

Paradise City, Cor Cordium, Edith's Daughter and Giraffe Pictures  
present

# DRIFT

directed by Anthony Chen



France, UK, Greece / English, Greek / 93 min

International Press  
FALCO INK.  
[adrianna.valentin@falcoink.com](mailto:adrianna.valentin@falcoink.com)  
[alex.pelchar@falcoink.com](mailto:alex.pelchar@falcoink.com)

North America Sales  
UTA  
[jessica.kantor@unitedtalent.com](mailto:jessica.kantor@unitedtalent.com)

International Sales & Festivals  
MEMENTO INTERNATIONAL  
[sales@memento-films.com](mailto:sales@memento-films.com)  
[festival@memento-films.com](mailto:festival@memento-films.com)

## SYNOPSIS

---

*Jacqueline (Cynthia Erivo), a young refugee, lands alone and penniless on a Greek island, where she tries first to survive and then to cope with her past. While gathering her strength, she begins a friendship with a rootless tour-guide (Alia Shawkat) and together they find the resilience to forge ahead.*

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

---

When I was first introduced to the material, I was surprised to find myself captivated by what is mostly a “one-woman” story. Even though Alexander Maksik’s novel is a work of fiction, there was a truth in its heroine that felt utterly human and honest. It moved and haunted me in equal measure.

At the heart of Drift is Jacqueline, she is a refugee from Liberia, landing upon the beaches of Greece, putting up a daily fight to survive. But she is not your usual refugee. She comes from a position of privilege, having enjoyed the power and comforts of establishment and now fallen from grace. Jacqueline struggles to belong, to define her very own existence.

For Jacqueline, both her mind and body are constantly at drift. This slowly changes when she meets a tour guide Callie, a complete stranger. They save one another.

I have always been fascinated by the bonds and intimate connections struck between strangers and it reaffirms my belief that sometimes the people that can lift you up the most are not always the people who are closest to you.

This theme of complex bonds between strangers is actually one I keep coming back to in all my films. It never fails to move me, and constantly restores my faith in humanity.

## DIRECTOR – Anthony Chen

---

Anthony Chen is an award-winning writer, director and producer from Singapore. His debut feature *Ilo Ilo* (2013) was awarded the *Caméra d'Or* at the Cannes Film Festival. His sophomore film *Wet Season* (2019) was nominated for the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2021, he contributed a short to the anthology film *The Year of the Everlasting Storm*, which premiered at Cannes. *Drift* marks his English-language debut.



# FILMOGRAPHY

---

2021 – THE YEAR OF THE EVERLASTING STORM,  
Writer & Director  
*Cannes Official Selection*

2019 – WET SEASON, Writer & Director  
*Winner of the Cinephilia Critics' Award at the Fei Mu Awards / Winner of the Best Film at the London East Asia FF / Nominated for 6 Golden Horse Awards*

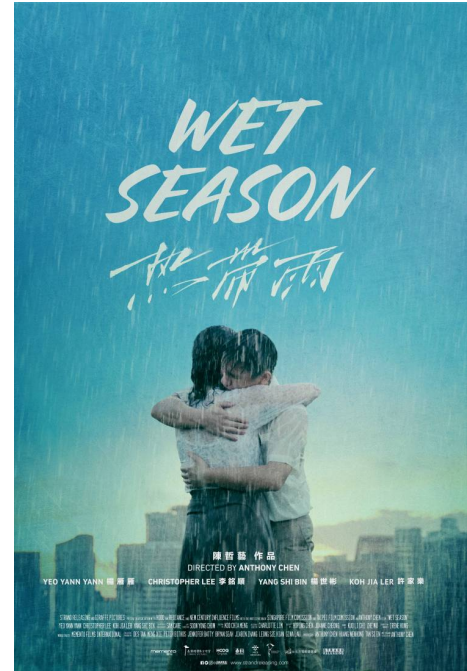
2013 - ILO ILO, Writer & Director  
*Caméra d'Or at Cannes IFF / Singapore's Official Entry for the Academy Awards / Best Feature, Best Screenplay, Best New Director and Best Supporting Actress at the Golden Horse Awards*

