



divine
origins

PRODUCTION PACK

MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF
The Sundance Institute



COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION
UK

GENRE
Short, Drama

LANGUAGE
English

DURATION
15 Minutes

DATE OF COMPLETION
March 2025

SHOOTING FORMAT
Arri Alexa, 16:9

logline


Caught between her alienated parents, teenage Ama starts a new relationship with a young lifeguard - but she can't escape a quiet haunting that feels increasingly familiar.

synopsis

Alone during the summer holidays, trying to piece together her parents' growing distance, Ama (16) experiences an uncanny vision of a woman underwater. As her father Ike retreats further into himself, and her mother Orna turns more embittered by his absence, Ama hides in the dark, listening for glimpses into their crumbling lives.

Disillusion rising, Ama meets Sam one afternoon, a lifeguard she recognises from the swimming ponds. His advances lead to a night together - in the park, and then at the ponds - where she encounters the otherworldly woman.

As interior and exterior worlds meet, Ama faces a ghost who speaks to the mysterious interconnectedness of our lives, within families and across time.



director's statement

I am interested in what we see when we look at our past, and if this past leaves a molecular and spiritual residue. All of our ghosts are coming to us - they require something of us. What should we do with those family 'ghosts' that often make surprising appearances in our lives?

From an early age, I understood that there were invisible and unspoken factors shaping my upbringing and worldview. This was compounded by the stories and myths of my grandparents, their parents, and ancestors further back. Each life seemed to haunt the next; like a thick, black stream collecting debris as it travels, so I came to see these past lives as an undercurrent coursing almost imperceptibly through the lives of my parents, my siblings and me.

Each act of self contains an unknowable legacy of many past individuals, which have all played a part in how we understand ourselves. Singular events that happened generations ago can trickle down into our lives, and have a subtle yet profound impact on it. My filmmaking is driven by a desire to bring to light these invisible currents.

bios

writer / director



MILLA LEWIS is a UK filmmaker whose work focuses on the intersection of history, memory and myth. After earning a First Class degree in Photography from Brighton University, where she received the Nagoya University Award of Excellence in the Arts, Milla was selected for the Directing Mentorship Programme at the prestigious National Film School in Łódź, Poland. There she wrote and directed *Mercy*, which earned her the Sundance Ignite Fellowship in 2023, recognising her as one of ten emerging filmmakers worldwide.

In 2024, Milla wrote and directed her second short film *Divine Origins*, supported by the Sundance Institute. Her films have screened internationally, including at Tirana International Film Festival, the 14th LGBT Film Festival Poland, and 225 Club at the BFI.

producer



XANVIER ALLISON is a producer with projects in development with Prime Video and the BFI. He has assisted on projects with directing talent such as Peter Strickland and Shane Meadows. In 2022, he production managed Matt Carter's directorial feature debut *In From The Side*, which premiered at BFI Flare before releasing on Netflix.

He is also completing Yasmin Hafesji's short film adaptation of *A Death In The Family* by Karl Ove Knausgård. An alumnus of the National Film and Television School, his work spans features, shorts, and literary adaptations.

cinematographer



VINCENT PROCHOROFF is a Polish - American cinematographer and a graduate of the National Film School in Łódź, Poland. He has worked on numerous films that have garnered recognition at prestigious festivals worldwide. His recent film, VOX HUMANA (2024), directed by Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival. His films have also been showcased multiple times at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Krakow Film Festival, and Gdynia Film Festival.

Vincent is currently in development on his debut feature, SALON DE BELLEZA, directed by Mexican filmmaker Nathalia Acevedo. Based on the acclaimed Mexican novel of the same name, the film will be shot in Mexico City and Naples. Beyond his work as a cinematographer, he has served as a camera operator on THE PALACE (2023), directed by Roman Polanski, and LEE (2023), directed by Ellen Kuras, featuring performances by Kate Winslet and Alexander Skarsgård.

editor



YU-PU (FRANCES) PON is a bilingual film editor based in London. As an editor, she believes that editing is a way of writing. Much of her work places an emphasis on topics covering cultural identity, race, and gender. Her recent work has been nominated in the BAFTA award and has officially selected for festivals such as Cannes, TIFF and BFI London Film Festival.

sound designer



INES ADRIANA is an award winning sound designer and mixer based in London. She studied for an MA in Sound Design at the The National Film and TV School and graduated with distinction. In 2019 she was awarded the AVID Excellence in Sound Design for Pregnant Ground and was nominated for the Verna Fields Award (MPSE) for her work on Solar Plexus. Her work has screened at Sundance, SXSW, Cannes, Locarno, TIFF and Venice Film Festival.

