



THE CALL

DIRECTED BY RIFFY AHMED

WRITTEN BY VANESSA ROSE


PRODUCED BY DANIELLE GOFF & SUSAN SIMNETT

SYNOPSIS

During a difficult visit to her single immigrant mother, Athena discovers that what she thought was age-related mental decline is in fact an inherited magical gift.





A woman is shown in profile, her face and hands in silhouette against a teal background. She is wearing a gold hoop earring and has her hands clasped near her mouth. Behind her are three religious symbols: a wooden cross, a sun with rays, and another wooden cross.

**'This story is a love letter to
our parents'.**

**Director
Riffy Ahmed**



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I originally came across this story seeing it as a short play on stage and connected instantly: I literally saw myself and my mother. I knew in a heartbeat this is a story I want to bring to life in a film. I approached Vanessa to develop this further from a BIPOC perspective and she was wonderfully collaborative.

This charming story is dedicated to immigrant, single parents who did everything to save their children from a hostile world, even if it means becoming a 'superhero' and saving the world too. It's also about the kids that grew up with that love and hardship, constantly adapting to assimilate and 'fit in'.

THE CALL is a contained yet layered story about the relationship between a mother and daughter / parent and child, the misunderstandings and power struggles that can occur in that dynamic. The mental health pressures that both generations experience and the ignored sacrifices on both parts that can be misunderstood yet reveal that they are more connected than they know through a shared gift and strength.



ABC 1
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DIAL
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100
Bournemouth
26579



WRITER'S NOTE

"This film is dedicated to my (superhero) single mother, and the many single mothers I grew up around; women who were stretched thin to show up for their kids while also serving their community (often in roles as nurses, teachers, carers).

I saw how these women gave and gave, quite frankly, to a point of self-negligence. I see now that my busy working mum was saving the world every day, but I didn't always see that. I wanted to write about the interesting flip-flopping power dynamic that can happen with parents and adult children, and how young people can fall prey to cultural tropes/judgements.

I also wanted to write about the gifts we inherit. We can sometimes focus more on the trauma and hardship we inherit from our parents, but I wanted to show the strength, magic, and value you also inherit from having a parent that risked everything for a chance for you to find happiness. Sounds like a superhero to me".

WRITER - VANESSA ROSE






PRODUCTION NOTE

Originally discovered on stage, the story transitions so well to the screen, bringing the opportunity to expand the universe and dramatically visualise the finale.

The shift in format has created a true collaboration of talent. The script evolved to centre round an immigrant family, digging deeper into the dynamics of mother/daughter relationships, of identity, judgement, and unsung heroes. Sound and music crafted to create the emotional ebb and flow of alternative worlds colliding.

This female-centric story is told by a writer, director, producing team of ethnically diverse women, richly enhanced by a cast and crew with diverse backgrounds and breadth of experience.



A close-up photograph of a woman with her hair in braids, resting her head on the shoulder of another person. The woman is wearing a grey ribbed sweater and a gold chain bracelet with a heart charm. The background is a soft, out-of-focus teal color. The text is overlaid in the upper right corner.

**‘Sugar Dumpling,
you never fit the
mould...’**

**‘Some of us have
larger loads to
bear...’**





JO MARTIN

PRINCIPAL CAST

AMARAH – JAE ST. AUBYN

JO MARTIN (SHE/HER)

Jo is a wonderfully versatile and experienced actress. She played Natalie Crouch in the BBC One sitcom The Crouches. She joined the cast of Holby City in 2019, as neurosurgeon Mac McGerry and most recently portrayed an incarnation of the Doctor in BBC TV series Doctor Who in 2020 and upcoming series Champions with BBC/Netflix.





AMARAH-JAE ST. AUBYN (SHE/HER)

An up-and-coming star, St. Aubyn is best known as the lead in Steve McQueen’s London-set anthology series, "Small Axe" for the BBC and upcoming series "Anansi Boys" on Amazon. Amarah stars as the lead in "Lovers Rock" which was selected to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival and then at New York Film Festival in 2020. She was nominated for a 2021 Broadcasting Press Guild Award in the Breakthrough category and has been tapped by Screen Daily as a 2020 Screen Star of Tomorrow.

