

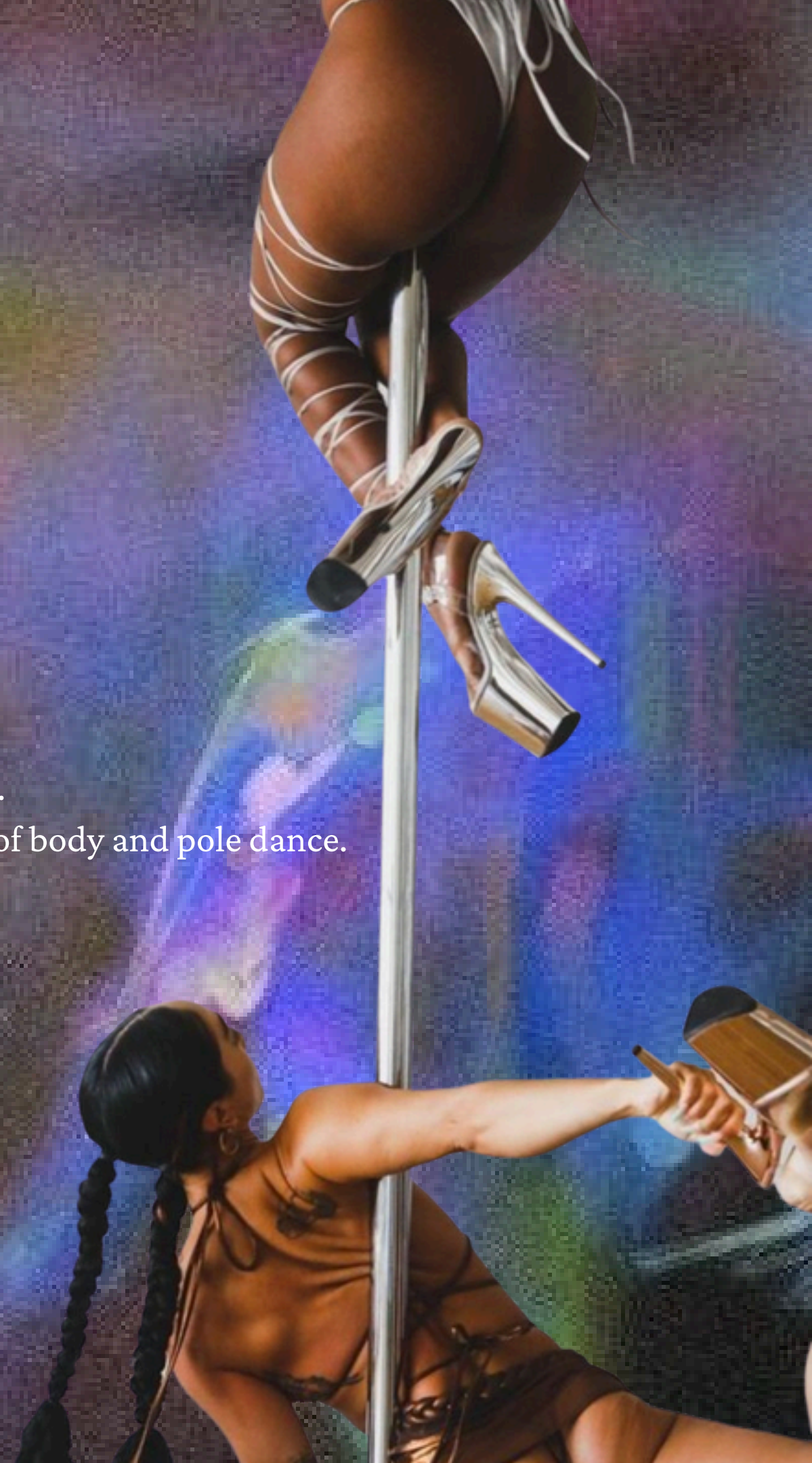
Aria

A romance between mother and daughter in the city of Rome.

An intimate self-exploration journey through the tangibility of body and pole dance.

