Burns and the first two episodes of “Luther”.

In 2009, Victoria gained another RTS award nomination, along with her first BAFTA nomination for Best Editing for the mini-series “Occupation”, directed by Nick Murphy for ARTE, and the BBC. In 2011, she was awarded the Panalux Craft Award at the Women in Film and Television Awards.

Other television credits include *Random*, a TV movie directed by Debbie Tucker Green with Nadine Marshall and Daniel Kaluuya, for which Victoria was nominated for the RTS Awards; “Great Expectations” for the BBC, directed by Brian Kirk, which led to further RTS and BAFTA Craft nominations; Channel 4’s mini-series “Southcliffe”, directed by Sean Durkin; and Working Title’s “London Spy” , starring Ben Whishaw, for which Victoria received another BAFTA Craft nomination.

Victoria’s feature film credits include *Kidulthood* directed by Menhaj Huda; *Africa United* with director Debs Paterson; Rufus Norris’ celebrated debut feature *Broken; Belle*, directed by Amma Asante; John Madden’s *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Operation Mincemeat*; Simon Curtis’ *Goodbye Christopher Robin*, starring Margot Robbie and Domhnall Gleeson; and Dan Friedkin’s *The Last Vermeer* with Guy Pearce and Claes Bang.

Victoria’s recent credits include William Bridges’ *All of You* for Ryder Picture Company with Brett Goldstein and Imogen Poots; two celebrated British films Raine Allen Miller’s debut *Rye Lane* for BBC Films and Searchlight, as well as *Saltburn* directed by Emerald Fennell, whom Victoria is reuniting with for LuckyChap’s *Wuthering Heights*. Victoria’s upcoming titles include Iain Morris’ *My Oxford Year* and Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor’s debut *Dreamers*.

Gini Godwin (Production Designer)

Gini Godwin is a Production Designer working across Features, Television and Commercials. Gini won Screen Daily's: Stars of Tomorrow 2021 after designing *Blue Story* directed by Rapman for BBC, Paramount Pictures and Joi Productions. Since then she has worked on projects including "Champion" directed by Candice Carty-Williams for Netflix and BBC 1 and "Queenie" directed by Joel David for Channel 4 and Disney. *Dreamers* is her recent collaboration with Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor, which will premiere in the Panorama strand of the Berlin Film Festival 2025. She is currently working on Ashely Walters' debut feature *Animol*.

Cynthia Lawrence-John (Costume Designer)

Award Winning Costume Designer & Stylist Cynthia Lawrence-John studied Film & Photography at the London College of Printing and upon graduating, began her career as a fashion, documentary and art photographer. Cynthia's unique & eclectic career saw her progress in fashion styling from assistant at the globally renowned Dazed & Confused magazine, to Fashion Director at Sleeze Nation magazine. Soon after making a distinct mark in the fashion industry, Cynthia co-founded fashion magazine Volt.

In editorial, Cynthia's celebrated work includes I-D. and Vogue IT. Photographer collaborations throughout her career include Nick Knight, Caleb Femi and Liz Johnson Artur to name a few. Cynthia's internationally acclaimed work in the music industry includes artists Young Fathers, Hot Chip, Little Simz and Dizzie Rascal with directors including Ninian Doff, Diane Martel, Jake Nava and David Wilson.

In commercials, Cynthia has worked on award winning, cutting edge campaigns for high end brands such as Nike, Virgin, Adidas and Absolut Vodka for directors including Autumn de Wilde, Raine Allen Miller, Paul Hunter, Nicolas Winding Refn, Melina Matsoukas, Jake Nava, Jenn Nkiru, Seb Edwards and Gary Freedman.

In Film & Television, Cynthia's credits include award winning short films such as *Landline* for Matt Houghton (Pulse), as well as features such as *Knuckledust* for James Kermack (Featuristic Films), *Medusa Deluxe* for Thomas Hardiman (BBC Film / A24) and BAFTA nominated *Rye Lane* for Raine Allen Miller (BBC Films / BFI) for which Cynthia was BFI nominated. Cynthia has most recently designed series 'Champion' for Candice Carty-Williams (BBC One), 'Spent' for director Alex Winckler (BBC Two) and is currently designing 'Hijack Series 2' for director Jim Field Smith (Apple TV+).

