

Finding yourself is a family affair



Venus

a film by
Eisha Marjara

Debargo SANYAL Jamie MAYERS Pierre-Yves CARDINAL Zena DARUWALLA Gordon WARNECKE

COMPASS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS VENUS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY EISHA MARJARA PRODUCER JOE BALASS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KEVIN TIERNEY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC BARBEAU COSTUME DESIGNER NOÉMI POULIN DIRECTOR OF EDITING MARK O'FEARGHAIL
EDITOR MATHIEU BOUCHARD MALO MAKEUP TAMMY-LOU PATE HAIR JEAN-LUC LAPIERRE SOUND TOD VAN DYK SYLVAIN BELLEMARE MIMI ALLARD SYLVAIN BRASSARD
MUSIC GAÉTAN GRAVEL PATRICE DUBUC PRODUCED BY COMPASS PRODUCTIONS DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA FUNFILM DISTRIBUTION WORLDWIDE WIDE MANAGEMENT WITH DEBARGO SANYAL JAMIE MAYERS
PIERRE-YVES CARDINAL ZENA DARUWALLA GORDON WARNECKE AMBER GOLDFARB PETER MILLER JUDY VIRAGO CT THORNE

Fun Film Company Wolfe wide SODEC Québec TELEFILM CANADA Québec THE HAROLD GREENBERG FUND super CHANNEL Canada nsi Features First COMPASS

SHORT RESUME

Genders, generations and cultures collide in this comedy about a modern family unit. A South Asian transgender woman sees her life flipped on its head when she meets her "white" teenaged son she didn't know she had. Montrealer Eisha Marjara gives a fresh take in her directing style, delivering a resounding plea for casting off gender stereotypes.

AWARDS

Winner of Alliance of Women Film Journalists (AWFJ) EDA Award for Best Female Directed Feature (Whistler Film Festival 2017)
Audience Award for Best Feature (Reelout Queer Film + Video Festival 2018)
Best Narrative Feature (Cinequest 2018)
Best Actor - Jamie Mayers (Transgender Film Festival, Kiel, Germany 2018)
Best Trans Performance - Debargo Sanyal (Transgender Film Festival, Kiel, Germany 2018)
Best Feature (Festival MIX Milano 2018)

Writer and director EISHA MARJARA

Cast DEBARGO SANYAL, JAMIE MAYERS, PIERRE-YVES
CARDINAL, ZENA DARUWALLA, GORDON
WARNECKE, AMBER GOLDFARB, PETER MILLER,
JUDY VIRAGO, CT THORNE

Producer JOE BALASS
Compass Productions inc.

Executive Producer KEVIN TIERNEY

Runtime 95 minutes

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Venusfeaturefilm/>

Website <http://compassproductions.ca/portfolio/venus/>

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/225779362>

Contact: Joe Balass, Compass Productions info@compassproductions.ca

SYNOPSIS

SID is under pressure to marry a nice Indian girl and raise a family. Sid's East Indian mother yearns to have grandchildren. Her dreams are about to come true, but not in the way she could've ever imagined. When Sid comes out as a woman, a 14 year old boy named RALPH literally shows up at her door announcing that Sid is his parent. Although surprised to discover that his biological dad is now a woman, Ralph thinks having a transgender parent is pretty cool. But he hasn't told his mother and step dad that he's tracked down his biological father. And then there is Sid's boyfriend DANIEL, who has yet to tell his family of his relationship with Sid. Daniel is nowhere near ready to accept Ralph as a step son and complicate his life further. Sid's coming out has a snowball effect that forces everyone out of the closet. What happens when gender, generations and cultures collide to create a truly modern family?



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Gender is the thematic backdrop in **VENUS**. It sets the story in motion and motivates the cinematic look. The film is bold, high key and colourful. It combines western with eastern aesthetic to reflect the urban dwelling character who is South Asian. While most films with a transgender subject are transition stories with white characters, **VENUS** offers a nuanced perspective with the interracial angle of a modern blended family based in Canada.

