

CLERMONT-FERRAND

31. **Atın Koza**
FILMFESTİVALİ
OFFICIAL SELECTION

SHORT FILM
COMPETITION
ISTANBUL
FILM FESTIVAL
2025

51
OFFICIAL SELECTION
Mladé kamera
UNIČOV
2025

CLERMONT-FERRAND

OFFICIAL SELECTION
INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION
2025

JURT

BFI FLARE
LONDON LGBTQIA+
FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2025

Official Selection
WICKED
QUEER
2025

OFFICIAL SELECTION
St. Louis
International Film Festival

WORLD PRIDE
Shorts Fest

SEVEN SEASONS
FILM FESTIVAL

2025

BPFF
2025

film

29. Türkiye Almanya
Film Festivali

20

2025

LABOR FILM
FESTIVAL

25

KUIA
FEST

LUMA SHORT FILM
FESTIVAL

UFF

Uluslararası
Uşak Kısa Film
Festivali

HI MOM, IT'S ME LOU LOU

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY **ATAKAN YILMAZ**

PRESS KIT

ONUR GÖZETEN, CEREN TAŞCI
S. EMRAH ÖZDEMİR, NİZAM NAMİDAR
EYLÜL DURSUN and YASEMİN BAŞTAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **ECE LATİFAOĞLU**
PRODUCTION DESIGNER **BENGÜ ŞENER**
EDITOR **TUVANA SİMİN GÜNAY** STYLING **ŞEYDA İPEK**
1ST AD **DENİZ EGE TUNA** 2ND AD **DİLAY ŞENGÜL**
COLOR **CANBERK ERDOĞAN** SOUND DESIGN **ONUR ERDEM**
CHOREOGRAPHER **YUSUF BURAK KURTOĞLU**
CASTING **Y. EMRE CAN** FOCUS PULLER **ERCAN KİRSİZ**
GAFFER **BATUHAN DÖNMEZ** BEST BOY **EMİR ŞAHİN**
KEY GRIP **VEYSEL BALCI** CO-PRODUCER **ONUR NAYİR**
PRODUCERS **ECE BOZKAYA, ATAKAN YILMAZ**
CHRONOTOPE FILM PRESENTS **HI MOM, IT'S ME, LOU LOU**

LOTUS YEP LUMA ay yapım SPECTANNE



HI MOM, IT'S ME
LOU LOU

Short • Fiction • 20'30' • Turkish

LONG *Hakkı, a university student earning his keep through Drag Queen performances in Istanbul, is jolted by the news of his mother's passing one night. Concealing his sexual orientation from all but his late mother, he returns to the family home after three years, confronting the weighty expectations of being the only male offspring and his relatives' ignorance. In his childhood room, poignant discoveries await: a vibrant sweater begun by his mother, and a clandestine photograph capturing a shared moment during her covert visit. Despite grappling with guilt over his mother's demise and his father's aloofness, this journey catalyzes his journey towards self-acceptance.*

SHORT *After the sudden death of his mother, Hakkı, a drag queen performer in Istanbul, returns to his hometown—a place he has distanced himself from for years. While navigating his grief, he must also confront the traditional expectations placed on him as the only son, and deal with a family that is unaware of his sexual orientation.*

Written and Directed: Atakan Yılmaz

Producer: Ece Bozkaya, Atakan Yılmaz

Cast: Onur Gözeten, Ceren Taşci, S. Emrah Özdemir, Nizam Namidar, Eylül Dursun, Yasemin Baştan

Director of Photography: Ece Latifaoğlu

Film Editor: Tuvana Simin Günay

Art Director: Bengü Şener

Sound Design and Mix: Onur Erdem

Color: Canberk Erdoğan

Costume Designer: Şeyda İpek

Make-Up: Bibbidi Birthing

1st Assistant Director: Deniz Ege Tuna

Co-Producer: Onur Nayir

PRODUCTION

Chronotope Film, established in 2024 in Istanbul by Ece Bozkaya and Atakan Yılmaz, pioneers ethical and commercially viable independent cinema production. Dedicated to amplifying the voices of emerging filmmakers and unearthing untold narratives within Turkish cinema, our mission is to foster a platform for innovation and diversity. Committed to adhering to European production standards, we engage in inclusive collaborations with stakeholders across public and private domains. As the principal production entity behind the film, Chronotope Film stands at the forefront of cinematic excellence.