Written and directed by

Meryie Yu



FILM INFO

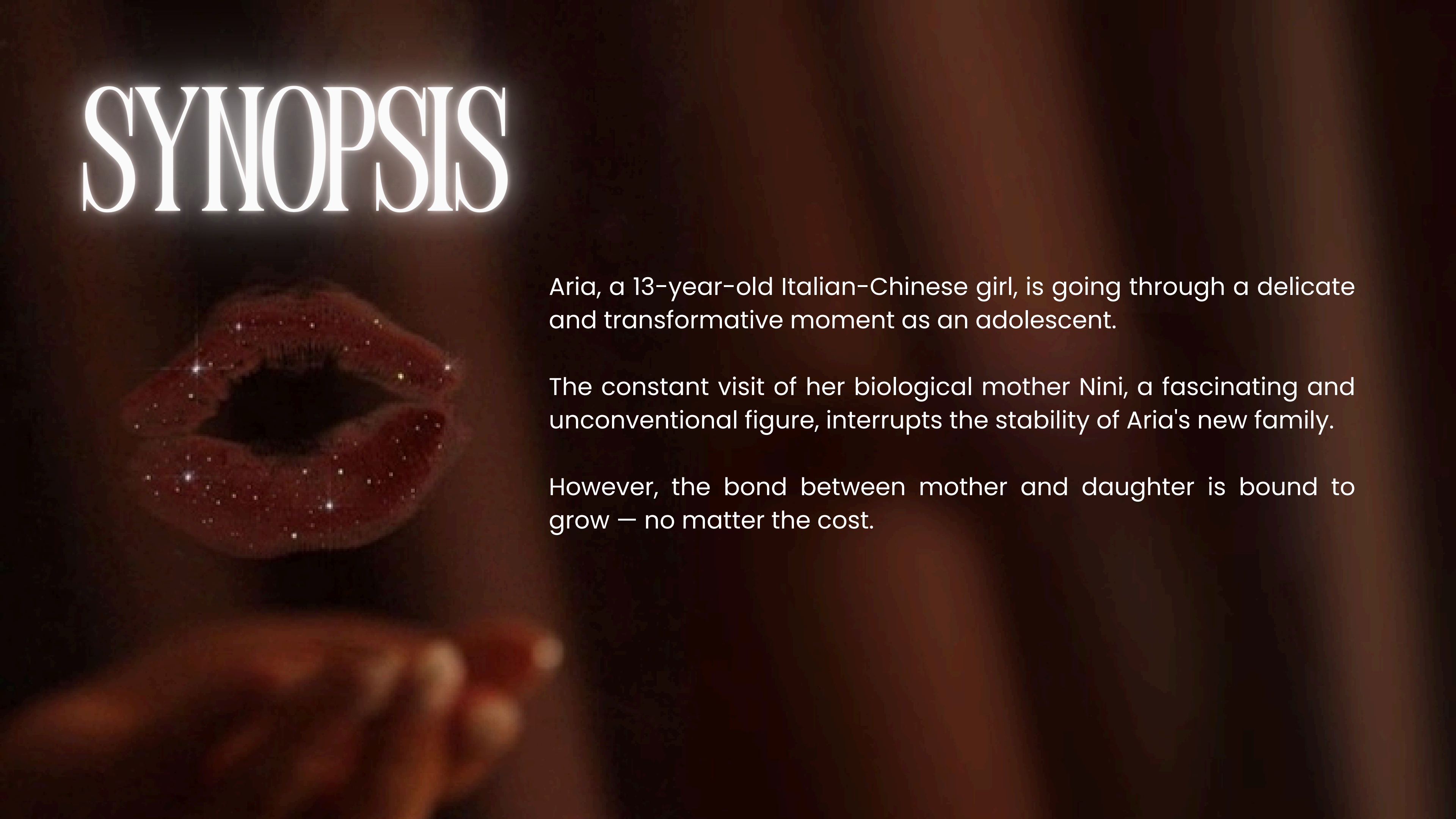
Type:	Narrative short film
Genre:	Coming of age, Family
Duration:	20 mins
Language:	Italian, Chinese, English
Location:	Rome, Italy
Country/Region:	Italy, China, Canada Co-Production

LOGLINE

A mixed-racial teenager navigates the turbulent complexities of family, identity, and desire as her bond with her free-spirited Chinese pole dancer mother becomes complicated.



