

# MEDIA PRESS KIT

Directed and Written:  
Nedda Sarshar

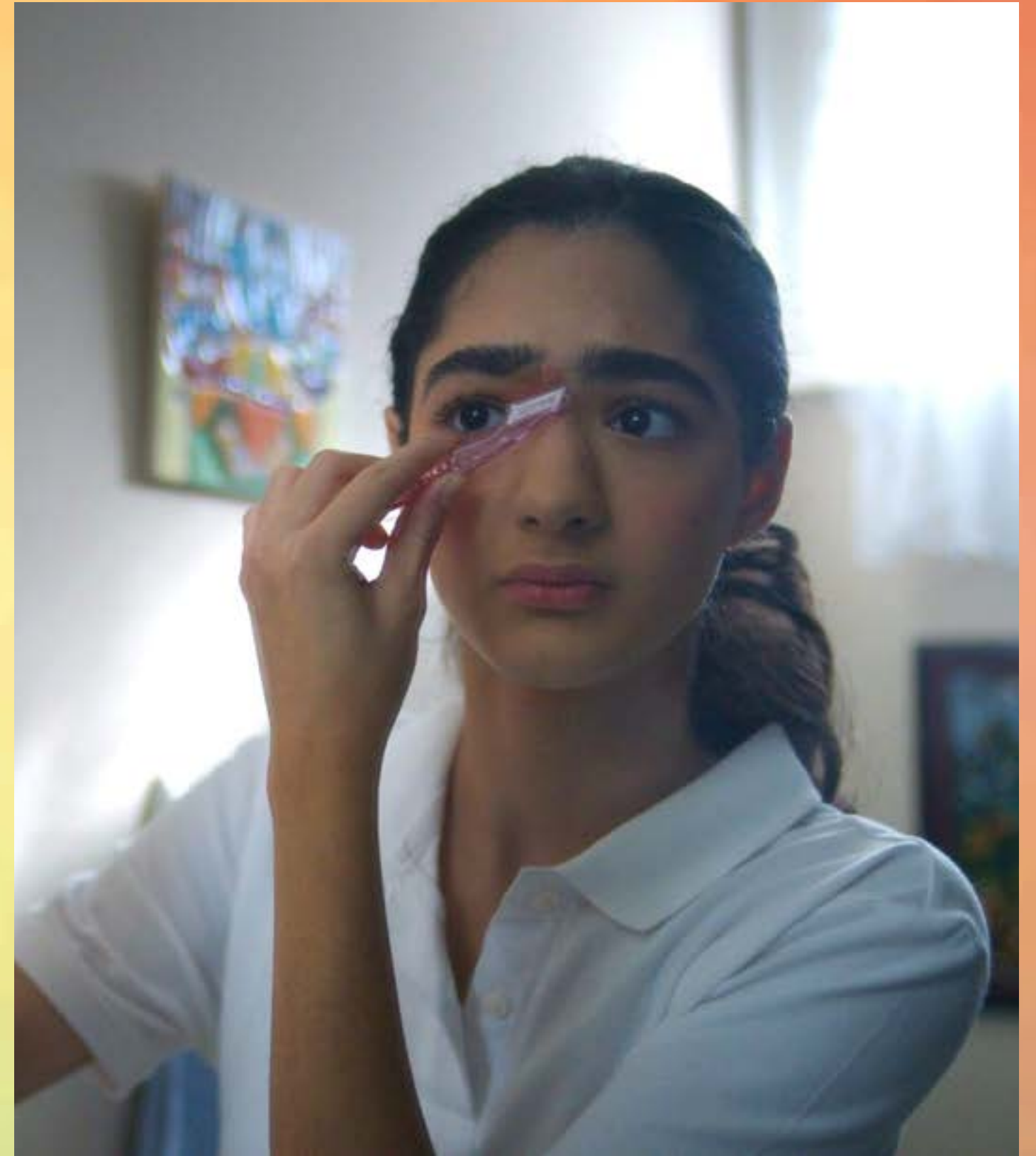


WINDOW DREAMS  
PRODUCTIONS



# Film Synopsis

In an attempt to get rid of her unibrow, Leyla accidentally makes things worse and now has to go to school with ruined brows! Fortunately the new girl at school, Sahar, offers to help "fix" her brows and invites her to her home. Leyla cannot help but be intrigued by Sahar's connection to Iran and her community, and feels her own world begin to grow bigger.





