



LEVELLED

A FILM BY SARA RANGOONI

DIRECTOR BIO

Founder of Dalphinium Media, Sara is a Director and Writer dedicated to changing the narrative for equity deserving communities through powerful storytelling. Born and raised in Toronto, her award-winning proof of concept, short film, *Leveled* continues to screen at festivals worldwide and has catapulted her to new heights.

She believes in the power of changing perspective through four-dimensional storytelling. As one of four selected for Rising Voices with Hillman Grad, Bipoc TV& Film and Indeed for her screenplay *Leveled*, she is currently in the development stages of her coming-of-age film, which will be her feature directorial debut.

With a slate of projects in film and series in development, Sara is dedicated to telling powerful stories that centre on themes of belonging, love and loss layered with a distinct dramatic and comedic tone which is both entertaining and relatable. Sara is committed to changing the narrative by pushing boundaries and challenging cultural norms. She continues to charter a path in the industry through various recognized programs and creating content on screen as a proficient writer and director.



LEVELED

GENRE: DRAMA

LOCATION: TORONTO, ON

DIRECTOR: SARA RANGOONI

WRITER: SARA RANGOONI

DATE OF SHOOTING: MARCH 2023

COMPLETION: JULY 2023

LOGLINE

Racing the clock in pursuit of her dreams, Safa is forced to navigate her very cultural over-bearing Pakistani grandmother while being confronted with layers of societal stigma as she searches for her mother's medication.

TECHNICAL

Run Time | 15 min

Colour | 5.1 Dolby Surround Sound | 1.85:1

Shooting Format | Ari Alexa 4K

Language: English & Urdu (Subtitles)

DALPHINIUM MEDIA

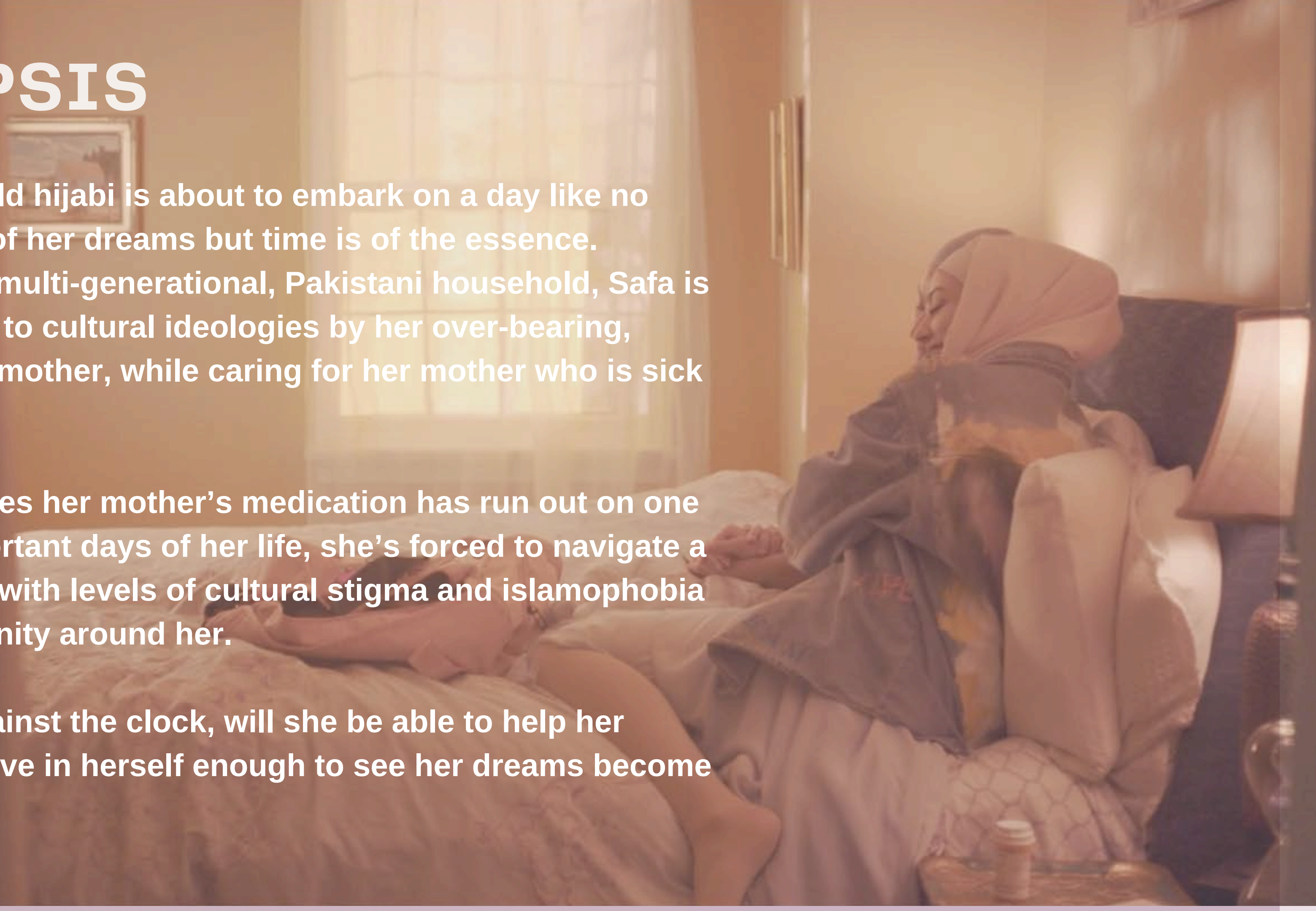
SYNOPSIS

Safa, a 17-year old hijabi is about to embark on a day like no other in pursuit of her dreams but time is of the essence.

