

# PRESS KIT



A SAM LAWRENCE FILM

# FLYING MONKEY

RAKAN ZAHED - PRODUCER

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**MEDINA** PRODUCTIONS

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**Title:** Flying Monkey

**Country of Production:** United Kingdom

**Date of Completion:** April 2025

**Shooting Format:** Red Komodo 6k 4096x1716

**Aspect Ratio:** 2.39:1

**Sound:** 5.1

**Duration:** 6 minutes

**Genre:** Psychological Thriller

**Language:** English



## LINKS

[FULL FILM](#)

[TRAILER](#)

[IMDB](#)

[SOCIAL MEDIA](#)

## LOGLINE

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During a tense police interrogation, a troubled young man fabricates a confession to protect his girlfriend who has allegedly gone missing.

## SYNOPSIS

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A troubled young man, Connor Creed, finds himself at the center of a missing persons investigation when his girlfriend, Alice Butler, vanishes. Detective Collet initiates a tense video call interrogation, pressing Connor for details about their volatile relationship and Alice's erratic behavior. Unbeknownst to the Detective, Alice is hidden in Connor's apartment, her watchful presence ensuring Connor doesn't reveal their secret. As Collet delves into Connor's violent past and Alice's history of running away, the tension mounts. A sudden, emotional outburst from Alice during a momentary break in the call further fuels the Detective's suspicions. Blinded by misguided love and manipulated by Alice into a warped sense of protectiveness, Connor vehemently denies any involvement, even as the evidence against him stacks up. Cornered and desperate, he ultimately confesses to Alice's supposed murder, a sacrifice he believes will ensure her freedom. Suddenly, police arrive downstairs and force entry into the apartment. A final, desperate embrace between Connor and Alice precedes her escape. As Alice runs away, happy and seemingly scot-free, Connor is left alone to face the devastating consequences of his actions.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

## SAM LAWRENCE



Flying Monkey is a pulse-pounding psychological thriller that occurs entirely in real time and plunges the audience into a toxic yet electrifying interpersonal dynamic. The film unfolds with an immediacy that demands surrender, compelling viewers to experience the narrative on a raw, emotional level. Flying Monkey delivers a ferociously gripping experience designed for the big screen, where its meticulously crafted 5.1 surround sound enhances the feeling of being trapped within the confines of this poisonous relationship.

Creating this film was a deeply personal undertaking and way to process past trauma. The on-screen relationship between the "flying monkey" and the "narcissist" reflects a dynamic I witnessed firsthand during my formative years and one I have become terrifyingly familiar with, which gave me profound insights into human behavior. While the intense interplay of love and conflict inherent in such a relationship makes for compelling drama, I remain hyper aware of the need to avoid trivializing these serious psychological concepts.

Despite the film's concise six-minute runtime, its impact is designed to linger long after the credits roll, prompting viewers to examine the relationships in their own lives. While the desire has always been to entertain, Flying Monkey also serves as a cautionary tale and visceral exploration of the devastating and often overlooked consequences of narcissistic behaviour.

I am immensely proud of the cast and crew's tireless work crafting this thrilling, frightening, and immersive film. Across every department, we wanted to push what's possible with the cinematic medium, creating an elemental film designed to elicit a powerful emotional response.

Flying Monkey offers no easy catharsis. We watch the events unfold from an objective viewpoint, yet we are in the "flying monkey's" head. Flying Monkey is a warning and a descent into the darkest of human behaviour.



## KEY CAST

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### **SAFFRON DEY**

Saffron Dey is a London-born actor and graduate of The Brit School and the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA), where she received a BA (Hons) in Acting. Her recent stage and screen credits include: "Angie" in "Top Girls," directed by Suba Das (Liverpool Everyman); "Nicole/Nic ('Nicki')" in "Ain't I a Woman?," directed by Sara Amanda (Tower Theatre); and "Sandra" in "Call the Midwife", directed by Syd Macartney (Neal Street Productions).



### **ANDREW COCKCROFT-CHARLES**

Andrew Cockcroft-Charles is an American-born British actor. A 2023 graduate of East 15 Acting School, Andrew recently played "Jake" in Wanstead Theatre Company's production of "Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson," reprising the role for its transfer run at the Tabard Theatre, directed by Kevin McNally.

# KEY CREW

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## **SAM LAWRENCE** - WRITER / DIRECTOR



Sam Lawrence writes & directs short films, writes feature films, and works in Film & TV scripted development in London; with a focus on telling powerful, thought-provoking and engaging cinematic stories for a large audience on the big screen.

Sam has written and directed an award-winning short film, 'Music & The Mind' (winner of Best Short Documentary at Europe Film Festival), and the World War 2-set scripted short film, 'Foreign Land', starring Mary Woodvine, of BAFTA award-winning film 'BAIT', and most recently, 'Enys Men'. This film centres on a gay man coming home after WW2, only to return to a small intolerant town where he knows he can never be himself. The film was shot across 10 locations, with a 30 person crew and 8 person cast.

Most recently, Sam was Assistant to the Producers on the 2024 Sundance Film Festival SMASH HIT and 2025 BAFTA winning film, 'Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story'. The film sold to Warner Bros for \$15 million and was released theatrically worldwide in September 2024. Sam was involved at every stage of the film's production, from financing through to distribution, further developing his intricate knowledge of production workflow and learning how to tell emotional and powerful stories for a global audience.

## **RAKAN ZAHED** - PRODUCER



Rakan Zahed (IMDb) is a film producer whose work has been recognized at over 20 international festivals, including BAFTA-qualifying events such as LA Shorts and the British Urban Film Festival (BUFF), earning accolades like Best UK Short at the London Independent Film Festival. His WW1-era film 'Deserters', produced on a £14,000 budget, gained critical acclaim, while 'Finger Food', directed by Jacob Dudman (Doctor Who, Fate: The Winx Saga), achieved success at several UK and international festivals.

