

A promotional image for the film 'Keepsake'. It features two women in a warm embrace. The woman on the left is seen from the back, wearing a long-sleeved, textured green dress. The woman on the right is facing forward, also wearing a green dress, with her eyes closed and a gentle smile. The background is a solid, textured brown. The title 'Keepsake' is written in a large, white, serif font across the center, with the text 'FILM INDEPENDENT PROJECT INVOLVE presents' in a smaller font above it.

FILM INDEPENDENT PROJECT INVOLVE presents

Keepsake



LOGLINE

A year after her father's passing, Saira tries to connect with her mom and brother but struggles as they seem to have moved on without her by starting a Pakistani Drama podcast.

SYNOPSIS

It's been a year since Saira's dad passed away and she's back home, only to find her dad's typewriter in the trash and her mom and brother clearing out her dad's office to make space to record... a Pakistani drama podcast? It feels like two against one as no one knows how to act around each other and as a sibling carrom game goes wrong, true feelings emerge.



TECH SPECS

Production Country: USA

Completion Date: October 2025

Running Time: 10 min 36 sec

Language: English

Picture: Color

Aspect Ratio: 2:1

Shooting Format: Digital

Exhibition Formats: DCP

Sound: 5.1



TRAILER

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I was nineteen, I lost my mother. I still remember the day my dad decided to move away. I had to pack up the house and sort through everything that once made it a home. I kept one thing: my mother's paintings. Keepsake is a story about moving on and how we all do it differently. Some people can move on quickly, others take their time. There's a lot of Saira in me, that part that wants to process things only when I'm ready, even if the rest of the world has already turned the page.

What drew me to Bushra Burney's script is how it captures that truth with humor and absurdity. The idea of a family dealing with loss while starting a Pakistani drama podcast felt so wonderfully unexpected. Stylistically, Keepsake lives in that space where pain and humor coexist in the same breath. Because that's what moving on really looks like. It's messy, funny, and sometimes involves swallowing your own ego to press "record" on a podcast when you least expect it.



CREW



Ritvik Dhavale

DIRECTOR

Ritvik Dhavale is a writer and director. The stories he wants to tell lie between these two worlds: some fully emerged into diaspora experiences, while others blur the line. Dhavale's journey into filmmaking began as a thespian in high school theater. He received his B.A. in Screenwriting from UCLA in 2017. He gained industry experience at CAA, Sundance Institute, and Netflix before fully dedicating himself to bringing stories to life. His latest short film Hema won the audience award at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles and Gold Award at Proof Film Festival. He is a Film Independent Project Involve 2025 Fellow.



Bushra Burney

WRITER

Bushra Burney is a Pakistani-American writer, performer, and project manager who grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and is now based in Los Angeles. She is a Film Independent Project Involve Writer Fellow. Through Film Independent's partnerships with MPAC and Plot Shift Media, she received the MPAC Hollywood Bureau Fellowship and The Climate Entertainment Commissioning Grant, respectively. Her plays with stories fueled by underrepresented character dynamics have been chosen for new works festivals and her scripts have placed in screenwriting competitions. She also wrote and performed a one-person show and is currently developing one. She is always on the quest for a great cup of coffee.



Eduardo Ayres

PRODUCER

Eduardo Ayres Soares is a Brazilian director and producer with extensive experience in production and post-production. A 2025 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow, Ayres is passionate about queer narratives and has produced diverse projects, including Chuck and Fern, a live-action fantasy short, and Romeo and Juliet, an experimental hybrid film in Brazilian Sign Language. He was the Head of Post-Production at Anastasia Beverly Hills Studios, overseeing major campaigns, and served as TV Director of Slamdance TV. He directed six short films and two TV series episodes, including the acclaimed Chasing the Dragon, which earned 13 nominations and four awards.



Connie Qin

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Connie Qin grew up in a suburb of Houston, TX as the only child of Chinese-immigrant parents. After graduating from NYU with a B.S. in Business and Political Economy and a brief career in strategy consulting, she worked in representation at The Kohner Agency and Industry Entertainment, where she championed emerging writers from underrepresented backgrounds. She currently works in television development at Rabbit Ears, a CBS Studios-based production company, where she actively seeks out writers from underrepresented communities and supports them in telling the kinds of stories we haven't seen before. She is a 2025 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow.