Lotusma Production, established by Onur Nayir in 2022, swiftly garnered acclaim on both national and international stages, notably receiving accolades at prestigious events like the Adana Golden Boll Film Festival for its inaugural project, "On the Shore," directed by Büşra Bilginer. Operating as a pivotal co-production partner for the film, Lotusma Film solidifies its commitment to fostering cinematic excellence.



Witchcraft Films was founded in 2019 by producer Seda Özkaraca and writer & director Ali Kemal Güven. Dedicated to producing films on themes related to women and queer individuals, the company filmed its first queer feature film, A Night In Four Parts [Çilingir Sofrası], two years ago. It won the Best Film Special Jury Award as well as Best Actor and Best Cinematography at various film festivals, including the Istanbul Film Festival, the Adana Golden Boll Film Festival, and the Ankara International Film Festival. In 2022, the company produced the eight-episode digital series Actually You Are Free [Aslında Özgürsün] for the national digital streaming platform GAIN. *Witchcraft Film provided industry consultancy and technical equipment assistance for the film.*



HEAD CREW

ATAKAN YILMAZ (Writer, Director, Producer)

Born in 1996 in İzmir, Atakan Yılmaz is a filmmaker with a educational background in political science, theater and cinema. Active since 2010, he has taken on roles in acting, directing, screenwriting, and post-production. A graduate of Istanbul University and Kadir Has University, he co-founded Chronotope Film in 2024. Yılmaz has directed various commercials and music videos, continues to work in this field, and contributes to screenplay teams for diverse projects. His latest short film 'Hi Mom, It's Me, Lou Lou' is currently on the festival circuit.

ECE BOZKAYA (Producer)

Born in Istanbul in 1989, Ece Bozkaya graduated from Marmara University's Department of Cinema and Television and studied Acting at Müjdat Gezen Art Center Conservatory. She also completed three years of Applied Dramaturgy. In 2022, her role as assistant producer for the film Guide to Living for the Dead garnered acclaim, earning selection for the "Buyers Showcase" at the "Frontières" genre film market during the prestigious Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes. Additionally, she produced 'Hi Mom, It's Me, Lou Lou', which was screened at Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival and numerous other festivals. Bozkaya remains actively engaged in television, digital platforms, film, and advertising projects.

ECE LATİFAOĞLU (Director of Photography)

Hailing from Istanbul, Ece Latifaoğlu was born in 1995. She holds a degree from Bilgi University's Cinema-TV department and further honed her skills at the Toronto Film School. With a keen eye for cinematography, Latifaoğlu has contributed her expertise to a myriad of projects, spanning short films, music videos, commercials, and feature films.

TUVANA SİMİN GÜNAY (Film Editor)

Tuvana Simin Günay embarked on her academic journey, completing her bachelor's degree at Istanbul University and the University of Wroclaw in Poland. She furthered her studies with a master's degree in Cinema at Kadir Has University. Transitioning from her role as an assistant director, Günay found her passion for film editing in 2019. Her adept editing skills have led to the inclusion of many projects she's worked on in prestigious international and national festival selections. In 2022, she clinched the coveted "Best Editing" award at the 8th International Silk Road Film Festival and was appointed as an editor for the Talents Sarajevo program organized by Berlinale in the same year. Günay continues to enrich cinematic narratives with her keen editorial finesse.

