

KYBELE FILMS, CEDAR ISLAND FILMS, and LIMAN FILM present
a film by SIBEL GUVENC

LOYA

"We are a part of nature. By saving nature, we save ourselves."



PRODUCED BY SIBEL GUVENC HENRIK MEYER ANDREW WILLIAMSON
CO-PRODUCERS NADİR ÖPERLİ İREM AKBAL WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SIBEL GUVENC

LOGLINE

Loya, a young Turkish storyteller battling cancer, fights for her life and her land that is destroyed by a Canadian gold mining company operated by her birth father.

SYNOPSIS

In the mountains of Artvin in Turkey, in a charming city surrounded by meadows of wildflowers, rushing streams, and village homes, Loya, an eleven-year-old nature-child, helps her fortune-teller grandmother read coffee grounds for villagers to reveal their futures. In these readings, Loya reflects on what she dreams of doing with her life through imaginative stories. Yet in Loya's harsh reality, her picturesque home is now threatened by a Canadian gold mining company that risks contaminating the land and groundwater with mining activities. When Loya's father dies in a landslide due to deforestation, Loya's life turns upside down. Shortly after, she is diagnosed with cancer.

Desperate for support, Havva, Loya's mother, reaches out to Richard, Loya's birth-father. This is a total shock to Loya who thought she already had a father. Furthermore, Loya finds out that Richard is leading the gold mining operation that killed her father and is destroying her family land. Discovering that he has a daughter, Richard finds himself torn between his demanding work, and his truth-seeking daughter. Loya understands it's not only her mother who is complicit, hiding the truth about her birthfather, but so is her precious grandmother. For the first time, Loya feels totally alone as her health continues to deteriorate, and she's rushed to emergency. Facing death, she is determined to save the land of her family to make a difference before she dies.

Mobilizing her classmates to join forces in protest against the mining company, Loya fights for her land, but the mining activities never stop. She tries once more standing tall in front of the machines consuming herself. Her last words are directed to Richard as her father. Devastated by the loss of his newly found daughter, Richard resigns and releases hidden reports for the company to lose the court battle. He couldn't save his daughter's life, but can he save the land?



THE WORLD

Inspired by true-life events, LOYA is set in the outskirts of Artvin, Turkey, a place of natural beauty that is currently threatened by multinational gold mining companies. A father-daughter cross-cultural relationship and three generations of women story set the tone for a film about family, deforestation, climate emergency, and connections to the land.



COMPARABLE FILMS



The Farewell
(Lulu Wang, 2019)

Budget: \$3,000,000
Domestic: \$17,695,781
Worldwide: \$23,076,657

Won 1 Golden Globe Award. Another 32 wins & 157 nominations



Alcarràs
(Salvador Calvo, 2022)

Release: Feb. 24, 2023
Worldwide: \$3,206,018

2022 Golden Berlin Bear Winner Another 17 wins & 55 nominations



Aftersun
(Charlotte Wells, 2022)

Release: Sept 3, 2022
Domestic: \$1,658,790
Worldwide: \$8,098,676

Nominated for 1 Oscar, Another 80 wins & 164 nominations



Dark Waters
(Todd Haynes, 2019)

Budget: \$20,000,000
Domestic: \$11,136,084
Worldwide: \$23,108,017

10 nominations

TARGET AUDIENCE

The primary target audience for LOYA is 25-49-year old millennial couples from many different ethnic and social backgrounds, that watch films with their children (family co-viewing). A secondary audience is 10-24-year old generation Z that wants to see action taken on environmental issues and looks up to young activists such as Greta Thunberg, Elizabeth Wathuti, Jamie Margolin, and Isra Hirsi. The overall audience will skew slightly towards women.

KEY CAST

LOYA NAR (11) loves to make people happy through her imaginative storytelling in the mountains of Turkey, where generations of her family have lived. Her truthful and passionate nature helps her embrace the challenging life ahead of her while she creates a change in people around her.



SAADET AKSOY

HAVVA NAR (32), Loya's mother, has been dedicating her life to Loya, but she can't understand her emotional needs as she doesn't understand her own. She was in love with Richard in the past. After Richard left Turkey to his family and Havva learned she was pregnant, she married Berat to save face for her family and she blames her mother, Erzade for forcing this choice. *After a long auditioning process with our casting director, Harika Uygur, Saadet Isil Aksoy, **an award winning actress** known for *Saf, Twice Born, Eastern Plays, Egg*) is confirmed.*



PATRICK J. ADAMS

RICHARD THOR (42), Loya's birth father, a Canadian gold mining executive, is driven by his desire for success and being in control. He is focused on professional outcomes instead of family and legacy until she meets Loya. Richard is divorced and has a son from his marriage in Canada. In a mid-life crisis, seeing Havva makes him feel young and in love again. *Patrick J. Adams, known for *Suits, Clara*, is interested. He'll be attached once we're fully financed.*



NEJAT İŞLER

BERAT NAR(42), Havva's husband and a distant cousin, who agreed to marry her rather than have her bring disgrace to the family by her out of wedlock pregnancy. He loves Loya as his own daughter. He works for the mining company as a logger and dies in one of the landslides due to deforestation.

*Nejat Isler, Turkish star, known for *10 Days of a Good Man* (Netflix), *Winter Sleep, Barda, Egg*, is confirmed.*

KEY TEAM



DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER: Sibel Guvenc is an award-winning and internationally acclaimed Turkish-Canadian director, writer, and producer based in Toronto with her production company Kybele Films. Sibel has an MFA in Film from York University and an Honours BFA degree in Integrated Media and Film from OCAD University. Sibel is a TIFF Filmmakers Lab and WIDC Director Alumna (Women In the Director's Chair). Sibel has made ten award-winning short films and received thirty film awards and nominations at international film festivals.

