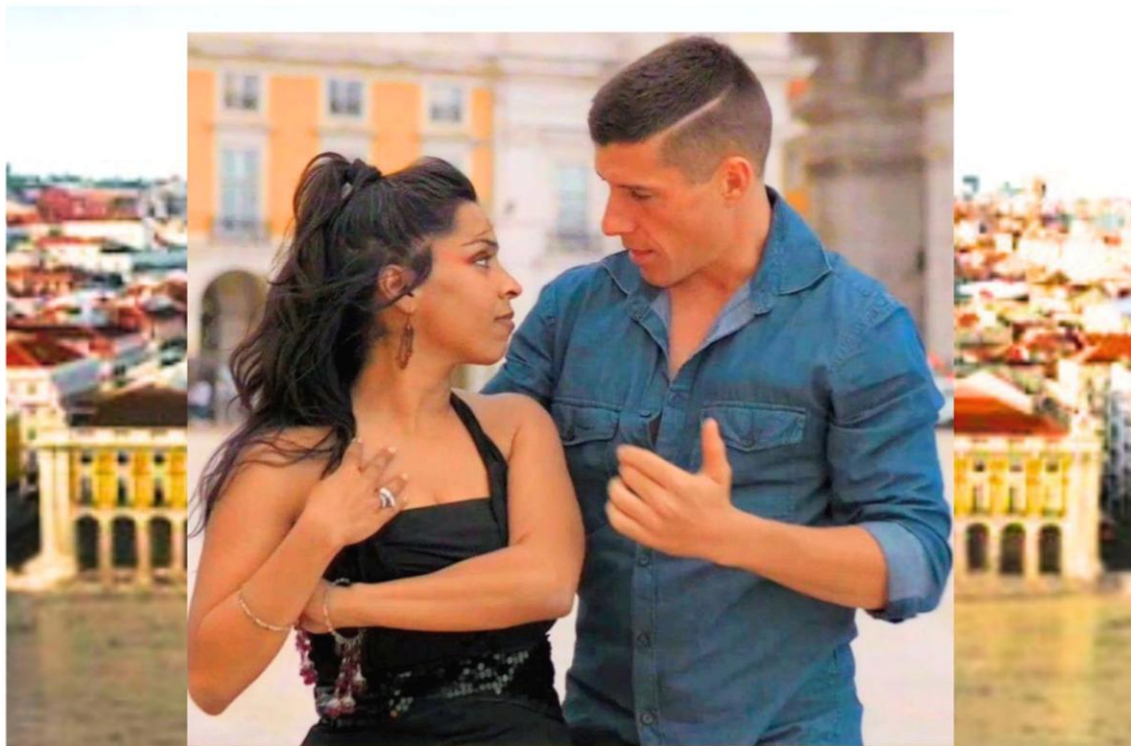




CMCS Media Presents

The Critic

In association with Filmmaking Lisboa, Rain and Neon Productions, The Lab, CAMCAT, and Samita Nandy Productions

Starring Guilherme Pimentel Samita Nandy Marko Avramović Mitić Greg Henriques Ken Holmes Renata Heidel Fausto Muniz **Casting Associates** Ken Holmes Gastão Travado **Writer & Editor** Samita Nandy **Contributing Writer** Ken Holmes

Music Alan T. Fagan Alanay Josef Keller-Devon Duane Wilkins Oud Reverb **Associate Editors** Andrei Vlad Tole

Rasmus Andersson Christopher Heisler **Production Support** Ken Holmes Hussene Keshavjee Gastão Travado

Executive Producer Louis Massey **Producer** Samita Nandy & Richard Osborne **Director** Samita Nandy

PRESS KIT

CMCS Media
info@cmc-centre.com

ABOUT THE FILM

Tagline: *The Critic* is *Eat Pray Love* meets *Shall We Dance* in Lisbon.

Logline: A woman travels to Lisbon to pursue her dream of dance. Will her future wedding or past abuse get in the way of her dreams in Portugal?

Synopsis: In *The Critic*, Sofiia travels to Lisbon to fulfil her dream of dance after the loss of her parents and fighting harassment. Her fiancé, Iven, plans a beautiful married life and inspires her to dance, but not with men.

CREDITS

Samita Nandy - Director, Producer, Screenwriter, and Cast
Richard Osborne – Producer
Louis Massey – Executive Producer
Ken Holmes – Production Support, Contributing Writer, and Cast
Guilherme Pimentel - Cast
Samita Nandy - Cast
Marko Avramović Mitić – Cast
Greg Henriques – Cast

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- Genre: Drama
- Project Type: Feature Film
- Runtime: 1 hour 27 minutes
- Country of Origin: Portugal
- Country of Filming: Portugal, USA, Canada, India
- Language: English
- Shooting Format: Digital
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- Film Color: Color

PRODUCTION COMPANY

CMCS MEDIA
99 Broadway Ave.
Toronto, ON M4P 0E3
Email: info@cmc-centre.com
Phone +1 647-947-3532)

FILM LINKS

[Official Website](#)
[IMDb](#)
[Poster](#)
[Pitch Deck](#)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

- Samita Nandy

Inspired by a true story, *The Critic* was first published as an op-ed and developed by my funded PhD research. As the Director of the film, I envisioned telling an emotionally grounded yet visually expressive story. Set against the cinematic landscapes of Portugal, the film navigates individual freedom amidst social conformities and uses travel and dance as means of aesthetic communication. It particularly uses a visual vocabulary of Latin social dance in four international locations – Lisbon, New York City, Toronto, and Mumbai- to depict one's movement and rise, literally and symbolically. Throughout the film, geographical travel and social dance serve as metaphors for agency and transformation, opening spaces where socio-cultural hierarchies can be challenged and human relationships reimaged. In this aesthetic approach, music plays a key narrative device across space and time.