SYNOPSIS



Aria, a 13-year-old Italian-Chinese girl, is going through a delicate and transformative moment as an adolescent.

The constant visit of her biological mother Nini, a fascinating and unconventional figure, interrupts the stability of Aria's new family.

However, the bond between mother and daughter is bound to grow — no matter the cost.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

1. TEENAGE GIRL SEXUALITY EXPLORATION:

In researching childhood sexuality, I learned that such behaviors are not only common but part of normal development—self-stimulation, curiosity about bodies, role play, even the beginnings of voyeurism and exhibitionism. Yet these experiences are seldom spoken about, let alone shown on screen.



2. MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP

The film also examines the complexity of the mother-daughter bond. We are all, in some way, both perfect mothers and terrible ones. There is no singular definition of a “good” mother; women are multifaceted and can remain free to be whoever they choose, even after becoming a parent. While many mother-daughter stories dwell on generational trauma, Aria focuses on admiration, intimacy, and the possibility of friendship between them.

3. THE ART OF POLE DANCE

Pole dance is an art about intimacy, sensation, freedom and connection. In most films, pole dance lingers in the background: a profession, a spectacle, an aesthetic choice. Rarely is it the heartbeat of the story, the emotional spark of a character, or embraced as an art form. With *Aria*, we want to bring pole dance to the center — raw, intimate, and transformative. Flying and falling, pulling and pushing...It's a metaphor — of exploration, seduction and liberation, and most importantly, of human bonds and connections.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