BENGÜ ŞENER (Art Director)

Bengü Şener is a multidisciplinary production designer specializing in film and visual arts. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Stage Design from Dokuz Eylül University and attended Kendall College of Art and Design on a full scholarship, focusing on animation. Bengü has worked on numerous films and commercials, including Unfruitful Times, *Hi Mom, It's Me, Lou Lou* and major campaigns for brands like Oral-B, Pegasus, and Turkey İş Bankası. With expertise in art direction, set design, and 3D visualization, she brings creative concepts to life with precision and innovation.

CAST

ONUR GÖZETEN (Hakkı/Lou Lou)

He was born on August 17, 1999, in Istanbul. He graduated from the Mujdat Gezen Art Center Theater department. In parallel with theater, he developed himself in music and vocals. Gözeten, who can play guitar and saz, continues his education in the Cinema-TV department at Istanbul University. He has appeared in series (Seni Çok Bekledim, Sevmek Zamanı), short films (İlk 10.000, Mariam), and feature films (Cam Perde, Kal, Prestij Meselesi). At the same time, Onur, who continues his productions in theater as well, portrays the character Lou Lou in our film.

CEREN TAŞCI (Gülsüm)

She was born in 1989 in Istanbul. After graduating from Kadir Has University Theater Department, she continued her master's degree in Film and Drama at the same university. In 2019, she received the 'Best Supporting Actress Award' at the Afife Jale, Sadri Alışık, Direklerarası and Ekin Yazın Dostları Theater Awards with her play "Yalnızlar Kulübü". She took part in many television series (No 309, Aslan Ailem, Erkenci Kuş, Menajerimi Ara, Seversin), digital TV series (Acans, Aslında Özgürsün) and movies (Feride, Kirk Yalan).

S. EMRAH ÖZDEMİR (Bekir)

Born in 1979 in Sivas, the actor completed his master's degree in Advanced Acting at Bahçeşehir University after graduating from the Department of Anthropology at Istanbul University in 2005. After then, he took part in smash hit films that screened in national and international festivals such as "Gitmek, Sesime Gel, Abluka, Görülmüştür, Yeniden Leyla, Hayaletler, Anadolu Leoparı, Beni Sevenler Listesi, Ama, Cam Perde, Kuru Otlar Üstüne". He won the Best Supporting Actor award at the 57th Golden Orange Film Festival for his role as Raşit in the movie 'Hayaletler'.

NİZAM NAMİDAR (İbrahim)

Nizam Namidar is a versatile Turkish actor known for his work in both theater and television. He has earned recognition for his performances in various TV series, films, and stage productions. Namidar's notable roles include appearances in popular Turkish TV series such as Kardeşlerim and Bir Zamanlar Çukurova, where he showcased his ability to bring depth and emotion to diverse characters. In addition to his television work, Namidar has also been involved in theater, delivering powerful performances on stage. His dedication to his craft and his dynamic acting style have made him a respected figure in the Turkish entertainment industry.

EYLÜL DURSUN (Pamuk)

Born in 1997 in Istanbul, the actress graduated from Craft Acting Studio and continued her education at Haliç University Theater department. In 2019, she took part in Craft Theater production 'Shakespeare Museum'. She also acted the character of Marilyn in the movie '9,75'.

YASEMİN BAŞTAN (Emine)

Yasemin Baştan is a Turkish actress born in 1972 in Istanbul, best known for her role as "Melek" in the popular TV series İkinci Bahar. She graduated from the Mimar Sinan University State Conservatory and has appeared in numerous television series such as Seksenler and Aşkın Tarifi. In addition to her TV work, she has also participated in various theater productions. Yasemin has a rich career in both acting and music, and she is recognized for her roles in films like Devrim Arabaları and Son Akşam Yemeği.