Robert Chuck

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Robert Chuck is a Filipino-Chinese cinematographer originally from Honolulu, Hawai'i. His passion for visual media started in graphic design and evolved into a passion for visual storytelling through filmmaking and cinematography. He moved to California to pursue a career in film, earning his MFA in Cinematography at Chapman University in 2018. Now based in Los Angeles, Robert's goal is to make meaningful connections through filmmaking that broaden his world view, while also exploring his own roots. His work has been previously featured at Slamdance and the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, and he is a 2025 Film Independent Project Involve Cinematography fellow.



Jazmin Jamias

PICTURE EDITOR

Jazmin Jamias is an editing graduate of the American Film Institute and recipient of the Anne V. Coates Award for Best Student Editing by ACE (American Cinema Editors). Formerly a rehabilitation nurse, she transitioned into editing, working on short films, documentaries, and music videos. A 2025 Project Involve Fellow, she served as an assistant editor for *Dreams in Nightmares*, which screened at the Blackstar Film Festival and Berlinale. She served as additional editor for *The Stand*, a film produced in the Rising Voices program. Jazmin contributed to the 2023 Sundance Directing Lab and represented AFI for FILM lab at the Telluride Film Festival. She has been on post production teams for Amazon Studios, MRC and T-Street.

A man with a beard and a plaid shirt is on the left, looking towards the camera. A woman with dark hair and a blue sweater is on the right, looking towards the man. The background features a wall with a poster and a wooden door.

CAST



Nida “SAIRA”
Khurshid

Nida Khurshid is a Pakistani-American actress known for her role as a series regular in the CW’s “The Winchesters,” a spin-off of the beloved series “Supernatural.” Born in Pakistan, Khurshid relocated to a small town in Texas at the age of three, where she encountered a significant culture shock. Raised in a Muslim household with Urdu as her first language, she navigated the cultural norms of her new environment. After 13 years of ballet training and performing on stage, she developed a passion for modeling and acting, despite her mother's initial concerns about cultural perceptions. Upon graduating high school, she began to land modeling and commercial gigs with her mother's support.

Once she moved to Los Angeles, Khurshid secured television roles, including parts in two Shonda Rhimes series: “Station 19” and “For The People.” She was also selected for the prestigious Disney Television Discovers: Talent Showcase. In her downtime, Khurshid has embraced solo travel, exploring diverse cultures and people, which she credits as a vital influence on her success as an actress. A passionate foodie, she enjoys taking cooking classes wherever her travels lead her. Inspired by her grandmother’s cooking and her experiences in the kitchen with her mother, Khurshid has come to appreciate the art of cooking, adding it to her expanding repertoire. Currently, she is venturing into the culinary, writing, and producing realms. Her latest project, an artsy culinary film titled “The Kitchen Witch,” which she executive produced, will premiere on Instagram starting October 29, 2025. Additionally, she is in the process of completing her own cookbook, which will weave in her poetry, and is actively seeking literary and publishing representation.

Anna Khaja is an award-winning actor, writer, and playwright whose work spans film, television, and theatre. On screen, she has appeared in acclaimed series including *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Quantico*, *The Walking Dead: World Beyond*, *The Good Place*, *Silicon Valley*, and *Madam Secretary*. Her recent short film *HEADBANG*, which she wrote and directed, continues to screen internationally at Oscar-qualifying festivals.

On stage, Anna has performed Off-Broadway and in leading Los Angeles theatres, earning Ovation, LA Weekly and GLAAD Awards for her performances. Her most recent stage appearance was at Manhattan Theatre Club in *Fatherland* in NY. She also wrote and performed the celebrated solo play *Shaheed: The Dream and Death of Benazir Bhutto*, which premiered Off-Broadway at the Culture Project.

As a writer, Anna is the winner of the Google/Blacklist Storytelling Fellowship and the Grand Prize Winner of the Screencraft pilot competition. She lives in Los Angeles and is married to screenwriter Chris Rossi.



**Anna
Khaja**

“Ammi”



**Behzad
Dabu** “Imran”

Behzad Dabu is an actor based in Los Angeles. He has worked extensively on stage at some of the best theaters in the country, especially in Chicago and LA, and is a proud company member at TimeLine Theatre Company. With a passion for working with playwrights and new play development, he originated roles "Samsara" at Victory Gardens Theatre, for which he was nominated for a Jeff Award - Best Actor and also originated the role of 'Abe' in the Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony-nominated play, "Disgraced" which he performed all over the country.

On screen, you can see him in *How To Get Away With Murder*, *The Chi*, and *The Lion Guard*. He also appeared in episodes of *The Good Place*, *All Rise*, *Chicago P.D.* and in the films *Maggies Not Okay*, *Mirage*, *Star Vehicle*, as well as various audiobooks, podcasts, and national commercials.