In *The Critic*, as Contributing Writer Ken Holmes points out, there is an emphasis on critical thinking rather than criticism, and it encourages self-reflection. We live in a culture where professional achievements, social roles, outward appearance, or personal choices about appearance often judge people. The film invites audiences to question these culturally constructed assumptions and enables them to tell their own stories rather than social narratives defining them. Instead of offering easy answers, it encourages self-reflection on how criticism operates socially and psychologically in layered, complex contexts and how empathy, curiosity, and dialogue can rather create personal alternatives.

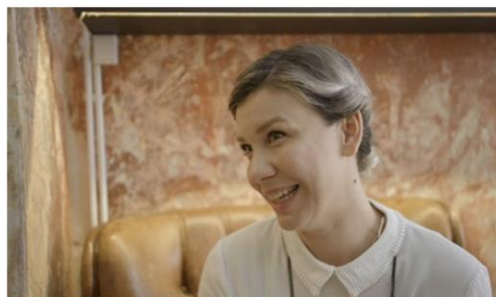
I particularly wanted to create a safe, ethical space that feels inclusive, engaging, and accessible. The film is anchored by universal human aspirations: the desire to take journeys, to connect, to experience life and discover the becoming of self. These experiences transcend geographic and cultural boundaries, allowing audiences from different backgrounds to enter the story and reflect through shared emotions and personal pleasures. *The Critic* thereby seeks to reverse social conditions of abuse. Through its use of social dance and embodied movement, the film explores forms of interaction grounded in mutual respect, listening, and consent. These moments create opportunities for ethical and empathetic connections that are not based on coercive control, judgment, and marginalization.

For this purpose, the story follows a BIPOC woman seeking to reclaim her voice within various cultural environments that have attempted to silence her. It particularly engages with overcoming gender-based violence, on one hand, and survival of death, on the other – a universal life challenge. At the same time, I was careful not to define the protagonist solely through trauma but rather as a whole, three-dimensional person, exploring education, arts, and places. The progression of her connections is intentionally intimate and pleasurable, focusing on small but meaningful choices through which people can live what Aristotle referred to as a “good life” – a flourishing one – including virtues of friendships. In this sense, *The Critic* is both personal and universal: a philosophical story about the wisdom required to choose one's ethical acts.

As a filmmaker, I am interested in creating works that foster dialogue across geographies, genres, and generations that bring artistic expression with social reflection. My background as a PhD researcher has deepened my interest in the ways public narratives can address questions on identity, belonging, and self-worth on one's path. *The Critic* particularly brings lived experience and scholarly insight together in a universal story of resilience, freedom, and self-discovery. With *The Critic*, I hope and trust that we can translate this story into more possibilities that are emotionally resonant, visually distinctive, and internationally accessible.

STILL IMAGES

Lookbook



BIOGRAPHIES



Samita Nandy - Director, Producer, Screenwriter, and Actor

Samita Nandy is the Founder of the Centre for Media and Celebrity Studies (CMCS) and an honorary member of Concordia University (Canada). She holds a Doctorate in celebrity culture from the Department of Media & Information at Curtin University (Australia) and is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (USA). With university grants totaling \$140,000, her views on fame have been publicized in a wide range of media, including CBC National News, Global News, The Telegraph, VICE, Flare, and Chatelaine. Her filmography includes *The Butterfly*, *The Leak*, *Emissary of*

Death, *O Derradeiro Passo*, *Between Doors*, among others. *The Critic* is her debut feature production and a part of an upcoming novel. **IMDb:** www.imdb.me/samitanandy **Media:** <http://samitanandy.com/media>

Richard Osborne – Producer

Richard Osborne is a Producer and Cinematographer at his production company, Filmmaking Lisboa, which includes 50 departments in Portugal. With over 20 years of experience, he worked on major motion pictures and a range of clients. Richard studied at the Global Cinematography Institute in Los Angeles with Academy Award-winning instructors from the American Society of Cinematographers and more. **URL:** <https://www.richardosborne.eu/>



Louis Massey – Executive Producer



Louis Massey is a Canadian independent artist and writer. Born in Montreal, he is the author of several articles and book chapters on artificial intelligence and mental information processing. On the fiction side, Massey has written poetry and short stories. He published “The River: Car ton bras sait porter l’épée” in Canadian Voices Volume 2. As a visual artist, he specializes in photography and oil and acrylic painting. He exhibited at Gallery 22 in Kingston and was a finalist for the Salon Prize 2012. In independent cinema, his filmography includes *The Leak*, *The Laundry Room*, *The Pink Code – An Adaptation*, *Life in a Low Light*, *Gone*, and *Smiling Rain* in Lisbon and Toronto. He holds a Ph.D. in Software Engineering and

is a former professor of Computer Science at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. **IMDb:**

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm12132964/>

Ken Holmes – Production Support, Contributing Writer, and Actor

Ken Holmes is a New York-based SAG-AFTRA member, screenwriter, and filmmaker. He has performed in hundreds of films and TV shows, in roles ranging from lead, supporting, day player, to background, in Hollywood. He landed his first role as Robin in “The Merry Wives of Windsor” at Castleton State College (now Castleton University) in Vermont. He graduated from CSC cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, concentrating in Acting and Directing. **IMDb:** IMDb.me/kenholmes