RIFFY AHMED (SHE/HER)

DIRECTOR

Riffy is a British Bangladeshi and Bahraini Writer/Director, and Visual Artist who graduated from the NFTS MA in Directing Fiction in 2020 and is represented by Independent Talent for Film and TV.

Her work has been screened at Oscar and BAFTA qualifying festivals and was selected as a WFTV All Nations England 2022 mentee, Circa X Dazed Finalist, Class of 2022, Shortlisted for the 1.4 Awards, Bifa Springboard 21/22, Bafta Connect, and on the Cowboy Films/Netflix TOP BOY director mentoring scheme, shadowing Myriam Raja and directing second unit. In addition, she was the 2016/2017 H. Club Foundation's Emerging Creative for Film and TV, featured as one of Channel 4's Spotlight on Directors in 2018.

Riffy loves to tell stories about 'unlikely heroes' we don't always see on the big screen at turning points in their lives, particularly framed around women and diaspora identities. Her work is eclectic, cross-blending between genres through visceral forms of storytelling.





VANESSA ROSE (SHE/HER)

WRITER

Vanessa Rose is a queer screenwriter who likes to write gender and genre-bending stories about unlikely heroes and majestic misfits. She graduated with a Masters from the National Film and Television School in the UK where she wrote two successful animated short films that garnered a BAFTA shortlist, Jury Awards from SXSW, TIFF, and was most recently voted a Vimeo staff pick (2023).

One of these shorts is now being developed by Nexus Studios into a TV series. She won an emerging talent award for a play produced in London at Chiswick Playhouse and Soho Theatres, which found funding with the BFI and became what is now 'The Call' short film. Drawing from her dancer background, she wrote and directed two short dance films last year that are touring internationally and have won awards for acting, sound design, and directing. She writes plays, films, television, and poetry. Hand-stands help keep her sane (ish).

DANIELLE GOFF (SHE/HER)

PRODUCER

Danielle Goff is a BAFTA & BIFA nominated and RTS, Grierson & Annie Award winning Producer. She is an alumni of the MA Producing course from National Film and Television School and a recipient of the Screenskills scholarship. Danielle is part of the BFI Insight Emerging Producers programme 2023 and was selected for the Disney Imagine shorts incubator scheme 2023 and was part of LFF & EIFF Talent Lab 2022. She is a working-class, queer woman, of British, Jamaican, and Algerian heritage. Her work focuses on championing under-represented voices and filmmakers whose work centres on BIPOC, working class and queer stories. Danielle is developing a slate of feature film and television projects.





SUSAN SIMNETT (SHE/HER)

PRODUCER

With an earlier career in advertising that developed good habits in storytelling, Susan found her home in the world of film. She produces long and short form content with an interest in stories that provoke; stories that embrace who we are and where we might go; stories that shift our axis of understanding.

Her work has been released theatrically and garnered numerous awards including the Iris Prize, Amnesty International and a BIFA nomination.



PEP BOSCH (HE/HIM)
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Pep is a Catalan cinematographer based in London. His work spans fiction, documentaries, commercials, and music videos and has worked internationally.

His fascination in cinema grew alongside photography, leading him to a degree in Films Studies in ESAC (Spain) and an MA in Cinematography from the prestigious National Film and Television School.

His standout projects are:

'Sasha', a documentary directed by Fèlix Colomer and nominated for the Jury Special Mention Award at Seminci in Valladolid (2016), "Made in China", directed by Marc Chica (2017), BIFA nominated 'Mandem' (2020), BIFA nominated and official selection for Sundance, BFI London Film Festival and Edinburgh International Film Festival "Precious Hair and Beauty" (2021) both directed by John Ogunmuyiwa.



MILLY WHITE (SHE/HER)
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Originally from a small village in South Yorkshire, Milly now lives in a medium sized village in Berkshire – with the love and support of her partner Jake and Marmalade the cat. After receiving an MA in Production Design from the prestigious National Film and Television School, Milly went on to design award-winning short films across genres and mediums.

