

LaNaMa Films Presents

ANIMALS.

a Level99 film by Maya Gray

Electronic Press Kit



RACHEL ALIG
SERINE SIANOSIAN

LANAMA FILMS PRESENTS A LEVEL 99 FILM

ANIMALS.

A FILM BY MAYA GRAY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MICHAEL JASPER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MAYA GRAY LINE PRODUCER CHARLOTTE KISER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLUGBENGA OSIKOMAIYA PRODUCTION DESIGNER SELENA KUIKARI SOUND MASON MA
COSTUME DESIGNER ROSARI ARANDA GAFFER JACOB MALLARI 1ST AC AND BTS SERENA CHEN 2ND AC CHASE COSSGROVE COMPOSER BRANDON BROWN MUSIC BY ROSE HUYNH SOUND ENGINEER COLIN ADAIR EDITOR MICHAEL JASPER
MAKEUP BRITTANY LEIGH PRODUCTION ASSISTANT CHRISTINA D'ALESSANDRO

STORY.



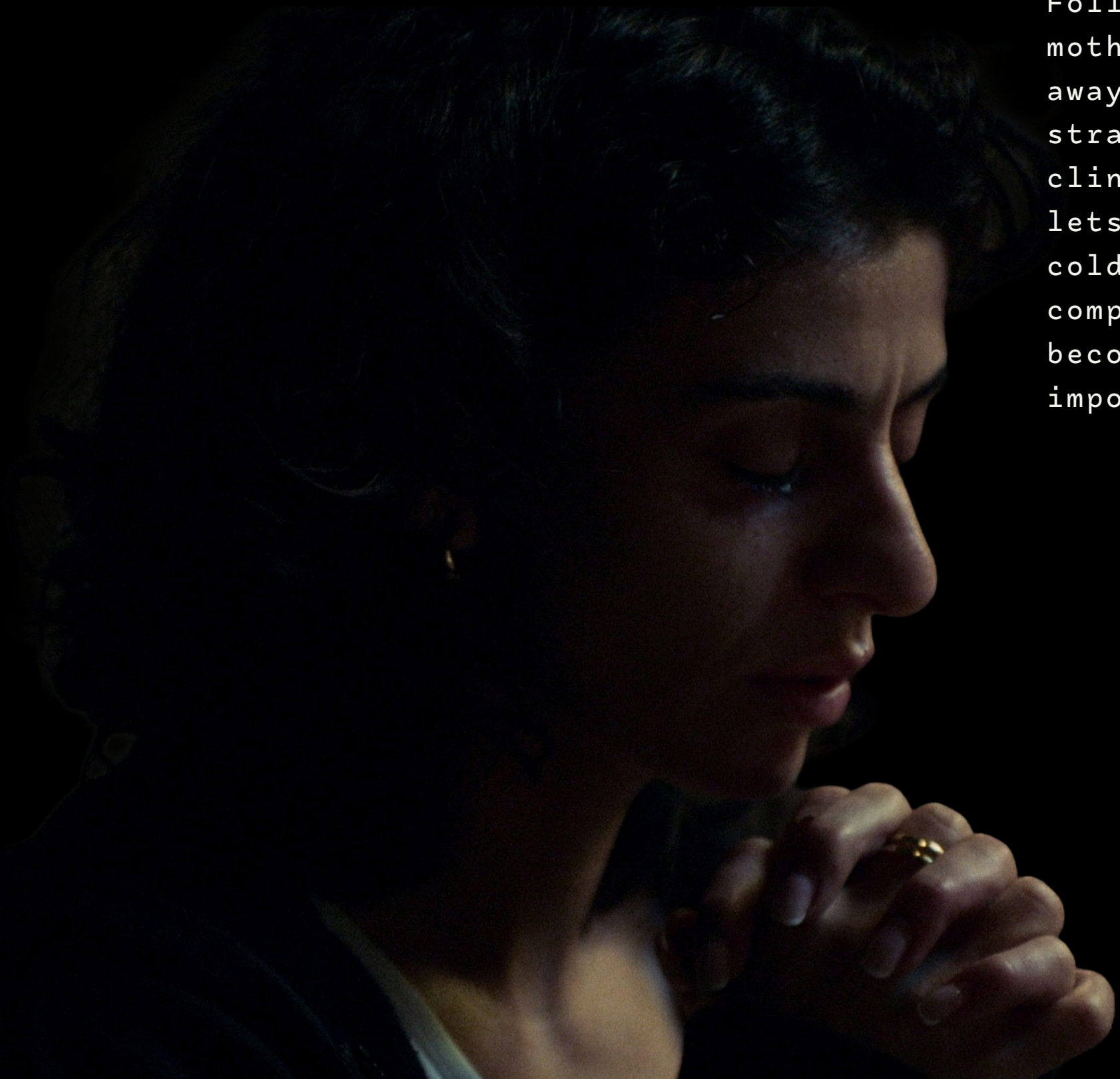
LOG LINE: In a random act of kindness, Zoya invites a stranger into her home who has no intention of leaving.

