

SHE WAS NOT ALONE

IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Fatima, an inspiring 55-year old nomadic woman, lives with her beloved buffaloes in the rapidly disappearing, ancient Iraqi marshes. This documentary follows her daily dramas and rhythms for two years. Fatima's world is filled with islands of reed, migratory birds, and buffalo herds. While the existential threat posed by climate change appears in the distance like the oil flares on the horizon, the tension in the film builds through the physical and spiritual tests she experiences. Even though forces of ecological and economic collapse push her to abandon her way of life and move to the city, she stands firm through each season of drought and flooding, death and rebirth, and keeps fighting to keep her way of life and her animals alive.

Hussein Al-Asadi

Director



Hussein al-Asadi (b. 1997) is an emerging director, producer, and cinematographer from Basra, Iraq. He began his career working as the Director of Photography for several short films. Soon after, he began to write, direct, and produce his own films. His first short film "Eye of the Mountain" was released in 2019 and premiered at the Ismailia International Film Festival in Egypt. In 2020, he produced and directed his second short documentary film – "She Was Not Alone." The film won several international awards and awards in the Arab world for the best short documentary film. Al-Asadi developed this film into a feature-length documentary project and has participated in the Close-Up Documentary Lab, First Cut Lab at the Doha Film Institute, Final Cut at the Venice Film Festival, and Red Sea Film Festival Market for this project.

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Huma Gupta

Producer



Huma Gupta, a Professor at MIT, is based in Boston, USA. 'She Was Not Alone' marks her debut as a producer. She teaches environmental filmmaking at MIT, producing six short films in 2023 exploring themes like drought and deforestation in Pakistan, Syria, Greece, Italy, and Armenia. Her book project, "The Architecture of Dispossession," delves into Iraqi state-building through the lens of mid-20th-century migrant settlements. Gupta has also trained practitioners using short films in Afghanistan and contributed to the United Nations-Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre to aid those displaced by climate change and conflicts globally.

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