As a writer-director, I consider myself a filmmaker without borders. I am not a transgender person, but as an Indo-Canadian woman who has struggled with gender identity issues and body dysphoria, I can empathize with the transgender experience. Gender has motivated my work—from my award winning docudrama **DESPERATELY SEEKING HELEN** to my short film **HOUSE FOR SALE**, and now more deeply with **VENUS**.

VENUS is primarily a story about what truly constitutes a “family.” It is related by a South Asian-Canadian, a child of immigrant parents. Someone fairly successful in the society she calls home, and experiencing the privileges offered to her as an assigned “male” in a western urban centre (prior to coming out as transgender).

VENUS is not just a film about gender. It is also about the desire for integration. The integration Sid Gill seeks is both internal and external. As someone who is transgender, Sid aches to feel at home in her skin. In her community, she desires to feel at home with the people she lives. Integration and wholeness dissolve duality, and this occurs through the experience of love.

VENUS is a new kind of family comedy. It’s a story that breaks down demographic barriers and allows everyone to see themselves in the lives of the characters. The film’s central theme—the desire for love and integration—is understandably universal to all.

Eisha Marjara

CAST

DEBARGO SANYAL (“SID”)



Debargo Sanyal was born in Rochester, New York and is now based in New York City. He is an actor and writer, known for [The Magic of Belle Isle](#) (2012) (with Morgan Freeman), [Everybody's Fine](#) (2009) (with Robert De Niro), [Today's Special](#) (2009) (with Aasif Mandvi). *Venus* is his first feature film lead role. He has worked as an actor in theatre, television, and film.

Other film credits include *Pottersville* (with Michael Shannon), *Quarter Life Crisis* (with Lisa Ray), *West 32nd* (with John Cho), *iGilbert*, *Detours*, *3rd Street Blackout*, *Fort Tilden*, *The Normals*, *Red Hook*, *Drawing With Chalk*, *Made for Each Other*, *Karma Calling*, *Love in Kilnerry*, and the animated film *Sita Sings The Blues*. Television series credits include guest appearances on *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order Special Victims Unit*, *The Americans*, *Billions*, *Red Oaks*, *Crashing*, *Person of Interest*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Damages*, *Law & Order*, *Running Wilde*, *NYC 22*, *The Unusuals*, *The Sopranos*, *Law & Order Criminal Intent* and *All My Children*. NYC stage credits include New York Times-praised performances in the plays *When January Feels Like Summer*, *Telethon*, *Burnished by Grief*, *Linus and Murray*, *Invasion!*, *Bird in the Hand*, *Love/Sick*, *Vanity Fair*, *Your Boyfriend May Be Imaginary*, *Looking for the Pony*, *Women of Trachis*, *Port Authority Throw Down*, *Harvest* and *Barriers*. Debargo was a Guest Artist Actor in the Drama Division of The Juilliard School at Lincoln Center.

JAMIE MAYERS (“RALPH”)



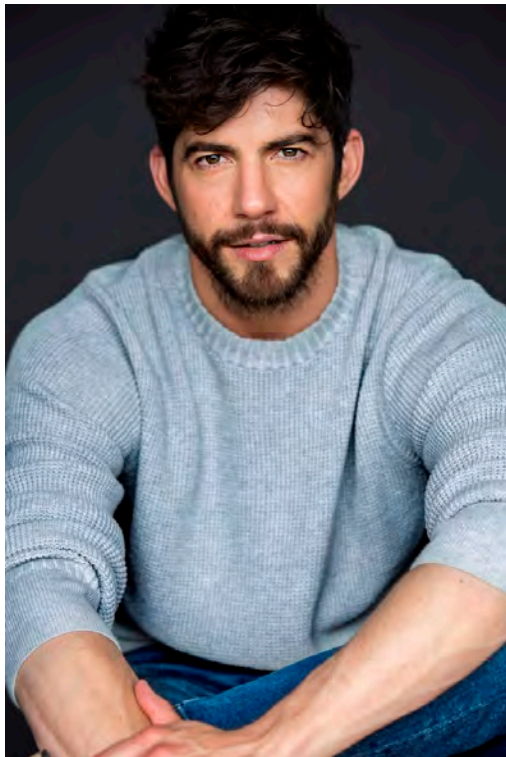
Jamie Mayers has been acting since the age of 10. *Venus* is his first lead role. Jamie’s television credits include: *This Life* (CBC), *Game On* (YTV), *19-2* (Bravo) *Being Human* (Syfi) and *LARPS: The Series* (Web). Jamie’s first professional theatre experience was starring opposite Academy and Tony Award nominee Theodore Bikel in *Lies My Father Told Me*. Since, Jamie has played numerous on stage roles, some of which include Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Gavroche in *Les Miserables*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd*, and Archie in *13! The Musical*.