Following the death of her mother, Zoya inherits the family home. Her mother was last on a long list of Zoya's family members that have passed away. There's no one left in the family home but Zoya. When Amelia, a stranger who claims to have rented her home on Airbnb, arrives, Zoya clings to the unexpected comfort of the presence of another person. Zoya lets Amelia stay the night, not wanting to spend a night alone in the cold home. When a night turns into an indefinite stay, their companionship twists into a game of control and abuse. As the situation becomes dire, it becomes a question of why can't Amelia leave but more importantly why does Zoya stay?

THEMES

Abuse
Dehumanization
Grief

By-stander Effect
Loneliness
Domination





CONTACT

SPECS

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Title: Animals.
Run time: 22 minutes, 17 seconds
Genre: Thriller, Satire
Type: Narrative short film
Production Year: 2025
Language: English

Sound: 5.1
Shooting format: Full frame
Frame rate: 23.96
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Duration: 22 minutes, 20 seconds
Camera: ARRI Alexa Mini LF





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted the world to see what it looks like from a bird's eye view how desensitized to tragedy we have become. I wanted people to see the humanity in Zoya, but I also wanted to see themselves in Amelia's friends, the guests who avoid the difficult conversation and allow her to escape accountability. The film is not meant to point fingers but to give people a chance to reflect on the ways in which they ignore the ugly of the world and what that leads to. When the world keeps spinning and we continue on as if the world we live in is inherently unjust and some tragedies are normal or even necessary, we lose parts of ourselves that make us human.

From birth we have been conditioned to accept suffering as a part of human existence. While it is true that suffering is a natural part of life, I wanted to differentiate the different kinds of suffering with this film. Zoya grieving the loss of her mother is the natural suffering that Buddha spoke about, but her losing access to her autonomy and being reduced to an animal was manufactured suffering and those two are vastly different from one another.

The title of "ANIMALS." is open to who it might apply to. When some people watch the film they might see Amelia reducing Zoya to a dog and assume that the treatment of Zoya is what makes her the animal. Others will view Amelia's aggression and callousness as animalistic and therefore she is the animal. I was intentional in naming the film "ANIMALS." and not "ANIMAL." It's plural because it is multilateral. Amelia makes Zoya into an animal literally, but she turns herself into one mentally. The ways in which you dehumanize people, you are also dehumanizing yourself. When we don't stop to acknowledge tragedies for what they are, we relinquish control and resign to our basic instincts.

That's when we become ANIMALS.

-Maya Gray



PRODUCER STATEMENT

When I started LaNaMa Films I wanted to give life to stories for the underdogs. The underrepresented, the under-served, and the unheard all have stories to tell, and they need their voices amplified. When Maya Gray approached me with the idea for "Animals." I knew that I wanted to invest in the project; because it is the quintessential underdog story. It's raw and unfiltered and shines a light on the people society often ignores. While there are no winners in the film, just the act of representing a voice that might go unnoticed was enough for me to invest in the film.