Growing up in a multi-generational, Pakistani household, Safa is forced to adhere to cultural ideologies by her over-bearing, traditional grandmother, while caring for her mother who is sick with cancer.

When Safa realizes her mother's medication has run out on one of the most important days of her life, she's forced to navigate a path that's filled with levels of cultural stigma and islamophobia from the community around her.

As she races against the clock, will she be able to help her mother and believe in herself enough to see her dreams become a reality?





LEAD

SAFA

Srishti Birla is an Actor and Dancer from Los Angeles, CA. She has been a dancer all her life and is trained in Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Bharatanatyam. She has been in several short films and episodic shows and loves storytelling through both acting and dance. She is trained in the Meisner Technique of Acting.

SUPPORTING CAST

ZULI DADI

Harleen Uppal is an Actor from Toronto, Ontario. She has been featured in many popular short films in the South Asian community, including, Desi Standard Time and There are No Children here. Her ability to bring characters to life in the most natural of ways is amazing to watch.



SAFA'S MOM

Rafia Iqbal is a South Asian Actress/Model based out of Toronto. She has been a part of several productions in the past year including the Indie Films “A Night with Nathan” and “The Box”, as well as the “Elegy” Tv Series, and has been cast for a role in the upcoming Season 4 of “The Boys.”





CREW

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: SARA RANGOONI

@sara.rangooni

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Teo Weyman

@teo.weyman

CASTING DIRECTOR: Joyce Chan

@hellothisisjoycechan

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Santiago Belalcazar

@santiagobelco

COSTUME DESIGNER: Anam Hussain

@anamrhussain

MUSIC COMPOSER: Dinitha Vithanage

@dinescoresfilm

MAKEUP/HAIR: Virti Shah

@virt_i_hairandmakeupartist



CREW

1st AD: Dayyyan Jameel - @babycowstudios

2nd AD: Haysham Zia - @hayshamz

1st AC: Cecilia Lee - @goagainforcece

2ND AC: Karina Karlovich - @karina_karlovich

GAFFER: Moucine Kalkouli - @mouchineKalkoulie

KEY GRIP: Jeremy Lorin - @jeremylorin

STEADICAM: Miha Matevzic - @mihamatevzic

SET DRESSER: Zainab Iqbal - @zainabiqbal07

SCRIPT SUPERVISORS: Chris Mikulinac

Jessica Gurissevich

@chris.mik17 @jessicaGurissevich

LOCATION SOUND: Randy Resh, Andrew Lai

@ireaper_sounds

EDITOR - Carroll Chiramel - @carrollvc

COLOURIST - @melancholystarstudio

A woman wearing a light-colored hijab and a grey jacket is smiling and holding a baby in a doorway. The background shows a wooden door frame and a window with a grid pattern. The scene is warmly lit.

CAST

LEAD

SAFA: Srishti Birla – @srishti.birla

SUPPORTING CAST

ZULI DADI: Harleen Uppal – @harleen5867

SAFA'S MOM: Rafia Iqbal – @rafia.iqqbal

CHOTU: Sophia Mehmood – N/A

UNCLE SAMI: Ardavan Taraporewala – @ardavanstage

BENTLEY PHARMACIST: Lou Israel – N/A

MARK: Kyle Salive – @kyles_alive

RECEPTIONIST: Charlotte Creaghan – @charlottecreaghan

LANA: Joanna Thomson – @joanna_e_thompson

YOUNG SAFA: Zaraiyah Khokhar – @zaraiyahkhokhar

DIRECTOR'S VISION

Levelled is a story that I wrote when my grandmother passed away. Her life inspired me to write a story about a young Muslim girl who is given the opportunity to pursue her dreams – something that so many women, like my “Nani” couldn’t even explore because of the cultural stigma that surrounded her. After the script received various screenplay accolades worldwide, I was that much more determined to bring the story of Safa to life, a second-generation visible Muslim, Pakistani who struggles with belonging in a world where so many people expect her to be one way stunting her ability to truly believe in herself.

As a second-generation South Asian, Muslim hijabi, I can understand and relate to this story on so many levels. There are so many moments in my own life that I weaved into Levelled but at the heart of it lies a young girl who just wants to see her dreams come to life. My team and I worked on this project with so much heart. We truly believe in this story being a beacon of light for individuals who struggle with acceptance and having the courage to believe in themselves.

