

*expecting
a
grain
of
sand*



Bekleyiş

LOGLINE

“EXPECTING A GRAIN OF SAND” IS A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT A SINGLE WOMAN LIVING IN TURKEY, DECIDES TO GIVE BIRTH TO HER CHILD AND RAISE IT ALONE, AND CHALLENGES OF HER IN THE SOCIETY BESIDES ALTERATION IN HER INNER WORLD.



ASLI AKDAĞ

"EXPECTING A GRAIN OF SAND"
IS A PERSONAL MANIFEST



PRESS RELEASE

“EXPECTING A GRAIN OF SAND”, IS STORY OF A WOMAN’S PERSONAL REBELLION; IT IS A MANIFESTO STORY. IN THIS DOCUMENTARY FILM, WRIGGLING OUT OF SOCIAL ROLES AND BREAKING TRADITIONAL PATTERNS BECOME THE REALITY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER, AS AN EXTENSION OF THE DECISION TO GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD ALONE. IN TODAY’S TURKEY WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE A WOMAN, HER INVITING US TO FAMILY SECRETS AND HER JOURNEY THROUGH HER EXPERIENCES, CREATES A DARING STORY.

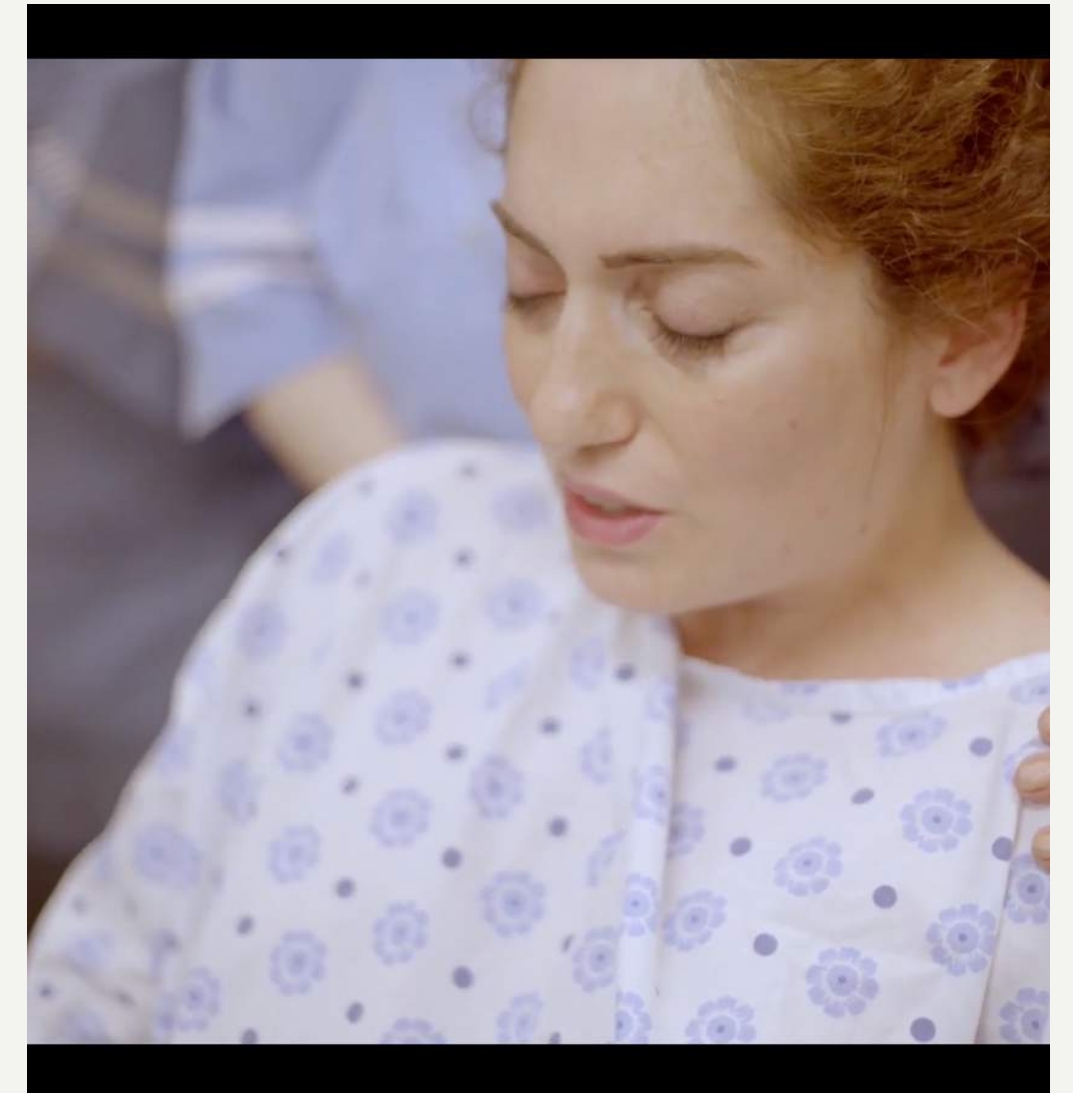
THE CHARACTER TELLS HER EXPERIENCES BY REFLECTING THE PLACE SHE LIVES, THE DIALOGUES WITH HER FAMILY, HER CONFLICTS, SITUATIONS, THE DIFFICULTIES SHE EXPERIENCED. SHE’S AN ORDINARY, URBAN WOMAN LIVING IN A METROPOLIS AND ON THE CONTRARY OF WHAT IT IS THOUGHT; EVEN SHE IS NOT LIVING IN ANATOLIA, AS A MODERN WOMAN, SHE HAS TO ABSORB MANY CHALLENGES ALONE LIKE OTHER WOMEN.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A WOMAN TO GROW A CHILD ALONE WITHOUT A MAN BESIDES HER? HOW CAN IT BE TO BRING A FATHERLESS CHILD TO THIS WORLD? SUCH QUESTIONS WILL IMMEDIATELY APPEAR IN THE MIND OF SURROUNDINGS AND MAYBE THE VIEWER’S AS WELL. ABOVE ALL TO SEE AND ACCEPT THAT A WOMAN CAN HAVE A FREE SEXUAL LIFE, IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THIS GEOGRAPHY.