Most notably, Milly designed the BAFTA and BIFA nominated and Annie Award winning stop motion animation 'Night of the Living Dread'. For this, Milly personally won the National Award for Production Design at the Royal Television Society Awards 2022 (post-graduate category).

Milly has continued to design high-end short films across live-action drama, animation, and documentary. Alongside this, Milly has also built a career in Major Motion Picture art departments, currently working as an Assistant Art Director. Milly's credits include: 'The Flash', 'Lady Chatterley's Lover', 'Empire of Light' and 'Mickey 17'.



JACQUI JAMES (SHE/HER)
COSTUME DESIGNER

Jacqui is a bridal designer and dressmaker who has recently dipped her toes in the costume design world and is currently loving it. She has recently worked on four short films for Sky Arts and is excited to continue to collaborate with more creatives in the film industry. Her background in design brings an extra hands-on experience to the role.

Jacqui's background in design has given her a unique perspective as she works on costumes for film. She understands how clothing can communicate so much about a character, and she loves being able to use that knowledge to create costumes that are both appropriate for their context and on-brand for each character.



ARMILIAH ARIPIB BFE (SHE/HER)
EDITOR

Armiliah is a film editor based in London. Originally from Singapore, she spent a decade in her home country editing TV dramas, documentaries, and promos. Her factual work has been broadcasted on networks under A+E, Discovery and National Geographic.

After graduating from the National Film and Television School in 2020, her short films across fiction, documentary and animation have been nominated (Student BAFTAs, Annie Awards, RTS) and in competition at notable festivals (Locarno, TIFF, SXSW). Her work on Who Goes There? was nominated for Best Editing at the Royal Television Society Student Awards 2021, and she was also nominated for Best Editor at the Underwire Festival 2022 for 'Heart eyes and a world.'

She is also an alumnus of Berlinale Talents 2022, and her first feature film Ajoomma (2022) premiered at BIFF, received four nominations at the Golden Horse Film Awards and was Singapore's submission to the 2023 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film Category.



JOE STEVENSON (HE/HIM)
COMPOSER

Joseph is a composer for film, TV, and games from Southwest Scotland. He began scoring films during his time studying music at The University of Edinburgh and shortly after graduating undertook an MA in composing for film and TV at the National Film & Television School.

Joseph has since composed the music for BBC drama 'Mayflies' in 2022, worked on an array of TV drama and documentary soundtracks, and has scored a number of notable short films including BAFTA nominated and Annie Award winning animation 'Night of the Living Dread. He currently assists prolific Hollywood composer Lorne Balfe.



CHAD ORORORO (HE/HIM)
SOUND DESIGNER

Chad is a sound designer and mixer based in London. He started his journey working at Evolutions TV as a runner and then assisted in the technical department. After moving to Molinare, he became an audio assistant working on a wide range of exciting projects including Oscar winning film 'The White Helmets'. He was selected as a Bafta Breakthrough in 2021 with his eloquent work on the feature film Pele.

He's passionate about his work and can't believe he gets paid to create sounds, especially when it initially felt impossible to get into the industry. He hopes to continue working on important documentaries and big films in the future, using sound to take the audience on an emotional journey.



NICOLA BORSARI (HE/HIM)
VFX ARTIST + SUPERVISOR

Nicola is a highly skilled VFX compositor from Italy and currently based in London. Since graduating from the prestigious National Film and Television in 2020, he has become a sought-after professional in the industry. From Fiction to Animation, he has worked on various high-end commercials, music videos, shorts, and long-form productions.

He has had the pleasure of working with some of the top VFX studios in London, where he has produced projects for major brands such as Amazon, PlayStation, Coca-Cola, and Sky, as well as Super Bowl commercials. His portfolio also boasts the recent involvement in two major long-form productions, namely Netflix's *The Sandman* and Apple TV+'s *Sharper*. In addition, has also contributed to the creation of music videos for Adele, Justin Timberlake, and Beardyman, showcasing his proficiency in visual storytelling.



