

باشه

{-OKAY-}

A SHORT FILM BY YASMINE AKER

SO FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "OKAY" A FILM BY YASMINE AKER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ZEEKO ZAKI PRODUCED BY ALBINA KATSMAN MARIANA BRASSAROTO MARK FARNEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARIANA BRASSAROTO EDITED BY PRESTON YARGER JOHNNY WALLS PRODUCTION DESIGNER MATTHEW VAN NORDEN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK FARNEY SCREENPLAY BY YASMINE AKER DIRECTED BY ELLIOT KNIGHT

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Okay

(adjective, adverb, interjection, noun, verb)

Used to show you agree with something or agree to do something. Used as a way of showing you are going to take action. Used to denote being in a satisfactory state or of a satisfactory quality.

باشه

(صفت ، قید ، الفاظ ، اسم ، فعل)

برای نشان دادن موافقت شما یا موافقت انجام کاری مورد استفاده قرار می گیرد. به عنوان راهی برای نشان دادن اینکه قصد انجام عملی را دارید استفاده می شود. برای نشان دادن وضعیت و یا حالت رضایت بخش استفاده می شود.



Logline

A dark comedic glimpse into the life of an Iranian-American woman, as she teeters on the brink of crisis following a run of unfortunate events.

Synopsis

Caught in financial ruin, struggling with a recent divorce, and battling mental health issues; her dreams of becoming a Hollywood movie star begin to disintegrate. She says okay to everything and everyone – at the cost of not being okay herself.

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The film is seamlessly bilingual flowing between Farsi and English maintaining full subtitles in both languages throughout; Mirroring the lived experience of many displaced Iranians living in North America and the West.

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The story explores themes of mental health — bringing awareness to topics such as self-worth, suicide, healing after divorce, personal boundaries, addiction, and codependency. The main character, Yasi, struggles with personal boundaries, and battles to hide her obsessive compulsive disorder, imposter syndrome, and addictions. The film light heartedly allows the viewer to take a deeper look into the word “okay”.



Incoming Call




Mrs. Samimi (mom)



{تماس ورودی- مادر }

You're embarrassing your dead father and I.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark red top and a necklace, is looking upwards with a slight smile. She is surrounded by a crowd of people in a dimly lit room, with some people in the background having their hands raised. The overall atmosphere is warm and intimate.

Written by and starring Yasmine Aker and co-directed by Elliot Knight, the film was shot in Los Angeles and is intended for the international film festival circuit.



7:00AM
● Go on a nature walk


{ ۷:۰۰ صبح در طبیعت قدم بزن }



5:30PM
○ Detox w/ fresh air

{ سم زدایی در هوای آزاد }




A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt, stands in a bathroom. She has her hand to her mouth, looking thoughtful or slightly distressed. In the background, there are white cabinets and a striped towel hanging on a rack. The lighting is soft and indoor.

7:15AM

Brush teeth (3 minutes only!)

من احساس میکنم به کاعنات وصلم

The same woman from the top image is shown in a similar bathroom setting. She is now looking directly at the camera with a neutral, somewhat serious expression. Her hand is no longer near her mouth. The background and lighting are consistent with the top image.

7:15AM

Brush teeth (3 minutes only!)

من آگاه هستم.



Director's Statement

"This film is a very personal piece, bringing awareness to mental health issues using a light hearted yet purposeful approach to topics such as self-worth, addiction, suicide, healing after loss, codependence, and what it means to set and hold personal boundaries. It was very important for me to make a film that seamlessly flowed between Farsi and English, because that is how so many Iranians experience their world. I myself have a diverse experience as an Iranian American born outside of Iran. I often feel like a misfit in both the Iranian and American communities. To Iranians, I am not Iranian enough and to Americans I am a foreigner. It was important for me to maintain subtitles in both languages throughout; merging the experience of so many displaced Iranians living abroad. We (foreigners) live a bilingual mess, and so does this film.