This past year, Jamie originated the role of Napoleon in *Prom Queen The Musical*. He also worked alongside Matthew Broderick and Whoopi Goldberg as he recreated the voice of Ollie in the Macy's Puppet Theatre version of *Yes Virginia*.

Jamie has been in a number of video games – *Assassin's Creed Origins* and *Assassin's Creed III*. Additionally, Jamie has done the voice work in dozens of radio commercials.

Jamie has participated in a number of workshops in Montreal and NYC and for the past 7 summers, he has attended Stagedoor Manor, a performing arts training centre in New York. When he is not acting, Jamie enjoys writing and directing his own films and playing the drums and guitar.

PIERRE-YVES CARDINAL (“DANIEL”)



Pierre-Yves Cardinal was awarded the Jutra Award for Best Supporting Actor in 2013 for his role as Francis in Xavier Dolan's film *Tom à la Ferme*. Pierre-Yves also appeared in Charles-Olivier Michaud's *Anna*, *Le Garagiste* by Renée Beaulieu, *The Son of Jean* by Philippe Lioret, *Polytechnique* by Denis Villeneuve and *Dédé Through the Mist* by Jean-Philippe Duval. He recently completed his first lead role in an English language Quebec film [Venus](#) (2017) by Eisha Marjara.

On television, he personified hockey legend Jean Béliveau in the series of the same name. He has also been cast in: *Trop*, *Nouvelle Adresse*, *The Clan*, *Premonitions*, *The Escape* and *The Young Wolves*.

In theater, he has worked in both French and English, embodying classical and contemporary characters such as Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*), Orlando (*As you like it*), Cléante (*The Miser*), Don Sanche (*The Cid*), Antonio (*The Tempest*), Antoine de Saint-Exupéry of the desert and Rock (*Max and Charlie*).

In addition, he appeared in François Archambault's *Mort Accidentelle*, presented at La Licorne, in Montreal. He was also seen at the Espace Go, in *Les Deux Voyages* by

Suzanne W. by Marc Lainé. He also played at the Espace libre in *Tranche Cul*, directed by Jean-Philippe Baril-Guérard. Pierre-Yves Cardinal successfully completed the theatrical interpretation program at Option-Théâtre at Lionel-Groulx College in 2006.

ZENA DARUWALLA (“SID’S MOTHER”)



Zena Daruwalla is from Vancouver and has been acting in film, television, and theater off and on for over thirty years. Her credits include [Look Who's Talking](#) (1989), *DaVinci's Inquest*, [Murder Unveiled](#), *Witness: The Amber Frey Story*, *49th and Main*. More recently *Impastor*, *When We Rise*, *The Romeo Section*, *No Tomorrow*, *Once Upon a Time*, and [Venus](#) by Eisha Marjara. Working with director/writer Eisha Marjara, producer Joe Balass and the talented cast and crew was a highlight of 2016. She was thrilled to bring the character of Sid's mom to life.

She credits her longevity in the business to the excellent training she had in the Studio 58 Theatre Arts program at Langara College in Vancouver, and to taking breaks from the business to let life get in the way.

GORDON WARNECKE (“SID’S FATHER”)



Gordon was born in London, England and has worked extensively in Theatre including a season with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Television and Film. Gordon starred opposite Daniel Day Lewis in the ground breaking 1985 movie [My Beautiful Launderette](#) written by Hanif Kureshi, and directed by Stephen Frears. He is also known for [A Fatal Inversion](#) and now [Venus](#) (2017), his first Canadian production for which he is proud to have been a part of. He has also appeared in Franco Zeffirelli's [Young Toscanini](#). He has just finished filming an episode for the British tv series *Holby City*. When he is not acting, Gordon writes and directs short films his production

company One Step Beyond Films. Gordon currently lives in London.

