

WALID  
CHAYA

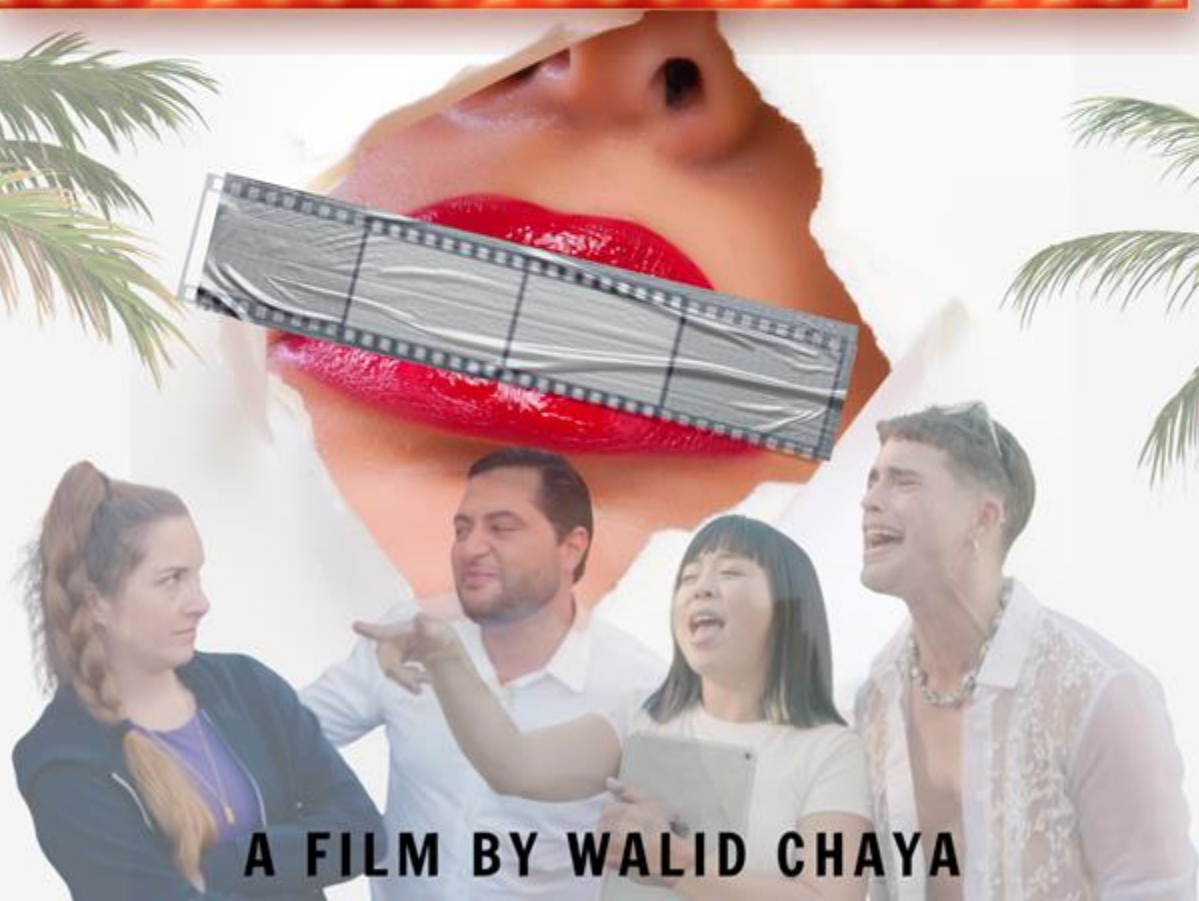
LIZ  
VENZ

QUINCY  
CHO

NELSON  
ARRIETA JR.

# DARN IT DARLA!

FAME DEMANDS ITS DUES.



A FILM BY WALID CHAYA

# FESTIVALS & AWARDS



# LOGLINE

A former child star fights for a real comeback when her manager spins scandals and a sham conservatorship to thrust her back into fame.

# SYNOPSIS

Naveen, once a child star famous for playing "Darla" in a sitcom, now faces the challenges of Hollywood as an adult and is eager to secure better roles for herself as a woman instead of being typecast as a sex symbol.

However, her menacing talent manager, Blake, stands in her way, manipulating her career trajectory. Things take a darkly comedic turn when Blake, along with his fame-hungry assistant Linda and Devin, a washed-up former boy band member, concocts a fake incident involving Naveen and involves the press.