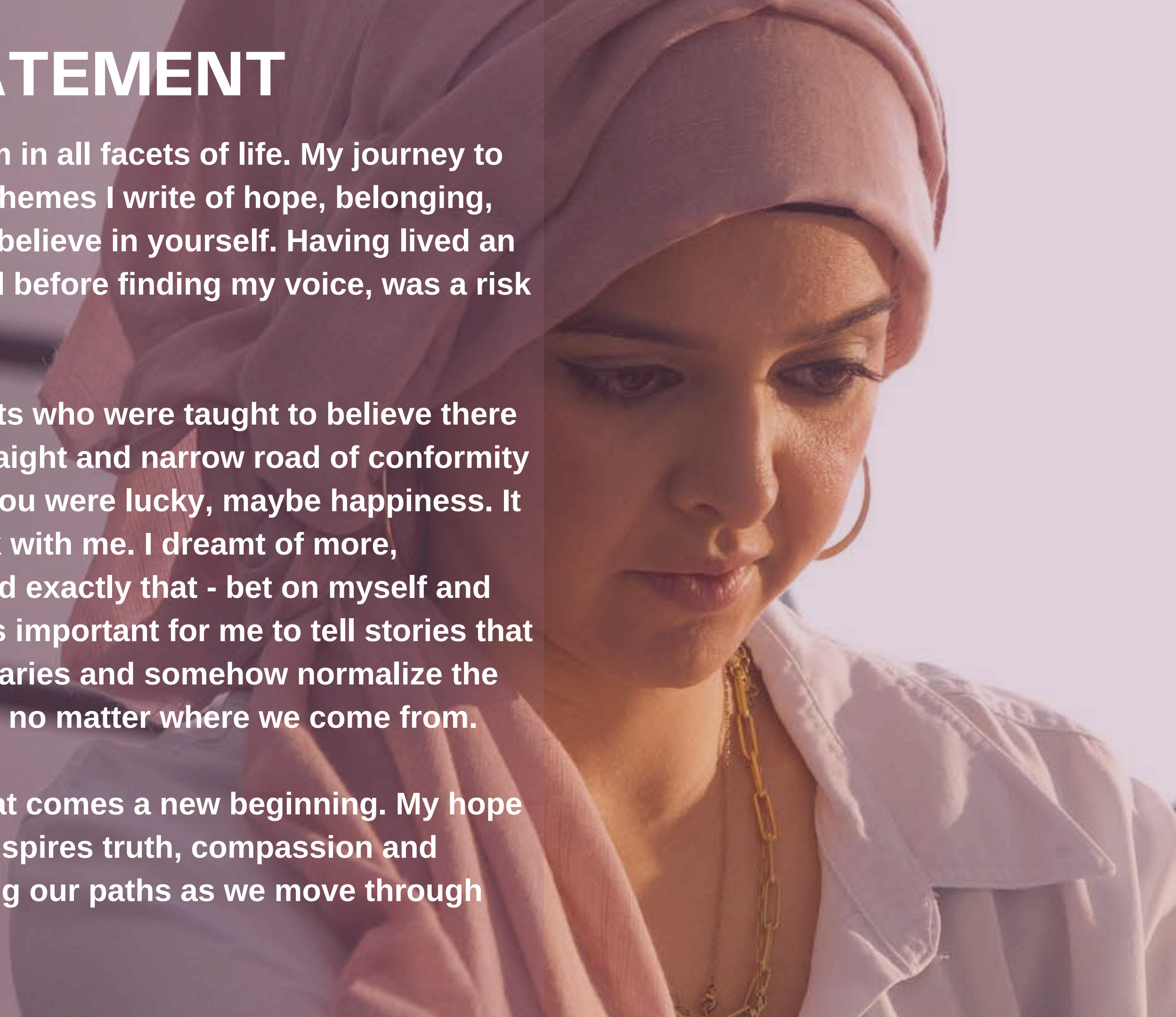
Our hope is that Levelled can transcend gender, religion and culture and serves as inspiration for others to pursue their own dreams.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Storytelling is in my DNA, it's who I am in all facets of life. My journey to pursuing my dreams is similar to the themes I write of hope, belonging, family, love, loss and learning how to believe in yourself. Having lived an undercover double life and losing it all before finding my voice, was a risk I'll gladly do over again.

I grew up with loving immigrant parents who were taught to believe there was always one path to follow, the straight and narrow road of conformity that would guarantee success and if you were lucky, maybe happiness. It was that maybe part that always stuck with me. I dreamt of more, something bigger than myself. So, I did exactly that - bet on myself and began my journey into storytelling. It's important for me to tell stories that can change the narrative, push boundaries and somehow normalize the way we look at family, love, even loss, no matter where we come from.

Every story has an ending but with that comes a new beginning. My hope is that each story I create on screen inspires truth, compassion and transcends our differences, converging our paths as we move through this journey called life!





BTS





BTS



CONTACT INFORMATION



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[@leveled.film](https://www.instagram.com/leveled.film)