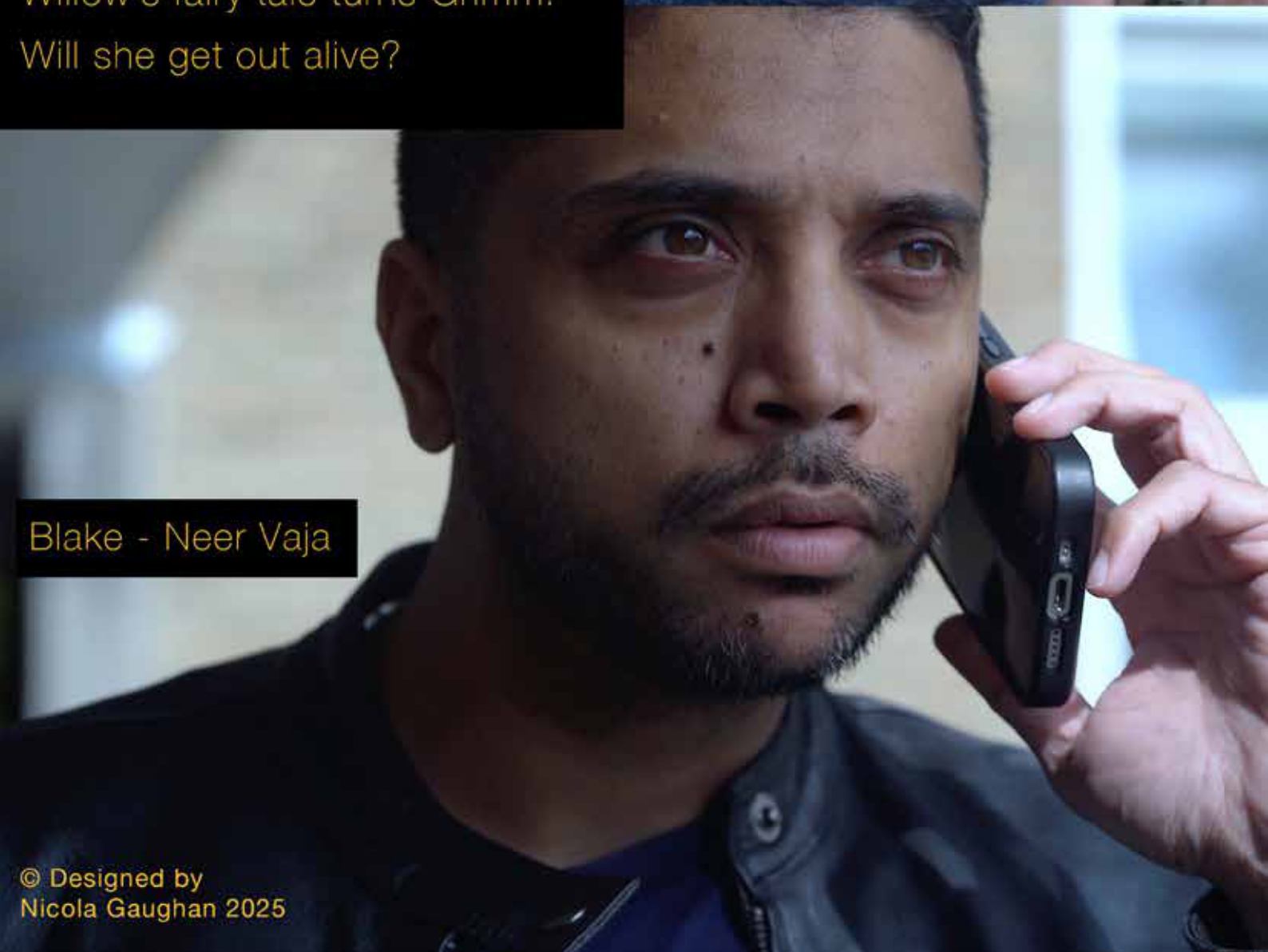




Willow - Dina Salam

The Cost of Silence

Willow's fairy tale turns Grimm.
Will she get out alive?



Blake - Neer Vaja



Iconic Creative Consultants
present

The Cost of Silence

GENRE/THEME

Drama/domestic
violence/coercive
control/power

CAST

Dina Salam
Neer Vaja
Hannah Willey

*Willow
Blake
Sophie*

Party Goers

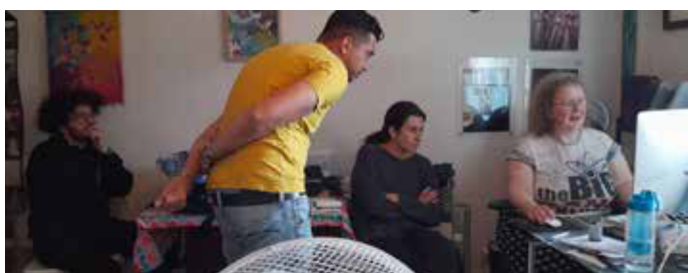
Anne-marie Flanagan
Tina Crossley
Alex Jovanovic

TECHNICAL INFO

Running Time: 12min32sec
Shooting Dates: June-Aug 2025
Completion Date: Sept 2025
Aspect Ratio: 1920 x 1080 - 1:1
Sound: Stereo
Shot on: Canon C80 Camera & Laowa Ranger S35 17-50mm T2.9 Lens.,
Sony A7III, 28-70mm lens and f1.8 85mm lens, iPhone 16 Pro
Screening Format: MP4







SHORT SYNOPSIS

Willow's fairy tale turns Grimm. Will she get out alive?

