

**2024**



**CIRCLE**

**DOX Leipzig**

**CIRCLE Delegation**

# ABOUT CIRCLE

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**CIRCLE** is a unique international training program and safer space for women and gender-expansive filmmakers working both in documentary and fiction.

Our flagship programme is Women Doc Accelerator, a year-round training initiative, open to projects and professionals in all stages. In 2023 we launched **Fiction Orbit**, an intensive one-off residential workshop dedicated to mid-career filmmakers developing scripted projects.

Since 2020, we have partnered with Cannes Docs - Marché du Film to organize the annual **CIRCLE Showcase @ Cannes Docs**.

In seven years of existence, **CIRCLE** has supported 70 directors and producers hailing from 40+ different countries.



[www.doccircle.me](http://www.doccircle.me) | [info@doccircle.me](mailto:info@doccircle.me)

# MEMBERS

## Delegation



**Åsne Høgetveit**  
she/her – Producer

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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**



**Clara López**  
she/her – Director

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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**



**Fagamou Ndiaye**  
she/her – Director

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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**



**Francesca Bertin**  
she/her – Director

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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**



**Maka Gogaladze**  
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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2020**



**Maša Nešković**  
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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2023**



**Mina Keshavarz**  
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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**



**Rand Beiruty**  
she/her – Director

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**CIRCLE DOC  
ACCELERATOR 2024**

**Delegation  
Coordinator  
& CIRCLE  
Project Manager**



**Letícia da Rosa**  
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# ÅSNE HØGETVEIT

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Producer  
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Growing old is no excuse for not dreaming big about the future. 79-year old Hilde dreams of 375 kilometers of railroad.



# TRAIN

DIRECTOR: JENNY ANDERSEN  
LENGTH: 60'  
COUNTRIES: NORWAY  
PROJECT STAGE: LATE DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

In Olsborg, a small town in Northern Norway, there is a railway station. The railroad track ends 360 kilometers further south. The station in Olsborg was built by Hilde. It stands like an exclamation mark outside her house. Hilde has been a retiree for thirteen years, she has had a burning passion for the Northern Norway Railway just as long. "Train" is a character-driven, warm documentary where we, through Hilde's dedication and antics, get to join her fight for a railway and a flourishing region in the north of Norway.

## BIOGRAPHY

Åsne Høgetveit is a creative producer at Koko Film in Tromsø, Norway. She is currently working on her first film projects, and has a background in academia and politics. As a producer, she brings with her a dedication for compelling storytelling, analytical abilities and an interest for societal issues.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Koko Film (est. 2013) based in Tromsø, in Northern Norway, is an independent documentary film production company. It specializes in producing original documentaries, encompassing both films and series, from initial concept through to final production.



# CLARA LÓPEZ RUBIO

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Director  
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Two waorani women develop varying perspectives about the construction of a road that cuts their territory. A reflection upon “development”.



# AMAZONAS

DIRECTOR: CLARA LÓPEZ RUBIO

FILM LENGTH: 90 MINUTES

PRODUCTION COUNTRIES: ECUADOR & SPAIN

PROJECT STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

A road is being built in the middle of the jungle without the unanimous consent of the Waorani community whose territory it crosses. The film's director arrives in the territory at the same time as does the road. Although she is a “Cowore”, a foreigner, two related Waorani women, Nanci and Huanginkamu, agree to make a film with her. Nanci wants the road to be constructed as it will facilitate the flow of tourists in her village and Huanginkamu, on the other hand, knows that a road could be the beginning of the end of her precious rainforest. Their different visions pit the two women against each other. Is development as we understand it only possible at the expense of our environment or the well-being of others?

## BIOGRAPHY

After studying at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin (dffb), Clara López Rubio closely followed the Assange case for nine years and wrote and directed the documentary Hacking Justice (2021) which has been broadcasted on several European public television stations. López Rubio is a Documentary Campus, Doklab Navarra, CIMA Mentoring and CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator alumna. She has presented her projects in international platforms and has received grants from ICAA, Berliner Projektfonds and NRW Filmstiftung.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Forward Films is a documentary production company founded in Brazil and Colombia and now based in Spain focused on human rights issues. It stands for a bold film production that distinguishes itself not only in its outcomes but, more importantly, in its approaches and methods. Since 2012, Forward has produced projects in over 15 territories, mainly in Latin America, and its films have been seen at international film festivals. Website: [www.forward-films.com](http://www.forward-films.com)