Sibel is selected for the 2023 Cannes Film Festival Impact Producers Lab with her first feature film project LOYA which received Telefilm production funding in 2023 following the development funding in 2021 and the 2021 JETS, a co-production initiative in Berlin supported by Telefilm. Loya was also selected for the 2020 Whistler Film Festival (WFF) Producers Lab, WFF Power Pitch, and Netflix Canadian Pitch Day. Sibel is a participant of the 2022 Banff Spark Accelerator for Women in the Business of Media. She was a part of Telefilm Producers without Borders 2016 Berlinale Coproduction Market, CMPA Telefilm Producer Trainee Program, WIDC Story Development and Production, and the WIDC 2018 Career Advancement Module.

Sibel's latest short film, End of the Rope (2020), was officially selected for the 38th Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival. In addition, it received Best Sci-Fi Film awards at festivals from Beverley Hills to Houston with additional screenings from San Francisco to Moscow. Turkish Mesir Macunu (2019) was officially selected and awarded at international film festivals in Canada (7 nominations), Chile, Turkey, India, Romania, the U.S. among others. Sibel's earlier short films fared just as well on the festival circuit. In addition to her films, Sibel was also awarded personally for her work. They include Best Shorts' Humanitarian Award - Honourable Mention, as well as the W. Lawrence Heisey Graduate Award, and the Miron Deca Memorial Award recognizing outstanding ability and achievement in creative work. In her films, Sibel is interested in exploring social justice, issues of power and control, and the future of science and the environment. She portrays strong female characters who overcome social and psychological restrictions in their search for self. Sibel is a part-time professor at Sheridan College BFA in Film and TV Program teaching thesis film production, and advanced directing.



PRODUCER: Henrik Meyer is celebrating the 30th year of his producing career, which he jump-started with one of the most successful comedies at the German box-office in the 1990s, **STADTGESPRÄCH (TALK OF THE TOWN)**. His last film in Germany before immigrating to Canada was Margarethe von Trotta's award-winning Venice-contender **ROSENSTRASSE**, which was picked up by Samuel Goldwyn Films at TIFF and became one of the most successful foreign-language films at the US box office in 2004. His first Canadian feature film production was **EVERYTHING'S GONE GREEN**, written by renown author Douglas Coupland. Since then, Henrik has produced television programs and feature films in Canada, many with European partners, including 2013 German Berlinale-contender **GOLD** and Swiss-Canadian co-pro **SHANA–THE WOLF'S MUSIC**. He is co-president of Cedar Island Films developing and producing scripted series, feature films and documentaries with a strong focus on international co-productions. Recent credits include award-winning feature documentaries **THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN** by Mirjam Leuze and **THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS** by Jennifer Abbott. He is also in development with a slate of drama series together with diverse and strong creators. Henrik has dual citizenship in Canada and Germany and lives with his husband in Vancouver since 2004.



PRODUCER: Andrew Williamson is a producer and Co-President of Cedar Island Films. Cedar Island's **THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS (NFB/TELUS/TELEFILM)** by Jennifer Abbott (The Corporation) opened at VIFF, won Best Canadian Feature Award at Planet in Focus, screened at IDFA and was released in 2021. Doc Weekly called it "one of the Top 10 documentaries coming out in 2021". The film also screened as part of COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland. **THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN (ZDF/ARTE/NFB)** opened DOK.fest Munich & is on Amazon. Before Cedar Island, Andrew executive produced the award-winning doc series **Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGHH** for The Knowledge Network/ Discovery and his first feature **SK8LIFE** premiered at Sundance. Andrew is currently on the board of the CMPA – BC Branch, the Film Advisory Board of Langara University and volunteers with various environment organizations tackling climate change.

TURKISH CO-PRODUCERS

LIMAN FILM



CO-PRODUCER: Nadir Öperli received his BA in Business Administration and MA in Critical and Cultural Studies from Boğaziçi University. He started his career as a film critic, and he was one of the founders of Altyazı film magazine. He was one of the deputy editors of sinema.com from 2004 to 2009. He started to produce feature films in 2007. In 2010, he was selected to the producers' network ACE, and in 2012 he attended the post-production workshop EP2C. He is a board member of SEYAP (Film Producers' Association of Turkey), and a member of European Film Academy. Following his experience in founding Bulut Film, where he produced Seyfi Teoman's *SUMMER BOOK* (2008) and *OUR GRAND DESPAIR* (2011), Theron Patterson's *DARK CLOUD* (2009) and Aslı Özge's *LIFELONG* (2013), Nadir Öperli founded his own company Liman Film. The company's first titles include Emine Emel Balcı's *UNTIL I LOSE MY BREATH* (Berlinale Forum, 2015), Emin Alper's *FRENZY* (Venice Competition, 2015), *A TALE OF THREE SISTERS* (Berlinale Competition, 2019) and *BURNING DAYS* (Cannes Un Certain Regard, 2022). Other than developing, producing and co-producing feature films, Liman Film also offers consultancy, and line production services. Liman Film's current projects include Mete Gümürhan's *MNK BOY* (in post-production), Onur Saylak's *THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD*, Burcu Aykar's *AS SHADOWS FADE* and SİBEL GÜVENÇ's *LOYA*.



CO-PRODUCER: Born in Sivas in 1994, İrem Akbal graduated from Koç University Law and Philosophy Departments with a double major. She worked with several independent theaters during her college year and also produced various fiction and non-fiction short films between 2017-2021. She joined Liman Film in 2021 where they produce narrative feature films as an independent production company founded by Nadir Öperli who produced many critically acclaimed Turkish independent films in the last decade. She also continues her legal consultancy works in fields of intellectual property and copyright law.

CONTACT



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Loya