Cynthia has had her work exhibited in multiple galleries, including a group exhibition on Black British Style at the V&A, and as part of 'The Missing Thread' exhibition at Somerset House in London. Internationally, Cynthia's work has also been featured in the renowned Beyond Desire exhibition at the Museum of Fashion in Antwerp, Belgium.

Regina Meessen (Hair and Makeup Designer)

Regina Meessen is a Hair and Makeup Designer represented by Loop Talent. Growing up a globe trotter, she chose London as a base over 20 years ago to delve into the world of hair and makeup. She started

her career as a hairstylist. The cultural diversity of this city meant that she was able to learn from some of the best artists in order to perfect her skills. Eventually she became a freelance artist and learnt about makeup. The aim has always been the ability and skill to work with all hair textures and skin tones. As her freelance career grew steadily she worked her way up by working in the world of media through editorials, fashion weeks, music videos commercials, artist tours and eventually film and television.

Having built a portfolio of a vast clientele from global brands to a-list celebrities, her ability to fulfil a task comes from her passion in attention to detail. This involves making one feel seen and heard in order to help them bring out inner strength and confidence when in front of the camera.

Ré Olunuga (Composer)

Ré Olunuga is a Nigerian composer of multi-genre orchestral and experimental music. With a unique approach to instrumentation that imbues his music with a stirring quality and an unmistakable sense of engagement and tactility, Ré's work spans across film & TV soundtracks to ambitious art pieces and even a dalliance with the mainstream through collaborations with commercial recording artists.

He is known for his work on films such as *Drift* (2024), *Girl* (2023), Disney's *Rise* (2022) and TV series such as Apple's "Omnivore" (2024) and Disney's "Iwájú" (2024). He was nominated for a BIFA award for his score for *Girl* (2023) and a Hollywood Music in Media Award for his score for Disney's *Rise* (2022).

Maiken Hansen (Supervising Sound Editor)

Maiken is a sound designer and re-recording mixer, and has done supervision and sound effects on a number of award-winning films, including the BAFTA-winning *I Am Not a Witch* and the BIFA-winning *Rye Lane*. Films she has worked on have screened at festivals like Sundance, Cannes, Venice Film Festival, and SXSW. Maiken has worked as sound effects editor on numerous television shows such as *Sherwood* and *Happy Valley*, and also enjoys working on experimental short films and long-form documentaries.

Filiz-Theres Erel (Line Producer)

Filiz-Theres moved from Austria to the UK in 2007 and studied Film & Drama at the University of Kent. Since her move to London in 2010 she has taken the traditional route as a freelancer through the Production department and has since become a seasoned UPM/Line Producer, leveraging her expertise since 2013. Her portfolio boasts acclaimed projects like *Persuasion* featuring Dakota Johnson as well as *The Duke* featuring Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent. In 2023, Filiz joined Quiddity Films as Head of Production and has since successfully overseen several of Quiddity's projects in different stages of development, financing, production and post production including *The Settlers*, *Swimming Home*, *Dreamers* and *Butterfly*.

Aisha Bywaters (Casting Director)

Double BAFTA winner, Aisha Bywaters is quickly becoming one of the UK's most exciting casting directors, with recent television credits including "Daddy Issues" starring David Morrissey and Aimee Lou Wood, "Everyone Else Burns" (C4), "We Are Lady Parts" (C4), "Queenie" (Ch4), "Three Little Birds"

(ITV/Britbox), "Black Ops" (BBC), "The Baby" (Sister/HBO) and Dolly Alderton's "Everything I Know About Love" (BBC).

Aisha's recent film credits include Coralie Fargeat's *The Substance* starring Margaret Qualley and Demi Moore, Daniel Kaluuya's *The Kitchen*, the BIFA winning *Polite Society*, *County Lines*, *Dirty God* and *The Last Tree*. She has just finished casting Working Title's highly anticipated *CC Emily* directed by Alicia MacDonald. Aisha was also named as one of Screen International's Stars Of Tomorrow in 2020.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

BBC Film

Firmly established at the forefront of UK film, BBC Film has an ambitious slate featuring many of the most exciting filmmakers working today.