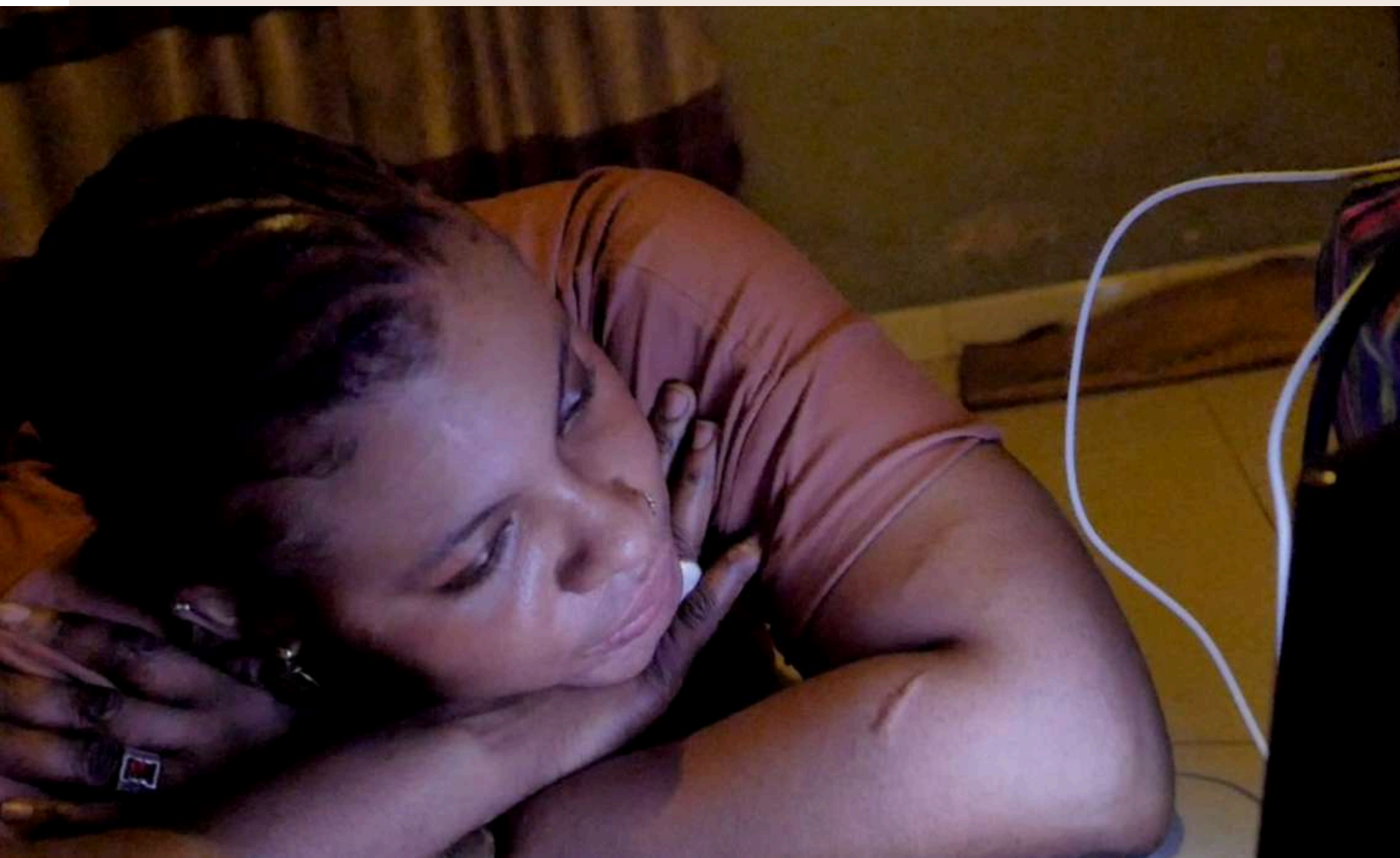


# FAGAMOU NDIAYE

she/her  
Director  
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**GENERATION  
AFRICA 2.0  
DELEGATION**

Maty, 35, a former waitress entering her third marriage in search of social recognition, struggles to balance her true identity with the roles expected of her, gradually losing herself in the relationship as she sacrifices her own desire in order to fit into the mold of the perfect wife.