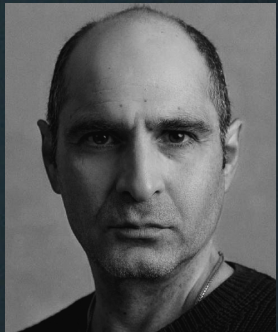
cast

ama



PASCALE KANN made her screen debut in Ariane Labed's feature film debut, September Says, which had its world premiere at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section. She is starring as the lead role in upcoming BBC drama The Dream Lands from BAFTA-winner Kayleigh Llewellyn. Previously she worked with director Roy Alexander Wise on Antigone (Lyric Hammersmith).

ike



ZUBIN VARLA played Harold in A Little Life in the West End, for which he was Olivier-nominated. Zubin won an Olivier Award for his performance in Tammy Faye at the Almeida. He has also played the leading role of Dysart in Equus in the West End and was again Olivier-nominated for his performance in Fun Home. In addition to his acclaimed theatre work, Zubin has had regular and recurring roles on Deep State for Fox, Willfor TNT, Our Girl for the BBC, and in Sky's Strike Back. He was also seen in Disney+'s Andor, in a multi-episodic role.

sam



MASON DHOKIA is a recent graduate of The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. He has recently filmed a Guest Lead in BBC One's Casualty.

orna

RUTH LASS has played leading and substantial supporting roles in theatre, film, opera and radio throughout her career. Her theatre include Cutting The Tightrope (Arcola Theatre) and her film includes Disobedience and The Book of Gabrielle.

the woman

EUGENIA CARUSO was born in Rome and completed her studies in the United Kingdom. Caruso appeared in the 2020 film The Witches, an adaptation of Roald Dahl's book, as well as the 2024 animated film The Garfield Movie.

credits

STARRING Pascale Kann
Zubin Varla
Mason Dhokia
Ruth Lass
Eugenia Caruso

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
Milla Lewis

PRODUCED BY
Xavier Allison

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Vincent Prochoroff

EDITOR
Yu-Pu Frances Pon

COMPOSER
Agathe Max

SOUND DESIGNER
Ines Adriana

CASTING
Chloe Blake

COSTUME DESIGNER
Emma Mulder

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Jerry Kim

COLOURIST
Sam Howells

credits

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Jamila Versi

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA

Oscar Mills

SOUND RECORDIST

Carla Geronimi

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sarah Nocquet

ART DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT

Andi Ominara

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

Izzy Offer

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Boyeong Gwak

GAFFER

Robert Stawicki

SPARK

Pooja Sawhney

TITLES & POSTER

Gintarė Kunigonytė

VFX

Artist Building Studio

VFX ARTIST

Yash Agrawal

LIFEGUARD

Noah Crasnow-Dodd

RUNNERS

Myah Asha Jeffers
Abel Halsborough
Isabel Gale

credits

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

S+O Media

LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Pilot Lighting

CATERING

Peashoot

INSURANCE

Aviva Insurance Ltd

SPECIAL THANKS

Toby Brookes and Jessica Lee at the Sundance Institute
Steph Keelan, Olly Wiggins and Sam Evans at S + O Media
Harry at Pilot Lighting
Chuckie McEwan at Grey Moth
Laurel Parmet
Philip Goddard
Debra and Adam Kroll
Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre
Bill Tuckey
Iris Breward and Sarah Nocquet
Katherine Darke
Mark Farid
Amanda and Paul Lewis
The Sundance Ignite 2023 Cohort

MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF
The Sundance Institute





divine origins

Pascale Kann Zubin Varla Mason Dhokia Ruth Lass Eugenia Caruso

A CLOUDED PRODUCTION "DIVINE ORIGINS" STARRING PASCALE KANN ZUBIN VARLA MASON DHOKIA RUTH LASS AND EUGENIA CARUSO
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY VINCENT PROCHOROFF EDITOR YU-PU FRANCES PON COMPOSER AGATHE MAX SOUND DESIGNER INES ADRIANA PRODUCTION DESIGNER JERRY KIM
COSTUME DESIGNER EMMA MULDER CASTING DIRECTOR CHLOE BLAKE SUPPORTED BY THE SUNDANCE INSTITUTE
PRODUCED BY XANVIER ALLISON WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MILLA LEWIS
© CLOUDED PRODUCTIONS LTD MMXIX