AMBER GOLDFARB (“KIRSTEN”)



Amber Goldfarb is a Canadian Screen Award-nominated actress known for her work on both French and English television shows such as *Lost Girl* (SyFy & Showcase), *King* (Showcase), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Being Human* (SyFy & Space), *Trauma* (Radio-Canada), *Musée Eden* (Radio-Canada) and *St-Nickel* (Unis TV). In the digital sphere, she has appeared on the Emmy award winning series *Guidestones* and is the new leading ensemble character in season 2 of Geek & Sundry's hit web series *LARPs* (Executive produced by Felicia Day) for which she received a CSA Nomination for Best Actress in a Series Produced for Digital Media. A graduate of the prestigious Canadian Film Centre, Amber's most recent television credits include an 8 episode arc as Briana Holt in the CBC series *Bellevue*

opposite Anna Paquin and Allen Leech and as Nicole in the Hallmark film *Love Locks* where she shares the screen with Jerry O'Connell and Rebecca Romijn. Later this year Amber can be caught in the much anticipated mini series *Bad Blood* starring Kim Coates and in a supporting role in the feature film *VENUS* from award winning filmmaker Eisha Marjara.

For the past several years Amber has also lent her voice and body (via motion capture) to over 20 video games, such as *Batman: Arkham Knight*, *Deus Ex: Mankind Divided*, *Far Cry: Primal*, *Watchdogs*, *For Honour*, *Vampyr* and *Assassin's Creed*. While having portrayed several characters within the *Assassin's Creed* universe, she is best known as Aveline de Grandpré, the first female protagonist in the series (*Assassin's Creed III: Liberation*) for which she received an ACTRA Award nomination for Outstanding Performance in a Video Game.

PETER MILLER (“MAX”)



Peter was born in Chibougamau, Quebec in 1968. His father was a telecommunication engineer and his work made the family travel a lot. Part of his childhood was spent in the Bahamas and in 1977, they came back to Quebec. Peter started playing football in high school and eventually obtained a full scholarship at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. His

football career brought him back to Canada, when he was drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1991. After 6 years in the Canadian Football League, he attended the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater in New York. His acting breakthrough came when he returned to his home in Quebec. Peter is now a famous actor recognized across Canada for his role in the 2003 coming out Italian Canadian comedy *Mambo Italiano*, his role as Pierre in *Rouge Sang* (2013), and in the role of Damon in the CBC/ SoapNet television series MVP.

JUDY VIRAGO (“SYLVIA”)



Judy Virago is a New Zealand actress and performance artist. Her work has explored her personal experience of gender transition, catholicism, spirituality and the demystification of transgender bodies and identity. Judy is the co-founder of the Toronto-based queer art collective The House of Filth. As a performer and transgender content consultant she has worked with Canadian art institutions (The Art Gallery of Ontario, VideoFag, Huntclub Gallery) award winning Canadian writers and directors in theatre (Jordan Tannahill, David Demchuk, Cliff Cardinal), film (Zack Russell & Kayla Lorette), and cabaret (Alex Tigchelaar). Zealand. Judy Virago is also known for

[She Stoops to Conquer](#) (2015), [Fall Out Boy: Centuries](#) (2014) and short film [Jackie](#) (2016), and feature film [Venus](#) (2017).

CT THORNE (“MIRA”)



C.T. Thorne is a Montreal-based vintage seller, stylist, actor, multi-disciplinarian currently working on freelance projects and curating vintage in interactive spaces. CT attempts to redefine and contribute limited cultural frameworks of how we view fashion, drag, the gender binary, what constitutes retail from the point of view of the small and independent artisans in the community, as well as artists, dancers, djs and musicians. They are currently working on their business Colt Renfrew with clothing and a series of punk markets called Tiny Flame, creating a forum at an accessible entryway to other queer and trans artists, printmakers and vintage sellers in the Montreal, Toronto, NY areas.