## Director's Statement

I made Unibrow for the little girl that used to fake stomach aches so that she wouldn't have to go to school and be ridiculed for looking different. The initial versions of the script reflected my own limited understanding of the nuance and importance of eyebrows in Iranian culture, but in conversations with other Iranian women, I began to understand the importance of eyebrows in Iranian history and culture and felt like a puzzle piece had suddenly fallen into place. As a girl of Iranian descent attending predominantly white schools, it was never lost on me the irony of being made fun of for a culture and identity I never truly belonged in. I realize now that I didn't need to be treated as a "Canadian", I needed someone to be there to help me understand what it meant to be "Irani".



## Lina Sennia (Lead: Leyla)

Lina Sennia is an emerging actress best known for captivating audiences with her portrayal of Mina Amani in the popular television series "Ruby and the Well". Born and raised in Toronto, Lina's passion for the performing arts was evident from a young age and she could often be found singing, dancing and performing for family and loved ones. With the support of her family, she enrolled in numerous classes to hone her craft. Graduating from the Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts as a drama major, Lina's passion for the arts has only continued to grow throughout the years. Beyond her acting career, Lina finds joy in the great outdoors, indulging in outdoor activities and travel. She embraces the beauty of nature, whether hiking or immersing herself in serene settings. Lina's adventurous spirit and love for exploration fuel her creative and provide inspiration for her craft.







# Parastoo Amanzadeh (Supporting: Sahar)

Parastoo is an Iranian actor and contemporary dancer based in Toronto. She studied Theatre back home at Sooreh art high School and decided to advance her education in Theatre art performance at Humber College. Her love for body movements got her into contemporary dancing/physical theatre when she was 17 years old. Parastoo had the chance to work with many great directors, dancers, puppeteers and actors both in Iran and Canada in Farsi and English. She has performed at Glendon Theatre, Fringe festival, Cahoot theatre, Pia Bounman school of Ballet and creative movement, Tirgan Festival, Children Peace theatre and Theatre passe Muraille at Rutas festival. Parastoo also acted in 4 short films this year, Khastegari, Unibrow, the decision and locked. She had recently choreographed a short piece of solo contemporary movement under the supervision of Dave Wilson at Pia ballet school. Parastoo would like to make her work available for all people around the world regardless of the language they speak. That is why she likes to tell more stories with her body.





## Nedda Sarshar (Director)

Nedda Sarshar is an Iranian-Canadian writer and filmmaker based in the Greater Toronto Area. Her short film idea, *Unibrow*, was the winner of Reel Asian's So You Think You Can Pitch competition and a recipient of the Canada Arts Council Concept to Realization grant. Her other short *Rachel and Raha* (a short film about queer women of colour and their immigrant families) is currently in the festival circuit, premiering at the Canadian Film Festival, and winning Best Short Film at the Toronto LGBT Film Festival and Best LGBT Short Film at the Toronto Short Film Festival. She has completed the inaugural BIPOC TV and Film Kids Writing Program, and was a finalist for the IGP\*BIPOC TV and Film Accelerator program where she was chosen as one of five (out of 90) applicants to pitch a pilot script to a production company. She is also a prose writer, who has been published in places like Huffington Post Canada and short-listed for contests like the Edna Staebler Personal Essay Contest with the *New Quarterly*. Her poetry has been selected for the "Best Canadian Poetry 2023". She loves telling stories about diasporas, identity crisis' and star-crossed lovers.





## Pirayeh Rastgar (Assistant Director)

Pirayeh Rastgar is an Iranian-Canadian Assistant Director and Filmmaker. From a young age, Pirayeh was fascinated by capturing moments with her camera. She always loved watching movies and was curious about what goes on behind the scenes. When she moved to Canada, she participated in her high school's drama class and had the opportunity to be cast as the lead role in the school's play. This experience ignited even more love and excitement for creating art. However, she initially dismissed these feelings, assuming they were just a hobby that would fade over time. Consequently, she decided to study business at Ryerson University. In her third year of study, she had the opportunity to take a few elective courses related to filmmaking, and all those emotions rushed back to her. After much contemplation, she ultimately decided to give her passion a chance and enrolled in Toronto Film School for film production. Since her graduation, Pirayeh has worked in various roles within the film industry.





