

A FILM BY ARMAN SAYAT

# ANGRY LILY

WHEN DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY OUT

FILMS BY INSOMNIAC PRESENTS "ANGRY LILY" A FILM BY ARMAN SAYAT  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AYAULYM SAYAT & ARMAN SAYAT PRODUCER DEUCE JONES STORY BY ARMAN SAYAT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AUSTIN TREMBLAY  
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ARSEN DIUSHEKEEV 2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR EMILY ROBERTS PRODUCTION DESIGNER MALIKA MAXAT  
FILM AIDANA KASSYMKHANOVA, ANASTASHA OVSIENKO, RAUL SAN MARTIN, JETT BROWN

# LOGLINE

A DISORIENTED YOUNG WOMAN WAKES INSIDE A HIDDEN, WINDOWLESS FACILITY AND IS FORCED INTO A BRUTAL FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL AFTER DISCOVERING SHE'S TRAPPED IN A HUMAN TRAFFICKING OPERATION RUN BY A POWERFUL CRIMINAL NETWORK.



# SYNOPSIS

LILY, 23, REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS NAKED AND DISORIENTED ON A BLOOD-STAINED METAL TABLE INSIDE A DAMP, WINDOWLESS FACILITY. THE AIR IS THICK WITH CIGARETTE SMOKE, THE SICKLY GREEN CRACKED WALLS AND FLICKERING LED LIGHT CREATING A SUFFOCATING, CLINICAL HORROR. NEARBY, A DOCTOR IN A STAINED COAT STANDS OVER THE LIFELESS BODY OF A YOUNG GIRL, BEHAVING WITH UNNERVING CALM. LILY SLOWLY BECOMES AWARE OF A KNIFE ON A NEARBY TRAY AND, PRETENDING TO REMAIN UNCONSCIOUS, DISCREETLY HIDES IT IN HER PALM. WHEN A TALL MAN ENTERS THE ROOM AT THE DOCTOR'S SIGNAL, THE ATMOSPHERE TIGHTENS. THE DOCTOR EXITS, LEAVING LILY ALONE WITH THE MAN. AS HE BEGINS TO ASSAULT HER, LILY STRIKES FIRST—DRIVING THE KNIFE INTO HIM IN A BRUTAL ACT OF SURVIVAL.

SHE ESCAPES THE ROOM, NOW WEARING HIS CLOTHES, AND MOVES THROUGH A MAZE OF DIM CORRIDORS LINED WITH BEAD CURTAINS AND HIDDEN ROOMS FILLED WITH DISTURBING SCENES OF EXPLOITATION AND CAPTIVITY. BEHIND ONE CURTAIN, SHE SEES A YOUNG GIRL TRAPPED BENEATH A MAN, SILENTLY CRYING AS SHE LOCKS EYES WITH LILY—CONFIRMING THIS IS PART OF A LARGER TRAFFICKING NETWORK.

LILY PUSHES FORWARD AND FINDS A DOOR LEADING TO A DECEPTIVELY CALM ROOM WITH A WINDOW TO THE OUTSIDE. SHE BRIEFLY NOTICES A PHONE, BUT BEFORE SHE CAN ACT, SHE HEARS A VEHICLE ARRIVING. RICARDO HERNÁNDEZ, A POWERFUL MAN IN A WHITE SUIT, ENTERS WITH ARMED BODYGUARDS. LILY HIDES AS RICARDO CONNECTS A LINE AND ISSUES ORDERS WITH COLD AUTHORITY.

A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION ERUPTS WHEN THE DOCTOR RETURNS—RICARDO KILLS HIM IN A SUDDEN OUTBURST BEFORE LEAVING THE SCENE. LILY SEIZES THE MOMENT, RETRIEVES A CAR KEY FROM THE DOCTOR'S BODY, AND DESCENDS INTO THE BASEMENT.