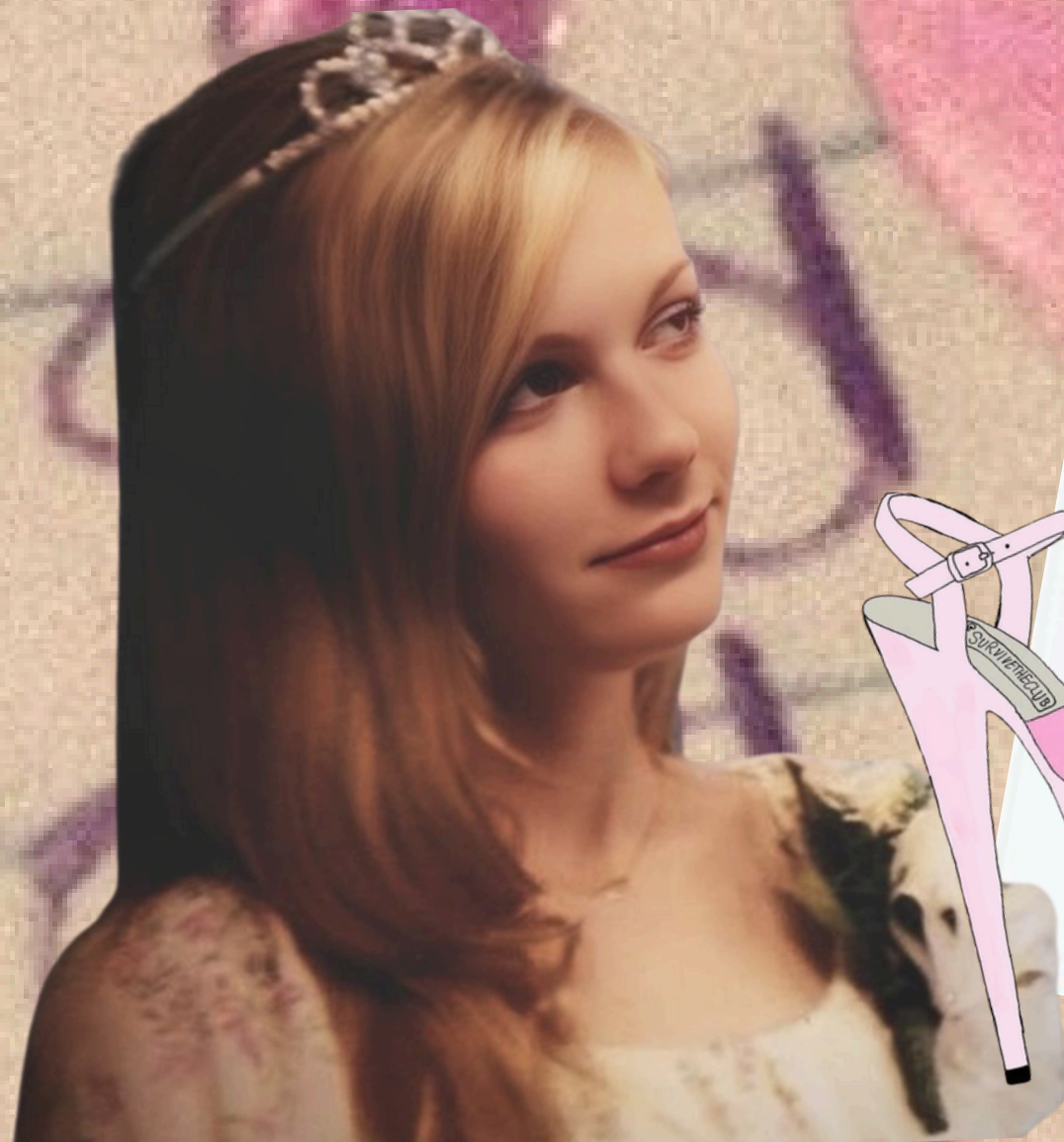


MEET OUR CHARACTERS

Aria

THE VIRGIN

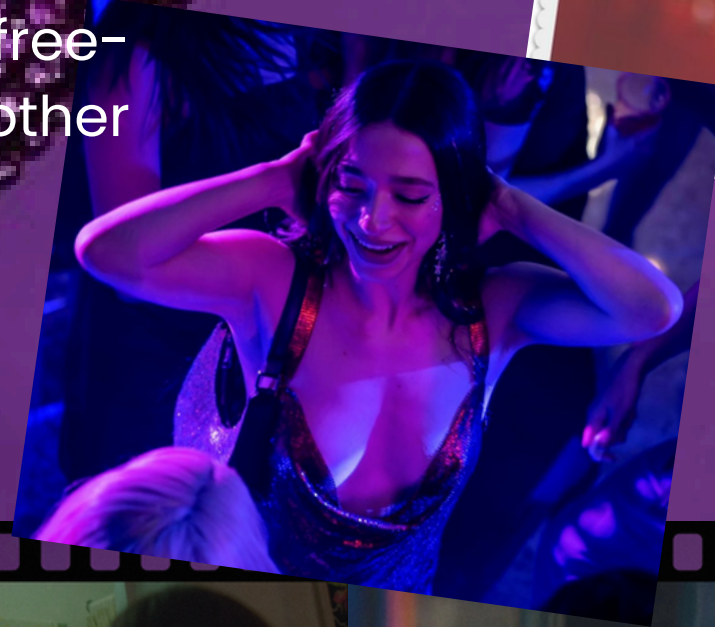
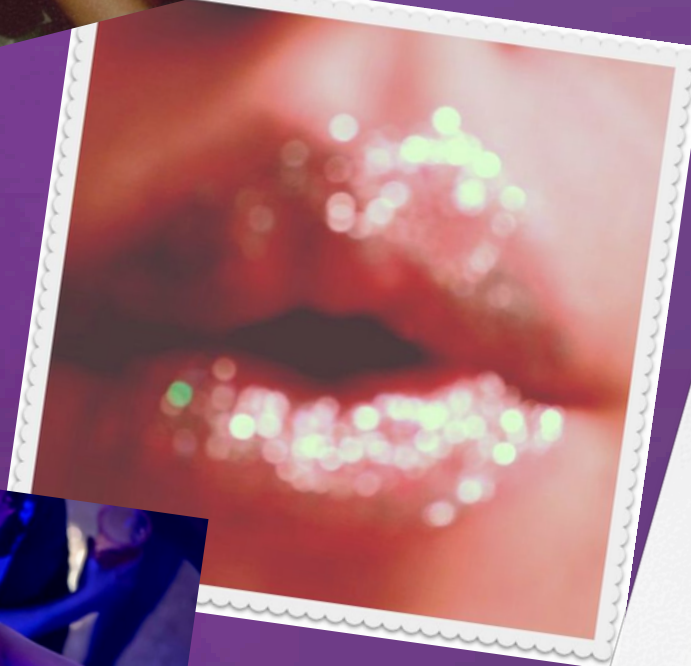
An Italian-Chinese mixed 13-year-old girl who is experiencing her sexual awakening, driven by her curiosity and desire, longing for a woman's body.