I'm so very proud of our diverse crew and cast and so thankful to have had my first experience making a film be a female driven and LGBTQ created film. I identify as a bisexual female (she/her) and both our producers are powerhouse women! Our amazing director, and my very dear friend, Elliot, identifies as male and was our bright shining star and our neighborhood G in LGBTQ. I am overflowing with gratitude to all of the amazing individuals who have made this short a possibility – from donations of equipment, time, and money to the countless number of people who gave guidance and mentorship. I'm so excited for people to finally see our little film." -- Yasmine Aker

Director's Statement

"I wanted to extend a huge and sincere THANK YOU to every single member of our cast and crew for their brilliant energy, focus, enthusiasm, patience, generosity, passion and, of course, talent. It remains clear to me each day that not only would none of this have been possible without their great work, but that the impressive quality of what we captured would not have been achieved either. This has been an inspiring experience - to see everyone, through our collaborative work, gain an even deeper appreciation for each component of film making. The crew and cast made my job much easier by working so hard and for that I am extremely grateful.

I remember us "jumping for joy" after completing a few specific shots during filming and I am so eager to release Okay onto the festival circuit and make sure everyone's hard work goes acknowledged.

My first time directing was an absolute treat largely due to everyone's wonderful individual contributions. It's a joy to now know so many talented people to recommend and work with again in the future. What we get to do as story tellers is very special and to do that with like-minded creative people and as part of a well-functioning team, AND ENJOY IT, is truly what I believe they call - the dream. I am so thankful to everyone for making ours, and Yasmine's, come true."

-- Elliot Knight





Making their directorial debut, Yasmine Aker and Elliot Knight turned friendship into film by co-directing a short film inspired by Yasmine Aker's divorce.

THE STORY, ALL NAMES, LIKENESS, CHARACTERS, EVENTS AND INCIDENTS DEPICTED IN THIS SHORT FILM ARE ENTIRELY FICTITIOUS. ANY SIMILARITY TO ACTUAL EVENTS OR PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL. NO IDENTIFICATION WITH ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DECEASED), PLACES, BUILDINGS, AND PRODUCTS IS INTENDED OR SHOULD BE INFERRED.