BELOW, SHE DISCOVERS ROWS OF CAGES FILLED WITH MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BEGGING FOR HELP. WITH THE AID OF A PREGNANT PRISONER NAMED ANASTASIA, LILY USES A WRENCH TO BREAK LOCKS AND FREE THEM. WHEN A GUARD IS ALERTED, CHAOS EXPLODES, BUT LILY OVERPOWERS HIM AND TAKES THE KEYS, RELEASING THE REMAINING CAPTIVES AS PANIC SPREADS THROUGH THE FACILITY.

LILY AND ANASTASIA ESCAPE THROUGH A DARK TUNNEL WHILE ANASTASIA REVEALS FRAGMENTS OF HOW SHE ENDED UP THERE. OUTSIDE, GUNFIRE ERUPTS. ANASTASIA IS CAUGHT IN A TRAP, AND RICARDO CONFRONTS HER, FORCING LILY INTO HIDING. UNDER PRESSURE, ANASTASIA EXPOSES LILY'S LOCATION. LILY ATTACKS RICARDO IN A DESPERATE STRIKE, BRIEFLY KNOCKING HIM DOWN AS HIS MEN CLOSE IN.

SHE STEALS A PICKUP TRUCK AND SPEEDS AWAY INTO APPARENT FREEDOM—UNTIL REALITY FRACTURES. THE ESCAPE COLLAPSES INTO ILLUSION. LILY IS STILL STRAPPED TO THE OPERATING TABLE. THE DOCTOR LEANS OVER HER, AND THE PROCEDURE CONTINUES AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.



# MEET THE DIRECTOR ARMAN SAYAT

ARMAN SAYAT IS A WRITER, DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER, AND EDITOR WHOSE BOLD CINEMATIC VOICE BRIDGES THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE UNITED STATES. KNOWN FOR EMOTIONALLY RESONANT STORYTELLING AND VISUALLY STRIKING COMPOSITIONS, SAYAT HAS QUICKLY ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A RISING FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL CINEMA.

RAISED DURING THE TURBULENT POST-SOVIET TRANSFORMATION OF KAZAKHSTAN, SAYAT'S EARLY LIFE WAS MARKED BY RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION-QUALITIES THAT WOULD LATER SHAPE HIS ARTISTIC SENSIBILITY. FROM AN EARLY AGE, HE GRAVITATED TOWARD STORYTELLING, DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THE CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF HIS HOMETOWN AND THE GLOBAL CINEMA HE SOUGHT OUT WITH OBSESSIVE PASSION. HIS FORMATIVE YEARS INSTILLED A PROFOUND APPRECIATION FOR VISUAL LANGUAGE AND A DRIVE TO CREATE WORK THAT BOTH HONORS HIS ROOTS AND SPEAKS UNIVERSALLY.

SAYAT PURSUED HIS PASSION PROFESSIONALLY AT THE NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY IN LOS ANGELES, WHERE HE EARNED HIS MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN FILMMAKING. IMMERSING IN A RIGOROUS PROGRAM THAT DEMANDED VERSATILITY AND MASTERY ACROSS DISCIPLINES, HE TRAINED AS A DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER, WRITER, AND EDITOR. HE BROUGHT HIS STORIES TO LIFE ON THE HISTORIC BACKLOT OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, HOLLYWOOD, WHERE HE REFINED HIS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND SHARPENED HIS NARRATIVE VOICE.

HIS BREAKTHROUGH CAME WITH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD (2023), A DRAMA IN WHICH HE SERVED AS BOTH WRITER AND CINEMATOGRAPHER. THE FILM, CELEBRATED FOR ITS NUANCED PORTRAYAL OF FRACTURED MEMORY AND HUMAN VULNERABILITY, DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY TO BALANCE NARRATIVE INTIMACY WITH BOLD VISUAL STORYTELLING. IN 2024, HE DIRECTED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER MR. NIGHTMARE, A VISUALLY AMBITIOUS AND THEMATICALLY HAUNTING FILM THAT EXPLORED THE DISTURBING REALMS OF TRAUMA, SUBCONSCIOUS FEAR, AND BLURRED REALITIES. SHOT WITH METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL, THE PROJECT WAS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS CHILLING IMAGERY AND NARRATIVE DEPTH, SOLIDIFYING SAYAT'S REPUTATION AS A DIRECTOR WITH A UNIQUE CINEMATIC VISION.