CREW

EISHA MARJARA (WRITER/DIRECTOR)



With a background in photography, Montreal-based **Eisha Marjara** first drew attention with the witty and satirical *THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN*. But it was her feature NFB docudrama [DESPERATELY SEEKING HELEN](#) (2000) that established her as a groundbreaking filmmaker. The film received the *Critic's Choice Award* at the Locarno Film Festival and the *Jury Prize* at the München Dokumentarfilm Festival. It has been described as “*one of the most auspicious film debuts on the Canadian scene.*” Her German-Canadian *THE TOURIST* (2006) was nominated as best short at the Female Eye Film Festival and her transgender drama *HOUSE FOR SALE* (2012) received multiple awards at various festivals. *VENUS* is her first fiction feature. Her photo series and essay on the Air India tragedy of flight 182 *Remember me Nought* was featured in *Descant* magazine. Marjara has also authored her debut novel *Faerie*, (Arsenal Pulp Press) about a teenager struggling with anorexia. *Faerie* has received rave reviews in Canadian and American press.

Marjara has recently been selected for the 2017 TIFF Studio. She is developing her second feature *CALORIE* with Compass Productions. *CALORIE* was also selected for the 2016 Goa Film Bazaar coproduction market and for the Praxis Screenwriters Lab where Marjara was mentored by screenwriter Guinevere Turner (*American Psycho*, *The Notorious Bettie Page*).

JOE BALASS (PRODUCER)



Joe Balass was born in Baghdad, Iraq. He resides in Montreal where he operates an independent production company, Compass Productions Inc. He works in both fiction and documentary. He has produced and directed a number of award-winning films including: *NANA*, *GEORGE & ME* (1997), *THE DEVIL IN THE HOLY WATER* (2002), *PARTING WORDS* (2006), *BAGHDAD TWIST* (2007), and *JOY! PORTRAIT OF A NUN* (2012). Joe Balass also helmed the television documentary *THE LENGTH OF THE ALPHABET* (2013) for Radio-Canada.

He is currently developing Eisha Marjara's CALORIE and AKRAM THE SURREALIST (*Akram, le surréaliste*), a french-language fiction feature with the Iraqi Jewish writer Naïm Kattan. VENUS is his first fiction feature.

Balass' work has screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, DocuWeek, IDFA, MIX Brasil and the Torino Film Festival. He was the winner of the Artv Springboard Award at the International Festival of Films on Art and the Télé-Québec Award for Best Documentary at the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois. In 2014, both the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and the Cinémathèque québécoise honoured him with a retrospective of his work.

Joe Balass also organises the Journées du cinéma québécois en Italie, a festival dedicated to screening Canadian work in Italy, now in its fifteenth edition.

KEVIN TIERNEY (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)



Kevin Tierney is the producer and co-writer of *BON COP BAD COP*, the first ever bilingual film made in Canada, and the highest grossing movie in the history of Quebec and Canadian cinema.

His most recent production, *FRENCH IMMERSION*, also saw him make his directorial debut.

Other films as a producer include, *GOOD NEIGHBORS* and *THE TROTSKY*, both written and directed by his son, Jacob, *LOVE AND SAVAGERY*, directed by John N. Smith and *SERVEUSES DEMANDÉES*, written and directed by Guylaine Dionne.

Over the past 15 years, Kevin Tierney's television productions have been nominated for a total of 11 Emmys and 12 Geminis, including two Outstanding Mini-Series, Best Series, Best Documentary Series and Best TV movie.

Prior to entering the film business, Kevin Tierney spent more than a decade teaching at various levels and all over the world, including Canada, Algeria, Chad and China. Tierney has written widely on many aspects of cinema in such publications as *Sight and Sound*, *The China Daily*, *Cinema Canada*, *Cine Bulle* and *Screen International* and has contributed to the books [Making It](#) and [Selling It](#), both published by the Academy of Canadian Film and Television.