Behzad is the Director of Acting for Hillman Grad, a faculty member at Last Acting Studio, and the Acting Coach for the TV series *The CHI*. He strives to be a strong advocate in regards to representation in the arts and media; and is a founding member of The Chicago Inclusion Project, which seeks to level the playing field and provide resources in the arts for people of color, women, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities. He is a skilled audience engagement facilitator and experienced post-show discussion leader. behzaddabu.com

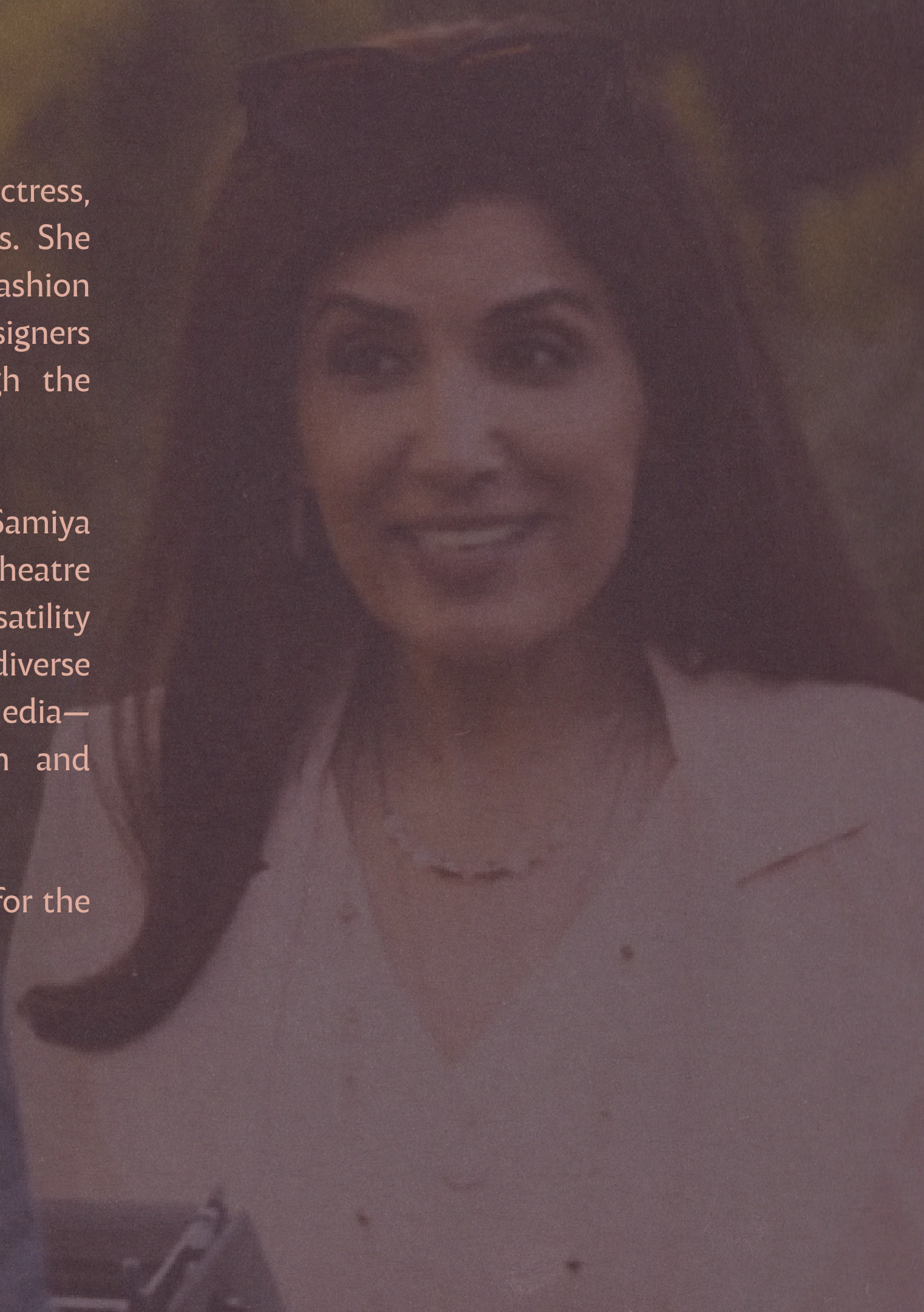


Samiya “Rehana”
Khan

Samiya Khan is a Pakistani-American actress, singer, and model based in Los Angeles. She began her career as a professional fashion model, walking for top international designers before transitioning into acting through the vibrant LA theatre scene.

