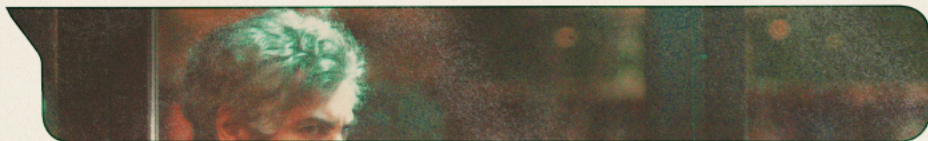


THE
NEW YORKER
presents



COUSINS

10 MILS
PRODUCTIONS

A FILM BY KARINA DANDASHI

Starring KARINA DANDASHI, RIBAL RAYESS, MONICA SANBORN, ZAYN ALEXANDER, Produced by AYA HAMDAN, Director of Photography PETE QUANDT, Production Designer JULIA DIPIETRO, Consulting Producers SEAN WEINER AND ARNO MOKROS, Poster Designer MAGDALENA ORELLANA, Written and Directed by KARINA DANDASHI




THE FUTURE
OF FILM
IS FEMALE

NICESHOES

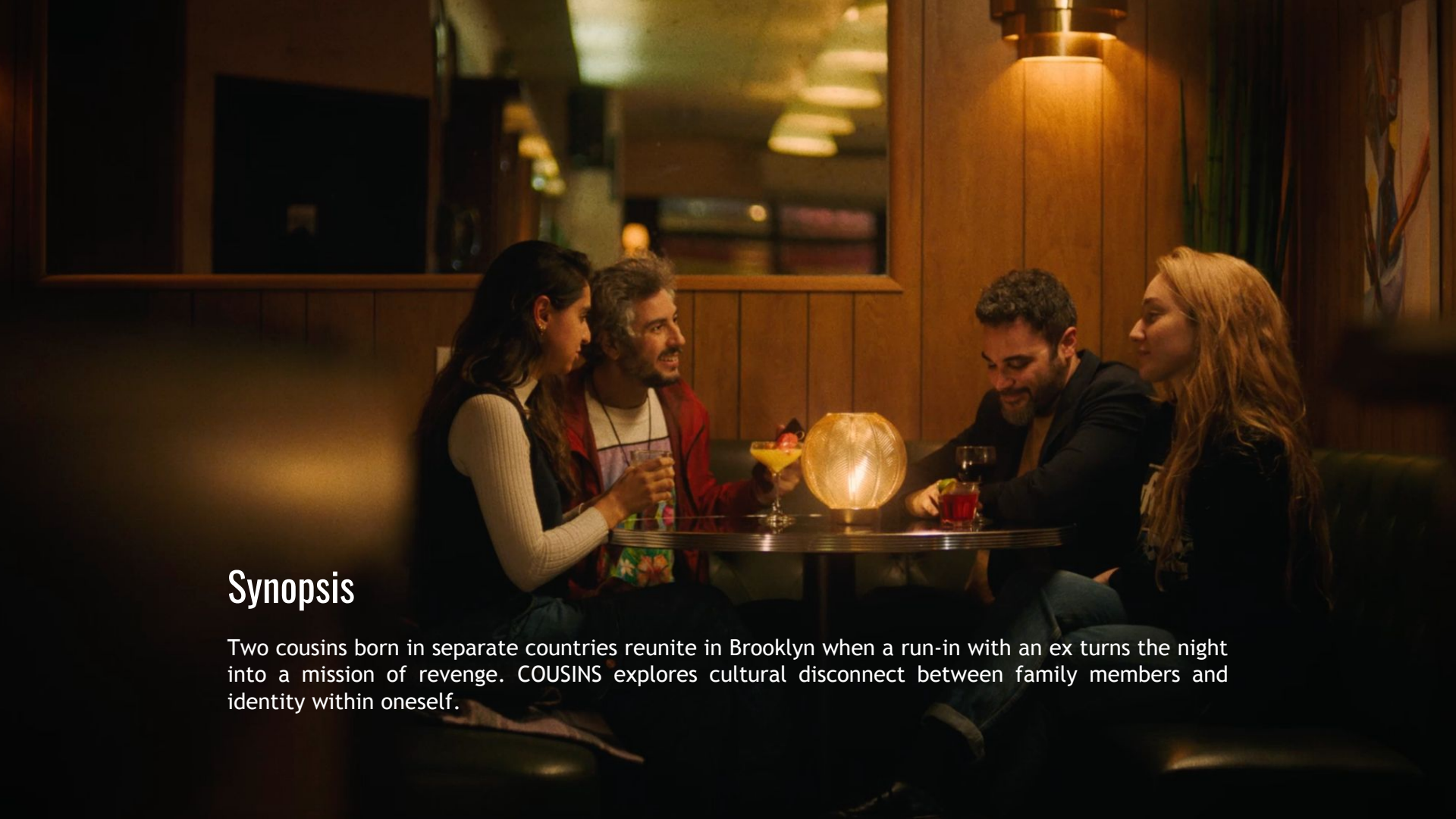


SILVER SUN
FOUNDATION



A man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a red jacket, sits on the left side of a round table. He is holding a glass of water and looking towards the woman. The woman, with long dark hair, wearing a white ribbed shirt and a dark vest, sits on the right side of the table. She is also holding a glass of water and looking towards the man. On the table between them is a glowing, spherical, textured object. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting like a restaurant or bar at night.

Two cousins reunite in Brooklyn when a run-in with an ex turns the night into a mission of revenge.

