

# SEA OF FIRE

## Tagline:

Where the spiral calls, the crystal hums... and dance ignites the Sea of Fire.

## Logline:

Drawn by a mystical spiral, the Daughter of the Moon leaves space behind and journeys through the Sea of Fire, the ocean's depths, and a crystal cave, toward a realm where everything becomes music.

## Synopsis:

The Daughter of the Moon leaves her celestial home, young and anxious, seeking the unknown. Drawn by a mystical spiral at the Sea of Fire, she embarks on a journey to the bottom of the ocean, enters a crystal cave, and, guided by sounds and images, crosses into a dreamlike realm where everything becomes music.

Sea of Fire is a 12-minute experimental dance-music hybrid short film that weaves live-action choreographic performance into surreal, painted visual worlds. Unfolding as a poetic journey of transformation, it explores an inner passage through movement, music, and imagery.

## Specs

**Runtime:** 12:30

**Format:** 4K DCI (4096×2160)

**Frame Rate:** 24 fps

**Aspect Ratio:** 1.90:1

**Country of Origin:** Greece / India / USA

**Language:** Non verbal (dance) + Urdu language vocals

**Subtitles:** English / Greek / French (Urdu vocals)

**Sound:** Stereo, 48 kHz (24-bit master)

**Cameras:** Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K, ARRI Alexa Mini

**Lenses:** Angénieux Optimo Legacy Series, ARRI Primes

**Trailer:** [Click here to watch](#)

## FESTIVAL HISTORY & ACCOLADES

- **Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (BISFF)**  
Bengaluru, India | August 14, 2026  
[Academy Award® (Oscar) Qualifying Film Festival]  
Status: **World Premiere** | **Finalist: Dancing Lens Competition**
- **Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival (TINFF)**  
Toronto, Canada | September 7, 2026  
[Canadian Screen Award-Qualifying Film Festival]  
Status: **North American Premiere**  
**5x Nominee:** Best Dance Screen Work, Best Original Music Score International, Best Visual Effects, Best Art Direction, Best Bollywood Film
- **Athens Marathon International Film Festival**  
Athens, Greece | December 12, 2026  
[EFFE Label Accredited Film Festival]  
Status: **WINNER – Best Art/Dance Film**
- **Oxford Film Festival (24th Annual)**  
Oxford, United States | March 18, 2027  
[MovieMaker Magazine's Top 50 Film Festivals]  
Status: **Nominee** – Music-based Short or Video





*Sea of Fire – Cave*



*Sea of Fire – Space*



## **DIRECTOR STATEMENT (LONG)**

Sea of Fire is a 12-minute experimental dance music hybrid film, an inner passage from the celestial to the elemental, toward uncertainty, surrender, and rebirth. The story follows the Daughter of the Moon, young, anxious, and drawn toward the unknown, as she leaves her celestial home in space and follows a mystical spiral into the Sea of Fire. Her journey begins in space: she travels toward the Sea of Fire, sinks to the bottom of the ocean, enters a crystal cave, and finally crosses into a “mystical land” where everything becomes music.

After four years of studying Indian classical music in India, I returned to Greece and spent time on a remote island. That is where the inspiration for Sea of Fire began to take shape.

At the foundation of this film is a question that feels both ancient and contemporary: what do we do with the restlessness of the heart, and with the search for the unknown, outer and inner? The film’s lyrics draw from a ghazal by Hafez of Shiraz, a poet who names the limits of distraction and the illusions that bewitch us. In that poem I found the emotional spine of the Daughter of the Moon: desire as motion, anxiety as gravity, and transcendence as a change in perception.

I approached Sea of Fire as a dance-music art poem rather than a conventional narrative. Choreography becomes the film’s voice, the body speaks where dialogue would flatten mystery. Music becomes a universal language: it tells us where we are, what the air feels like, and what kind of world we have entered. The film’s animated worlds are not meant to imitate reality, but to visualize interior states, dreamlike spaces where longing, joy, serenity, and wonder can coexist.

The film was made through cross-cultural collaboration among artists and organizations from Greece, Pakistan, India, Iran, and the USA. That collaboration is not a message I tried to force: it’s simply the reality of how we worked, as artists without borders. The musical world blends Indian and Persian classical elements, mythic archetypes, Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance, and Urdu-language vocals shaped around Hafez’s poetry, creating a shared imaginary space that belongs to no single culture and, at the same time, honors each one. With acclaimed Pakistani dancer and choreographer Suhae Abro embodying the Daughter of the Moon, the film’s emotional arc is carried through movement: innocence meeting the unknown, the unknown becoming initiation. Our cinematographer, Konstantinos Koukoulis, helped me shape the look of that performance inside the animated worlds.

The dreamlike, surreal visual worlds of Sea of Fire were meticulously brought to life by architect and production designer Rija Yousuf. Her ability to translate my overarching visual design into vast, crystal-filled environments and celestial islands was fundamental in executing the film’s final aesthetic. Over years of collaboration, we co-conceptualized these elemental realms to serve as reflections of the journey the heart takes in search of transformation and rebirth.