IN THIS SENSE, EXPECTING A GRAIN OF SAND LETS AUDIENCE INTO ITS WORLD WITH SINCERITY OF ACTUAL SHOTS OF REAL LIFE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CREATES A FEELING LIKE A LETTER THAT HAS BEEN LEFT TO BE READ AFTER MANY YEARS BY THE BABY, WITH THE STYLE OF THE CAMERA AND KEEPING AUDIENCE IN SUSPENSE.

THUS WE ARE AIMING TO TO REACH THIS FILM FIRST TO WOMEN OF TURKEY AND OTHER DEVELOPING AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. BECAUSE EVERY WOMAN’S STORY IS SPECIAL AND EVERY WOMAN SHOULD LEAD A HAPPY LIFE WITH HER OWN DECISIONS. WE WISH OUR FILM TO BE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WOMEN IN THIS MEANING.

"EXPECTING A GRAIN OF SAND"
IS STORY OF EVERY WOMEN..





*expecting
a
grain of
sand*

YONETMEN / DIRECTED BY
ASLI AKDAĞ

YAPIMCI / PRODUCED BY
ASLI AKDAĞ

YAPIM TASARIMI / PRODUCTION DESIGN
BANU SIVACI

YARDIMCI YONETMEN/1ST AD
BANU SIVACI

YARDIMCI YONETMEN/2ND AD
CAN AYGÖR

YAPIM DANISMANI / PRODUCTION CONSULTANT
KIVILCIM AKAY
MESUT ULUTAŞ

CAMERA / KAMERA
BANU SIVACI
CAN AYGÖR
GÖZDE KOYUNCU
OSAMA EL SAYAD
KIVILCIM AKAY
ARDA YILDIRAN
ADA AYŞE İMAMOĞLU
ISMAIL ZEYNALOV
UGUR BECER

SES KAYIT / SOUND RECORDING
OSAMA EL SAYAD
AHMED ALSHAFEİY

KURGU / EDITOR
YASEMİN AKINCI

OZGUN MUZIK / ORIGINAL MUSIC
CANSET ÖZGE CAN

RENK DÜZENLEME /COLOR GRADING
ALI UMUT ERGIN

MIKSAJ VE SES TASARIM / SOUND DESIGN AND MIXING
EREN DÖNMEZ

RECORD

SYNOPSIS

The ability to dream is one that we slowly lose along the way from birth to death. Through social roles, habits and 'taught helplessness' that we obtain while growing up, and life's becoming ordinary and dull along the way, stereotypical lifestyles emerge. Witnessing the birth of a baby however remind us our essence and these abilities that we've long forgotten.

Women's role is built upon having a limited place in society and working life, and primarily building a family. Women are bound to form this family unit, have kids and be an ideal housewife, never ceasing to cook for the household.

But what if a single woman takes the risk of growing her baby without a father? In this autobiographical documentary, we witness an attorney deciding to raise her baby alone and what she goes through within the society, following her decision.