A dedicated, full time Method actor, Samiya has trained at The Groundlings Acting Theatre & School in Acting and Improv. Her versatility and screen presence have earned her diverse roles across film, television, and new media—often noted for her emotional depth and authenticity.

As a singer, she has also opened concert for the renowned artist Alka Yagnik.



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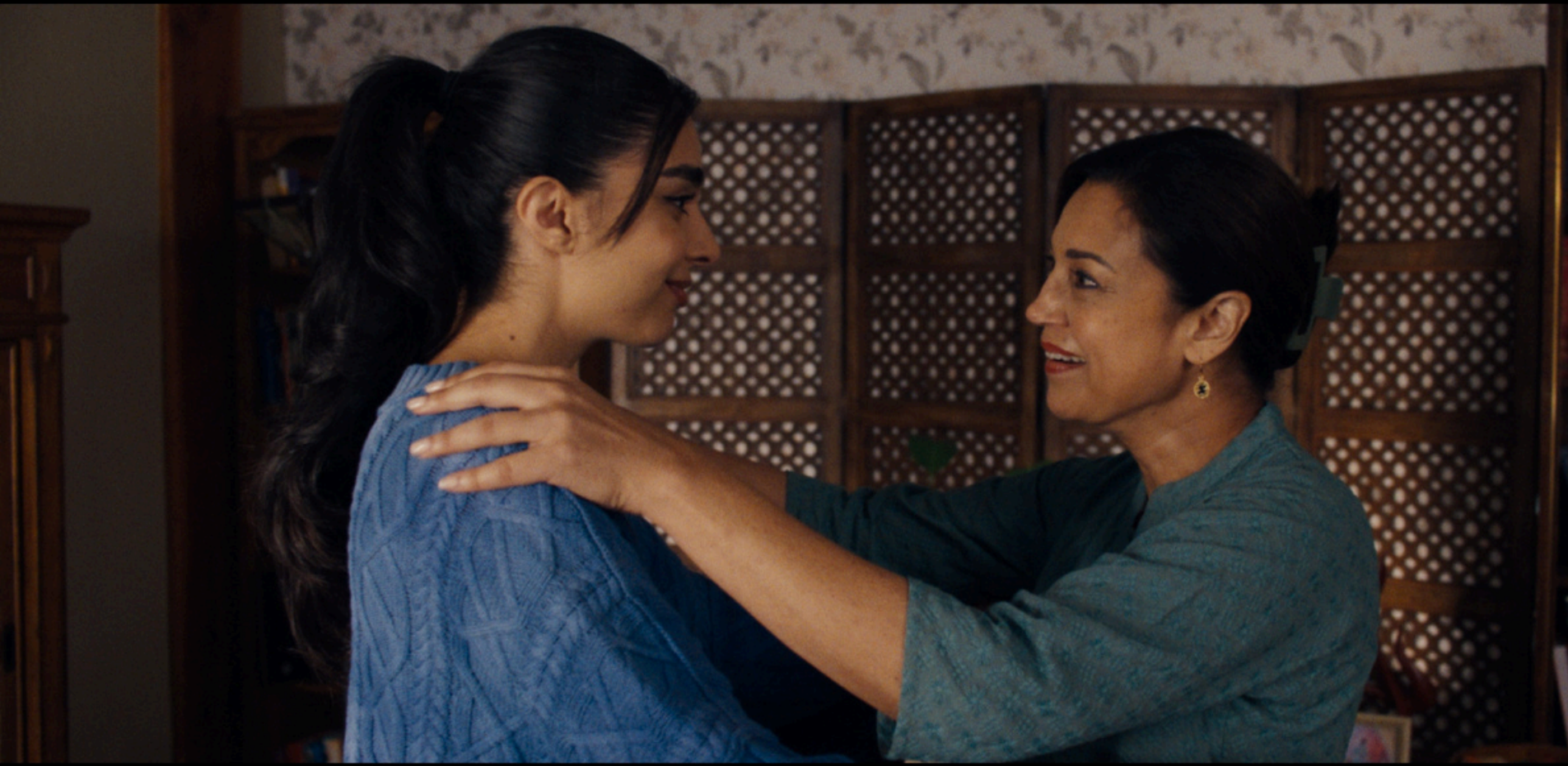
Keepsake



SLAMDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL
2026

Starring NIDA KHURSHID ANNA KHAJA BEHZAD DABU SAMIYA KHAN Casting By ALAN LUNA NATALIE BALLESTEROS
Original Music By LING CHEN Edited By JAZMIN JAMIAS Production Designer ARMAAN PUJANI Director of Photography ROBERT CHUCK
Executive Producers CONNIE QIN JOENIQUE C. ROSE FRANCISCO VELASQUEZ
Produced By EDUARDO AYRES SOARES Written By BUSHRA BURNEY Directed By RITVIK DHAVAL







PRESS

Deadline Project Involve 2025 Cohort

CONTACT

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Ritvik Dhavale (Director)
ritvik@coralcorduroy.com

Instagram: @keepsakeshortfilm

Website

	STORY RESIDENT MENTOR Ruth Atkinson	GAFFER Stephen Ho		
DIRECTED BY Ritvik Dhavale	PRODUCING RESIDENT MENTOR Avril Z. Speaks	KEY GRIP Joshua Ranese Tolon	BTS PHOTOGRAPHERS Jessica Haye & Clark Hsiao	
WRITTEN BY Bushra Burney	DIRECTING RESIDENT MENTOR Javier Fuentes-León	BEST BOY ELECTRIC Anton Jiracek	POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Sue-Ellen Chitunya	SPECIAL THANKS Sheheryar Ahsan Daniel Barosa Bishnua Bhattacharyya Tyrin Bell-Sinkfield Paula Chuck Denny Cushing Imani Davis Rajshri Deshpande Jeremy Dudet Gerald Gribble Carolyn Jamias-Cadenas Brandyn Johnson Conor Long Amy Ma Vivian Martinez Ginger Mauk Tony Nall Aline Prata Renu Razdan Chris Rossi Monica Roy Sabeen Sadiq Francisco Tamse Thomas Sauer Aishwarya Sonar Karan Sunil Kapil Talwalkar Sandra Valde-Hansen, ASC Han Yu Luyu Zheng
PRODUCED BY Eduardo Ayres Soares	CREATIVE EXECUTIVE RESIDENT MENTOR Aaron T. Edmonds	BEST BOY GRIP David Woo	ASSISTANT EDITORS Praboo Aria April Yang	CO-SUPERVISING SOUND EDITORS & RE-RECORDING MIXERS Herbert Rawlinson Christian Blair
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Connie Qin	CINEMATOGRAPHY RESIDENT MENTOR Jomo Fray	SOUND MIXER Alex Bologna Bunthoeun Real	SCORE MIXER AND MUSIC EDITOR Steve Wayne Thomas	ASSISTANT SOUND EDITOR Nate Hankins
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FILM INDEPENDENT Joenique C. Rose Francisco Velasquez	EDITING RESIDENT MENTOR Alex O'Flinn	ART DIRECTOR Purnima Bhutoria	RECORDING ENGINEER Bri Cobbey	POST SOUND PRODUCER Erika Wunch
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Chuck	PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Joyce Liu-Countryman	SET DRESSERS Shawn Acara Harriet Chan Angie Frias Natalie Rubio	CONDUCTOR Theodore Morris	POST SOUND SCHEDULER Cindy Retana
EDITED BY Jazmin Jamias	LINE PRODUCER Beatriz Gallo Sacramento	COSTUME DESIGNER Laura Hunter Drago	VIOLINS Ji Kim Sean James Smith	DIGITAL INTERMEDIATE PROVIDED BY Picture Shop
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY Armaan Pujani	UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER Victor Kolbe	HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST Leanna Halabi	VIOLAS Treasure M. Eckles Kai Siesarev-Nogami	FINAL COLORIST Walter Volpatto
MUSIC COMPOSED BY Ling Chen	FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Jacob Daniel Brodsky	SCRIPT SUPERVISOR Montserrat Luna-Ballantyne	CELLOS Joonhyun Baek Jose Alberto Campos Rodriguez	DIGITAL INTERMEDIATE PRODUCER Wayne Corsa
CASTING BY Natalie Ballesteros Alan Luna, CSA	SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Casey Naranjo	DIT Praboo Ariva Jazmin Jamias	CONTRA BASS Matteo Prevosto-Riou	
CAST SAIRA Nida Khurshid	CAMERA OPERATOR Omer Lotan	KEY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Brook Cohen	BASS GUITAR Ling Chen	Glix Entertainment Scorched Laserworks Aputure Imaging Industries Co. Ltd.
AMMI Anna Khaja	FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA Matt Clary	PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS Mir Bokhari Constance Jiang Ewea Teresa	DRUMS Jerry Kalaf	
IMRAN Behzad Dabu	SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA Skylar Piltch			
REHANA Samiya Khan	SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA Ryan Herh			
	CAMERA PA Jacob Combs			

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