Recent BBC Film titles include BAFTA-nominated *BIRD*, from award-winning writer-director Andrea Arnold (*Cow, Fish Tank*); Rungano Nyoni's (*I am Not a Witch*) BIFA-winning second feature *On Becoming A Guinea Fowl*; *September Says*, the feature directorial debut from Ariane Labeled based on the novel 'Sisters' by Daisy Johnson; and *Santosh*, the narrative feature debut from writer-director Sandhya Suri (*I For India*) which is also nominated for a BAFTA. In Autumn 2024, Laura Carreira's debut *On Falling* starring Joana Santos won Best Director at San Sebastian and the Sutherland Award at the BFI London Film Festival, Athina Rachel Tsangari's *Harvest* starring Caleb Landry Jones, Harry Melling and Rosy McEwen premiered In Competition at Venice Film Festival, and *The Salt Path* based on the best-selling novel by Raynor Winn, directed by Marianne Elliott and starring Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs screened at Toronto International Film Festival.

BBC Film's recent cinema releases include: multi BAFTA-nominated *The Outrun* directed by Nora Fingscheidt, based on Amy Liptrot's best-selling memoir and starring Saoirse Ronan and Paapa Essiedu; Daniel Kokotajlo's second film, *Starve Acre* starring Matt Smith and Morfydd Clark; Naqqash Khalid's *In Camera*, starring Nabhaan Rizwan, Amir El-Masry and Rory Fleck Byrne; *One Life* directed by James Hawes starring Anthony Hopkins; BAFTA-nominated *Hoard* from Luna Carmoon, starring Saura Lightfoot Leon and Joseph Quinn which took three prizes at Venice Critics' Week 2023; *The Iron Claw* from Sean Durkin (*The Nest*) starring Zac Efron, Jeremy Allen White and Harris Dickinson; Mahalia Belo's *The End We Start From*, written by Alice Birch and based on the novel by Megan Hunter, starring Jodie Comer; and the Martin Scorsese narrated documentary *Made in England: The Films of Powell and Pressburger* directed by David Hinton.

Upcoming BBC Film titles include: Harry Lighton's debut *Pillion* starring Harry Melling and Alexander Skarsgard; Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor's debut *Dreamers* starring Ronkẹ Adékoluẹjo; Joachim Trier's *Sentimental Value* starring Stellan Skarsgård, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Cory Michael Smith and Elle Fanning; Brendan Canty's debut feature *Christy*, written by Alan O'Gorman and starring Daniel Power; the directorial debut of actor Harris Dickinson, produced by Archie Peach and Scott O'Donnell; Aneil Karia's *Hamlet* starring Riz Ahmed, Morfydd Clark and Joe Alwyn; Daisy May Hudson's *Lollipop* starring Posy Sterling; and *The Choral* written by Alan Bennett, directed by Nicholas Hytner and starring Ralph Fiennes, Simon Russell Beale, Nathan Hall and Amara Okereke.

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Quiddity

Quiddity is a UK-based production company founded by BAFTA and BIFA-winning producer Emily Morgan. With a bold and diverse slate of film and TV projects, Quiddity works with partners around the world to bring thought-provoking stories to life. In 2024, the company expanded its reach, thanks to support from the BBC's Small Indie Fund, the UK Global Screen Fund, and a strategic investment from The Lift, a leading Mexico-based production services company.

Quiddity's recent feature films include *The Settlers*, a Latin American co-production and revisionist Western by Chilean director Felipe Gálvez, which premiered in Cannes and won the FIPRESCI Prize, and *Swimming Home* by Justin Anderson, starring Christopher Abbott, Mackenzie Davis and Ariane Labed. Upcoming releases include Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor's debut feature *Dreamers* backed by BBC Film, and *Butterfly*, a co-production with Mer Film, Zentropa and Nordfilm. Past projects include *Make Up* by Claire Oakley and *Supernova* by Harry Macqueen, starring Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. The company's first production was *I Am Not a Witch* by Rungano Nyoni.