In the process, I began to realize that Sea of Fire had, almost unintentionally, become part of an informal trilogy of dance films. After exploring a more raw, experimental video-art language in my previous two works, Whirling Desert and Dancing with the Unknown, this film arrived as the natural, more mature outcome of a long inner search.

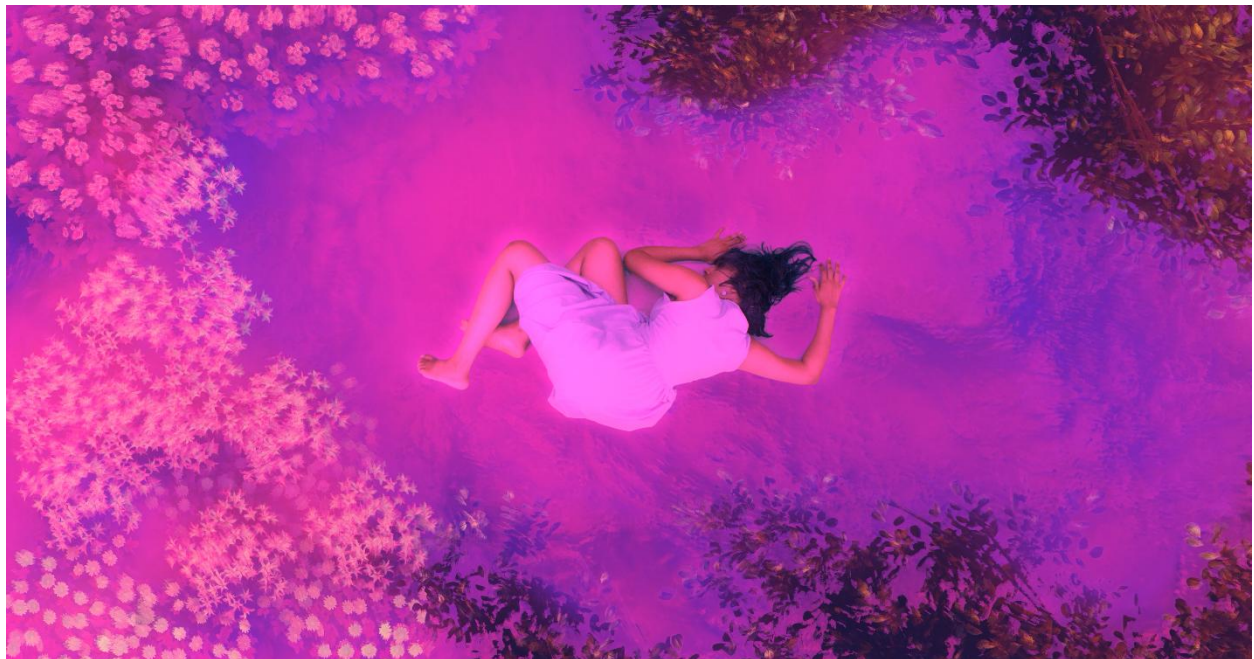
While finishing the post-production, *Sea of Fire* made me realize a personal truth about art itself: how it can become prophetic without trying, and how it can preserve what was real even after life changes shape. The film does not promise answers. It offers a passage: through flame, through ash, through crystal dust, through stardust, through rebirth, into a place where the heart can finally be heard. For me, *Sea of Fire* is an imprint.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT (SHORT)

*Sea of Fire* is a 12-minute experimental dance music hybrid film: an inner passage from the celestial to the elemental, toward uncertainty, surrender, and rebirth. It follows the Daughter of the Moon, young and anxious, as she leaves her home in space and follows a mystical spiral into the Sea of Fire, descending to the ocean's depths, entering a crystal cave, and crossing into a mystical land where everything becomes music.

The film grew out of my years studying Indian classical music in India and later returning to Greece, where the idea began to take shape on a remote island. At its core is a question that feels both ancient and contemporary: what do we do with the restlessness of the heart, and with the search for the unknown, outer and inner? The lyrics draw from a ghazal by Hafez of Shiraz, and in it I found the emotional spine of the Daughter of the Moon: desire as motion, anxiety as gravity, and transcendence as a shift in perception.

I approached *Sea of Fire* as a dance music art poem rather than a conventional narrative, live-action performance woven into animated worlds. Made through cross-cultural collaboration among artists and organizations from Greece, Pakistan, India, Iran, and USA, the film is simply the reality of how we worked, as artists without borders. For me, *Sea of Fire* is an imprint.