In larger and smaller contexts, the underdogs don't typically get a chance to win. While American history is bolstered as an underdog story, there are parts of our history where we have subjugated vulnerable people with no accountability. Our history shows us how systems justify the horrors that they bring upon others to get what they believe is in their best interest. Far too often the meek, the kindhearted, or the naive are manipulated and have these qualities used against them. Animals. doesn't rewrite that suffering; it holds up a light to it. Even if society looks away these stories deserve to be seen.

- Michael Jasper



RACHEL ALIG

as Amelia

Rachel is an award-winning actress who's been working full-time as a professional actor for ten years. Her ability to jump from various characters who differ drastically has allowed her to excel in the world of comedy and drama. Rachel's passion for acting stems from her deep appreciation of human connection, storytelling, and the collaboration behind film making.

As a working actor, Rachel is continually expanding her craft on and off the job. She has studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute of West Hollywood, Master Level Classes at Margie Haber Studios, Lesly Kahn & Company, and The Groundlings. Rachel is dedicated to a constant, honest evolution as an artist, as an actress, and as a person and surrounds herself with others who are committed to the same type of growth.

Selected Works:

Et Tu Directed by Max Tzannes(2023)
Found Footage: The Patterson Project by Max Tzannes (2025)
The Cleaning Lady Directed by Jon Knautz (2018)
Omaha Directed by Cole Webley (2025)



SERINE SIANOSIAN

as Zoya Saleh

Serine was born in Armenia, and her family immigrated to Ukraine when she was ten. She lived there until the war began in Ukraine, after which she relocated to the United States, making her a two-time immigrant. She studied acting at the Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinema and Television, focusing on dramatic theater and film. As an actress, she is drawn to layered, complex characters strong yet vulnerable, constantly evolving. She especially loves portraying roles where a character goes through a transformation, because it reflects the way people change in real life.

Selected Works:

Checkout Directed by Jonathan Dekel (2023)

The Odessa Foundling Directed by Georgiy Deliev (2017)

White Gaze Directed by ETA (2023)

Hold Me Directed by Katya Tsarik (2021)

KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Writer. Director.



Maya Gray

Maya Gray is a Los Angeles based film director and writer who uses the medium of film to give a voice to the voiceless. Her films are unrelenting in their pursuit to empathize with perspectives that are often overlooked or misunderstood. She allows her films to become explorations of uncomfortable topics as a means to shed light on the darkness that humanity often hides from. Her most notable influences are Rod Serling and Sam Esmail, and she cites the Twilight Zone as one of the reasons she decided to pursue film.

Executive Producer. Editor.



Michael Jasper

Michael Jasper is filmmaker, editor, and producer who has produced several Award Winning short films, documentaries, and promotional videos. His work highlights the experiences of diverse populations. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA he pursued studies at Pittsburgh Filmmakers after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and MBA from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Line Producer.



Charlotte Kiser

Charlotte Kiser is a passionate dancer, producer, and actress based in NYC and LA, currently earning her BFA in Commercial Dance at Pace University (Class of 2027). With a background in acting, singing, and production, she brings versatility and commitment to every role. Charlotte also enjoys working behind the scenes, where her creativity, leadership, and attention to detail shine. She's driven by a love for storytelling and creating meaningful connections through performance and production.

Credits.



Key Crew

Executive Producer: Michael Jasper
 Director/Writer: Maya Gray
 Line Producer: Charlotte Kiser
 Associate Producer: Maya Gray

Crew

Cinematographer: Olugbenga Osikomaiya
 Gaffer: Jacob Mallari
 1st Assistant Camera: Serena Chen
 2nd Assistant Camera: Chase Cosgrove
 Mason Ma: Sound Recordist
 Production Designer: Selena Kuikahi
 Costume Designer: Rosari Aranda
 Production Assistant: Christina D'Alessandro
 Makeup: Brittany Leigh

Post-production

Film Editor: Michael Jasper
 Colorist: Austin Garcia
 Sound Engineer: Colin Adair
 Composer: Brandon Brown
 Music: Rose Huynh

Cast

Serine Sianosian as Zoya Saleh
 Rachel Alig as Amelia
 Geneva Cimone as Riley
 Peter Kalisch as Jesse
 Jamie Criss as Blair
 Chad Anderson as Police Officer