CAROLINE MORIN (SHE/HER)
SENIOR COLOURIST

Caroline is a senior colourist originally from a small town in the French Basque Country, based in London.

Caroline has graded numerous music videos, commercials and other shortform pieces videos for Ama Lou, Bastille, Bree Runway, Denai Moore, Jonas Blue and Tom Walker, working with directors like Gemma Yin, Zac Ella and Emilie Norenberg.

Caroline studied in Biarritz, south-east France, graduating in BTS in Audio-Visual Discipline, specialising in 'Technical Engineering and Use of Equipment', which she says, "enabled me to approach all of the different aspects of TV and filmmaking, from editing to broadcast events." From there, she completed several internships in Paris.



OPENING CREDITS

**BFI NETWORK & OVER THE FENCE FILMS PRESENT
A LUNAR PICTURES PRODUCTION**

END CREDITS

JO MARTIN

AMARAH – JAE ST. AUBYN

**DIRECTED BY
RIFFY AHMED**

**WRITTEN BY
VANESSA ROSE**

**PRODUCED BY
DANIELE GOFF
SUSAN SIMNETT**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PEP BOSCH

CASTING DIRECTOR XANTHE SPENCER-DAVIDS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER MILLY WHITE

COSTUME DESIGNER JACQUILINE JAMES

EDITOR ARMILIAH ARIPIB BFE

COMPOSER JOSEPH STEVENSON

SOUND DESIGNER CHAD ORORORO

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER CLEMENT JACK HARPER

COLOURIST CAROLINE MORIN

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AIMEÉ ROBINSON

PRODUCTION MANAGER NIA CAMPBELL

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR KATE-ANN MCDONOUGH

VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST NICOLA BORSARI

GAFFER TANYA RINGER

HAIR & MAKE UP DESIGNER TILLIE ROBINSON-SMITH

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA. BERNAT BONAVENTURA

SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA TANIA GARCÍA DE PEDRO

GRIP MO ABDI

DIT ASSISTANT RITA GRATACÓS

ART DIRECTOR TIRZA SAENZ

PROP DESIGNER & PORTRAIT ARTIST EVERLYN FINNIE

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER JIM SAUNDERS

PLASTERER STEVE LOWE

CARPENTERS

**JOE DAVIS
JOSEF MOUNSER**

**LIGHTING EQUIPMENT
LOCATION MANAGEMENT
CATERING
INSURANCE SERVICES**

**SHL LONDON
LOCATION WORKS
NEW QUEBEC CATERING
TYSERS INSURANCE BROOK**

SCENIC PAINTER

EVA CALLAND - WALLER

BOOM OPERATOR

DANNY HILTON

SPARK

KLAUDIA BORBELY

**FOR BFI NETWORK
BFI NETWORK TALENT EXECUTIVE
PROJECT COORDINATOR** **AALIAH SIMPSON
NIAMH COOGAN**

THIRD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**SABASTIAN ASTLEY
JEANNE ADELINE VELDHOEN**

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

**AALIYAH YAQUB
SOHAILA FERRIER**

**SPECIAL THANKS
JAKE CLAUGHTON
JEREMY MOORSHEAD
JON WARDLE
SCENERY SALVAGE PROP HIRE LTD
JUNKYARD PROPS LTD
NFTS CARPENTRY DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL
ONA BARTROLÍ**

TRANSPORT CAPTAIN

ADRIAN GORDON

RUNNER.

