

GRESA PALLASKA

ARBEN BAJRAKTARAJ

ADEM KARAGA

Albanian's Choice
Best International Feature Film
Oscar Academy Awards
2025



Official Selection
WARSAW FILM FESTIVAL

WATERDROP

BY ROBERT BUDINA

ERAFILM (AL), AVANPOST (RO), REDIBIS FILM (IT) in cooperation with ILIRIA FILM (KO), MANUFATURA PRODUCTION (NM) with the financial support of ALBANIAN NATIONAL CENTER OF CINEMATOGRAPHY, ITALIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, DIRECTORATE OF CINEMA AND AUDIOVISUAL, KOSOVO CENTER OF CINEMATOGRAPHY, NORTH MACEDONIAN FILM AGENCY, CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA, SEE CINEMA NETWORK, A FILM BY ROBERT BUDINA, WITH GRESA PALLASKA, ARBEN BAJRAKTARAJ, ADEM KARAGA, PAOLO IANCU, GERHARD KOLONECI, KLODJANA KEÇO, HENRI TOPI, PRODUCERS SABINA KODRA, CARMEN RIZAC, DANIELE SEGRE, DANIELE DE CICCIO, COPRODUCERS LIJAN KRYEZIU, SASHO PAVLOVSKI, SCREENPLAY BY ROBERT BUDINA, DORUNTINA BASHA, AJOLA DAJA, COP. MARIUS PANDURU R.S.C., EDITOR ENRICO GIOVANNONE A.M.C., ORIGINAL MUSIC MARIUS LEFTARACHE, ART DIRECTOR LEANDER LJARUA, COSTUME DESIGNER EMIR GRAMO, MAKE UP ARTIST SERENA GIOIA, HAIR RETI MEHMETI



WATERDROP

by ROBERT BUDINA

Aida has reached the heights of power in her city. Money, influence, career – she has it all. But what happens when an unexpected crime threatens to destroy everything?

When her son Marku gets involved in a serious accusation, Aida's world begins to crumble. How far will Aida go to protect her son?

Shows on Warsaw Film Festival



20:30



18:00



15:30



13:30



13 October



14 October



14 October



14 October



Kinoteka 1



Kinoteka 1



Kinoteka 1



Kinoteka 3



Get your Tickets

WATERDROP: SUSPENSEFUL THRILLER BY ROBERT BUDINA CHOSEN TO BE ALBANIA'S CANDIDATE FOR THE OSCARS© 2025 –

PREMIERE AT WARSAW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Dear colleagues,

WATERDROP, Director Robert Budina's highly suspenseful and engaging thriller about a strong, independent woman coming to terms with her sons flaws has recently been selected to represent Albania in this year's race for an Oscar©-nomination as Best International Feature. The submission comes eleven years after Robert Budina's first feature film AGON had received the same honors. WATERDROP will celebrate its international premiere in competition at the 40th Warsaw International Film Festival 2024 on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH AT 8:30 PM.

The film follows Aida, a city hall manager in a small Albanian town by Lake Ohrid, who is forced to face her own complicity when her son Mark, is involved in a rape scandal that could send him to jail.

Robert Budina, is an Albanian independent filmmaker and producer. His first short LULEBORË participated in 40 festivals worldwide, winning awards in Tiff, Algarve and Tanger. Budina's debut feature AGON screened at over 30 festivals. A SHELTER AMONG THE CLOUDS his second feature, premiered at Tallinn Black Nights Festival, winning awards in Cinequest, PriFilmFest, Valetta, distributed in Germany & Austria. Budina created

the mini TV series “The Square of Power” with 40% audience share on Albanian national TV before completing his third feature WATERDROP.

A film by Robert Budina

with Gresa Pallaska, Arben Bajraktaraj, Gerhard Koloneci

Thriller, Albania / Italy / Romania / Kosovo / North Macedonia 2024, 91 minutes

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE: 40TH WARSAW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (11TH – 20TH OCTOBER 2024)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 8:30 PM

PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE // _KINOTEKA 1

AT WARSAW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SYNOPSIS: _Aida, a tough business woman living in an Albanian town at the shores of Lake Ohrid, works a lucrative job as city planner responsible for the allocation of EU subsidies. While a large portion of these funds are pocketed by her corrupt boss, Aida isn't above taking the occasional bribe herself to keep her place in the ultra-masculine,

patriarchal world. Her comfortable life is shattered, when her teenage son Mark gets accused of sexual assault by a class mate. Convinced of her son's innocence Aida starts to investigate on her own against the wishes of her husband and the police. During her search for the truth, she encounters a wall of silence, envy and deep seated prejudice – and finally has to accept a heartbreaking reality._

In his third feature film WATERDROP Albanian director Robert Budina explores the painful experience of a mother facing the consequences of her own participation and complicity in a corrupt system. Embedded in a suspenseful thriller the film asks the very profound question: How much are you willing to sacrifice for justice?