SYNOPSIS

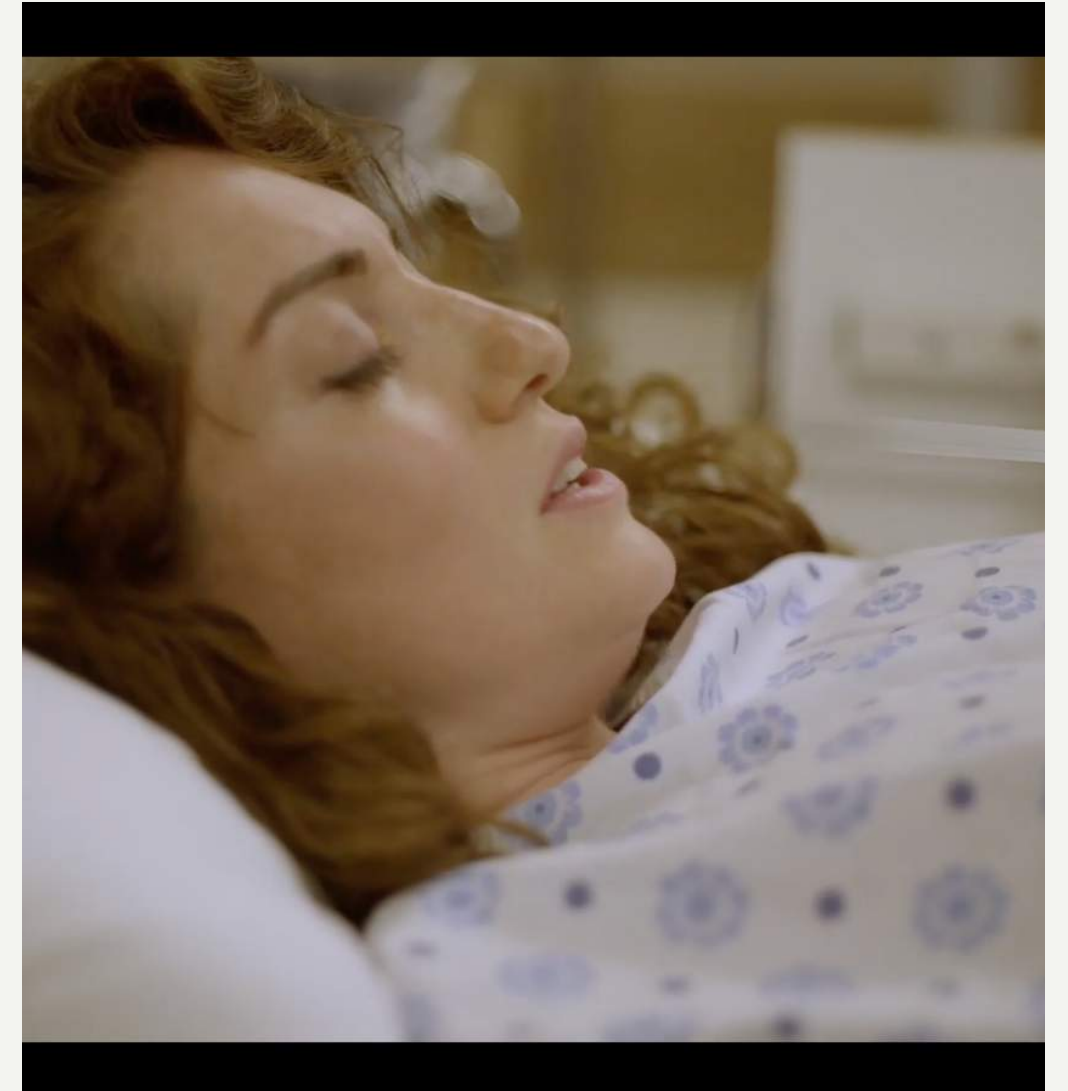
It handles the processes specific to women such as pregnancy and birth, also aims to create discussions around identity and the institution of marriage, moving beyond examining social roles. Like every other mother-to-be, our protagonist tries to arrange the optimum atmosphere she can provide for her kid, she sometimes senses that she can ease herself with the societal codes she's been avoiding.

The documentary puts forward the fact that women do not have equal opportunities with men, through showing the pressures that lead to sacking, and also searches for the ways to turn back to our essence through overcoming fears and anxieties that were deposited in our inner worlds.