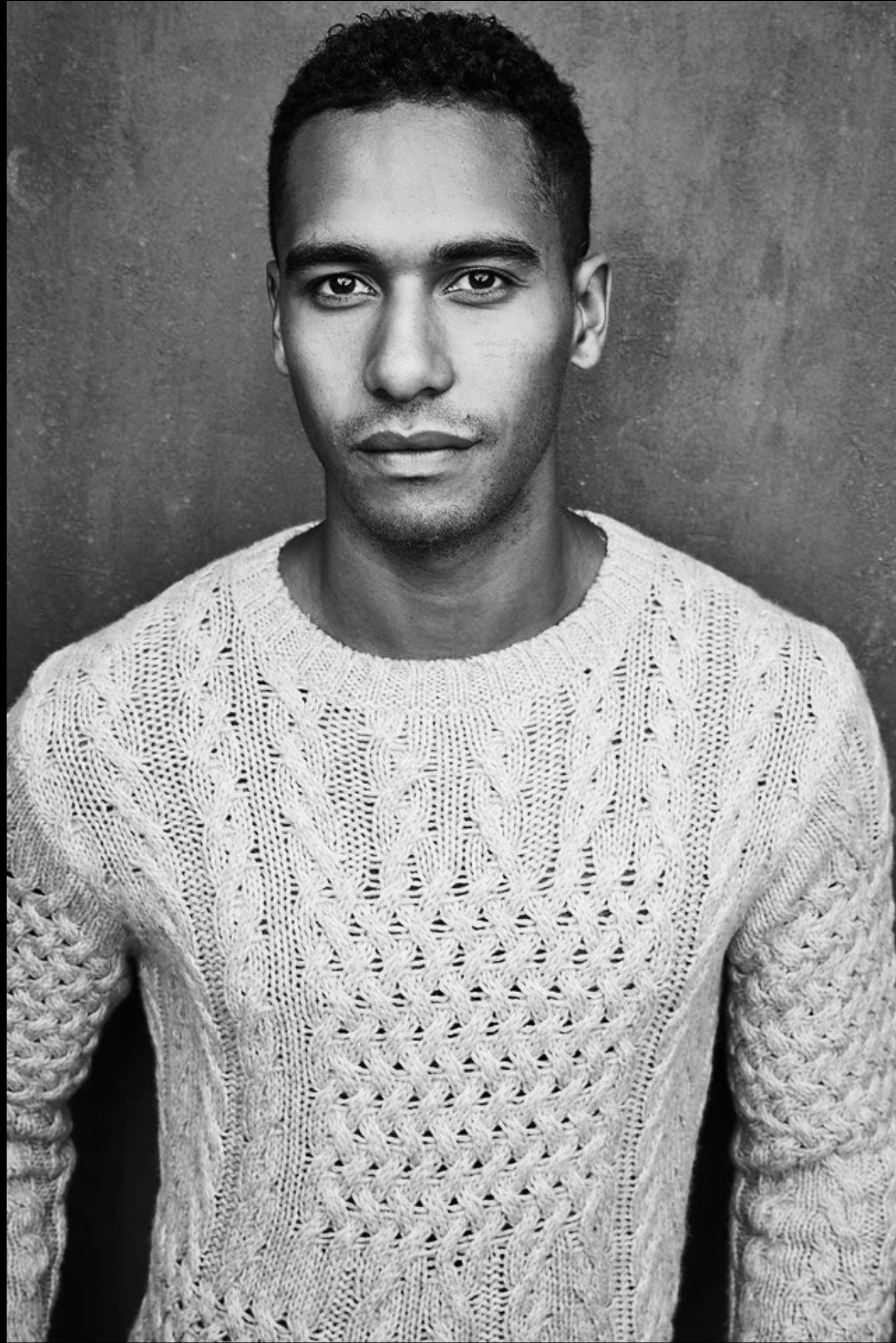
YASMINE AKER

WRITER, DIRECTOR,
PRODUCER, ACTOR

Playing the role of Yasi. She's an Iranian American writer, actress, director, singer and songwriter born in Dubai, United Arab Emirates to Iranian parents. She later moved to Canada, studied psychology at York University and the University of Western Ontario in London. She has starred in various motion pictures and television series in Canada and the United States.

Yasmine Aker plays Mona Nazari on FBI. Her television credits include Tacoma FD and Grey's Anatomy, CSI, and The 100 among others, and her film work includes 12 Strong, Divergent and Sleep No More. Yasmine currently plays the role of Angelica, a queer waitress, on season 4 of the show Good Trouble on Hulu.





ELLIOT KNIGHT

DIRECTOR

Making his directorial debut, Elliot grew up in the city of Birmingham, UK. While attending The Manchester School of Theatre for traditional stage training, Elliot lead as "Macbeth" in a string of toured Shakespeare performances, and subsequently was lauded by Screen International as one of the much anticipated "Stars of Tomorrow" of 2011. He is best known for his titular role as the star of British television series "Sinbad" and has starred in hit US series' such as "How To Get Away With Murder", "Once Upon a Time", "American Gothic", "Life Sentence", "Titans", and "Animal Kingdom".

MARK FARNEY

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Farney, born and raised in America, is from a small town with a big vision to tell the stories we all share. With twelve years behind the camera. The orchestration of a beautiful dance between actors, cameras, and photons on set is his everyday routine. "Never stop telling your story." He is known for various film and television shows including, WestWorld, Bright, US, Baskets, Last Man on Earth, and Straight Outta Compton



SO FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS

Most recently produced So Foreign, a digital series that has caught the eyes of Sony, Amazon, and Disney. Has been selected for several festivals all over the world and been nominated BEST NEW MEDIA, BEST ON SCREEN CHEMISTRY and BEST ACTRESS IN A COMEDY.

ALBINA KATSMAN MARIANA BRASSAROTO



Ukraine born, Chicago raised, and currently based in LA. Albina is an actor, writer and producer. She began her theatrical studies at the Chicago Academy for the Arts and received her Bachelor of Arts at Loyola Marymount University, majoring in Theatre. She performed and studied in Germany and Russia (Moscow Art Theatre). Her latest feature, Alone, premiered at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival



Brazilian born to an Italian family, with Spanish and Lebanese roots. Mariana is a producer, writer, actor and singer in Los Angeles, California. She attended Loyola Marymount University, studied film in Germany, and studied acting at Stanilavski's Moscow Art Theatre in Russia. Mariana is a citizen of the world and can be seen in many Brazilian blockbusters.