LONG SYNOPSIS

Outgoing, vibrant hippie Willow meets charismatic and charming Blake at a party. It's love at first sight and Willow finds herself in a romantic whirlwind. However, once he moves in, things slowly start to change, and Willow can't understand why her once loving relationship has gone wrong. After one particularly vicious row, things turn ugly. Who will make it out alive?



NICOLA GAUGHAN MA,LRPS

Director/Scriptwriter/Producer/Editor

Nicola is an experienced graphic designer (including work for Disney) and LRPS qualified photographer. Since 2012 she developed an interest in filmmaking and has had a variety of indie filmmaking roles. She also occasionally works as a Supporting Artist (extra) in professional TV/film productions).

The Cost of Silence is based on her own experiences of domestic violence and is her first directorial role with actors.

In 2012 she attended a 2 day Director's Intensive at Metfilm School. She then completed the Film Foundation Fortnight at London Film Academy.

She was stills photographer in *Curtains*, a short by director Nathan Evans, and *Rough and Ready*, a comedy which starred page 3 girl Peta Todd. She was also a photographer at the Raindance Film Festival, photographing Joanna Lumley, Johnny McDaid and other celebrities.

From 2020 to 2021 she was a member of the We Make Films Not Excuses film club, where she was BTS photographer, costume supervisor, poster designer and had a small acting role.

Her first short film that she wrote, produced in partnership with Brendan Lonergan and edited, was *What did you do in the war Grandad?*, which won Best Documentary in 2020.

She has also written a feature film about her uncle's WW2 RAF career, which has won several awards. Her short script *The Eyes Have It* was an Official Selection for the Lift Off London in 2023. Her short *Ashes to Ashes*, written during a screenwriting course at City Lit, won several awards in 2024/5 and she is now undertaking a more advanced screenwriting course, again at CityLit.

She has just completed an MA in Film Practice at Arts University Bournemouth Online, for which *The Cost of Silence* is her MA submission film.

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7142750/?ref=nm_sr_srsq_0_tt_0_nm_8_q_nicola%2520gaughan

FULL CAST & CREW



Willow - Dina Salam

Dina has recently reignited her passion for acting. Over the last couple of years she has been predominantly on stage, playing: Rebekah Vardy in Vardy v Rooney (Putney Theatre Company), Mrs Elton/ Mrs Weston in a fringe adaptation of Jane Austen's Emma (The Questors Theatre), Bobbie in The Railway Children, Myrtle Mae Simmons in Harvey and Postmaster Prior in The Government Inspector (all with St Michael's Players). This is Dina's first screen role. She cares deeply about shining a light on domestic abuse and hopes this film will raise much needed awareness on the subject.



Blake - Neer Vaja

Neer Vaja is a UK-based actor with over eight years of experience in film, television, and stage. Represented by AKM Talent Management, he is currently training at Kingdom Drama School to further refine his craft. Neer has appeared in projects including Hound and Papadums, and this year he plays a role in the film Never Had a Chance, premiering at the London Film Festival. Known for his versatility, he particularly enjoys taking on characters with depth and rich backstories, whether in comedy, drama, or more complex roles such as thrillers and villains. His passion for storytelling and commitment to layered performances continue to shape him into a strong and compelling actor.



Sophie - Hannah Willey

Hannah Willey is an actress, poet, and theatre-maker from West London, known for her playful mix of comedy and heart. She stars in The Cost Of Silence as Sophie; friend and confidant to Willow. Upon graduating drama school last year, she can often be found performing her poetry, selling ice creams in a West End theatre, or creating new work — including her magical comedy Willy Witches, premiering at Lambeth Fringe 2025 with Mardy Cow Theatre.



Lucy Aley-Parker - Casting Director

Lucy is an actor and director with a varied experience in casting. She's also the lead contact in a co-op actors agency. As a director she has cast a number of plays for theatre, with cast sizes from 2-24! These include, Roy Williams' Days of Significance, Theresa Rebeck's The Waters Edge, and most recently, Caryl Churchill's A Number. As an Agency Lead she watches many audition tapes, from actors of all ages and experience. She enjoys finding new talent, as well as matching roles with actors and creating the ideal chemistry for a project.

www.lucyaleyparker.com



Cristian Cairo - Coproducer/production assistant

Cristian Cairo is an Italian life and money mindset coach who helps people to empower their lives. He has written two self-development books in English.

Since meeting Nicola he has developed an interest in films and filmmaking. He supported Nicola as Co-Producer and production assistant during the filming.



Robert Vass - Cinematographer

Robert Vass is a director, cinematographer and photographer at The Questors Theatre. He directed several productions at the theatre, including Strictly Murder (2025), First Love is the Revolution (2020), Blue/Orange (2019), and The Last 5 Years (2019). He also took photographs for other productions, such as Beautiful Thing (2016) and 4.48 Psychosis (2015). He now films the social media videos for the theatre.



Ethan Lyons - Production Assistant/Cameraman

Ethan has recently graduated from the Media and Communications degree at University of West London. He previously helped Nicola as production assistant for her short Blowing her own Saxophone. In The Cost of Silence he took on the role of cameraman, as well as production assistant.

LOCATIONS

Willow's flat
Party scene
Maze scene

Nicola's flat in Hanwell, inc Blake's balcony scene.
Robert Vass's studio, Hanwell.
The Millenium Maze, Hanwell Zoo, Hanwell.

STILLS