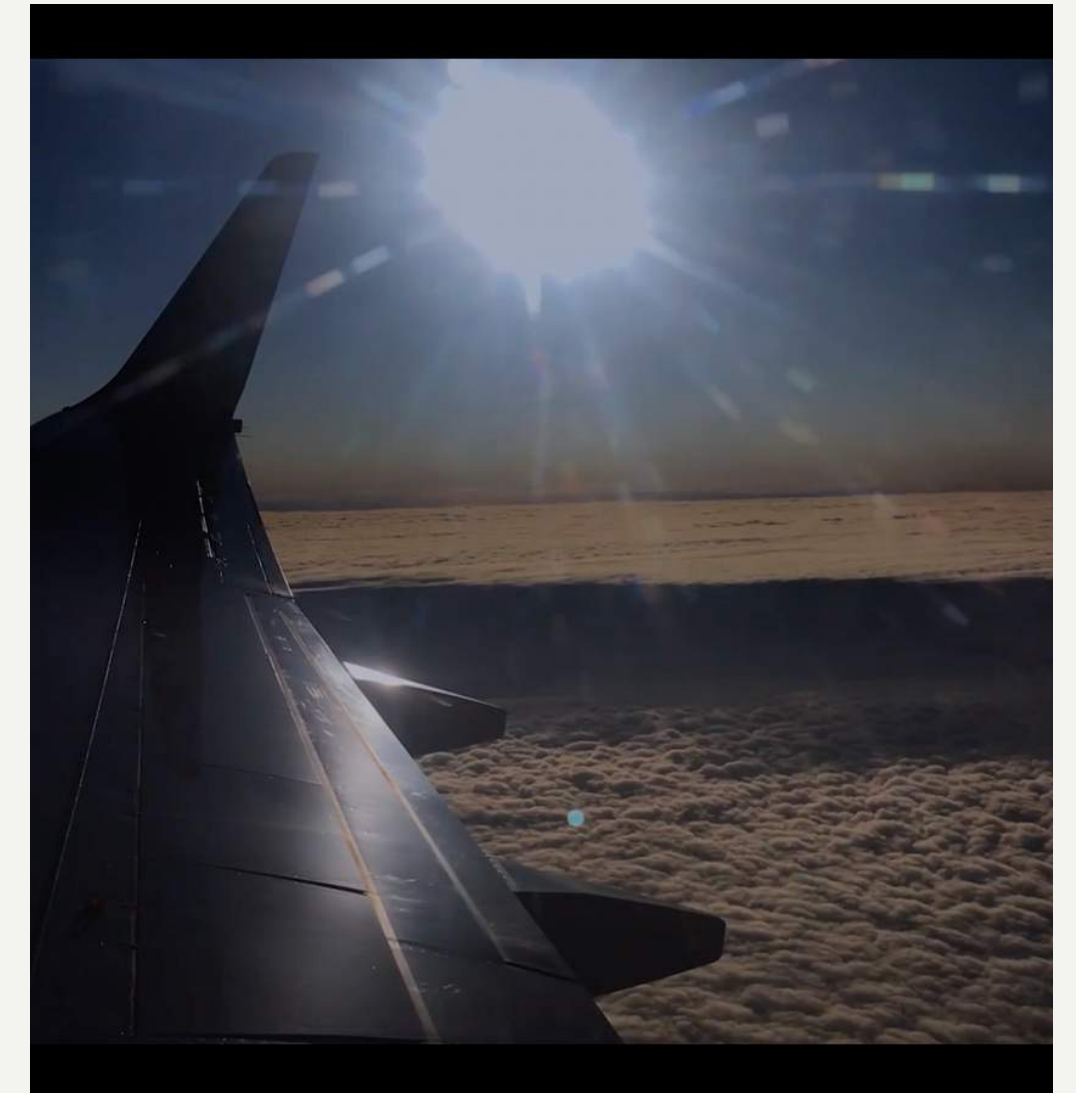
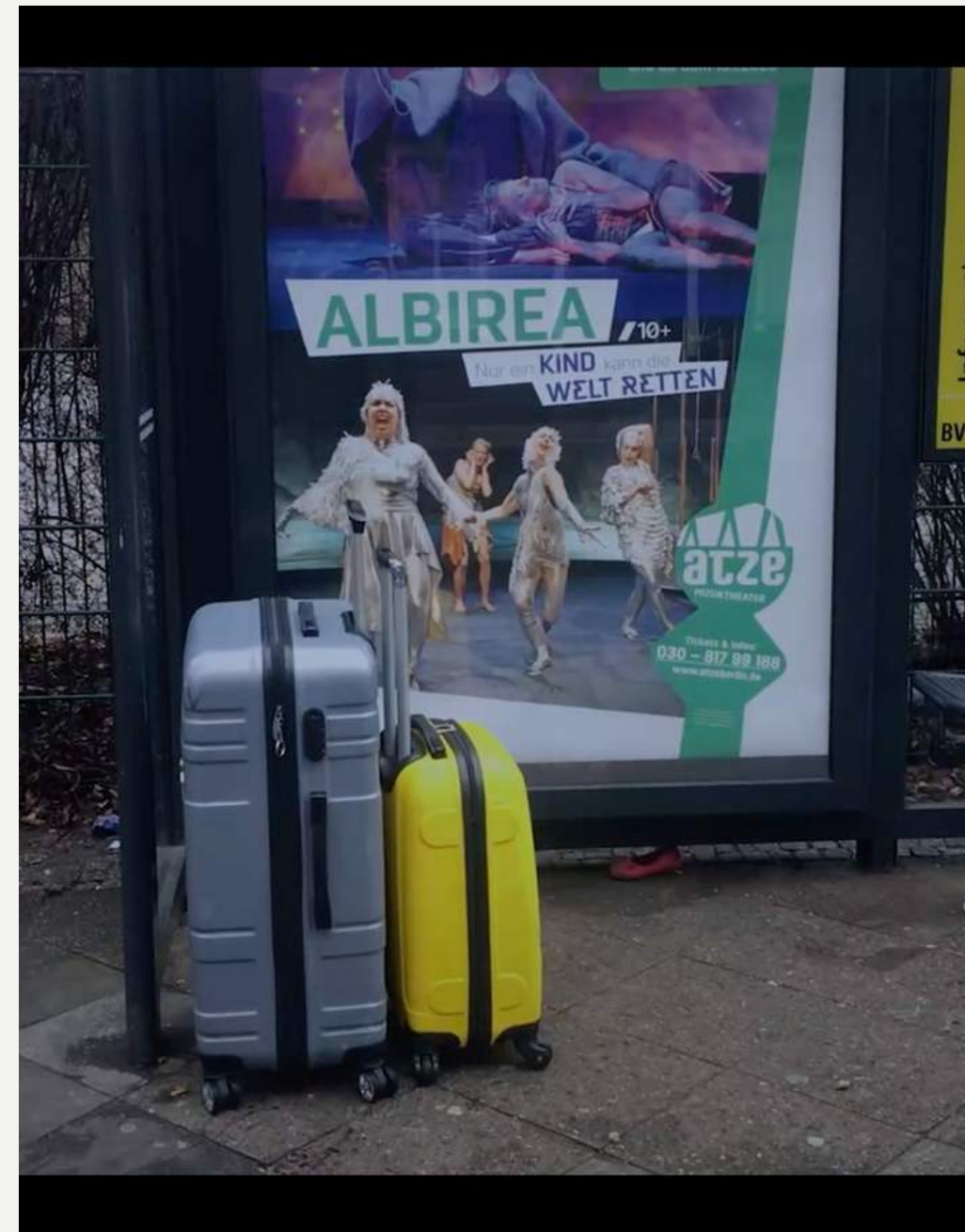
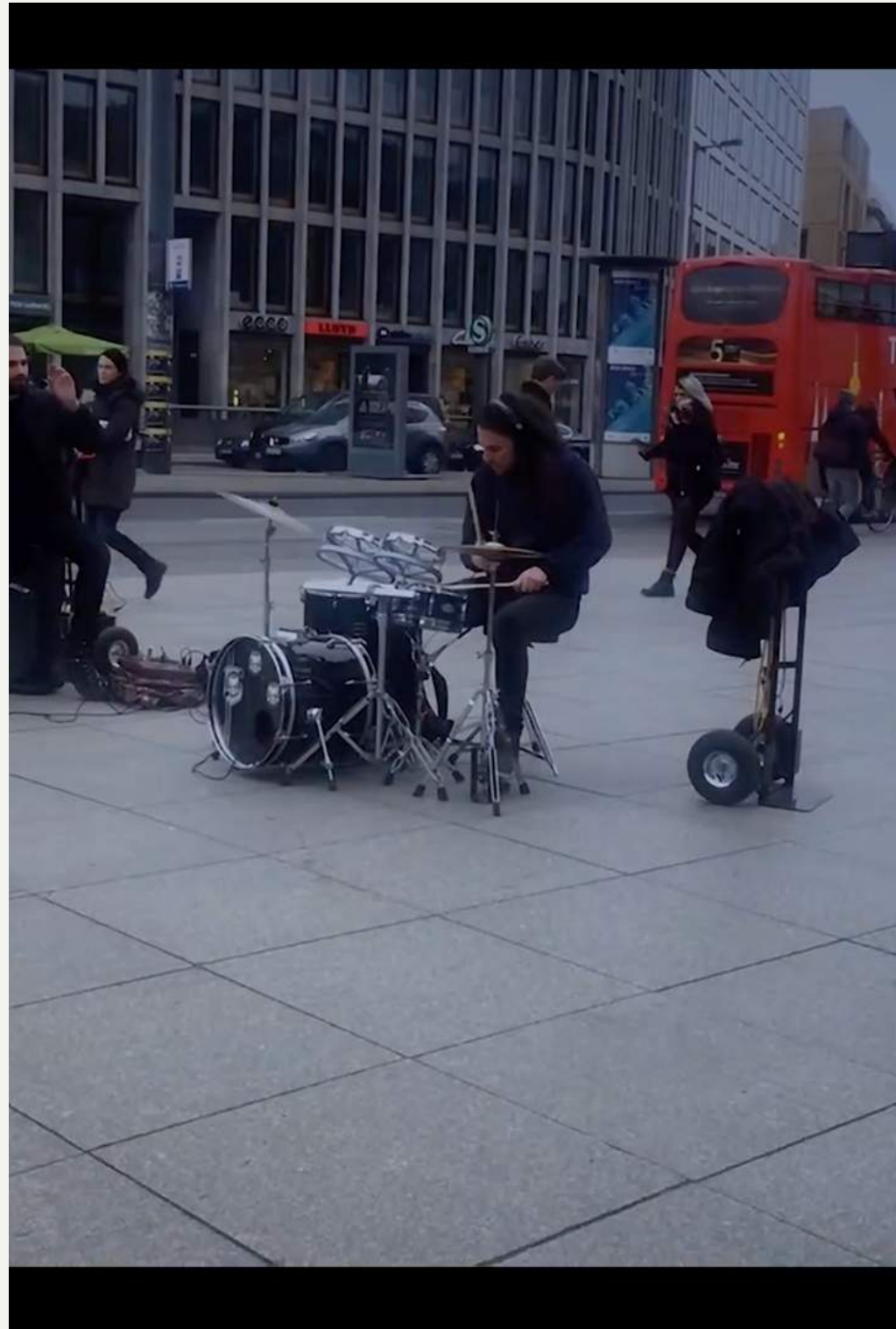
Our documentary, tries to show the audience that while witnessing the miracle of life, the situation where the roles that are obtained afterwards, may only be trivial details in the face of this muse and targets isolating our minds from those patterns in some way.