ZEEKO ZAKI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Zeeko Zaki is the first Muslim Arab actor to play a leading role in a major television show, changing the narrative of Arab men on the small screen. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Zaki immigrated to the United States as an infant, but visited his birth country often and speaks fluent Arabic. He has appeared on shows such as NCIS: Los Angeles, 24: Legacy, and Six before landing the role of O.A in Dick Wolf's hit series FBI on CBS. Catch "FBI" Tuesday nights on CBS at 9pm EST/PST



gettyimages
Robby Klein

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MUSIC

“Goleh Yakh” by Kouros Yaghmaei

“Lalehzaar” by Ebi — Cover by Emad Aghasi & Sina Kakavand, featuring Yasmine Aker

“Sweetness of a Dream” by Daal Band

“Dancing my song” by Daal Band

“Walk of Ordibehesht” by Daal Band

“Uku Pensive” by Kuya Productions

“Inspired by Life” by Cody Crump

Cast

Yasi	YASMINE AKER
Sepideh	MEDISE BATHAIE
Gizelle	MARIANA BRASSAROTO
Mrs. Samimi (Mom)	ELHAM YAGHOUBI
Leanna	HOLLY KAPLAN
Yoga Instructor	ALBINA KATSMAN
Casting Director	JAMES PALADINO
Casting Director Assistant:	SAMANTHA MELITTA
Justin:	CHRIS MAMMARELLI
Opal:	MICHELE MAROTTA
David	ADAM SILVEIRA
Senior Home Waitress:	NAZANIN ANOSHEH
Persian Man VO:	SEPEHR MAKTABI
Tonya	RACHEL CLUGSTON

Specs / Info

Runtime: 15:59
Specs / Format: Color, DCP, 2:1
Countries: USA, UK, Iran, UAE
Languages: English, Farsi

EXTRAS

ED FREEMAN
ERIC VANDEVELDE
CLAUDIA BRASSAROTO
IGNACIO VANCINI
JAMES BRENNAN
SHIR ZEHAVY
SIMA SEPEHRI
IMAN JENABZADE
AFIFE HADIZADE
SEPEHR MAKTABI
AFSHIN OMMNI
SHAHRZAD OMNI
MEHRDAD MAKTABI
SUZIE GARCIA BEAN

Post Production

Editor :	PRESTON YARGER JOHNNY WALLS
Sound Engineer:	PETER TREPKE
Visual Effects:	PRESTON YARGER
Motion Graphics:	PRESTON YARGER
Colorist:	MILES KULA

Crew

Production Company: SO FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS
Screenwriter: YASMINE AKER
Story Producer: ROYA RASTEGAR
Director: ELLIOT KNIGHT & YASMINE AKER
Director of Photography: MARK FARNEY
Executive Producer: ZEEKO ZAKI
Executive Producer: YASMINE AKER
Producer: ALBINA KATSMAN & MARIANA BRASSAROTO
1st AC: KOKO LEE
1& 2nd AC: MERINA KHAN
1st AD: MARIANA BRASSAROTO & SAMANTHA MELITTA
Script Supervisor: SAMANTHA MELITTA
Script Supervisor (Farsi): MEDISE BATHAIE
Subtitle Translator: SHAYAN EBRAHIM
Grip: MEAGAN BAKER
Sound Mixer: TATIANA GUTIERREZ
Production Manager: ALBINA KATSMAN
Art Production: SO FOREIGN PRODUCTIONS
Art Direction: MARIANA BRASSAROTO
Set Design: MARIANA BRASSAROTO
Set Dec: MATTHEW VAN NORDEN
Production Assistant: MATTHEW VAN NORDEN
Production Assistant: LOAN NGUYEN
Production Assistant: GARY SARCIONE
Production Assistant: KENVAZE SIDHU
Hair & Makeup: SUZIE GARCIA
Unit Stills Photography: PRESTON YARGER

Special Thanks

Daal Band — Ebi — Kourosh Yaghmaei

Shayan Ebrahim — Adam Makary — Roya Rastegar — Moj Mahdara — Sarah Anosheh — Meitha Al Noor
Michael Benyaer — Naz Meknat — Natalie Mendoza — Olivia Pavlich — Rana Roy — Jonas Lalehzadeh
Venus Razzaghi — Saeed Bagheri — Stephie Demas — Rudy Gonzales — Yana Matkivski — Sima Sepehri
Alex bloom — Soraya Bagheri — Susan Tolar Walters



Social Media & Contacts

Web: www.okay-film.com

Instagram: @Okay_Shortfilm

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Production: www.soforeignofficial.com

