

“From the beginning to the end, Alba has nuance and humanity”

- Alana Hicks, Flickerfest Jury Member '21



ALBA

A film by Senie Priti



Screening Details

Alba / 9 mins / 2021

Logline

The fragile relationship between a father and daughter is tested, when an unexpected call jeopardises their time together.



Senie Priti

Writer & Director

Senie Priti is an actress and filmmaker. She received a Special Mention in the Rebel8 Award for Most Outstanding Emerging Female Director from the Jury of the 30th International Flickerfest Short Film Festival, for *Alba* (2021).

Recently, Senie was selected for the 2022 AFTRS VIC Talent Camp, by Screen Australia, VicScreen, and AFTRS. As an actress Senie has worked across film and TV, most recently playing Karen in the Netflix hit *Love and Monsters* (Paramount Pictures), starring Dylan O'Brien; as well as, the mini-series *Hungry Ghosts* (NBCUniversal), and the 2019 Australian indie *Cerulean Blue* (Stan), which premiered to sold-out audiences at the 68th Melbourne International Film Festival.

She is currently working on her second short film, as well as developing a dramady TV series, inspired by her childhood growing up in a very large, blended family.

Director's Statement

Alba is inspired by my own experiences as a child. A story about a young girl caught between her parents, and forced to navigate the complexities of their increasingly hostile divorce. It is a story that explores the loss of childhood innocence. Alba is unprepared for the power she exerts over the lives of her parents, to say yes to one means to say no to the other, and vice versa. As their wants and needs compete for her attention, Alba is drawn into the intricate world of adult relating. She is the lived expression of her parent's marriage and inevitably the battleground of their separation.

The way gender is played out across our screens can often feel restrictive and strangely alien from reality. Flipping the dynamic of Thomas and Anna, was an intentional choice driven by a desire to explore the relationship between fathers and daughters. It also came from a want to rework the gendered narratives around males and females. There are too few stories that explore the desires and wants of men as fathers, or that engage with the importance they play in their children's lives. It is a profound one, one that is intimately linked to better outcomes across a vast array of developmental, social, behavioural and psychological processes. My father plays a very significant role in my life, as someone who I can turn to at any moment for support or guidance. It felt important to me, to tell a story that engaged with and promoted a different idea of masculinity and fatherhood, other than the absent father narrative we often see/tell.

At the same moment, I'm inspired by stories that explore characters in the process of being undone by the challenges life throws at them, and yet also overcoming the obstacles in their way. Everyone makes mistakes, fumbles their way through, and these characters are no different. I hope it is that, that emerges and resonates with an audience over the course of this film.



Proud Wing Films

The team have collaborated on a number of projects together, they met on the set of 2019 MIFF hit *Cerulean Blue* (Stan), before reuniting to make *Alba* together. The collective from Melbourne, Australia, also have several projects in development, including the feature film Heckler with *Paper Champions* (Netflix) screenwriter and fellow MIFF Alum Michael McCallum.





A note on representation

We're proud to be able to say we achieved gender parity across all our cast, crew and heads of department!



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