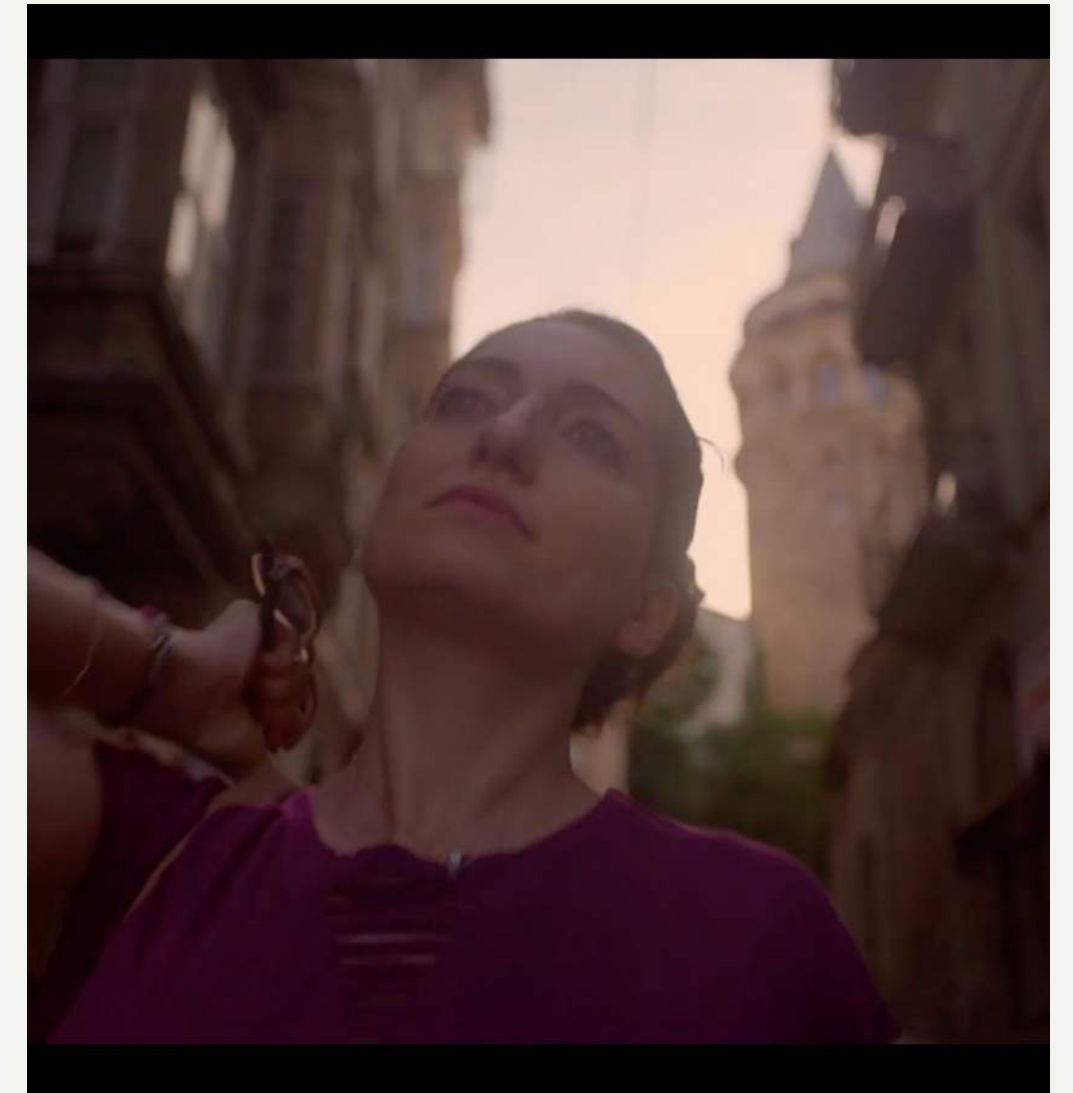
3 GENERATION
3 WOMEN
3 DIFFERENT POINT
OF VIEW



FROM TURKEY TO GERMANY