2009 - HOTEL 66, Writer & Director  
*Melbourne IFF / Cinemajove IFF / Huesca IFF / Shanghai IFF / Rushes Soho Shorts FF*

2008 – HAZE, Writer & Director  
*Berlin IFF / Best Cinematography at Timishort FF*

2007 – AH MA, Writer & Director  
*Special Mention at Cannes FF / Concours d'Excellence Award at L'Aquila ISFF / Best Short Film, Best Sound Design for Short Film at Asian Film Archive Young Jury Awards*

2005 – G-23, Writer & Director  
*New Filmmaker Award at Asia ISFF / Award for Tomorrow's Cinema at Festival International du Film Indépendant, Brussels / Public Award for Best Short Film at Lyon Asian FF / Best Asian Short Film at Malaysian Video Awards*



## CAST – Cynthia Erivo / Jacqueline

---

Cynthia Erivo is a Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer, author and producer, as well as an Academy Award®, Golden Globe®, and SAG nominee. Since bursting onto the West End and Broadway stages in “The Color Purple,” she has taken the world by storm.

Erivo is currently in production on Universal’s film adaptation of the hit musical WICKED, where she will star as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande’s Glinda in the highly anticipated film from director Jon M. Chu. She was most recently seen starring in Disney+’s PINOCCHIO as the Blue Fairy opposite Tom Hanks, Keegan Michael Key and Luke Evans. The film was released on September 8, 2022. She will next be seen in Netflix’s LUTHER where she will star alongside Idris Elba and Andy Serkis in the feature film installment, which continues the story of the acclaimed BBC crime series.

Erivo has received widespread critical acclaim for her work including two Academy Awards nominations, two Golden Globe Awards nominations and a Grammy Award nomination for her portrayal of Harriet Tubman in 2019’s HARRIET in addition to lending her voice to the movie’s title song, “Stand Up,” for which she co-wrote. Erivo also received SAG and Emmy Award nominations for her portrayal of Aretha Franklin in National Geographic’s Emmy®-winning global anthology series “Genius: Aretha.”



In addition to her illustrious acting career, Erivo is a Grammy®-nominated songwriter and performer, often headlining sold-out shows, symphonies, and music spaces including the Kennedy Center Honors, the 2020 Academy Awards®, the 2017 Governor’s Ball and the 2017 Grammy® Awards. Erivo released her debut album, Ch. 1 Vs. 1, with Verve/Universal Music Group on September 17, 2021.

On top of all of that, Erivo added ‘Author’ to her title in the fall of 2021 with the release of her first children’s book titled, “Remember to Dream, Ebere.” The book follows a young girl named Ebere whose mother encourages her to dream as big as possible. Erivo wrote the book as an ode to a child’s imagination, a parent’s love and the big dreams shared by both.

In August 2020, Erivo launched her production company, Edith's Daughter, and announced her first-look deal with MRC Television & Civic Center Media. Edith's Daughter focuses on projects that express the beauty in the stories and people who are often overlooked and underrepresented. Erivo named Solome Williams as Vice President of the company. Under the Edith's Daughter banner, Erivo will star in and produce DRIFT, which follows a young Liberian refugee named Jacqueline (Erivo) who has barely escaped her war-torn country to a Greek island. The film is currently in post-production and expected to hit the festival circuit in 2023.

