

**BIFA NOMINATED 'DYING TO DIVORCE' FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY
TO BE RELEASED IN UK CINEMAS FROM 24TH NOVEMBER**



★★★★★

LET THE MOVIES MOVE US

"A film with a passionate premise, a sophisticated political analysis and incredibly courageous women."
POV MAGAZINE

London, UK: October 2021 – [Dartmouth Films](#) is thrilled to announce that it will release award-winning documentary **DYING TO DIVORCE** in UK cinemas from **24th November** on the back of its recent nominations for both the [BIFA](#) and [Rose d'Or Awards](#) for **Best Documentary**. Winner of the **Special Jury Prize** at **The Golden Nymph Awards** and the **Best Film Amnesty International Award** at the Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, the film will celebrate its UK Film Premiere on 24th November, 18.30 at London's [Rio Cinema, Dalston](#).

Directed by BAFTA nominated **Chloë Fairweather** (*School, I Do at 92*) and produced by CPH:DOX F:ACT Award winner **Sinead Kirwan** (*Still The Enemy Within, When a City Rises*), developed and supported by the **National Lottery** through **Creative Scotland**, **DYING TO DIVORCE** will be released to coincide with the [UN Campaign](#) of '16 Days of Activism' to combat gender violence, starting 25th November. <https://16dayscampaign.org/>

More than one in three Turkish women have experienced domestic violence and the number of femicides is rising. Women in Turkey are fighting back. **DYING TO DIVORCE** follows Ipek Bozkurt, a courageous lawyer, who is determined to challenge this misogynistic trend by putting abusive men behind bars.

Working with a group of activists, Ipek is fighting to get justice for two survivors of horrific assaults: Arzu, married off at 14 to a farmer ten years her senior and Kubra, a successful and glamorous TV presenter. Arzu lost both legs and the use of her arms when her husband fired seven shotgun shells at close range after she asked for a divorce. She must try to rebuild her life to regain custody of her children, who have been taken into care.

Kubra suffered a brain haemorrhage after being attacked by her husband, two days after giving birth. Her injuries resulted in the loss of her ability to speak and walk. Her husband denies attacking her and has

kept their daughter. Kubra must undergo intensive speech therapy in order to testify against him in court. Unless he is convicted, Kubra may not see her daughter again.

Ipek must fight not only against a legal system, which regularly gives light sentences to male perpetrators, but also an increasingly repressive government. After an attempted coup, there is an unprecedented crackdown on dissenting voices leaving Ipek, like thousands of other lawyers, fearing imprisonment.

Filmed over 5 years, *DYING TO DIVORCE* takes viewers into the heart of Turkey's gender-based violence crisis and the recent political events that have severely eroded democratic freedoms. Through intimately shot personal stories, the film gives a unique perspective on the struggle to be an independent woman in modern Turkey.

Director Chloë Fairweather and Producer Sinead Kirwan said: *"We are delighted to be part of the BIFA longlist. After 5 years of hard work and numerous challenges, we are so proud that the creative team and more importantly the amazing women involved in campaign work in Turkey are getting this international recognition. It is particularly exciting as it comes just one month before the film's release which will coincide with the UN's Campaign of 16 Days of Activism to combat gender violence- kicking off on 25th November. We are pleased that DYING TO DIVORCE will now be able to draw even greater attention to the fight against femicide."*

DYING TO DIVORCE will be released in UK cinemas from 24th November – 10th December. For cinema listings: www.dyingtodivorce.com

For all press enquiries please contact:
ARPR – Alex Rowley: alex.rowley@ar-pr.co.uk

Film Stills/Assets: <https://bit.ly/3n79lqb>

TRAILER:

Full trailer: <https://vimeo.com/518266951/e6087156b3>

1 minute trailer: <https://vimeo.com/518259214/3104e4f2d7>

90 Second Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/518271203>

For all international screenings (festivals, educational, institutional), and TV broadcast / VOD enquiries, please email: contact@javafilms.tv

For UK distribution & screenings contact: Dartmouth Films screenings@dartmouthfilms.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

IPEK BOZKURT & THE PLATFORM WE WILL STOP FEMICIDES

Ipek, the main contributor is a lawyer and activist for the platform WE WILL STOP FEMICIDE. The platform strives to stop femicide and ensure protection from violence for all women. The platform specifically campaigns for changes to Turkish law to ensure that women who are murdered or attacked by their husbands receive justice in the Turkish courts.

The platform's activities take a variety of forms, from providing legal support for women and the families of those murdered, to staging demonstrations outside court and collecting data on the number of women killed. Over the years their work has gained global attention. Most recently they have been at the forefront of nationwide protests to stop Turkey's sudden withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, a human rights treaty for the prevention of violence against women.