## Allen Liu (Director of Photography)

Allen Liu is a Taiwanese-American cinematographer residing in Toronto, Ontario. He is a graduate of Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts with over a decade of experience in the film industry. He is invested in telling stories which celebrate the human spirit and uplift diverse voices. He recently lensed the series *Streams Flow From a River*, airing on Super Channel and *Get Up, Aisha*, for CBC Gem. On days off, he enjoys foodie adventures with his wife, kayaking, film photography, and supplementing his Mandarin proficiency with Cantonese. "M Goi!"







## Rabiya Mansoor (Producer)

Rabiya Mansoor (she/they) is a Pakistani-Calgarian comedian, writer, actor, producer, and recovering lawyer. She's co-CEO of Window Dreams Productions Inc. and runs indie theatre company, Poetic License Creations. They have helped develop shows at CBC Gem, Crave, 9 Story, Big Bad Boo, and more. They are a writer for DINO RANCH (Disney Jr/CBC Kids), STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE: BERRY IN THE BIG CITY (Netflix) and POV:ME (Shaftsbury Kids). Her current projects include: digital series GET UP, AISHA (CBC Gem, 2023); ½ hour mockumentary LAYLA IS RELEVANT (JFL ComedyPro Stand Up & Pitch Finalist; Bell Fund Slate Development program); ½ hour comedy QUEER GUIDE TO MATCHMAKING (Netflix-Banff Diversity of Voices Fellow; Reelworld E20; Bell Fund Slate Development program); and feature DIGNIFY ME (CCA Research and Creation). She produced, co-wrote, and co-starred in the critically acclaimed, multi-award winning sketch show, DON VALLEY GIRLS (Toronto Fringe Patron's Pick; David Seguin Memorial Award for Accessibility in the Arts; Why Not Theatre's RISER Toronto; Buddies in Bad Times Queer Pride Festival).





# Shreya Patel (Producer)

Shreya Patel is a model turned comedian, actress, filmmaker, writer, and a mental health advocate. She's the graduate of the Second City Conservatory and can be seen perform improv and sketch comedy around the City of Toronto. Shreya has appeared in lead roles in numerous films, theatre productions, and most recently in Netflix's Grand Army, and FX's Mrs. America. Her first film role in Vivid helped garner the film multiple award nominations. Her directorial debut, the documentary "Girl Up", about domestic violence and human trafficking, has been picked up by the Toronto International Film Festival to partner and showcase the film at the 2019 Civic Action Summit. During this pandemic, she has gathered 66 countries on 6 continents and made a documentary called Unity showcasing the plight of the human spirit. It was the closing film at Munich Film Festival. Following the release of Unity, Shreya remotely directed a music video called Freedom Dance by Faynyx with got over 1.2 million views on YouTube. Rolling Stone India reported about it. She is an honoree of Forbes 30 Under 30, Top 100 Most Powerful Women of Canada, RBC's Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards, and Women's Achiever Award.





## Bahar (Editor)

Bahar is a Canadian-Persian editor. She decided to immigrate to Canada to follow her passion after more than two years of international experience in editing web content and commercials. She graduated in Advanced Television and Film at Sheridan College and joined the DGC right after.

The creative side of filmmaking and storytelling has always fascinated her. You'll find her in front of her computer screen editing with great eagerness, but she will equally be focused while taking care of the technical aspect. She is eager to learn and excited to create. Other than her love for editing, Bahar is a music lover and enjoys listening to good music and also plays the Piano! You can also rely on Bahar for sound mixing and editing.

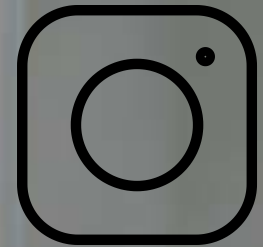




# Contact Information



Email: [unibrowshortfilm@gmail.com](mailto:unibrowshortfilm@gmail.com)



Instagram: [nedsjan](https://www.instagram.com/nedsjan)