As Naveen battles manipulation and betrayal in this dark comedy, the film sheds light on the insidious nature of artist manipulation, illustrating how such exploitation can lead to conservatorships and strip away an artist's freedom, not only in their work but also in their day-to-day life and autonomy. Alongside this struggle, Naveen grapples with the suffocating effects of a conservatorship, highlighting the pervasive control structures within the entertainment industry.

Through Naveen's journey, "Darn It Darla!" sparks conversations about representation, resilience, and the pressing need for reform to safeguard artists' autonomy and creative expression.





## DIRECTOR'S VISION

"Darn It Darla!" is more than a comedy—it's a conversation starter. The film explores issues that resonate today: the toxic grip of conservatorships, the fight for fair representation of women in Hollywood, and the systemic abuse that strips artists of their autonomy.

Given its themes, "Darn It Darla!" would be a powerful addition to a short film block or as an opening short before a feature with a similar focus. This would set the stage for important discussions about the industry's exploitation of artists and the urgent need for reform.

The film draws parallels to real-world movements like #FreeBritney and the exploitation of figures such as Lindsay Lohan and Amanda Bynes. It serves as a call for change, urging the industry to empower artists, particularly women, to reclaim their autonomy and pursue meaningful work.

I'm proud to bring this story to life as part of my mission to spark change in the entertainment industry. Through Naveen's journey, "Darn It Darla!" aims to foster discussions on representation, resilience, and the critical need to protect creative freedom and personal rights.

As a filmmaker, my goal is to entertain while shedding light on these difficult topics with sharp humor and wit. My previous short, "Driving Ms. Saudi" focused on the #women2drive movement, based on real events to critical acclaim. I hope this film also resonates with audiences, offering a reflection of the industry's flaws and a call for a more equitable future.

-Walid Chaya

# REVIEWS

A woman with her hair in a bun is looking at a man in profile. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a display of awards or trophies.

*"The chemistry between the cast electrified the screen, drawing audiences into Naveen's darkly comedic yet poignant journey."*

**-LA Weekly**

*"Darn It Darla! stood out as a compelling exploration of Hollywood's darker underbelly."*

**-LA Weekly**

*"A bold and darkly comedic take on Hollywood's often troubling behind-the-scenes realities..."*

**-Level Up Magazine**

*"A riveting tale of industry struggles and empowerment, Darn It Darla! is a captivating dark comedy ready to entertain audiences."*

**-Cali Post**

*"Winning the People's Choice Award at an event of this caliber speaks volumes about the film's ability to resonate with audiences."*

**-Cali Post**

*"Together, the cast weaves a fast-paced, razor-sharp satire that feels both immediate and timeless."*

**-Vents Magazine**

# PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



HOME MUSIC BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE INTERVIEW

Actor-Director Walid Chaya Brings "Darn It Darla!" from Stage to Silver Screen Brilliance

By SAM August 10, 2023

2023 BRISK FESTIVAL & STUDIO FOR PERFORMING ARTS LA PRESENT

## DARN IT DARLA

AN UNSETTLINGLY HILARIOUS SHORT PLAY  
BY LAVINIA ROBERTS



brisk festival LA

AUG 26 & 27  
6:15PM

THE MORGAN-WIXSON THEATER  
2827 PICO BLVD.  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

DIRECTED BY AND STARRING  
Walid Chaya

CO-STARRING  
LIZ VENZ,  
QUINCY CHO &  
NELSON ARRIETA JR.

GET TICKETS ONLINE: [tickets.briskfestival.com](https://tickets.briskfestival.com)

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By Todd Swanson



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### DARN IT DARLA!

FAME DEMANDS ITS DUES.



A FILM BY WALID CHAYA

AUDIENCES NAME "DARN IT DARLA!" BEST COMEDY SHORT AT HRIFF, STARRING WALID CHAYA, LIZ VENZ, QUINCY CHO & NELSON ARRIETA JR.

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# WATCH THE TRAILER







# CAST AND CREW



**Liz Venz**  
as Naveen



**Walid Chaya**  
as Blake



**Quincy Cho**  
as Linda



**Nelson Arrieta Jr.**  
as Devin

Writer: Lavinia Roberts

Director & EP: Walid Chaya

Director of Photography: Ryan Constantino

Music Soundtrack: Rawan Chaya

# CONTACT



[darnitdarla.com](http://darnitdarla.com)



[instagram.com/darnitdarlafilm](https://www.instagram.com/darnitdarlafilm)



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[walidchaya@gmail.com](mailto:walidchaya@gmail.com)



*Walid Chaya*