<https://www.quiddityfilms.com/>

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OnSight

OnSight is an award winning, pioneering post-production company based in central London that is internationally renowned for its creative technology skills. They offer 8K, 4K, UHD, HDR, Dolby Vision, Giant Screen and HD picture post, VFX and 5.1, 7.1 & Dolby Atmos studios.

Finite Films

Finite Films & TV, founded by Amy Gardner, is a London-based independent production company dedicated to creating a diverse slate of high-quality content, including award-winning short and feature films, as well as television series.

Joi Productions

Joi Productions, is an independent London-based production company focused on telling stories which are Black, Queer and Female-led, run by Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor alongside Tom Hawkins.

In 2019, Joi Productions produced the hit *Blue Story*, which became the top grossing film of its genre, garnering significant media attention and critical acclaim. In 2020, Joy was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and a BAFTA Breakthrough, as well as Joi Productions receiving a BFI Vision Award. At the end of 2021, Joy produced Aml Ameen's debut, *Boxing Day*, the first all-black Christmas film out of the UK. More recently Joy produced Billy Lumby's debut feature film for BBC Film and is currently producing Ashley Walter's debut feature film with F4, Sky and BFI.

The Yellow Affair by Newen Connect

Launched in January 2024, "The Yellow Affair by Newen Connect" combines the depth of Newen Connect's film catalogue with one of the most prominent international film sales companies in

The Yellow Affair. The label acts as a hallmark of quality for independent films and offers a tailor-made distribution strategy to maximise global reach and impact.

CAST

Isio	Ronke Adékoluḡjo
Holly	Harriet Webb
Farah	Ann Akinjirin
Nana	Diana Yekinni
Atefeh	Aiysha Hart
Becs	Lucy Ware
Afia	Dolapo Oni
Grace	Kemi Adekoya
Dolapo	Antonia Layiwola
The Masquerade	Sia Kiwa
David Fatunle	Damola Adelaja
James	Jamie Bacon
Lisa	Kerry Howard
Guard	Laurence Saunders
Lead Singer	Cornelia Colman
Nisma	Luyanda Unati Lewis-Nyawo
Electrician	Mat Ruttie
Detainee	Ola Labib

FILMMAKERS

Written & Directed by	Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor
Produced by	Emily Morgan
Executive Producers	Claudia Yusef, Amy Gardner, Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor, Doris Gharoro
Director of Photography	Anna Patarakina, FSF
Editors	Arttu Salmi BFE Victoria Boydell
Production Designer	Gini Godwin
Costume Designer	Cynthia Lawrence-John
Hair and Makeup Designer	Regina Meessen
Music By	Ré Olunuga
Supervising Sound Editor	Maiken Hansen
Line Producer	Filiz-Theres Erel
Casting Director	Aisha Bywaters

RUNTIME 78 minutes

DREAMERS

BBC FILM PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ONSIGHT AND FINITE FILMS

A QUIDDITY PRODUCTION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
JOI PRODUCTIONS

Executive Producer
CLAUDIA YUSEF

Executive Producer
AMY GARDNER

Executive Producers
JOY GHARORO-AKPOJOTOR
DORIS GHARORO

RONKE ADÉKOLUẸJO

ANN AKINJIRIN

DIANA YEKINNI

AIYSHA HART

HARRIET WEBB

Produced by
EMILY MORGAN

A film by
JOY GHARORO-AKPOJOTOR

Director of Photography
ANNA PATARAKINA, FSF

Editors
ARTTU SALMI BFE
VICTORIA BOYDELL

Production Designer
GINI GODWIN

Costume Designer
CYNTHIA LAWRENCE-JOHN

Hair and Makeup Designer
REGINA MEESEN

Music By
RÉ OLUNUGA

Supervising Sound Editor
MAIKEN HANSEN

Line Producer
FILIZ-THERES EREL

Casting Director
AISHA BYWATERS

CAST
(in Order of Appearance)