MARK Ó FEARGHAIL (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Mark is a director and cinematographer who helped create *The Take* directed by Avi Lewis and written by Naomi Klein (AFI Best Feature Documentary), *Big Sugar* (Prix Gemeaux & Golden Sheaf Award for best documentary – going undercover to shoot Haitian plantation workers suffering under conditions of slavery), *Empz 4 Life* (Allan King's final film on Black youth in a high-risk community – nominated for both Best Cinematography and the Donald Brittain Award – Gemini Awards of 2007), *A Promise To The Dead* (Peter Raymont's film, winner of the Gemini/Donald Brittain award for Best Documentary and shortlisted for the 2008 Academy Award for Best Documentary). Mark was associate director and cinematographer on *RIP: A Remix Manifesto* – winner of 2008's Volkskrant Audience Award at IDFA and was the first open source documentary produced for theatrical release by the National Film Board of Canada, the Doc Channel and EYESTEELFILM. When not dreaming of durians, Mark can be found most recently on *The Message*: another Klein/Lewis project, produced by Louverture Films. He worked as DOP on 2016 film *White Sun*, by Nepalese director Deepak Rainier, and feature dramatic comedy by Eisha Marjara *Venus*.

ERIC BARBEAU (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

Montreal based artistic director has been working in the industry for over 20 years. He began as a costume designer then moved onto production design on features and shorts including the award winning drama *Ceux qui font les revolutions à moitié n'ont fait que se cruser un tombeau* (2016) by Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie, *Nuit #1* (2011), *Arwad* (2013), *Corbo* (2014).

MATHIEU BOUCHARD-MALO (EDITOR)

Mathieu has worked as an editor in both fiction and documentary including the feature documentary *Gulistan, Land of Roses* (2016) for which he was nominated for Best Editing for the 2017 Canadian Screen Awards, feature drama *Nelly* (2016), the multi award winning *Felix et Meira* (2014) and *Venus*.

SYLVAIN BELLEMARE (SOUND DESIGNER)

Oscar and BAFTA award winner for *Arrival* by Denis Villeneuve, **Bellemare's** credits include Villeneuve's 2010 drama *Incendies*, which was nominated for an Oscar for best foreign-language film, *It's Not Me, I Swear!* and *Monsieur Lazhar* by Quebec director Philippe Falardeau, *Gabrielle* (2013), *Endorphine* (2015) and most recently he worked on feature documentary *Abu* (2017) and on [Venus](#) (2017) by award winning filmmaker Eisha Marjara.

GAETAN GRAVEL and PATRICE DUBIC (MUSIC COMPOSERS)

The award winning Montreal based duo received the SOCAN award for best music for the TV series *Food Factory*, and was nominated for the Canadian Screen Award for best original score for the film *Meetings with a Young Poet* (2015). Quebec's leading composers have credits on features such as *The Cyclotron* (2016), *The Other Side of November* (2016) and *Elephant Song* (2014).

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

A variety of additional Canadian musicians contributed to a kicking soundtrack including the Bhangra duo **JoSH** whose second album *Kabhi*, remained on both Indian and MTV World Top 20 lists for over 26 weeks. Additional music was contributed by electronic artists **Dead Horse Beats** and **Lesbians on Ecstasy**, whose first self-titled was chosen as "Album of the Year" by US magazine *The Advocate*.