BEYOND THESE WORKS, SAYAT HAS BUILT A STRONG BODY OF AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS SPANNING SHORTS AND COMMERCIAL PIECES. HIS FILMS ARE DISTINGUISHED BY STRIKING COMPOSITIONS, EMOTIONAL AUTHENTICITY, AND TECHNICAL PRECISION. DRAWING EQUALLY ON HIS SKILLS AS AN EDITOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHER, HE CRAFTS WORKS THAT SEAMLESSLY WEAVE NARRATIVE AND IMAGE INTO A COHESIVE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE.



## ACHIEVEMENTS



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

IN THIS FILM, I INTRODUCE LILY—A CHARACTER INSPIRED BY REAL PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES. THROUGH HER JOURNEY, I SEEK TO ILLUMINATE THE HARSH REALITIES FACED BY MANY WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA, EXPOSING THE DEEP-SEATED SOCIETAL ATTITUDES THAT PERPETUATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION.

LILY'S STORY IS NOT JUST HER OWN; SHE EMBODIES THE COLLECTIVE STRUGGLES OF COUNTLESS WOMEN WHO ARE FORCED INTO SILENCE, NAVIGATING A WORLD WHERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ANTI-FEMINISM REMAIN DISTURBINGLY NORMALIZED. THIS FILM IS A STARK COMMENTARY ON A SYSTEM THAT NOT ONLY FAILS TO PROTECT ITS MOST VULNERABLE BUT ACTIVELY SUPPRESSES THOSE WHO SEEK JUSTICE. A CORRUPT STRUCTURE, UPHELD BY THOSE WHO ENABLE AND EXCUSE SUCH VIOLENCE, ENSURES THAT THESE ISSUES REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS—HIDDEN, SILENCED, AND, AT TIMES, DELIBERATELY IGNORED.

WITH THIS FILM, I AIM TO CHALLENGE THESE OPPRESSIVE NORMS AND IGNITE A MUCH-NEEDED DIALOGUE, NOT ONLY IN MY OWN COUNTRY BUT IN SOCIETIES ACROSS THE WORLD WHERE SUCH INJUSTICES PERSIST. I WANT TO DEPICT THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF THESE ISSUES—HOW THEY RUIN LIVES, PUSH PEOPLE TO THE EDGE, AND LEAVE THEM WITH NOWHERE TO TURN.

LILY'S REVENGE IS MORE THAN A PERSONAL ACT—IT IS A FORM OF CATHARSIS, A WAY TO CHANNEL THE RAGE AND PAIN OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED IN REAL LIFE BUT WERE NEVER GIVEN JUSTICE. THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF ART AND CINEMA, THIS FILM BECOMES A SPACE WHERE THEIR VOICES CAN BE HEARD, WHERE THEIR PAIN IS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND WHERE THEIR UNSPOKEN ANGER FINDS AN OUTLET—EVEN IF ONLY ON SCREEN.

THIS IS MORE THAN A FILM; IT IS A CALL TO ACTION. IT IS A PLEA FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT, FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE, AND FOR A SHIFT IN THE WAY WE PERCEIVE AND ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. BY SHEDDING LIGHT ON THESE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS, I HOPE TO INSPIRE AWARENESS, PROVOKE DISCUSSION, AND ULTIMATELY CONTRIBUTE TO A MOVEMENT THAT DEMANDS JUSTICE AND PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SILENCED FOR TOO LONG.