ELLIE LOMAS

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

ADAM PIETRASZEWSKI

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

STUNT PERFORMER

SAVANNAH AYOADE-GREA

GAFFER

HAL PILKINGTON

SPARK

PEDRO TAFUR FASCE

LUNAR PICTURES

OVER THE FENCE LOGO

MUSICIANS

DRUMS PERFORMED BY

JAMIE HOUGHTON

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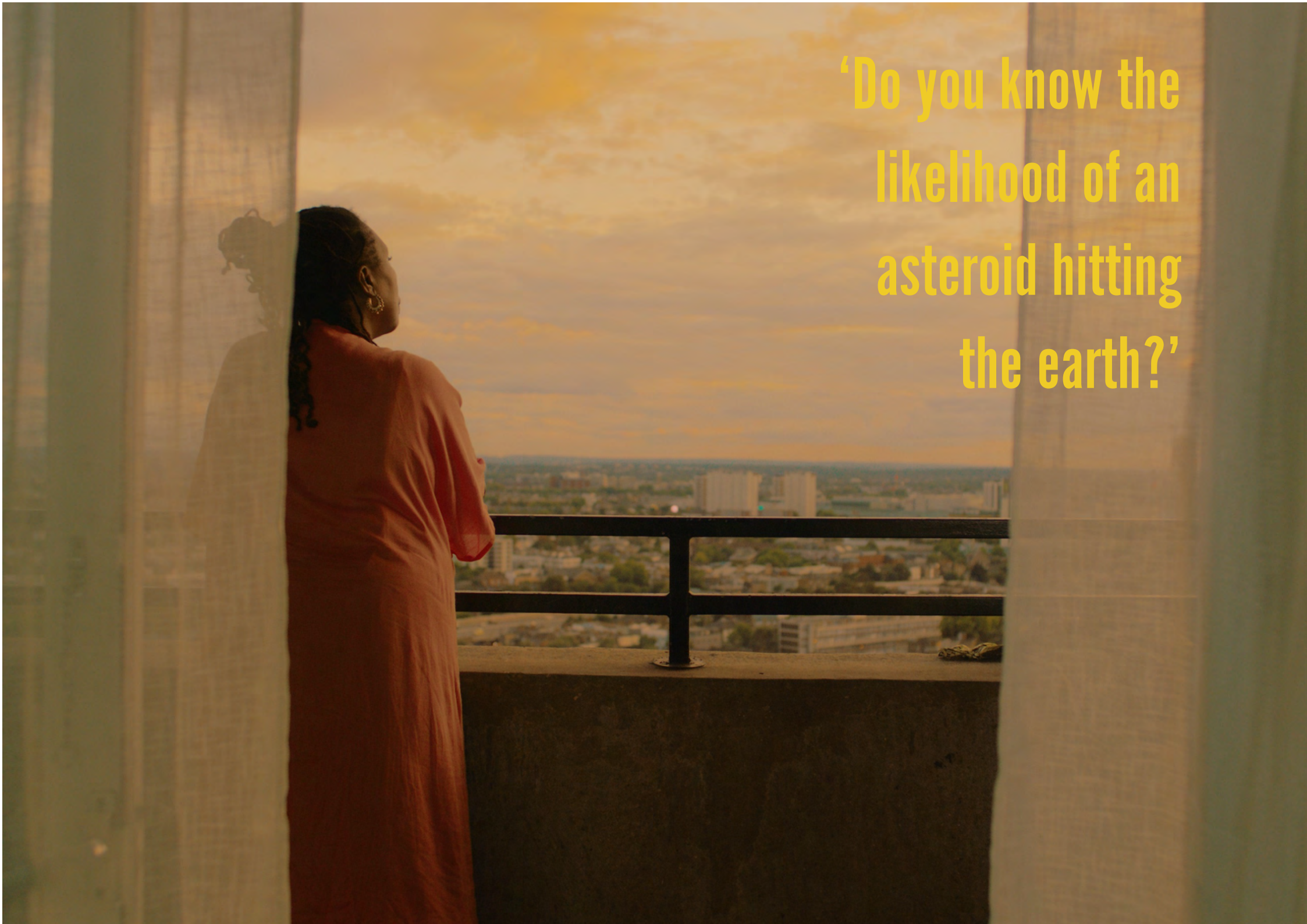
DRUMS MIXED BY

JACK DAVENPORT

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CAMERA EQUIPMENT

PANAVISION

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a long red dress and large earrings, stands on a balcony looking out at a cityscape at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The balcony has a dark metal railing. The scene is framed by light-colored curtains on either side.

**‘Do you know the
likelihood of an
asteroid hitting
the earth?’**





Lunar
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OVER THE FENCE FILMS



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