## CAST – Alia Shawkat / Callie

---

Success arrived early for Alia Shawkat, and she continues to establish herself as a highly sought-after actress in both film and television. On television, for five seasons she starred in and produced the HBO Max hit genre-bending mystery comedy "Search Party." The show, which premiered at the 2016 SXSW Film Festival as part of the Official TV Selection category, garnered Shawkat much critical praise for her performance as the show's lead "Dory Shief." In the series fourth season, she also directed an episode. Shawkat was most recently seen in the new FX series, "The Old Man," opposite Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow. She portrays "Angela Adams," a rising star at the FBI who is swept into a world of buried secrets and hidden agendas that will put her relationships to the test. Once again receiving critical praise, Decider said about her performance "Decades ago, Arrested Development taught us all that Alia Shawkat is a straight up comedic force. It's time for us to recognize that the main reason why Maeby's elaborate lies and Dory's withering glares work aren't just because of their actor's delivery. They work because Shawkat can sell anything — comedy, drama, and everything in between." She is currently in production on the second season of the Emmy nominated Apple TV+ series "Severance" from Executive Producer Ben Stiller.



Development taught us all that Alia Shawkat is a straight up comedic force. It's time for us to recognize that the main reason why Maeby's elaborate lies and Dory's withering glares work aren't just because of their actor's delivery. They work because Shawkat can sell anything — comedy, drama, and everything in between." She is currently in production on the second season of the Emmy nominated Apple TV+ series "Severance" from Executive Producer Ben Stiller.

In 2022, Shawkat completed production on two feature films - Zoe Kravitz's directorial debut for MGM Pussy Island and DRIFT opposite Academy Award nominee Cynthia Erivo. In Pussy Island, she stars opposite Channing Tatum and Naomi Ackie in the film about a young waitress who sets her eyes on a handsome tech mogul and eventually gets sucked into his world and is invited to an intimate gathering on a private island where she gets the sense that something isn't right. Drift, which is Anthony Chen's English-language debut,

follows a young Liberian refugee named Jacqueline (Erivo) who has barely escaped her war-torn country to a Greek island. She offers massages to tourists in exchange for one or two euros to battle her hunger, while her daily struggle for survival keeps the memories that haunt her at bay. She meets an unmoored tour guide (Shawkat) and the two become close as they each find hope in the other. Shawkat was most recently seen in Amazon Studios' critically acclaimed feature film *Being the Ricardos* from Academy Awards winner writer/director Aaron Sorkin. Alia starred opposite Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem as legendary "I Love Lucy" writer "Madelyn Pugh." She also starred alongside Oscar Isaac in the short film, *The Letter Room*, from writer/director Elvira Lind. Following successful festival run, the short film went on to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film in 2021.

Shawkat's career began at the age of 11 with her feature film debut as a young Iraqi child in David O. Russell's *Three Kings* opposite George Clooney. In 2018, she starred opposite songwriter and musician Ben Dickey in the indie biopic *Blaze*. The film, directed by Ethan Hawke, tells the story of country and western songwriter Blaze Foley, and premiered in competition at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Shawkat also starred in the independent film *Duck Butter*, which she co-wrote with Miguel Arteta and executive produced alongside Arteta and the Duplass Brothers. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival where she was awarded Best Actress in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film. Her additional feature credits include: the independent drama *Animals*, based on the Emma Jane Unsworth novel, Amber Tamblyn's directorial debut *Paint It Black*, based on the book of the same name by "White Oleander" author Janet Fitch, Netflix's Original Film *Pee-Wee's Big Holiday* produced by Paul Reubens and Judd Apatow and indie thriller *Green Room* alongside Anton Yelchin, Imogen Poots and Sir Patrick Stewart, Mike Mills' *20th Century Women*, Clea DuVall's directorial debut *The Intervention*, Adam Green's *Aladdin*, comedic indie thriller *The Final Girls*, Sebastian Silva's *Nasty Baby* (which she co-produced), *The Oranges* opposite Allison Janney, Oliver Platt and Hugh Laurie, *Cedar Rapids* directed by Miguel Arteta, Drew Barrymore's directorial debut *Whip It* opposite Ellen Page and Cherien Dabis' *Amreeka*, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival, among others.

Well known for her role of "Maebly Funke" on FOX's Emmy Award winning cult comedy series "Arrested Development," Shawkat recently revisited the role with all new episodes of the series for Netflix. She played a prominent role in the fourth season of Jill Soloway's critically acclaimed Amazon series, "Transparent," and will return for the show's two-hour series finale. Shawkat was recently seen on the small screen guest-starring on the Emmy nominated "Drunk History," IFC's "Portlandia," Comedy Central's "Broad City" and in a recurring role on HBO's "Getting On."