Nini

THE SLUT AND THE SEDUCER

An charismatic Chinese pole dancer in her mid-30s. She is a chaotic, free-spirited, unconventional young mother trapped in girlhood.



Marta

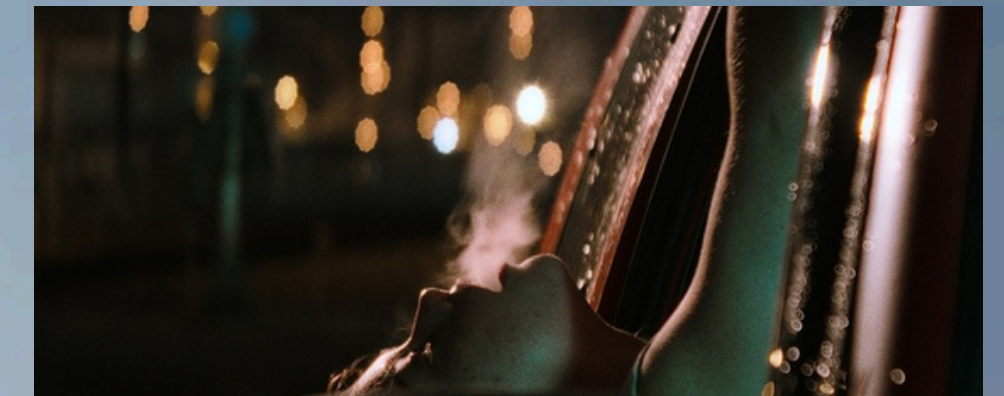
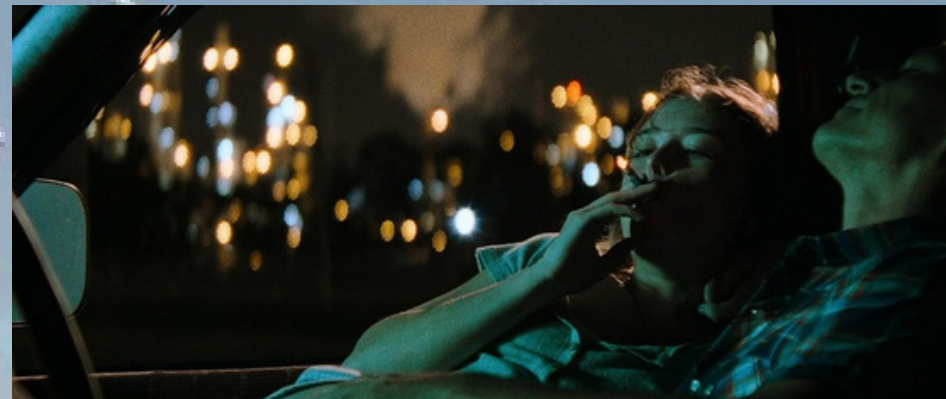
PARTNER IN CRIME

A 14-year-old Italian girl. The elder stepsister of Aria. She has the similar desire as Aria, views Nini as a perfect female figure and the symbol of freedom.