# MATY OR THE REAL LIFE

DIRECTOR(S): FAGAMOU NDIAYE  
LENGTH: 90'  
COUNTRIES: SENEGAL  
PROJECT STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

Maty, in a long-distance relationship with Zakaria, decides to marry him after five months, hoping to escape the stigma of her past and gain social recognition. However, a setback arises: Zakaria can't bring her to France as his legal wife. This news shatters Maty, as her dreams of a life in France slip away. Despite Zakaria's promises, they navigate their relationship through video calls, where Maty discovers Zakaria's complexities and grapples with traditional roles. The film blends reality with dreamlike sequences, capturing Maty's journey between societal expectations and personal desires

## BIOGRAPHY

I discovered my passion for cinema through the distribution, by making them travel and sharing emotions and feelings with the audience. After years of contributing to the emergence of new modes of storytelling in the cinematic landscapes, I felt the need to return to Senegal and leave my job as an engineer to co-create the Yennenga Center, a post-production center initiated by Alain Gomis. Today, I am moving on to telling the stories I wished to hear while growing up in Senegal.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Founded by Marie Ka in 2005, Picture Box is a Senegalese production company whose works have appeared on screens across four continents. After a decade-long hiatus, following Ka's move to Canada to expand her market reach, Picture Box has returned. Now, the company is focused on amplifying female representation and centering women's stories in its productions



# FRANCESCA BERTIN

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Director  
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Once a cotton estate, now a ruin awaiting demolition, an old family property becomes the stage for encounters with the surrounding village and guests from the city. Stories about ghosts of the enclosure open up a complex past and unfold a multidimensional perspective on letting go—a tale of transformation in the Nile Delta.

# AL BAYT - A HOUSE

DIRECTOR(S): FRANCESCA BERTIN & LAURA STAUTH

LENGTH: 90'

COUNTRIES: GERMANY, EGYPT

PROJECT STAGE: EARLY DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

"The Izba," once a flourishing cotton estate built in 1927 in the Nile Delta, now stands in ruins, awaiting demolition. Enclosed by high walls, it feels disconnected from the village and its urbanizing surroundings. The overgrown garden has become a refuge for white-crowned egrets. Despite the decay, the house's last resident continues to clean, resisting the inevitable collapse. The film explores the estate as an archive of memory, blending reality and fiction through photographs, family secrets, and oral histories from former workers, revealing its haunting past.

## BIOGRAPHY

Francesca Bertin, a Hamburg-based filmmaker and artist, holds M.A.s in Film and Law. She explores identity, memory, and space through documentaries approaches. Her debut feature, Tara, premiered at Vision du Reel in 2022.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Fünferfilm is a Hamburg-based production company founded in 2016 by Julia Cöllen, Karsten Krause, and Frank Scheuffele. The company primarily produces films by filmmakers who are committed to an artistic, bold, and uniquely individual style of storytelling.