## FULL CAST

---

Cynthia Erivo

Alia Shawkat

Ibrahima Ba

Honor Swinton Byrne

Zainab Jah

Suzy Bemba

Vincent Vermignon

## FULL CREW

---

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Director                 | Anthony Chen   |
| Writers                  | Susanne Farrell<br>Alexander Maksik  |
| Based on the novel       | 'A Marker To Measure Drift' by Alexander Maksik  |
| Producers                | Peter Spears<br>Emilie Georges<br>Naima Abed<br>Anthony Chen<br>Cynthia Erivo<br>Solome Williams |
| Co-producers             | Konstantinos Kontovrakis<br>Giorgos Karnavas   |
| Director of Photography  | Crystel Fournier   |
| First Assistant Director | Dominique Delany   |



|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Production Designer | Danai Elefsinioti<br>Jade Adeyemi     |
| Editor              | Hoping Chen                           |
| Casting by          | Jina Jay                              |
| Costume Designer    | Matina Mavraganni<br>Mayou Trikerioti |
| Sound Design        | Jean Umanski<br>Boris Chapelle        |
| Original Score by   | Ré Olunuga                            |
| Sound Mixer         | Bruno Tarrière                        |

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

---

### PARADISE CITY

Based in Paris and London, Paradise City is a talent-driven production company and management firm with a vision that comes from our collective experience within Memento International and La Cinfacture, and our combined track record in acquiring, selling and producing award winning films including Luca Guadagnino's *Call Me By Your Name*, Justin Kurzel's *True History of the Kelly Gang* or Nicolas Pesce's *Piercing*.

We produce premium content from strong international voices for the global audience across a multitude of platforms for TV, Film, and branded content, as well as representing a select roster of filmmakers and storytellers.

With over 20 years' experience and through strategic partnerships, our content and clients have garnered international success and accolades from all the major festivals around the world from Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, Venice, and Toronto, as well as secured nominations and wins for the Academy Award, Golden Globes, César, and BAFTA.

### COR CORDIUM

Cor Cordium Productions is a New York and Los Angeles-based production company founded by Peter Spears, the Oscar winning producer of *NOMADLAND* and *CALL ME BY YOUR NAME*. Championing singular voices and stories that speak to the universality of the human experience, Cor Cordium produces character-driven projects for film and television fueled by auteurial vision and a rich tradition of literary adaptation. Recent and upcoming projects include Luca Guadagnino's *BONES & ALL*, which won the Silver Lion at the 2022

Venice Film Festival, and the film adaptation of ON SWIFT HORSES with director Dan Minahan.

## EDITH'S DAUGHTER

At Edith's Daughter it is our mission and mandate to normalize stories of "The Other". Across film, television, and unscripted we seek out character driven stories that highlight, give dimension and create dialogue around those who have often been overlooked and underrepresented, allowing for their stories to live in the beautiful and complicated spaces that make up the human experience.

## GIRAFFE PICTURES

Giraffe Pictures is a boutique film company founded by Anthony Chen and Huang Wenhong. Based in Singapore, the company prides itself as a home for emerging filmmakers in Asia. Giraffe Pictures aims to be an international label for the best of Asian Cinema, focusing on cinematic creativity and vision, telling unique Asian stories that will resonate with a global audience.

# INTERNATIONAL SALES COMPANY

---

## MEMENTO INTERNATIONAL

Memento International is a select sales company that tracks and represents high-profile, director driven independent films. We commit to only 8 projects a year and offer tailor-made synergies and business expertise through production, financing and International Sales. We have recently worked with renowned and award-winning filmmakers such as Asghar Farhadi, Luca Guadagnino, Justin Kurzel, Joachim Trier, Laurent Cantet, Jim Mickle, Cate Shortland, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Kelly Reichardt.