THIS FILM STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE RESILIENCE OF THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BE BROKEN BY OPPRESSION. IT IS A REMINDER THAT CHANGE BEGINS WITH RECOGNITION—AND THAT CINEMA HAS THE POWER TO AMPLIFY VOICES THAT MUST BE HEARD.



# MAIN CAST



## AIDANA KASSYMKHANOVA

IS A KAZAKH ACTRESS KNOWN FOR HER PERFORMANCES IN ORDINARY PERSON (2024), NEITHER DONKEY NOR HORSE (2024), AND AS THE TITLE CHARACTER IN ANGRY LILY (2025). BORN AND RAISED IN KAZAKHSTAN AND BASED IN ALMATY, SHE GRADUATED FROM THE KAZAKH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS (KAZNAI) AND IS FLUENT IN KAZAKH, RUSSIAN, AND ENGLISH. AIDANA BRINGS A NATURAL AND EMOTIONALLY GROUNDED PRESENCE TO HER ROLES, OFTEN PORTRAYING COMPLEX, RESILIENT WOMEN. SHE CONTINUES TO EXPAND HER CRAFT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND ONGOING STUDIES AT THE NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY.



## ANASTASIIA OVSIIENKO

IS A UKRAINIAN ACTRESS KNOWN FOR HER ROLES IN KRUTY 1918 (2019), THE LIGHTS ABOVE (2023), AND THE CAKE (2024). BORN AND RAISED IN UKRAINE, SHE IS NOW ACTIVE IN THE UKRAINIAN FILM AND TV SCENE. SHE BRINGS EMOTIONAL INTENSITY AND A STRONG SCREEN PRESENCE TO HER PERFORMANCES AND IS INCREASINGLY WORKING IN INDEPENDENT AND CHARACTER-DRIVEN PROJECTS.



## RAUL SAN MARTIN

IS A LOS ANGELES-BASED ACTOR WHOSE DYNAMIC PERFORMANCES HAVE FEATURED IN RECENT FILMS INCLUDING BOTTOM-FEEDER (2024) AND THE BOXER. HE TRAINED EXTENSIVELY IN LOS ANGELES AND DRAWS ON A RICH BLEND OF THEATRICAL AND ON-CAMERA EXPERIENCE TO BRING GROUNDED, EMOTIONALLY NUANCED CHARACTERS TO THE SCREEN. ALTOGETHER, RAUL IS COMMITTED TO SELECTING ROLES THAT CHALLENGE HIM AND PUSH GENRE BOUNDARIES—AND HIS LATEST WORK CONTINUES TO BUILD ON THAT PROMISE.

# FILM GEW

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
ARMAN SAYAT (KAZAKHSTAN)

PRODUCER  
AYAULYM SAYAT (KAZAKHSTAN)  
DEUCE JONES (USA)

CINEMATOGRAPHER  
AUSTIN TREMBLAY (CANADA)

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
ARSEN DIUSHEKEEV (KYRGYZSTAN)

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EMILY ROBERTS (ITALY)

## LEADING CAST

AIDANA KASSYMKHANOVA (KAZAKHSTAN)  
ANASTASIIA OVSIENKO (UCRAINE)  
RAUL SAN MARTIN (USA)  
JHETT BROWN (USA)



# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**PROJECT TYPE:**  
SHORT FILM

**GENRES:**  
THRILLER, DRAMA

**RUNTIME:**  
18 MINUTES, 36 SECONDS

**PRODUCTION BUDGET:**  
\$10,000 USD

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:**  
KAZAKHSTAN

**FILMING LOCATION:**  
UNITED STATES

**LANGUAGES:**  
ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, SPANISH

**SHOOTING FORMAT:**  
DIGITAL (SONY FX3)

**ASPECT RATIO:**  
2.39:1

**COLOR:**  
BLACK & WHITE AND COLOR





**BEHIND THE SCENES**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**MADDY LULL**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**ANGRY LILY**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**ANGRY 1917**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**ANDY TV**



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**ANDY IIIV**



**THANK YOU**

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