FESTIVAL HISTORY

47. Festival International ou Court Metrage Clermont-Ferrand/France

International Competition

European Premiere

33. St. Louis International Film Festival/ United States

Int. Short Film Competition

International Premiere

31. International Adana Golden Boll Film Festival/Turkey

Int. Short Film Competition

World Premiere

39. BFI FLARE: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival/UK

UK Premiere

41. WICKED QUEER : The Boston LGBTQ+ Film Festival/ United States

51. Mlada Kamera Short Film Festival/ Czechia

44. International Istanbul Film Festival/Türkiye

29. Filmfestival Türkei Deutschland /Germany

2nd Prize Short Film

21. Akbank Short Film Festival/Turkiye

25. International Frankfurt Turkish Film Festival/Germany

20. International Labour Film Festival/ Türkiye

13. PinkLife Queer Fest/Turkey

11. International Uşak Short Film Festival/Türkiye

'Best Production Design'

14. International Crime and Punishment Film Festival/Türkiye

4. Luma Short Film Festival/Türkiye

'Special Jury Award'

25. International Izmir Short Film Festival/Türkiye

1. National University of Fenerbahçe Short Film Festival /Türkiye

6. Positively Different Short Film Festival/Greece

Tüpisch Türkisch Film Festival / Germany

4. Kaş International Film Festival/Türkiye



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Since I left my hometown for my education nine years ago, every visit I had to my family in Izmir was a different experience as a maturing individual. Leaving the norms that my parents were imposing-with good intentions- in order for me to adapt the society, facing my loneliness, being part of so many new stories have made significant changes in my self. Everytime I went back to my family house, I found myself in a situation where my desire of "being myself" is conflicted with the solid understanding of love and wisdom which comes from the perspective of my family's cultural background.

Like any other youngster, when I left that little box, I discovered new ideas and forms of living that I never knew existed. Meeting the people that also doesn't share the society's "common" rules and understandings made me feel that I wasn't alone. Therefore, my goal is taking action as conscience individual and turning my camera towards the people who touched my soul and inspired me, so I can make the truth visible.

This movie is going to be a beginning of my cinema journey, and it represent my sincere admiration and respect for those who are brave enough to sacrifice their past in order to live their future freely, such as Lou Lou. My intention is reflecting our struggle of being who we are in every aspect of life with its purity, a part from the prejudice of any political and ideological perspective. My desire is introducing the character that I wrote to the people with the circumstances that determining Lou Lou's life and create a cinematic experience for the audience to witness Lou Lou's journey in its purity, without any expectations.