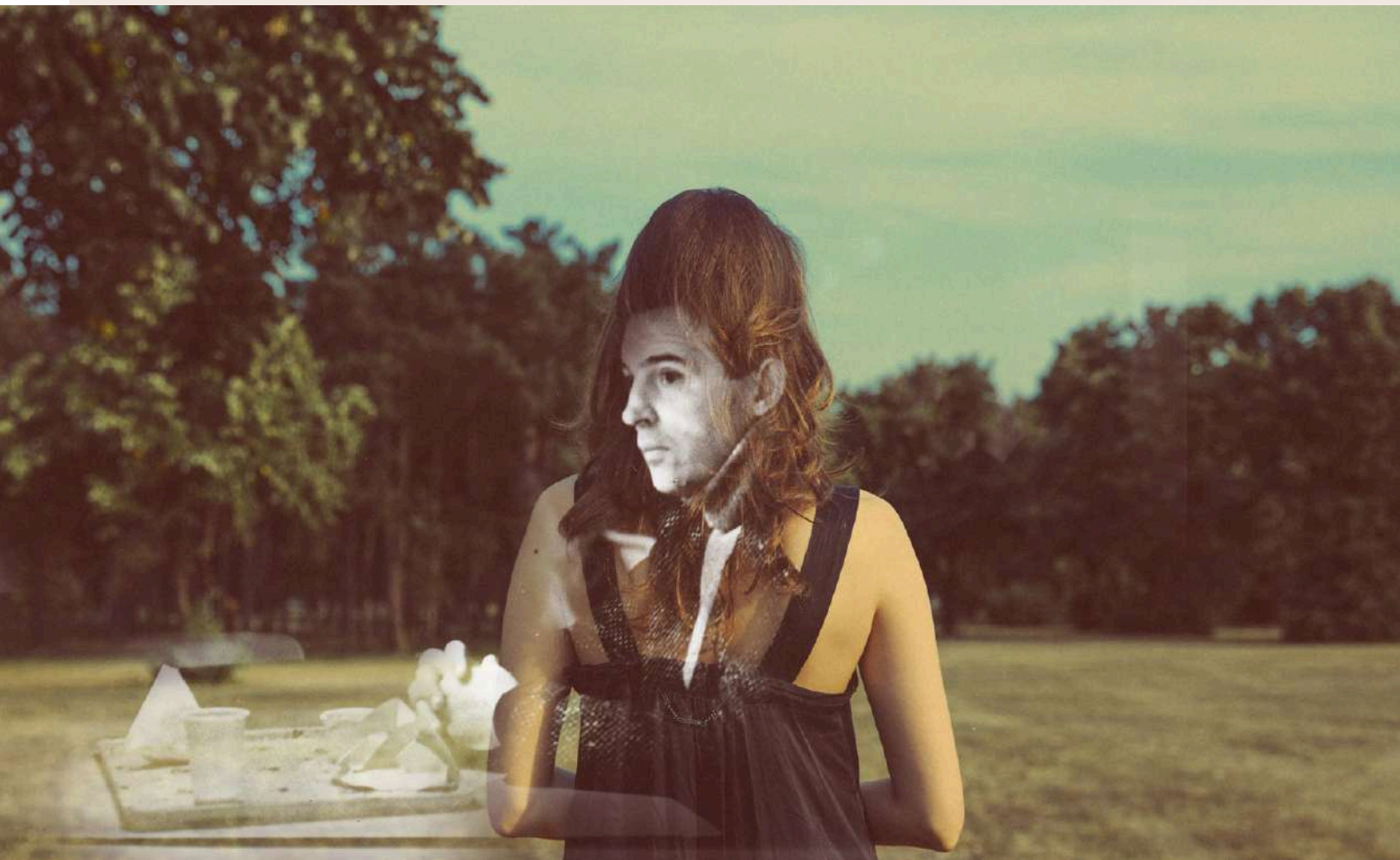




# MAŠA NEŠKOVIĆ

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Director  
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While making a documentary about her renowned filmmaker stepfather, Goran Marković, a stepdaughter navigates their intertwined lives, confronts unspoken family truths, and delves into the complexities of the relentless passage of time against the backdrop of Serbia's turbulent recent history.



SELECTED FOR DOK CO-PRO MARKET 2024

# KAFKA IN BELGRADE

DIRECTOR(S): MAŠA NEŠKOVIĆ

LENGTH: 90'

COUNTRIES: SERBIA, BULGARIA

PROJECT STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

After his political activism results in censorship Goran Marković faces the possibility of never making another movie. His stepdaughter initiates a documentary about him, sparking a dialogue between the two filmmakers, two generations and two genders. As Goran's memories converge into vivid collages, his daughter begins to confront her own unspoken truths. Boundaries between reality and fiction blur, as do inhibitions of what they're ready to confess to each other.

## BIOGRAPHY

Maša Nešković holds a degree in Film Directing and a PhD. in Polymedia Art from the University of Arts in Belgrade. She has directed the feature film "Asymmetry", multiple prime-time TV series, as well as documentaries on LGBTQ+ rights for Vice TV. Additionally, she works as a 1st AD and casting director and is training as an intimacy coordinator. Currently, she is developing her first feature documentary "Kafka in Belgrade" and her second fiction feature "In Fog, Follow the Dots"





# MAKA GOGALADZE

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As a child, Maka Gogaladze was forced to take piano lessons that drove her to tears. When she challenges her mother about it, the latter retorts that children must be taught discipline. Drawing on her personal experience, the filmmaker observes with caustic humor the mechanisms by which an entire society – in this case Georgian – is brought into line through education.



