



NAHEMA RICCI EVERYTHING
ALL WILL BE
RIGHT

ABDELGHAFOUR ELAAZIZ / DINA REMON
SOPHIE SHEREDS-RITARD
FROISE FANOUX SIMARD / CODERRE AND NOUR BENEHRIA
A FILM BY FARHAD PAKDEB
A MISE EN ABYME PRODUCTION

SYNOPSIS

Leila is a drama teacher who has been keeping a secret from her family back in the Middle East.

Amidst the outbreak of the pandemic in Montreal, she has to decide how to meet the urgency of a call from home when her father falls ill.





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Everything Will Be All Right is shot almost entirely in close shots.

For the most part, the camera stays on Leila, and the audience is irrevocably with her every step of the way. I used this technique to emotionally converge the character with the audience. To intensify this effect, I used 4:3 aspect ratio. The box-like frame of the film highlights a sense of entanglement. The style of framing closely relates to the subject matter. It conceals Leila's secret like she has kept it from her family.

Off-screen sounds play a big role in suggesting what is happening around Leila since the camera is glued to her most of the time.

This approach prompts more active and creative participation of the audience. Most importantly, we never see but only hear her sister. As for her father, in the moment that we assume we will hear his voice, Leila goes to a private spot and leaves the camera/audience alone with the driver as the diegetic witness of her distress. *Everything Will Be All Right* is more about what is unseen, untold, and implied rather than what is explicitly presented.

My films are informed by my interest in visual arts and architecture. *Everything Will Be All Right* allowed me to practice my passion for space in a new way. The human face is a landscape in its own right. The same aesthetics applies, only with an extra dimension: it is not just that we look at that landscape; it looks back at us.



The film starts with a call from home, one that shatters Leila's normal world right from the outset. She is thrown into a situation in which she has to make choices that will define who she is as a moral person. While the pandemic is the collective experience of our time, *Everything Will Be All Right* shows how it can affect each person differently.

FARHAD PAKDEL - DIRECTOR / WRITER / PRODUCER

Farhad Pakdel is an Iranian-born Montreal-based filmmaker whose work explores identity (de)construction, liminality, absence, place, and memory. Farhad earned an MA in Cinema from the University of Art in Tehran, where he taught film courses and experimented with film form for many years.

He is a member of Iran's National Elites Foundation.



(Photo credit: Leila Khalilzadeh)

After moving to Canada, he got his second master's degree in Film from York University.

His thesis film, **THE SCENT** (2020), premiered at Montreal International Black Film Festival.

His short sci-fi **FRAMES** (2019) and his short documentary on immigration **THE FACE OF A CITY** (2021) have screened internationally.

Farhad is currently developing his first feature film as a writer and director: **THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX**, and his first feature as a producer: **THE TEARS OF THINGS**.

NAHÉMA RICCI - LEADING ACTOR

In 2015, Nahéma Ricci obtained her first role in the feature film **AILLEURS** by Samuel Matteau.

In 2017, she was involved in the creative process of the performance **CET INTERVALLE** by Morena Prats.

Nahéma played the title role in the feature film **ANTIGONE** by Sophie Deraspe, awarded in multiple international film festivals. The film won the Best Canadian Feature Film prize at TIFF 2019 and was selected to represent Canada in the 2020 Oscars race.

Nahéma was named one of the TIFF “Rising Stars” and received several accolades for her performance in 2020, notably the Prix Iris for Revelation of the Year and the Canadian Screen Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role.



(Photo credit: Adele Foglia)

Nahéma completed the 2018-2019 program of Danceworks school in Berlin (Germany).

She is the author, director and interpret of the play **IDENTIKIT**, presented at the 2019 Fringe Festival.

Nahéma starred in many short films by emerging filmmakers as well as the feature film **BEFORE EL FINÂ** (2022).

She is also a part of the cast of **BÊTE NOIRE**, a series directed by Sophie Deraspe.

Nahéma will be the lead in that same director’s next project, **MOTEL PARADIS**.

LEILA KHALILZADEH - LINE PRODUCER

Leila Khalilzadeh is an Iranian-born filmmaker based in Montreal. She has directed, written, and produced short fiction, animation, and documentary films that have been showcased at international film festivals, including Berlinale, Festival du nouveau cinéma, and ZINEBI. The versatility of working in different genres allows Leila to be innovative and gives her the ability to, for example, incorporate animation aesthetics into the real world. Her works of fiction are usually influenced by her background in documentary filmmaking.



(Photo credit: Farhad Pakdel)

A Berlinale Talents 2021 alumna, Leila holds an MFA in Film Production from Concordia University, Montreal, and an MA in Cinema from the University of Art, Tehran. She is currently working on different projects as director, producer, and writer through grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and a research agreement with the National Film Board of Canada. She is also developing her first feature film as a writer and director: **THE TEARS OF THINGS**.

In addition to filmmaking, Leila taught film and animation courses and wrote articles on animation and children's movies in Iran. She has also worked as a film curator, most recently at Montreal's International Festival of Films on Art.

CAST

LEILA ... NAHÉMA RICCI
DRIVER ... ABDELGHAFOUR ELAAZIZ
NEIGHBOR ... DINA RENON
EMMA ... ÉLOÏSE TANGUAY SIMARD
STUDENT #1 ... NOAH-MAËL CODERRE
STUDENT #2 ... SOPHIE SHIELDS-RIVARD
AND
YASMINE ... NOUR BELKHIRIA
HEALTH WORKER ... RAÏSSA BEAUDOIN
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ... PAULA DAVIS
TELEMARKETER ... JEREMY ZAFRAN
CAROL ... JILLIAN HARRIS
EX-BOYFRIEND ... JONATHAN EMOND

FICTION | DRAMA

CANADA | 2022

16 MINUTES 16 SECONDS

ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

ASPECT RATIO: 1.33:1

COLOR

SHOOTING FORMAT: 8K

EXHIBITION FORMAT: DCP | 4K | 5.1

A MISE EN ABYME PRODUCTION

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CREW

SCRIPTWRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR
FARHAD PAKDEL
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
ALEXANDRE BUSSIÈRE
ART DIRECTOR AND COSTUME DESIGNER
STEPHANIE BURBANO
MUSIC
STÉPHANIE HAMELIN TOMALA
SOUND RECORDIST
FRÉDÉRIC CLOUTIER
DIALOGUE EDITOR AND RE-RECORDING MIXER
CHRISTIAN RIVEST
SOUND EFFECTS EDITORS
SIMON PELLETIER & SIMON-PIERRE FORTIN LECLERC
LINE PRODUCER
LEILA KHALILZADEH
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JUDY HILAL
CASTING
JOSA MAULE
MAKEUP
TAMMY-LOU PATE
COLORIST
LYNE LEPAGE