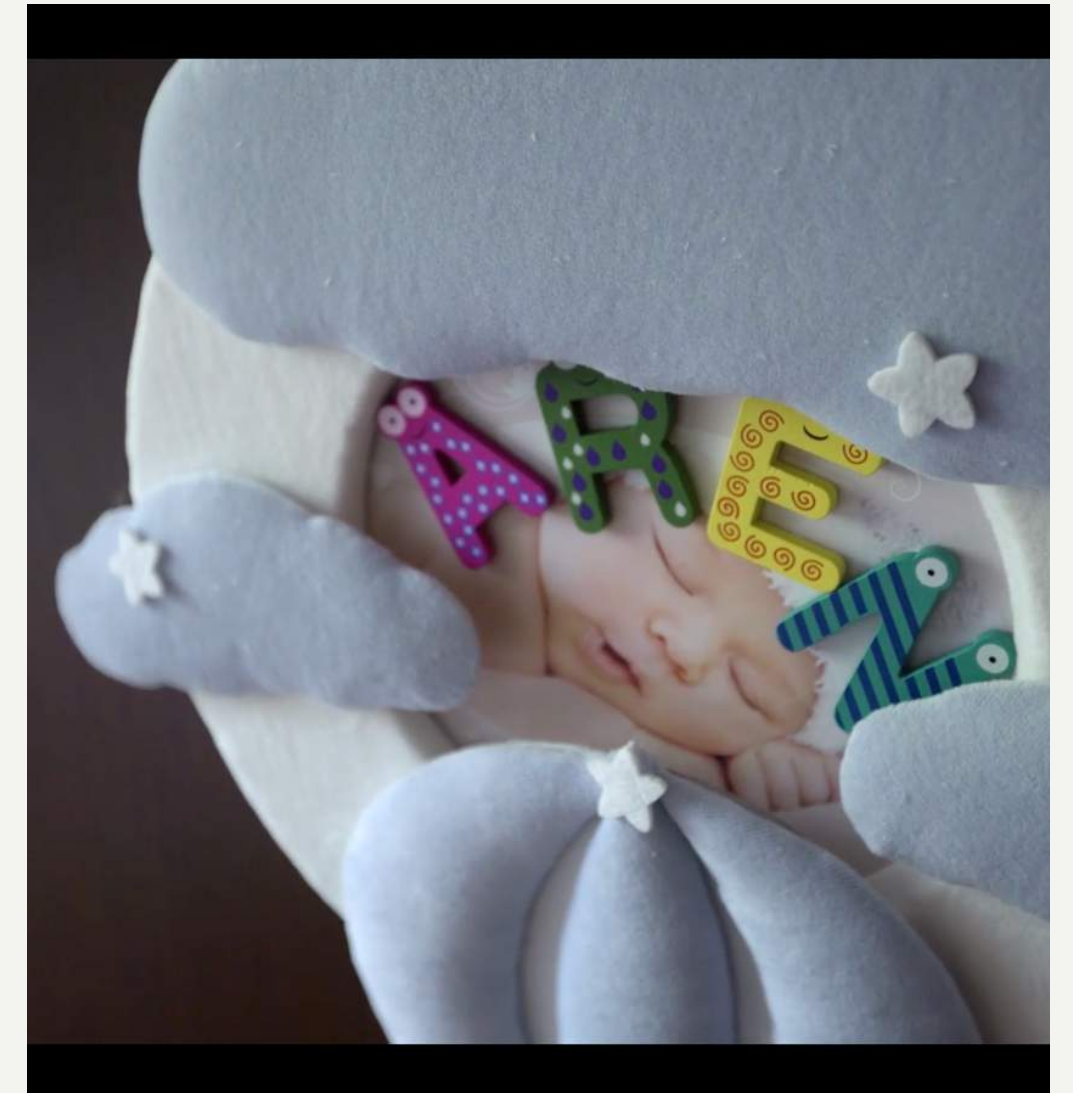
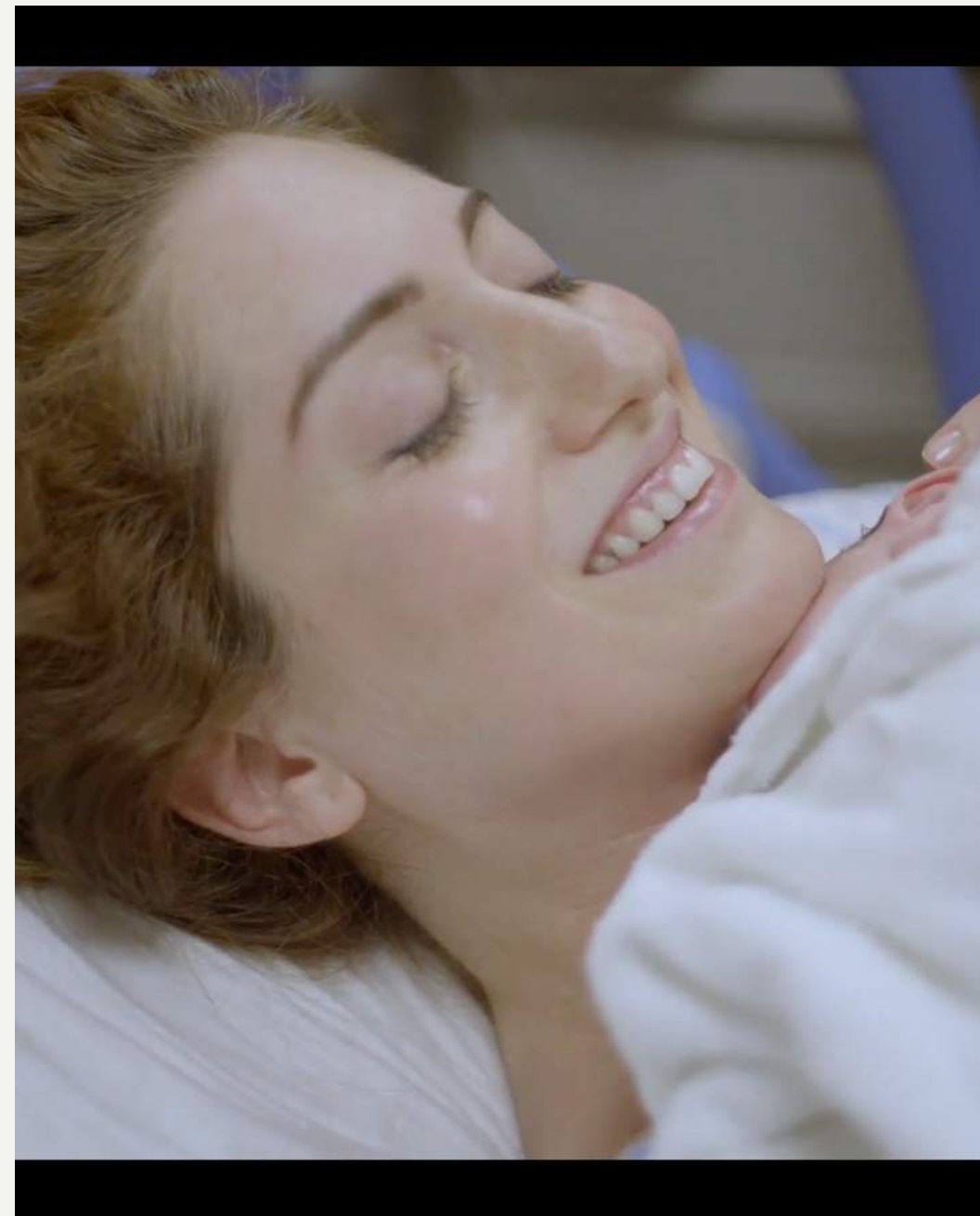
EXPECTING A
GRAIN OF SAND...