Isio RONKE ADÉKOLUÈJO
Holly HARRIET WEBB
Farah ANN AKINJIRIN
Nana DIANA YEKINNI
Atefeh AIYSHA HART
Becs LUCY WARE

Afia DOLAPO ONI
Grace KEMI ADEKOYA
Dolapo ANTONIA LAYIWOLA
The Masquerade SIA KIWA
David Fatunle DAMOLA ADELAJA
James JAMIE BACON
Lisa KERRY HOWARD
Guard LAURENCE SAUNDERS
Lead Singer CORNELIA COLMAN
Nisma LUYANDA UNATI LEWIS-NYAWO
Electrician MAT RUTTLE
Detainee OLA LABIB

CREW

Associate Producer YEMI ADEGBULU

Script Editor KATE LEYS

Movement Coordinator ZINZI MINOTT

First Assistant Director STEVEN ENIRAIYETAN

Third Assistant Director A. K. McCALLUM

Set PA TERRIE AGHAIZU

Crowd Assistant Directors EUGENIA BEATRICE STEVENSON

ALICE DE LAMBERT

Floor Runners EMILIE PICKERING

VICTORIA LAWAL

Script Supervisor ELIZABETH BENBOW

Production Manager LLOYDA LAWSON

Production Coordinator JÚLIA SZECSENYI

Production Trainee CHARLOTTE WARN

Work Experience MAXIME LAURENT

JÉSSICA LIMA

1st AC DENIZ YILDIZ

2nd AC MARIA MÖLSÄ

Digital Imaging Technician DEAN OTUSANYA-WOOD

Camera Trainee TED SHAW

1st AC (Dailies) SAM HOTSON

2nd AC (Dailies) TOBIN MORRIS

Stills Photographer ROB BAKER ASHTON

Drone Operators JOSH EDKINS

HARRY KLIFTON

Key Grip EDWARD LIVESEY

Grip JOSEPH JACKSON

Gaffer BEN MILLAR

Best Boy BRUCE MELHUIH

Electricians CHRISTOPHER BARBER

ANTTI JANHUNEN

FABIO DOMINGUEZ ALONSO

JERZY GUDJONSSON

VOJTA STANEK

FINLEY NORRIS

GEORGE BALKIN

Sound Recordist KIRSTIE HOWELL

Boom Operators MIKE SHACKLETON

MIRKO SIMONI

2nd Assistant Sound SVEN MATTES

Location Manager EMILY GRIFFITH

Location Assistants JAKE HORSBURGH

MAX DE YOUNG

Art Director JACK HAWTHORN

Assistant Art Director SHARON SARPONG
Standby Art Director RAYSHÀ-J WILSON
Graphic Designer JERMAINE THOMPSON

Set Decorator SASHA WEBSTER
Set Buyer SAKARA DAWSON-MARSH

Property Master MARIN JEREMIC
Property Hand JUSTIN HAYZELDEN
Dressing Props ROSS HAMPSON
Home Economist JULIET BAPTISTE-KELLY

Construction Supervisor Charlie Farley
Construction Dailies Vince Firth
Construction Managers Dan Parker
Ellis Southgate-Wilkinson

Costume Supervisor Danielle Westwood
Costume Assistant Manuela Pomposo Leiva
Masquerade Costume Maker Rhys Ellis Jones
Crowd Costume Standby Delilah Bannister

Hair and Makeup Supervisor Tamara Gitter
Crowd Hair and Makeup Artists Tellica Roseway
Solange Koniak
Hair and Makeup Trainees Mia Rachel Byrne
Coco Halls-Holmsen