Notable Facts on Venus

- Venus was awarded the EDA AWFJ Award for best female-directed feature film at the Whistler Film festival, Audience Award for Best Feature film at Reelout LGBT Film Festival and Best Narrative Feature Film (Drama) at Cinequest Film Festival.
- Venus has been selected for Telefilm Canada's Canada Now series which showcases top Canadian films of the year in the US and the UK.
- This is director Eisha Marjara's first fiction feature, and her second film featuring a transgender subject.
- Venus boasts an international cast of diverse talent, from the UK, US, New Zealand, and English and French Canada. VENUS was filmed in Montreal, Quebec.
- Casting for the lead, "SID" took a year and a half, auditioning actors in Canada, the US and the UK. Debargo Sanyal was found through contacts in the trans and South Asian communities.
- Pierre-Yves Cardinal plays his first lead English-language role in Venus following a series of prominent parts in french-language Quebec films such as Xavier Dolan's Tom à la ferme (Tom at the Farm).
- Producer Joe Balass felt strongly about casting Gordon Warnecke as Sid's Father. As a young gay man from the Middle East, he was greatly moved by where Gordon portrays a young gay Pakistani man in love with Daniel Day Lewis' as a young punk. Hanif Kureishi and Stephen Frear's My Beautiful Laundrette created considerable controversy in its revolutionary portrayal of a male couple in a mixed-race gay relationship. We consider Venus as a 21st century sequel to that seminal queer film.
- No auditions were required for the role of the teenaged lead "RALPH." Jamie Mayers was called in for a table read, and from then on, no other actor was considered.
- Director Eisha Marjara produced a visual storyboard for the film in which she sketched Sid's Mother from her imagination long before auditioning began. When actress Zena Daruwalla appeared, she happened to be the spitting image of the storyboard mom.
- The film title Venus originally referred to the mythic goddess, the ultimate symbol of femininity, then was reconsidered to mean the planet from where the transgender lead SID feels like she comes from. It serves as a poetic metaphor, expressing her feeling of alienation.
- Director Eisha Marjara sought to create a cinematic style that was otherworldly yet grounded with humour and family drama.
- Because of her Locarno award-winning NFB docudrama, Desperately Seeking Helen, director Eisha Marjara has a large following of Punjabi and Indian fans.

“Heartwarming and an absolute delight to watch—with an infectious bilingual soundtrack, to boot—VENUS...presents us with the hopeful notion that if a kid can embrace one’s gender identity, anyone can.” - The Georgia Straight

“Venus is delightful. Gentle. Lyrical. Funny. And, when it comes to depicting the everyday trials and tribulations of a trans woman, authentic, in a way that 99 per cent of similar tales are not.” - Eye For Film

**“...A real extraterrestrial in the landscape of Canadian cinema, *Venus* is a comedy that delivers what audiences are thirsting for onscreen...”
- HollywoodPQ**

**“With oodles of Punjabi family charm (samosas included), a love story that leaves room for personal reflections, *Venus* is both charming and hilarious. Not all films aim to speak to universal experiences...*Venus* is one trans person’s story that looks to explore life beyond the stereotypes, beyond the usual coming out and uniquely at unexpected parenthood.”
- Rampage Magazine**















CREDITS

(opening credits)

FunFilm Distribution

Produced with the financial participation of :

SODEC

Société de développement des entreprises culturelles – Québec

Telefilm Canada

QUÉBEC

Crédit d'impôt cinéma et télévision – Gestion SODEC

Programme du crédit d'impôt du Gouvernement du Québec

Harold Greenberg Fund

Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit

Produced in association with

Super Channel

Compass Productions presents

VENUS

(end credits)