DESPITE EVERYONE
AND
EVERYTHING,...



BECAUSE WE ARE ALL
"A GRAIN OF SAND"



TARGET AUDIENCE

My desire to shoot this film was born out of my need to explain my process to my child so that he could understand and empathize with me one day while questioning how I made this decision to bring him into the world and raise him alone; and I understood that this was the right moment for this. Afterwards, when I realized that I was not the "only one" in this society who had to choose this path by talking to the women in our country, it became a necessity for me to raise awareness by making this story audible.

Courageous women should be honoured facing the difficulties while raising their children. What we want to say is not encouraging people to raise children on their own. However, what we would like to underline that there is not always one and only truth in life and people may need to choose different paths after all instead of the rules that are expected from themselves.

Undoubtedly, our main topic discussed in this film is the birth of a newborn and the process of mother's expecting and preparing for him. On the other hand, there will also be supporting titles that will be discussed in the subtext such as marriage; having children; can children save a marriage; male figure in the family; role of mother in family and society.

As it can be understood from these, this film is primarily for women who live with the same feelings and go through similar paths. Beyond that, the film is for anyone between the ages of 25 and 40 who wants to understand the challenges of women in society and the struggle they have to fight just to be themselves.



FROM DIRECTOR'S VIEW

This documentary is an autobiographical work, currently being carried out with the directing of two directors. Director Aslı Akdağ aims to convey her inner world and experiences with a subjective viewpoint through narrating her personal processes of pregnancy and post-partum whereas Banu Sivacı with regard to the need for an objective touch, provides the means to introduce the protagonist and the side characters from an external point for the parts where the protagonist interacts with the outer world.

The visual side of the film is strengthened by İstanbul's chaotic and grabbing mould. The scenes where we witness fears and conflicts of our protagonist's inner world are accompanied by İstanbul's grey and hazy atmosphere. For the takes which narrate the longing for the baby and the joy caused by a miracle that was waited for, atmospheres with vibrant colours are preferred, and with the wide angle shots of sea side, a sense of longing for the bright days are aimed to be evoked for the audience.



FROM DIRECTOR'S VIEW

Our camera tracks everything like a hidden one and accompanies our character in the most natural aspects of a daily life, with the aim for the audience to witness “moments” and form a bond with our protagonist. With the scenes where the protagonist gets out of her daily life and take to the streets, questioning how ‘free’ we are in making such decisions; the chance to delve into the inner world of the protagonist emerges with close shots.

The artificial lighting is avoided for the most part of the documentary, especially for getting sections from the moments of characters in their most natural states, creating an atmosphere accompanied with the camera 24/7; it is aimed for a theme to emerge on the changes the character goes through, and also the reactions and the effects coming from outside.

FROM PRODUCER'S VIEW

Our autobiographical documentary starts with the main character's finding out that she is pregnant and her decision for delivering the baby and raising as a single mother. The phase of pregnancy, birth and the post-partum process are handled separately during the documentary. The pregnancy period serves as a reference to waiting and expectancy. It is accompanied by the trial of one's knowing themselves and having to take decisions on whether one should comply with the social norms or not, to be able to make the right decisions.

The birth is a significant layer of the documentary in that it reflects the difficulties of a highly private moment as well as depicting the state of coming together with the desired baby. Inner conflicts and problems that emerge during the pregnancy do come to an end through a miracle that is witnessed with birth. Whereas, it is not possible for the struggles to get solved and finalized for the good. It is certain that a state of joy will be present as the baby comes into the world; however there will always be ups and downs

FROM PRODUCER'S VIEW

In the scenes where the camera functions as a third eye among the family members and in the streets with our protagonist, it is aimed for the audience feel not like an outsider but like a friend who's included in family secrets or someone from the family. Thus we moved with a small crew with high flexibility. We were spending time together to catch the real time happenings and it provided the Project to be sincere. So we preferably used A7S2 and it helped very much other people not to feel uncomfortable.

We hope to be supported by international festivals and premiered there afterwards. Because second motivation of making this film was encouraging woman, besides writing down a letter to the baby.



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