He has raised over £40,000 in funding and led diverse teams of 20+ cast and crew, building expertise in concept development, production management, and festival strategy.

Rakan founded Medina Productions and is expanding into feature filmmaking. With a global perspective shaped by life in Lebanon, Dubai, and the United States, he values diversity, collaboration, and innovation on every project. Driven by a passion for independent film, he also has the ambition to produce major studio films.

## **TIMI ARIYO** - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER



Timi Ariyo, associate producer, is passionate about film and production. He is focused on the elevating untold stories, with a focus on the depth and richness of the human experience.

As a producer he has also worked on commercial productions for clients including Adidas and Bumble. Timi has maintained an active creative outlet for several years, including acting in various shorts and most recently acting in BBC New Creatives film 'Voodoo In My Heart'. Additionally, he works as a video producer for brands and corporations to create user generated content.

## KEY CREW

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### JEFF YEUNG - CINEMATOGRAPHER



Jeff Yeung is a London- and Hong Kong-based cinematographer and gaffer known for his expressive visual style and emotionally resonant storytelling. With a background in both camera and lighting, Jeff brings a deep understanding of the craft to every project, from music videos and short films to commercials and editorial pieces. He is the founder of Luminarix Rental & Production, offering full-service camera and lighting solutions. Jeff mostly works with the Sony Venice and Ronin 4D, and often leads fast-paced productions. He considers cinema a visual language and uses light, movement, and colour to create immersive worlds on screen.

### BENJAMIN DOHERTY - COMPOSER



Benjamin Doherty is a composer for film, TV, and a theatre based in Guildford, England. His work has been selected at BAFTA- and Academy Award-qualifying festivals including: Aesthetica, deadCenter, Norwich Film festival, Rhode Island International Film Festival and Bolton Film Festival. Recent work includes: "Steel: The Blood of Us" a feature documentary shot entirely on 16mm film, BAFTA-qualifying shorts "Tusky" and "Nosepicker", and an upcoming feature "I've Seen All I Need To See". Outside of film, Benjamin is the composer for the officially licensed Dungeons & Dragons theatre production, "The Twenty Sided Tavern", which has gone on to recently perform Off Broadway in New York & Chicago and at the Sydney Royal Opera House.

As a composer, Benjamin likes to take the approach of minimalism, using less to create a bigger impact and enhancing the film's narrative. He is interested in working on projects that focus on more intimate and smaller scale stories that revolve around human connections.

### MICHAEL CHEUNG - EDITOR



Michael Cheung is an experienced editor with a unique perspective shaped by his extensive career as one of the world's top VFX editors. Having worked on major blockbusters such as *Gladiator 2*, *Napoleon*, and *Star Wars: Rogue One*, Michael has refined his storytelling craft by working at the intersection of narrative and cutting-edge visual effects. His years of experience in high-pressure, collaborative environments have sharpened his skills in pacing, visual storytelling, and creating emotional impact—essential tools he now brings to the editing room as a lead editor.

Transitioning into feature editing, Michael leverages his deep understanding of cinematic language and technical expertise to craft stories that resonate with audiences. His years of experience has led him to develop a meticulous yet dynamic approach to editing. Passionate about storytelling, Michael sees every frame as an opportunity to connect with viewers especially in the short film format which is testament to his evolution as a storyteller and his commitment to bringing authenticity and heart to the screen.



## Cast

**Saffron Dey** - Alice

**Andrew Cockcroft-Charles** - Connor

**Sheraz Yousaf** - John Collett, the detective

**Valerie Vansovica** - Police Woman

**Ryan Walker** - Police Man

## Crew

**Writer / Director** - Sam Lawrence

**Producer** - Rakan Zahed

**Associate Producer** - Timi Ariyo

**1st Assistant Director** - Eddie Meakin

**Director of Photography** - Jeff Yeung

**Gaffer** - Victor Wong

**1st Assistant Camera** - Roisin Bryne

**2nd Assistant Camera** - Daniella Antonietta

**Script Supervisor** - Flôr Filgueiras

**Makeup Artist** - Sophie Kinross

**Sound Recordist** - Ioannis (Giannis) Michos

**Editor** - Michael Cheung

**Colourist** - Jeff Yeung

**Sound Designer** - Greg Veryard

**Sound & Dialogue Mixer** - Greg Veryard

**Music Composer** - Benjamin Doherty

**VFX Composer** - Burak Kandaz

**Graphic Designer** - Harry Harwood

# PRODUCTION STILLS



# MEDINA PRODUCTIONS

Medina Productions is an independent film production company founded by Rakan Zahed, focused on developing engaging stories with emerging talent from the UK and abroad. The name "Medina," which means "city" in Arabic, reflects the company's ethos: a thriving hub of creativity, collaboration, and diversity. Like the energy and chaos of a city, Medina Productions brings together talented individuals from various backgrounds, working in partnership to create impactful films that explore themes of passion, hope, laughter, and conflict.

Medina's work has been recognised at over 20 international festivals, including BAFTA-qualifying events such as LA Shorts, the British Urban Film Festival (BUFF), and Bolton International Film Festival. Notable projects include 'Deserters', which won Best UK Short at the London Independent Film Festival, and 'Finger Food', which took home Best Sci-Fi Short. 'Woodgrove', a micro-budget horror film, was showcased at two regional UK horror festivals.

Medina Productions is committed to pushing creative boundaries, fostering inclusive environments, and expanding into feature filmmaking.