ABOUT DARTMOUTH FILMS

Dartmouth Films are pioneers in Britain of independent documentaries—finding new ways of funding, making and distributing films which have impact. Recent titles include Grierson-nominated BANK JOB (Hot Docs '21),

BFI-backed ONE MAN AND HIS SHOES (LFF, SXSW '20), BIFA-winning CHILDREN OF THE SNOW LAND and BAFTA-nominated A CAMBODIAN SPRING.

AWARDS:

- BIFA Longlisted for Best Documentary
- Jury Special Prize in the Documentary (News) category at Monte Carlo Television Festival 2021
- Winner Courage Award from Journalistinnenbund e.v (German Association of female journalists)
- Nominated for Prix Europa Award Best documentary
- Nominated for The Japan Prize
- Winner The Best Film Amnesty International Award at Thessaloniki Documentary Festival 2021 (Greece)
- HotDocs 2021, in the Persister programme which features work by women about women speaking up and being heard (Canada)
- Movies That Matter 2021 in Camera Justitia Competition and Grand Jury Prize Competition. Awarded a special mention (Netherlands)

OTHER FESTIVALS:

- Foyles International Film Festival
- Cork International Film Festival
- Flying Broom International Film Festival Turkey
- MILLENIUM FILM FESTIVAL | BELGIUM
- BIOGRAFILM FESTIVAL 17TH EDITION | ITALY | FESTIVAL
- HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN
- Move It Film Festival Dresden
- TERRAVIVA FILM FESTIVAL, ITALY

BIOGRAPHIES:

DIRECTOR - CHLOË FAIRWEATHER

Chloe Fairweather is an award-winning director who specialises in observational documentary and the telling of complex true stories. This is her debut cinema feature. The Welsh born filmmaker started out in TV production over 10 years ago when she was selected for the BBC's Production Training Scheme. From here she learned her craft assisting documentary directors such as award-winning filmmaker Olly Lambert.

Her first film, *Mr Alzheimer's and Me*, was shortlisted for The Grierson Best Newcomer Award and was nominated for a BAFTA. Since then, she has made films for all the major British broadcasters. Her films tackle big issues through intimately shot stories and unique access. Her award-winning film, *Dying to Divorce* has just been long listed for a BIFA and she is in the early stages of developing a new feature length animated documentary.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Dying to Divorce began when I met Arzu just weeks after her husband shot her in the arms and legs repeatedly. I was struck immediately by her unbelievable strength and horrified to understand that the terrible violence she has suffered was by no means unique. I knew I had to find out more. Five years later I still can't believe the dramatic turns both the women's stories and the wider political landscape have taken. This film is a testament to the bravery of women in Turkey and a record of their ongoing struggle.

FILMOGRAPHY

- *Dying to Divorce*, '81 Winner Special Jury Prize at The Golden Nymph Awards (Monte Carlo TV Festival), Best Film Amnesty International Award at The Thessaloniki Film Festival, Courage in Journalism Award, Journalistinnenbund. Recently long listed for a BIFA for Best Documentary. Nominated for a Prix Europa Award and The Japan Prize.
- *Model Behaviour* (in production) Sky Documentaries 60' (3 part series)
- *School*, (2018) BBC 2 – 60' (part of 4 -part series)
- *I Do at 92*, (2016) Channel 4 - 60'- Shot and directed by Chloë Fairweather.

- *Mr Alzheimer's and Me* (2015) CBBC 30' nominated for a Children's BAFTA, Broadcast Award and Shortlisted for Grierson Best Newcomer Award 2015.
- *Taxidermy for Teenagers* (2017) Channel 4 Short
- *Grapes of my Country* (2015) Elle Magazine

PRODUCER – SINEAD KIRWAN

Sinead Kirwan is an award-winning multi-disciplinary producer. Her first feature *STILL THE ENEMY WITHIN* (Grierson shortlisted, Sheffield Audience Award Winner, Focal Nominated) was screened globally. Her film *DYING TO DIVORCE* received a special mention at this year's Movies That Matter Film Festival Grand Jury Prize, screened at *HOTDOCS*, won the Grand Jury Special Prize at The Golden Nymph Awards (Monte Carlo TV Festival) and is part of the BIFA longlist. She is also currently releasing *WHEN A CITY RISES* about the Hong Kong uprising that won the CPH:DOX F:ACT award in 2021 and is currently screening at Sydney International Film Festival.

Her short *I DON'T WANT TO CALL IT HOME* was selected for Edinburgh International Film Festival, Dinard International Film Festival, Cucalorus Film Festival USA, Flying Broom Film Festival Ankara, Cinema Nova Film Festival Lisbon, among others. Last year *PLAYING THE GAME*, a documentary she produced, was broadcast by BBC Scotland. She has also made award-winning AVs and installations for museums and galleries across the world and recently completed her first short drama *BURN ON ARRIVAL* starring Kate Dickie which won The Discover Film Award for Best Thriller.