

The Lab Presents



## BUTTERFLY

A KRYSTOF KESHAV FILM

Samita Nandy - Rafael Boeno - Célia Ramos - Alfredo  
Paixão - Krystof Keshav - David Gill

**PRESS KIT**

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## ABOUT THE FILM

Tagline: By day, she follows the rules. By night, she follows her rhythm.

Logline: A disillusioned office worker in Portugal finds solace and freedom in the vibrant world of bachata dancing, but when her controlling boss intrudes on her passion, she must fight to reclaim her voice and redefine her path.

Synopsis: In the independent short film, *Windows*, the protagonist Sandra Amrita works for an admin job at a bar in Portugal. The monotony of her job weighs heavily on her spirit, leaving her yearning for something more. But when the clock strikes five, her world transforms. Sandra trades her office chair for a pair of dancing shoes, rushing to her haven—a bachata dance school where her passion ignites. As Sandra becomes immersed in the rhythm of the music and the intimacy of the dance, she begins to uncover truths about herself, her desires, and the courage it takes to chase them. But when her controlling boss discovers her passion, lines blur between encouragement and manipulation, forcing Sandra to confront the delicate balance between survival and self-expression. Will she be able to live her passion?

*Butterfly* received an Honorable Mention at RTF Realtime International Film Festival and an Official Selection at Lift-Off Sessions 2025 Volume 8, UK. This short is part of a trilogy that includes films [O Derradeiro Passo](#), released as the 48 Hour festival film at Cinema São Jorge, and [Windows](#), recipient of 2024 International Star Film Festival Awards (ISFFA).

## CREDITS

Krystof Keshav - Director  
Krystof Keshav - Writer  
Marko Mitic - Writer  
Samita Nandy - Key Cast  
Celia Ramos - Key Cast  
Raphael Bueno - Key Cast  
David Gill - Key Cast  
Alfredo Paixao - Key Cast  
Krystof Keshav - Key Cast

## PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- Genre: Drama
- Project Type: Short
- Runtime: 9 mins 50 seconds
- Country of Origin: Portugal
- Country of Filming: Portugal
- Language: English & Portuguese
- Shooting Format: Digital
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- Film Color: Color

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

THE LAB  
Rua Garrett 26 1A,  
Lisbon 1200-204 Portugal

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

URL: <http://cmc-centre.com/butterfly-2025/> IG: [www.instagram.com/cmcs\\_media](http://www.instagram.com/cmcs_media)

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

- Krystof Keshav

Following *O Derradeiro Passo* and *Windows*, *Butterfly* (2025) is filmed in the same style with the same equipment as the previous two short films in this loosely connected trilogy. It's an uplifting prequel starring well-known international actors from the Lisbon independent film community. Being a bilingual short film also emphasises the fact that dance has no geographical boundaries and is open to all nationalities. Direction was facilitated by the fact that several of these actors have collaborated on different projects before and therefore have experience of working together.

Continuity is a big theme in *Butterfly*, not just in the development of the storyline and the progression of the main character in the trilogy, but also in the equipment (namely the camera, two lenses and two microphones (on-camera and lav mics)) and the filming style. The Director remained the same for the trilogy and therefore the Cinematography is similar all across the films; but it is in the edit where the new Theatre-Cinema blend sets this movie apart. By showcasing the films in acts, rather than a continuous movie, the viewer has the chance to experience an innovative format to end this trilogy. The visual imagery, the dialogue, the music and the voiceover complete the transmission of the message of this film.

Dance Factory Studios is a well-designed and popular studio in Lisbon: this location was chosen to bring continuity to the Trilogy, having also been host to *O Derradeiro Passo*. This multi-room studio has excellent lighting and for this reason, there was no need for additional lighting. The outside scenes were shot in natural daylight.

Filming within a certain time frame and a busy location can bring small challenges, however, there were little issues with sound, cinematography, lighting or direction. The actor's wardrobe was procured to reflect a decidedly down to earth Lisbon-feel. With dance being a central theme in this film, the selection of music was of utmost importance; providing a sound platform not only for the bachata choreography to blossom, but also to contribute to the positive feeling this movie was designed to invoke.

## STILL IMAGES



## BIOGRAPHIES



### **Krystof Keshav – Director & Writer**

Krystof Keshav is an independent filmmaker based in Lisbon, Portugal. As an amateur actor, he found himself working as a figurante in films and adverts across Europe, or acting in short independent films, where he did not have a real say in the synopsis or the final script. When he approached Directors with his own synopsis or script, he found it extremely difficult to have his short film produced. So, falling back on previous courses in photography, film studies, and 16mm Film-making, he boot-strapped and became an independent Director. His filmography includes festival film *Derradeiro O Passo*, screened at Cinema Sao George, among many others.

**Vimeo:** <https://vimeo.com/user40315348>



**Samita Nandy, PhD** – Media Relations & Producer

Samita Nandy is the Founder of the Centre for Media and Celebrity Studies (CMCS), an honorary member at Feminist Media Studio (Concordia University), and an actor, trained from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (Los Angeles). She holds a Doctorate in celebrity culture from the Department of Media & Information at Curtin University, Australia, and is a certified broadcast journalist from Canada. Samita Nandy is the first celebrity scholar to be in the tabloid press and has been publicized in a wide range of media, including CBC National News, Global News, Telegraph, VICE, Flare, Chatelaine, SUN, and Yahoo! Entertainment for her ethical views on film actors in celebrity culture. Her filmography includes *The Butterfly*, *The Leak*, *Emissary of Death*, *O Derradeiro Passo*, *Between Doors*, and more. She is currently directing her first feature film in Lisbon and curating the CMCS Wall of Fame Festival.

**IMDB:** [www.imdb.me/samitanandy](http://www.imdb.me/samitanandy)

**Media:** <http://samitanandy.com/media>

**Interview:** Re-fashioning stories through feminist filmmaking (Intellect Books)

**Awards (Selected):**

International Star Film Festival Awards (ISFFA) – Third in Category in Foreign Film Story, India

Honorable Mention - RTF Realtime International Film Festival, UK

Official Selection Lift-Off Sessions 2025 Volume 8, UK

Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (EIPRS), Australia Value: 60,000

Curtin University Postgraduate Scholarship (CUPS), Australia Value: 60,000

**Media and Public Relations:**

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