Written and Directed by

EISHA MARJARA

Producer

JOE BALASS

with

DEBARGO SANYAL

JAMIE MAYERS

PIERRE-YVES CARDINAL

ZENA DARUWALLA

GORDON WARNECKE

AMBER GOLDFARB

PETER MILLER

JUDY VIRAGO

CT THORNE

Executive Producer

KEVIN TIERNEY

Line Producer

PATRICIA BERGERON

Casting

ROSINA BUCCI, NADIA RONA

Art Director

ERIC BARBEAU

Costume Designer

NOÉMI POULIN

Director of Photography

MARK O FEARGHAIL

Editor

MATHIEU BOUCHARD MALO

Music

GAËTAN GRAVEL, PATRICE DUBUC

Sound

TOD VAN DYK

SYLVAIN BELLEMARE

MIMI ALLARD

SYLVAIN BRASSARD

Sid

Debargo Sanyal

Ralph

Jamie Mayers

Daniel

Pierre-Yves Cardinal

Mother

Zena Daruwalla

Father

Gordon Warnecke

Kirsten

Amber Goldfarb

Max

Peter Miller

Sylvia

Judy Virago

Mira

CT Thorne

Daniel's brother

Matt Keyes

Blonde woman

Andreanne Tessier

Production Manager

Emmanuel Hessler

Script Consultant

Maria Camila Arias

Story Consultant	Casey Plett, Kathy Adams, Kristiene Clarke, Melissa Kajpust
1st Assistant Director	François Jacob
2nd Assistant Director	Aurore Paulin
3rd Assistant Director	Natalia Grijalva
Continuity	Patrick Aubert
1st Assistant Camera	Martin Protat, Amandine Schelle Véronique Dagenais, Yan Clément
2nd Assistant Camera	Emilie Bertelle
Steadicam Operator	Kes Tagney
Movi Operator	Mathieu Nadon, Olivier Barbès
Set Photographer	Jules de Niverville, Toma Iczkovits
Data Wrangler	Thomas Laliberté-Roy
Head Gaffer	Pierre-Luc Jobin
Key Grip	Julien Appolon
Best Boy Electric	Samuel Labarre, Olivier Ardens Leblanc
Best Boy Grip	Grégoire Hivon, Philippe Sabourin
Swing	Jason Goodall, Kyle Pelletier, Olivier Racine, Antoine Benhini Alex Fillion, Patrick Pereira, Hubert Auger, David Villeneuve
Head Decorator	Alex Hercule
Props Master	Charlotte Gandin
Head Wardrobe	Laurence Gagnon

Key Make Up	Tammy-Lou Pate
Make Up	Kathya Portillo, Xiao Yun Hu
Key Hair Stylist	Jean-Luc Lapierre
Hair Stylist	Gladys Simard
Wigs	Denis Parent (L'Échevelée)
Visual Effects	Sébastien Nadeau, Laurent Bernier
Graphic Design	Mélanie Bouchard, David Seitz
Dialogue Editor	Claire Pochon
Foley Artist	Nicolas Gagnon
Audio Post Production Studio	SPR
Colourist	Marc Boucrot
Technical Supervisor	Alexis Cadorette Vigneau
Online Studio	Film Factory
Titles	Mélanie Bouchard
Legal Consultant	Stephane Moraille
Production Accountant	Mélanie Bouchard
Translation	Normand Boucher
Production Assistants	Julie Kelly, Audrey Blais, Geneviève Richard-Chabot, Alex Fillion, Shaun Gauthier- Vu, Joseph Liane, Monika Bicarova, Christelle Gilibert, Jean-François Paré
Driver	Alain Bolduc
Catering	Christian Marion
Architectural Drawings	Amita Marjara

Archival Material

Dragon Baby

a short film by Patrick Boivin, produced by Stephane Tanguay

courtesy of Productions Kinesis

Selection of photographs by Zena Daruwalla

courtesy of Zena Daruwalla

Transgender Voice Lesson 1

courtesy of Ashlee Edwards

Man with rough-legged buzzard

photo by Robert Fréchette

Additional Music

Softer Lover

performed by Luna Garden

written by Gaëtan Gravel & Patrice Dubuc, published by Ho Tune Musique,

Licensed from Harris & Wolff, courtesy of Gestion Denis Wolff inc.

Time After Time

performed by Dead Horse Beats

written by Patrick Wade

Janon mein Jaanain

composition by JoSH the BaND

performed by JoSH the BaND: Rup Magon & Q. Hussain

lyrics by Kumaar

Sisters in the Struggle

written and performed by Lesbians on Ecstasy

Basic Implosion, BossaBossa, Slow Jam, Tango de Manzana

Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com)

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Young Ruins

performed by Dead Horse Beats

written by Patrick Wade. Licensed courtesy of Bastard Jazz Recordings, published by Taking Brooklyn Music obo Songs From Defend (ASCAP) and courtesy of Defend Music inc, © 2016 Taking Brooklyn Music (ASCAP)

Mahi Ve

composition by JoSH the BaND, performed by JoSH the BaND: Rup Magon & Q. Hussain, lyrics by Q. Hussain

Super Woman

Mixed by Patrice Dubuc and Gaëtan Gravel; Philippe Dunnigan: violin; Madeleine Messier: viola; Christine Giguère: cello; Patrice Dubuc: guitars, bass, keyboards; Gaëtan Gravel: piano, keyboards, string arrangements; Recording engineer: Robert Langlois; Recorded at Studio 270 Montréal

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