Stunt Coordinator Peter Pedrero
Stunt Performer Gordon Alexander

Casting Assistants Shalewa Abolade
Irene Waireri
Tara Ahmed

Supporting Artists Casting Slick Casting

Directing Consultant Baff Akoto

Intimacy Coordinator El Wood

Wellbeing Support Lou Platt

EPK Producer/Director Helen Vidler

Additional EPK Videographers Maxime Laurent
Ben Job

Catering Provided by Honest Foods

Key Set Medic Owen Phillips

Paramedic Raquel Luiza Cassini De Oliveira

Health & Safety Advisor Mick Hurrell

Lead Security Mark Jones

Night Security John Locke

Supporting Artists Queen Ade Amadi

Mahfuza Ahmed

Cain Aiden

Babita Anil Christie

Yasmin Bolaji Kosegbe

Danielle Bonsu

Anna Boronina

Samantha Dhedhi

Nkem Ede

Jessica Ekollo

Sharanjit Hunjan

Aisha Ikoghode

Amber Jackson-Bond

Ranika Kaur

Rose Lami

Elma Laures Graham
Sharnell Marcelle
Doreen Nalukwago
Helen Newroz Karadoruk
Phylicia Njoku
Yidi Oyeniyi
Nadine Peart
Chantelle Quarshie
Bharatba Rana
Tara Rudder
Vinita Satchit
Katya Shulepko
Andrea Stein
Morimda Tassebedo
Alfredo Tavares
Breana Williams
Crystal WingX

POST-PRODUCTION

Assistant Editor Rachel Bramley

Sound Post Production by Onsight Ltd

Dialogue Editor Mixer Max Hoskins

Re-recording Mixer Andy Coles

Pre-mix Barry Donnelly

ADR by Light Year Studios

Dialogue Editor and ADR Supervisor Max Hoskins

ADR Mixers Rob Ackerman

Tom Sichel

Foley by Onsight Ltd

Foley Supervisor Sandy Buchanan

Foley Artist Paula Boram

Theatre Mix Recorded at Pinewood Studios

Music Supervisor Sarah Bridge

Piano and Synths Performed by Ré Olunuga
Strings and Voices Performed by Orchestrate

Visual Effects by Onsite Ltd and Thank You Mam
Visual Effects Artists Dan Bourne
Marcus Millichope

End Titles by Endcrawl

LEGAL & BUSINESS

Production Lawyer Alan Moss

Accounting Services Silver Levene LLP
Accountants Paresh Shah
Nicholas Mann

Production Accountant Joshua Moses
Assistant Production Accountant Monika Maharjan

Rights and Clearances Reviewed & Cleared

Insurance Provider Tysers
Insurance Brokers Paul Hillier
David Passway

International Sales Agent The Yellow Affair by Newen Connect
Collection Agent Services Freeway

POEMS

ORIGINALLY

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RAPTURE

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FOR QUIDDITY

Head of Production Filiz-Theres Erel
Production & Development Assistant Emma Kayani
Team Assistant Chiara Di Filippo

FOR BBC FILM

Director of BBC Film Eva Yates
Head of Production Emma Kayee
Head of Finance Michael Wood
Production Manager Shuku Anderson
Development Executive Anuradha Henriques
Head of Legal and Business Affairs Geraldine Atlee
Legal and Business Affairs Manager Livy Sandler
Head of Communications Emma Hewitt
Claire Gascoyne

FOR FINITE FILMS

Executive Producer Amy Gardner
Legal Services Antony Gostyn

FOR THE YELLOW AFFAIR

CEO Karoliina Dwyer
Head of Sales & Business Development Steven Bestwick

FOR NEWEN CONNECT

CEO Rodolphe Buet

Special Thanks Damola Adelaja
Rosa Attab
Tabitha Austin
Ellie Cook
Marcin Cybulski
Brian Deane
Lizzie Francke
Clement Gharoro
Ovo Gharoro-Akpojotor
Rukewve Gharoro-Akpojotor
Tega Gharoro-Akpojotor
Tobore Gharoro-Akpojotor
Tom Hawkins
Kristin Irving
Saba Kia
Afolabi Kuti
Annetta Laufer
Kate Leys
Flora Line
Tony Maher
Daniela Manunza
Mouktar Mohammed
Jacqueline Morgan
Luna Morgan Cybulski
Isabella Odoffin
Vincentia Osabutey-Anikon
Olutomi Owolabi
Laura Pettit
Pixi Pixel
Ben Roberts
Rosa Romero
Lubna Salad
Nanu Segal

Jessica Stewart
Amber Thompson

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The characters and events portrayed in this motion picture are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, or to actual events is purely coincidental.

DREAMERS

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