A group of four people (two men and two women) are sitting around a small, round table in a dimly lit restaurant or bar. They appear to be in conversation. On the table, there is a glowing spherical lamp, a martini glass with a yellow drink, and a glass of red wine. The background shows a wood-paneled wall and a large window reflecting the interior lights.

Synopsis

Two cousins born in separate countries reunite in Brooklyn when a run-in with an ex turns the night into a mission of revenge. *COUSINS* explores cultural disconnect between family members and identity within oneself.



Director's Statement

The lyrics in the nursery rhyme “Al Asfoura” sung by the two cousins asks, “Where is your house, little bird? I only see you flying.” Growing up in America, I often felt untethered from my roots in Syria. COUSINS explores cultural disconnect between family members and identity within oneself. What does it mean to belong somewhere, and how do we find our way back?

A woman with dark hair is shown in profile, looking towards the right. She is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored top. In the background, a monitor displays a video of a man with a beard and a red jacket. The monitor also shows some technical information at the bottom, including a timecode of 01:29:52.2. The overall lighting is dim, suggesting an indoor setting like a studio or office.

Director's Bio

Karina Dandashi is a Syrian-American Muslim filmmaker born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. Her films explore nuances in identity through the intersection of family, religion, and culture in Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) and Muslim communities in America. Her work has been featured in numerous Oscar-Qualifying festivals around the U.S. and recently screened at The Museum of Modern Art. Karina is a 2020 Creative Culture Fellow at The Jacob Burns Film Center and a 2021 Sundance Ignite Fellow. She was featured in Marie Claire's inaugural Creators Issue as one of the "Top 21 Creators to Watch" in 2022.

Producer's Bio

Aya Hamdan is a Palestinian-American producer based in Brooklyn, NY. She is a Film Independent Producing Lab and Rotterdam Lab fellow. Aya founded 10 Mils Productions, through which she leverages her business background, the power of story, and her commitment to representation in the media to support storytellers from her communities. Aya co-produced DUNYA'S DAY, which won the short film Jury Award for International Fiction at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. She produced Karina Dandashi's DRESS UP which premiered at the Oscar®-qualifying film festival Aspen Shortsfest in 2022.





Karina Dandashi is a queer Syrian-American Muslim writer, director, and actor born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. She has starred in three of her short films. *SHORT SHORTS* (2020), *DRESS UP* (2022) and *COUSINS* (2023).



Monica Sanborn is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Her most recent film work includes *Jefferson Ave*. She is a proud company member with Theater Mitu working most recently as a co-creator and performer of *Utopian Hotline*.



Ribal Rayess is a multidisciplinary artist and creative director of Movement Design and founder of Diggers Delight Records. His work delves into the realm of storytelling through the mediums of sound and moving image.



Zayn Alexander is a Lebanese actor and filmmaker based in New York City.

Credits

Starring

Karina Dandashi
Ribal Rayess
Monica Sanborn
Zayn Alexander

Written and Directed by Karina Dandashi
Produced by Aya Hamdan
Consulting Producers: Sean Weiner and Arno Mokros

Director of Photography: Pete Quandt
Production Designer: Julia Dipietro
Editors: Sean Weiner and Karina Dandashi
Additional Editor: Taylor Gianotas
Sound Design: Sara Kaddouri

Music

“Al Asfoura” by Majida El Roumi
“Radio Romance” by Mashrou’Leila

Tech Specs

USA | 13 minutes | 2022 | Color | Digital/DCP | English

Assistant director: Saleem Gondal
Script Supervisor: Ramiel Petros
Assistant camera: Hannah Whisenant
Sophia Feuer
Gaffer: Asya Segalovich
Key Grip: Marina Charriton
Production Sound Recordist: Christian Guinzaca
Production Assistant: Samina Saifee
Still Photography: Sam Ferguson

Colorist: Marcy Robinson
Online Editor: Alex Hartley
DI Producer: Tiffany Gale
DI Assist: Rebecca Conner
DI Assist: Myahdellese Jones
Post-Production Assistant: Sam Ferguson

Titles and Credits: Mariam Al Sairafi
Poster Design by Magdalena Orellana

Bartender Julia Dipietro
Extras Laney Barber
Samina Saifee
Sam Ferguson
Jen Elias
Katelyn Rebelo
Mariales Diaz

Special Thanks

Sean Weiner
Arno Mokros
Caryn Coleman
Karen Sloe Goodman
Katelyn Rebelo
Hannah Whisenant
Ramiel Petros
Sophia Feuer
Rebecca Blandon
Marcie LaCerte
Drew Rodriguez
Kervin Marseille
Mike Towndrow
Sontenish Myers
Hannah Pearl Utt
Ina Pira
Opal Bennett
Megan Costello
Saidah Russell
Nadia Dandashi
Munir Atalla
Tarek Turk
Antonio Salume
Rawan Ezzo
Shawn Koid
Sisi Yu
Gulya Radjapova
Maryam Mir
Laney Barber
Lena Elmeligy
Two Saints Bar
Noah Schamus
Toby Brooks
Jessica Lee
Karim Ahmad
Diego Braga
Dylan Gee
Justice Jamal Jones
Dubheasa Ianipekun
Lindiwe Makgalemele
Maliyamungu Gift Muhande
Natalie Murao
Marilyn Oliva
Juanita Umama



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Social

[@10milsproductions](https://www.instagram.com/10milsproductions)

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



THE FUTURE
OF FILM
IS FEMALE

NICE



Shot on ZEISS Lenses

Anthony Rhulen Grant Award Funding Provided by NewFilmmakers LA

10 MILS
PRODUCTIONS

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