GERMAN PREMIERE

# EVER SINCE I KNEW MYSELF

COUNTRY: GEORGIA

YEAR: 2024

LENGTH: 87 MINUTES

LANGUAGES: GEORGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

## SCREENING DATES

31.10.2024 // 21:00 // CINESTAR 5

02.11.2024 // 20:30 // PASSAGE KINOS ASTORIA

## SYNOPSIS

In her childhood, Maka attended her hated piano lessons in tears. When she asks her mother about it, she is told that this torment is extremely important for discipline. The conversation prompts an examination of whether current pedagogical routine in Georgia has strayed far from such a concept of education. A music school in which brutal emotional and verbal pressure is part of the curriculum; a ballet school where little girls must endure intense pain while stretching; a primary school class where even the most passionate recitation of a patriotic poem about the heroes of the motherland is cause for criticism. We plunge into a somewhat surreal, at times hilariously rigid world, reminiscent of a Palaeolithic dinosaur desperately trying to save itself in the present day. "Steel is tempered by fire," says the mother. Her words express the burden of responsibility for her beloved daughter and convey many warm, previously unspoken feelings. "But I am a human being first," Maka replies. The loving daughter insists that the idea of humanity based on authoritarian power structures must be overcome, because it is still reproduced in the most private relationships, including those between parents and children.

## BIOGRAPHY

With a degree in medicine, Maka Gogaladze ventured into photography in 2008. She has been working as a photographer for various organizations in Georgia. In 2016, Gogaladze earned a master's degree in Multimedia Journalism and Media Management from the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, where she got deeply interested in documentaries.



# MINA KESHAVARZ

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## PANEL TALK GUEST

A DISCUSSION AROUND THE VALIDITY (POSSIBILITIES?) OF  
COLLAPSING TRADITIONAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO

**TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER // 13:45 – 14:45**  
**PROPSTEIKIRCHE ST. TRINITATIS**

# HOPE AGAINST HOPE

DIRECTOR(S): MINA KESHAVARZ

LENGTH: 90'

COUNTRIES: IRAN, FRANCE, NORWAY

PROJECT STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

ESTIMATE RELEASE TIME: SEPTEMBER 2025

CONFIRMED FUNDS: IDFA BERTHA FUND, CNC, MINDOC, ARTE, EUROZOOM, AND OTHERS

## BIOGRAPHY

Mina Keshavarz (b. 1984) is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and producer. Her films exploring social issues using personal narratives have premiered in CPH:Dox, IDFA, Thessaloniki, Busan International Film Festival, Sheffield, Tribeca, and London Film Festival. She is the alumni of Berlinale Talents, ESODoc, HotDocs emerging Filmmaker Lab, Nipkow film residency and a fellow at Berlin Medienboard. Keshavarz is a member of DAE (Documentary Association of Europe) and EWA (European Women Audiovisual Network). She was selected by Festival Scope network as Director in Focus in August 2020. She's currently a participant of Circle Doc Accelerator and Camargo Fellowship.

For detailed information about the project, please contact the director directly via email.





# RAND BEIRUTY

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Director  
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Guided by an enigmatic narrator, "Portrait of A" weaves 22-year-old Andrea's journey into womanhood and motherhood with collective tales of resilience and self-discovery among other Roma women.



# PORTRAIT OF A

DIRECTOR(S): RAND BEIRUTY

LENGTH: 90'

COUNTRIES: JORDAN

PROJECT STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

## SYNOPSIS

Portrait of A follows Andrea, a 22-year-old Roma immigrant and mother of two, over seven years in East Germany. Eloping at 16, Andrea faced restricted choices, was unable to finish her education, and struggled with motherhood amid her husband's betrayal. This creative documentary blends observation and art to tell her story alongside those of other Roma women, highlighting shared challenges and resilience, while shedding light on Roma culture and defying stereotypes. It's a testament to the strength of women like Andrea.

## BIOGRAPHY

Rand Beiruty is a Jordanian writer, director, and co-founder of Shaghab Films. She holds a Ph.D. in participatory filmmaking from Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. A Berlinale Talents and Rotterdam Lab alumna, Beiruty has received awards from Tribeca and Mifa Animation du Monde. Her debut feature, Tell Them About Us, premiered at CPH 2024 and won the ECFA Award for Best European Feature Documentary for Young Audience at the 64th Zlín Film Festival.

## COMPANY PROFILE

Shaghab Films, founded by Rand Beiruty and Jude Kawwa in Amman, Jordan, focuses on authentic, complex female stories with a critical perspective. They seek talents with strong artistic vision and social commentary, emphasizing international co-productions. Beyond films, Shaghab supports capacity-building initiatives. Current projects include A Calling. From the Desert. To the Sea, Tell Them About Us, and Shadows, a Jordanian-French animated short documentary.

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