VISUAL REFERENCE

The narrative style of *Aria* is shaped by fluidity and intuition—much like the experience of girlhood itself. Its tone is intimate, dreamlike, and sensorial, grounded in slice-of-life realism yet filtered through a subjective, tactile lens. The camera lingers on skin, fabric, breath—capturing textures and emotional undercurrents rather than traditional exposition. The world unfolds through glances, gestures, and silences, blending Wong Kar-Wai's emotional lyricism with Sean Baker's grounded social realism. Visually, the film drifts between soft natural light and neon-saturated nightscapes, evoking both raw vulnerability and lush fantasy.

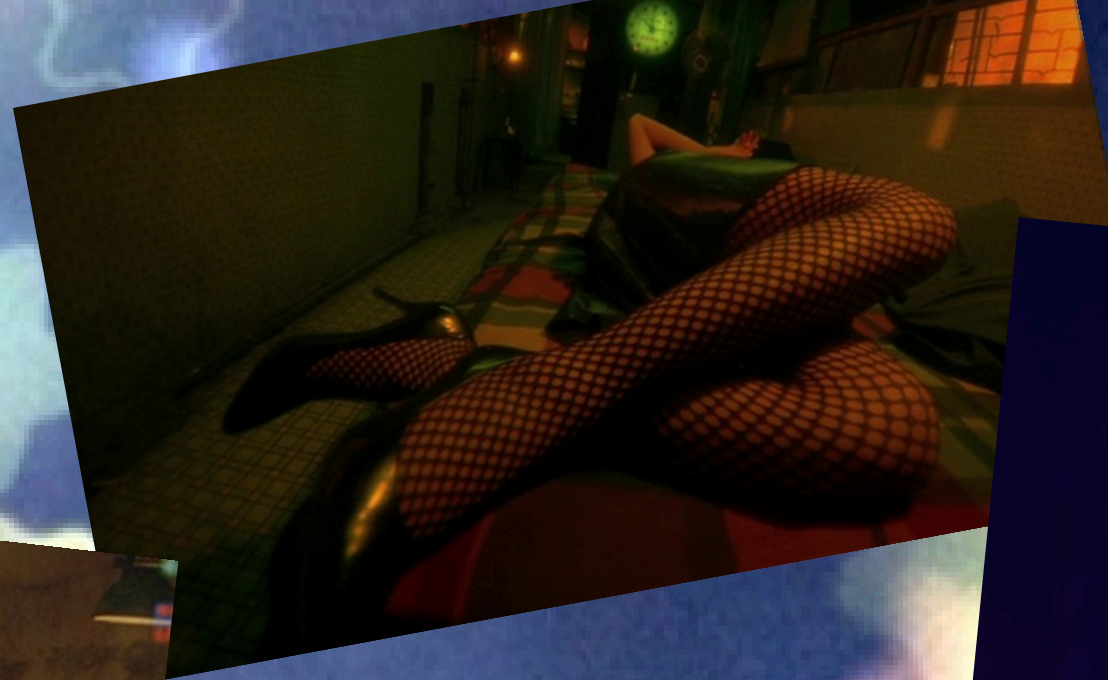


A Delicate Dream

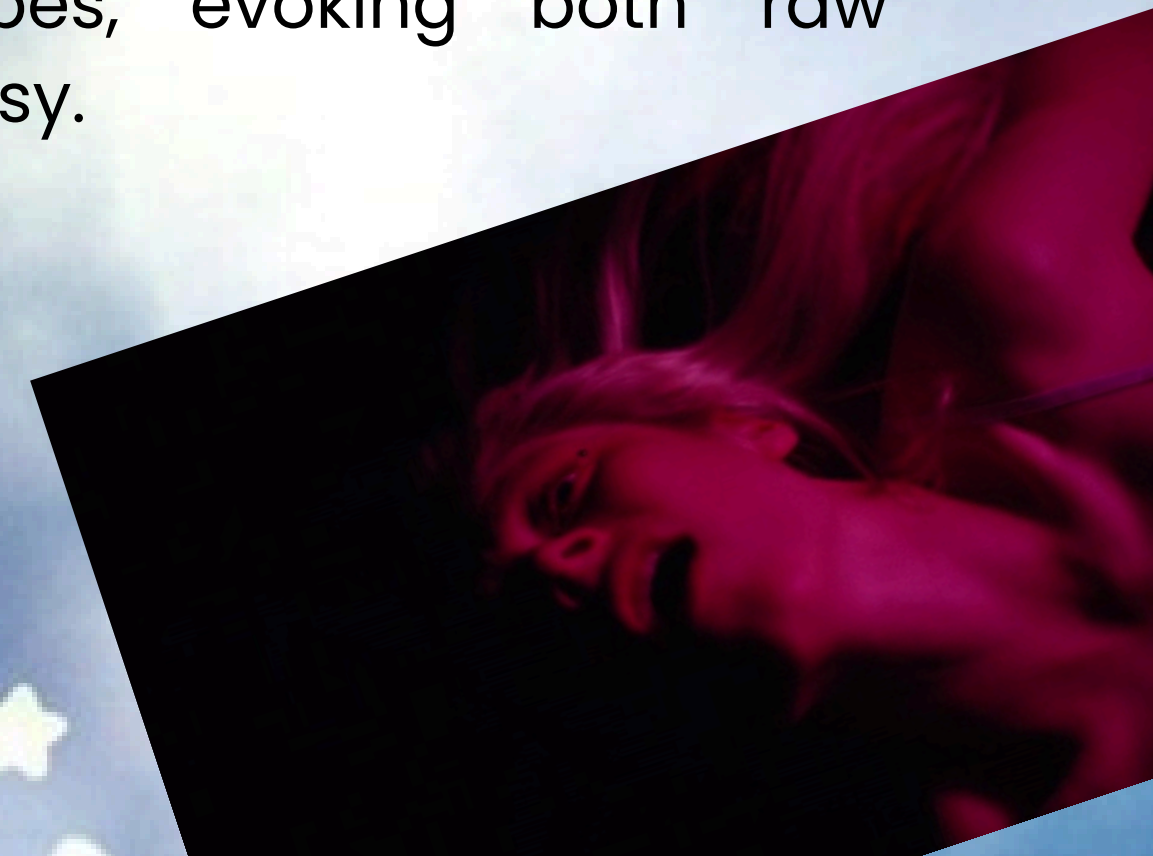
Girls' Secrets



Chaotic Nights



The world unfolds through glances, gestures, and silences, blending Wong Kar-Wai's emotional lyricism with Sean Baker's grounded social realism. Visually, the film drifts between soft natural light and neon-saturated nightscapes, evoking both raw vulnerability and lush fantasy.



Aria vs Nini: Two types of girlhood

LOCATION | SET DESIGN



PRODUCTION PLAN

- Scriptwriting: Jan 2025 – Jul 15, 2025
- Pre-Production: Jun 1 – Nov 20, 2025
- Location Scouting: Aug 15 – Oct 10, 2025
- Casting: Jun 25 – Oct 10, 2025
- Principal Photography: Nov 21 – Nov 26, 2025
- Post-Production: Dec 2025 – Jan 31, 2026
- Distribution & Release: 2026



DIRECTOR PROFILE

Wenjie Yu



Wenjie Yu, born in 1999, is an independent director and screenwriter from China, now based in Rome, Italy. She has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism with a specialism in documentary filmmaking and is now pursuing an MA Film Arts at Rome University of Fine Arts.

Her works blur the line between reality and fantasies, documentary and fiction, focusing on the subtle and unsettling emotions in everyday life, attempting to explore the enormous power hidden beneath the surface of life. Her works were shortlisted for the FBS Screenplay Festival, Macau International Movie Festival, and Lonely Seal Film Festival. As a documentary director, she has also worked on television documentary series such as "The Z Generation in Winter Sports" and "Glorious Journey", broadcast on Tencent Video and the channel CCTV 9.

Recently, she is focusing on womanhood, sexuality, and gender dynamics, meanwhile exploring the life and creative paths of Asian artists in western culture. She is currently developing a docu-fiction feature *Bageisha Condominiale* (The Whore Living Upstairs), a journey of a Taiwanese drag queen in Milan (directed by me). And she is also co-producing an original musical feature, *Sharaoke*, in New York.