*Sea of Fire – Mystical Land*

## KEY CREDITS

**Written, Directed & Produced:** Iasonas Psarakis

**Choreography & Performance:** Suhaee Abro

**Cinematography:** Konstantinos Koukoulis, Susanta Adhikary, Stratis Anastasiou

**Production Design / Motion Art / Art Direction:** Rija Yousuf

**Editing / VFX / Color / Post-Production Producer:** Chris Papametis

**Sound Design & Music Production:** Nikolas Gkinis

**Music:** Iasi Ensemble (Original Music: Iasonas Psarakis)

**Cast:** Suhaee Abro, Rituparna Banerjee, Iasonas Psarakis, Nikolas Gkinis, Ricky Chakraborty

**Concept Art:** Iasonas Psarakis, Rija Yousuf, Susanta Adhikary

**Poetry:** Hafez Shirazi

**Makeup:** Maro Kokkoni, Eshita Chattopadhyay

**Gaffer:** John Nelson Eskioglou, Pramit Das

**Associate Producers:** Metamorphosis NPO | Friends of HiHiRi PiPiRi

**In collaboration with** HiHiRi PiPiRi Transcultural Creative Network



## DIRECTOR BIO (LONG)



### Iasonas Psarakis – Bio

Iasonas Psarakis is a multi-award-winning Greek-born composer, filmmaker, and multi-instrumentalist working across North Indian Classical, world, and experimental music film forms. A soloist on sitar and esraj, he is a GRAMMY® Voting Member of the Recording Academy and contributed as a session musician to the GRAMMY®-nominated album *The Colors in My Mind* (Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album, 2026). His cinematic work explores the visceral meeting point of complex North Indian rhythmic structures, contemporary and classical movement, and the language of dance film.

He holds a B.Mus. in Hindustani Classical Music (Sitar) from Sangit Bhavan, Visva-Bharati University (India), supported by scholarships including ICCR, and has studied with acclaimed teachers in the Ali Akbar Khan lineage and beyond. His work has been presented internationally across concerts, opera houses, site-specific performances, and film contexts.

As founder, composer, and arranger of the Iasi Ensemble, he released the ensemble's debut album *Astris* (2023), featuring collaborations with musicians from India, the Middle East, and Greece. *Astris* received six Silver Medals at the Global Music Awards, won Best World Music at the Clouzine International Music Awards, charted on Ethnocloud and One World Music Radio, and appeared on the first-round ballot for the GRAMMY® Awards in Best Global Music Album.

His film and music projects have been recognized and awarded by festivals including the Thomas Edison Film Festival and Jaipur International Film Festival. With his recent work, including the experimental shorts *Dancing with the Unknown*, *Whirling Desert*, and *Sea of Fire*, he has developed a distinct cinematic voice, and he continues collaborating internationally across dance, music, and moving image works.

## KEY ARTISTS (BIOS)

### Suhaee Abro (Choreographer & Performer) – Short bio



**Suhaee Abro** is an acclaimed Pakistani dancer and choreographer who brings a fusion of traditional and contemporary movement to *Sea of Fire* as the Moon's Daughter. She began training at age seven in Indian classical dance (Bharatanatyam) and Pakistani folk forms, later refining her craft at Nuova Officina della Danza (N.O.D.) in Turin, Italy. Her performances and collaborations span Pakistan, India, China, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom across theatre, film, and television. Suhaee starred in *My Pure Land*, the **UK's official submission to the 90th Academy Awards®**. She also teaches dance workshops centered on healing and emotional expression through movement.

### Konstantinos Koukoulis (Cinematographer) – Short bio

**Konstantinos Koukoulis** is the cinematographer of *Sea of Fire*. He has served as Cinematographer on projects including *Human Flow* (2017), *The Rest* (2019), and *Vice* (TV series, 2017). His credits also include work on international productions such as *Bigger Than Us* (2021) and *The Invisible Fight* (2023). In *Sea of Fire*, he shot the live-action dance performance and helped shape the film's visual language.

### Rija Yousuf (Production Designer & Art Director & Motion & Concept Artist)

Rija Yousuf is a multidisciplinary production designer, art director, and motion artist. For the experimental film *Sea of Fire* (2026), she co-conceptualized the artistic vision, translating it into painted surreal visual worlds. Her diverse portfolio includes the visual artwork for Iasi Ensemble's GRAMMY®-balloted album *Astris* (2023) and motion art for live performances at Greece's historic Apollo Theater. Combining cinematic art with an extensive architectural background, she holds an Erasmus Mundus Master's degree spanning leading universities in Greece, Italy, and Portugal.

## Contact: Iasonas Psarakis

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## PRODUCTION TRIVIA

- **100% Handcrafted Art:** Sea of Fire is a fully handcrafted film. Zero generative AI tools were used at any stage of its creation, including writing, production, post-production, visuals, choreography, and music. Every frame and sound is the result of human craftsmanship.
- **A Transcultural Puzzle:** The live-action green screen performances were shot across two continents. Lead dancer Suhaee Abro was filmed in Greece (using a Blackmagic 6K and Angénieux Optimo Legacy lenses), while the "Moon Face" was shot in India (on an ARRI Alexa Mini with ARRI Primes). These worlds were seamlessly united in post-production.
- **Micro-Budget Magic:** Despite its rich visual effects and international production scale, the film was completed on a micro-budget of just €5,635, relying heavily on the passion and sweat equity of its transcultural creative network.