

**SUNDANCE 2024**
**Alpha Violet heads to Sundance with two aces up its sleeve**

 by **FABIEN LEMERCIER**

09/01/2024 - The French sales agent will be in Park City pinning its hopes on *Sujo* and *In the Land of Brothers*, which are being showcased in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition



*Sujo* by Astrid Rondero and Fernanda Valadez (left), and *In the Land of Brothers* by Raha Amirfazli and Alireza Ghasemi

The major festivals continue to smile upon French international sales agent Alpha Violet. After the 2023 Berlinale, with the competition entry *Tótem* [+], by Mexico's **Lila Avilés** (her country's candidate for the 2024 Oscar for Best International Film), and two titles from its line-up selected for Venice last year (*Foremost by Night* [+], by Spaniard **Víctor Iriarte** in the Giornate degli Autori and *Hoard* [+], by Brit **Luna Carmoon** in the International Film Critics' Week), it's the Sundance Film Festival (18-28 January 2024) that's now looking promising for **Virginie Devesa** and **Keiko Funato**'s team, thanks to two features that will be duking it out in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition: *Sujo* by Mexico's **Astrid Rondero** and **Fernanda Valadez**, and *In the Land of Brothers* by Iranian duo **Raha Amirfazli** and **Alireza Ghasemi**.

After having scooped the Special Jury Prize for Best Screenplay and the Audience Award at Sundance in 2020 with her feature debut, *Identifying Features* [+], Fernanda Valadez directed *Sujo* with Astrid Rondero, her regular writing, editing and production partner. Their new opus, starring **Juan Jesús Varela**, **Yadira Pérez**, **Alexis Varela**, **Sandra Lorenzano**, **Jairo Hernández** and **Kevin Aguilar**, follows the trail of Sujo, the beloved four-year-old son of a cartel gunman from a small Mexican town. After the latter is murdered, Sujo is left an orphan and in danger. He narrowly escapes death with the help of his aunt, who raises him in the remote countryside amidst hardship, poverty and the constant threat of violence. When he enters his teens, a rebelliousness awakens in him, and like a rite of pass:

a young man, Sujo attempts to forge his life anew, away from the violence of his hometown. However, when his father's legacy catches up with him, he will come face to face with what seems to be his destiny. Branded by Virginie Devesa as the "Mexican *Moonlight*", the film was produced by Mexico's Enaguas Cine, with France (Alpha Violet) and the USA (Jewel Ross) on board as co-producers.

Alpha Violet will also have high hopes for *In the Land of Brothers*, the feature debut by Iran's Raha Amirfazli and her fellow countryman Alireza Ghasemi. The story hinges on an extended family of Aghan refugees, who begin a new life in Iran under the shadow of the US invasion, unaware of the ultimate price expected of them as outliers in this (un)welcoming environment: they are Mohammad, a young teenager and promising student; Leila, a woman isolated by geography; and Qasem, who bears the weight of his family's sacrifice. According to Virginie Devesa, "The film represents the various facets of the sacrifices endured by a community in exile and the strength it gives them." Production duties were handled by French outfit Furyo Films (**Adrien Barrouillet**, **Charles Meresse** and **Emma Binet**), Iran's Limited Circle (the filmmakers' own company) and Dutch firm Baldr Film (**Frank Hoeve**), with Cinema Tehran serving as a co-producer.

(Translated from French)

## related news

10/01/2024

**Cyprus Film Days 2024** –

Dot.on.the.map Industry Days

Dot.on.the.Map Industry Days is on the lookout for its next projects

09/01/2024

**Berlinale 2024** – EFM

The 21st Berlinale Co-Production Market announces its selection

24/12/2023

**Industry / Market** – Moldova

Moldova hosted the first edition of the Cinema Hora international forum

24/12/2023

**Industry / Market** – Egypt

CineGouna SpringBoard awards European co-productions

22/12/2023

**Les Arcs 2023** – Industry Village

REPORT: Industry Village @ Les Arcs 2023

21/12/2023

**Industry / Market** – Italy

The "New professions for new scenarios" panel explores new roles within the global film industry and the importance of training

[all news](#)

[amomama.com](https://amomama.com)

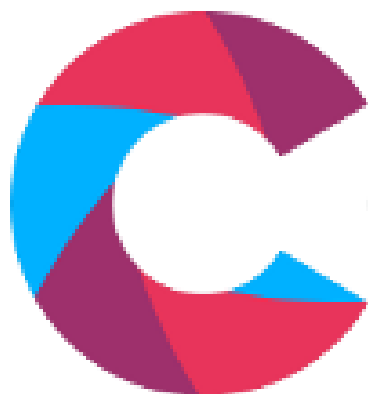
[VISIT SITE](#)



[Privacy Policy](#)

## Copyright Disclaimer

The images used on this website have been provided by journalists and are believed to be free of rights. However, if you are the owner of an image used on this website and believe that its use infringes on your copyright, please contact us immediately. We will remove the image in question as soon as possible. We have made reasonable efforts to ensure that all images used on this website are used legally and in accordance with copyright laws.



cineuropa



Creative  
Europe  
MEDIA