STILL

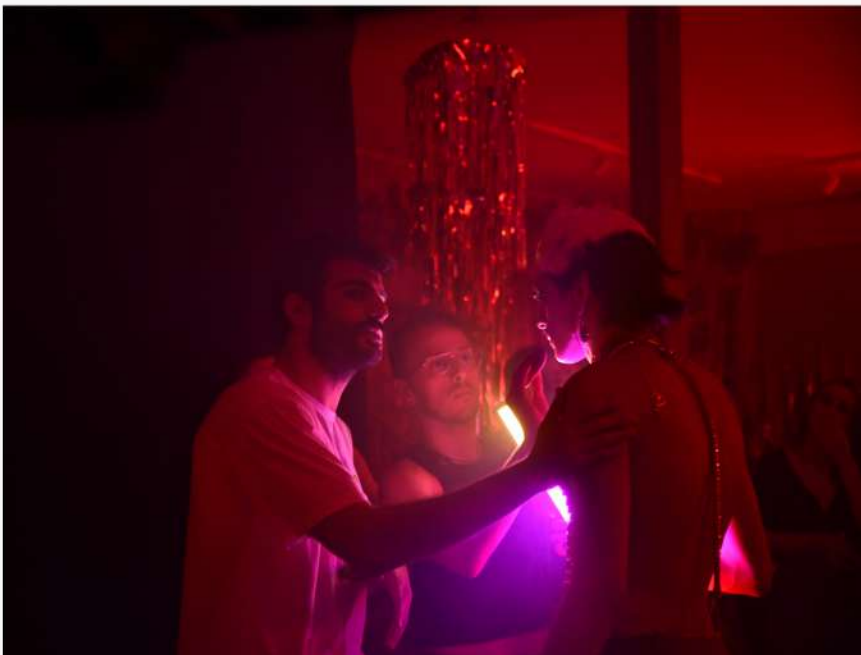


STILL





**BACK-
STAGE**



**BACK-
STAGE**



It's a delight to watch a brilliant debut film made with solidarity and a pure love for cinema. Breaking the high walls many aspiring storytellers in Turkey encounter, 'geography is destiny' boldly pursues the path of real and sincere storytelling, creating a fantastic production.



It made me so emotional to see a lgbt+ film in Turkish, filmed in the city I grew up thinking I was alone in for so long. (Ended up crying throughout the film) It's so beautiful and inspiring to see ones story on screen/ to see that your story can be on screen. This film was a reminder why representation is so important.



It made me cry; the structure is well-built, and I can't criticize that, but it could have been strengthened and enhanced further. I felt it was a bit superficial, which might also be due to budget limitations, though I'm not sure. Despite what I've mentioned, it was still very good



One of the special films I watched and liked in Izmir. It's incredibly mature for a debut film. The reviews have already been written, so I'm not sure what else can be added. However, the final scene was so beautiful—the shared glances and heartfelt smiles between mother and son, that beautiful-hearted woman saying, "I know who you are..." Truly special. It was beautifully shot as well, and thanks to the cinematographer, Ece Latifaoğlu. It left a magical taste of life on the tongue and a sweet lump in the throat. Onur Gözeten's performance in the lead was subtle and impressive.



Onur Gözeten is making a notable impact at the Adana Film Festival this year with two films, both featured among the best selections. In his directorial debut, Atakan Yılmaz tackled a profound and bold subject. While I appreciated his approach, the film's beginning and middle were overwhelming, and unfortunately, the ending left me disappointed. It seemed like the conclusion was altered to resemble a music video, which, in my view, shifted the tone of the film dramatically in the final two minutes.



I felt it too, but the script was quite incomplete and didn't manage to evoke emotions. However, the visuals in the location were amazing, and with all that careful setup, we should have seen more dancer-like moments.

FROM THE PRESS



İREM YAVUZER

Human beings are born, grow, and die. For thousands of years, human physiology has carried out species transmission, reproduction, and social structure through men and women. The woman with a child is called a mother, and the man is called a father. A person is born either male or female. Some jobs are considered men's work, others are women's. Men never cry, women never laugh. However, these toxic stereotypes are enough to ruin a person's life and make it unsafe. *Merhaba Anne, Benim Lou Lou* is a striking film that challenges the idealized male figure developed through Hakkı's body and sexual orientation. It presents a brilliant, visionary narrative within the context of queer cinema. Returning to his family home for his mother's funeral, Hakkı is forced to confront his father and societal moral laws. Yet, his only responsibility is to say a small farewell to his beloved mother. Due to toxic masculinity, he has been forced to delay his longing, regrets, and confrontations for years, as Hakkı performs as a Drag Queen under the name Lou Lou.

Atakan Yılmaz's meticulously designed Lou Lou character focuses on the visibility of queer individuals who are forced to face problematic processes at every level of society, from the political to the legal. The film, reflecting Hakkı's struggle, family dynamics, gender, death, and grief without dramatizing the realities of life, serves as an important document. While thousands of academic papers, views, and opinions have been written on the definition of gender, the one thing society has never been convinced of is that sexual orientation is a matter that concerns only and entirely the individual. Gender continues to weigh on people like a persistent gloom. *Merhaba Anne, Benim Lou Lou* offers a courageous narrative that critiques the performative nature of gender, questioning the very perception of being a man, and extends a "Hi" to all 'Lou Lou's who have never stopped being themselves.

CONTACT



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