

BIG IN GAZI BABA

DOCUMENTARY FILM IN PRODUCTION


ALJAZEERA BALKANS
MAIN PITCH AWARD


CANNES DOCS
MARCHÉ DU FILM
MARCHÉ DU
FILM AWARD


IDF - EAST SILVER
CARAVAN AWARD


EURO
DOC
AWARD FOR
THE BEST PITCH

goEast >


FEST


Sheffield
2024 DocFest
OFFICIAL SELECTION


DOCS IRELAND

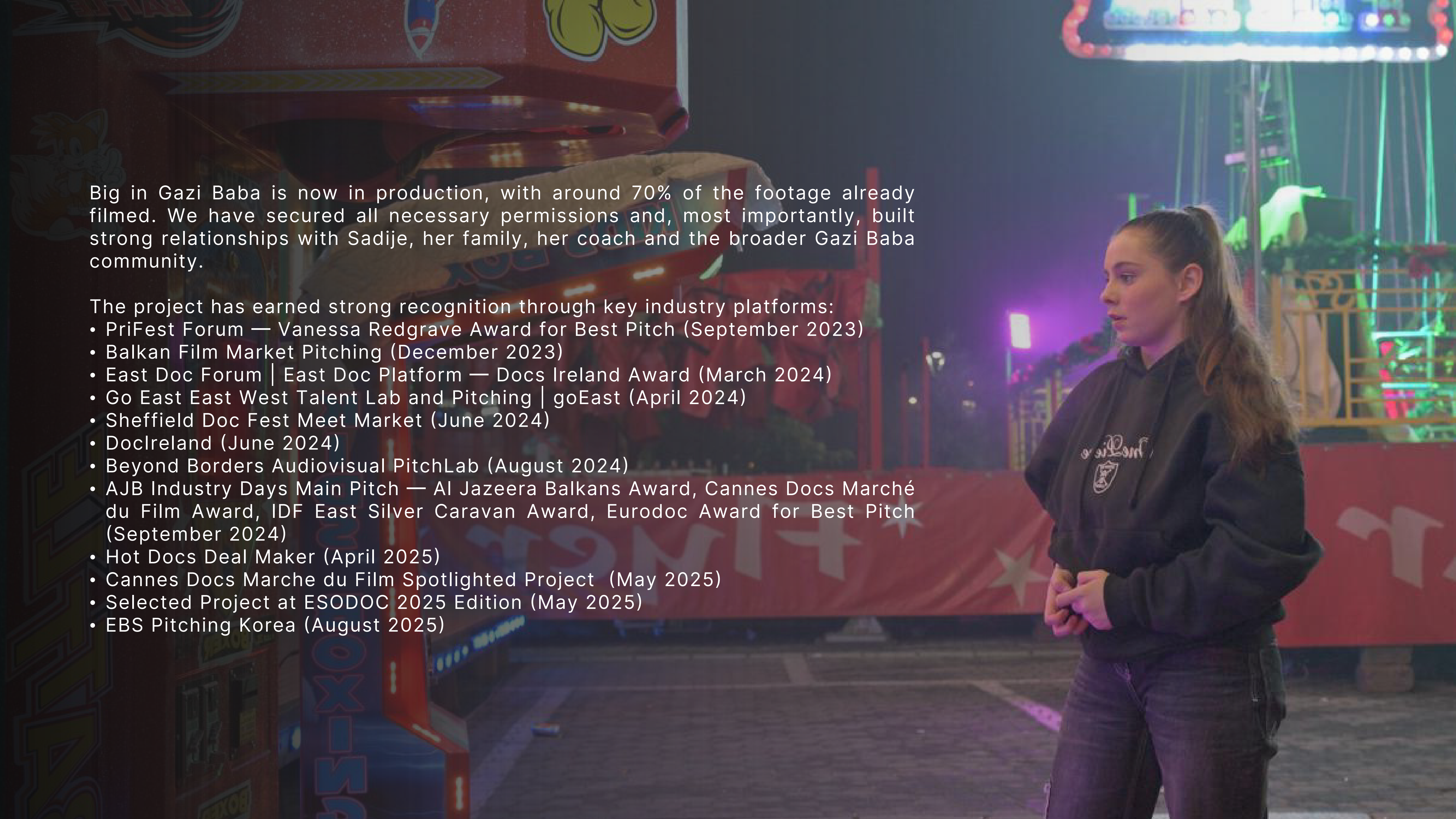
A FILM BY PAULINE BLANCHET



A group of young people, mostly men, are lined up in profile, looking towards the left. They are wearing dark blue shirts. In the foreground, a young woman with long brown hair tied in a ponytail is also in profile, looking towards the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with some buildings and trees.

LOGLINE

In one of North Macedonia's toughest neighbourhoods, 14-year-old Sadije is the only girl in her wrestling club and raised as her family's son - expected to lead in a household with no boys. As she becomes a champion, she must find her own path through the painful transformation into a young matriarch.

A woman with long brown hair tied back, wearing a black hoodie and dark pants, stands in profile looking to the left. She is in a vibrant, illuminated outdoor setting at night, likely a festival or market. The background features colorful lights, a red banner with white stars, and various structures. The lighting is a mix of purple, blue, and red, creating a festive atmosphere.

Big in Gazi Baba is now in production, with around 70% of the footage already filmed. We have secured all necessary permissions and, most importantly, built strong relationships with Sadije, her family, her coach and the broader Gazi Baba community.

The project has earned strong recognition through key industry platforms:

- PriFest Forum — Vanessa Redgrave Award for Best Pitch (September 2023)
- Balkan Film Market Pitching (December 2023)
- East Doc Forum | East Doc Platform — Docs Ireland Award (March 2024)
- Go East East West Talent Lab and Pitching | goEast (April 2024)
- Sheffield Doc Fest Meet Market (June 2024)
- DocIreland (June 2024)
- Beyond Borders Audiovisual PitchLab (August 2024)
- AIB Industry Days Main Pitch — Al Jazeera Balkans Award, Cannes Docs Marché du Film Award, IDF East Silver Caravan Award, Eurodoc Award for Best Pitch (September 2024)
- Hot Docs Deal Maker (April 2025)
- Cannes Docs Marche du Film Spotlit Project (May 2025)
- Selected Project at ESODOC 2025 Edition (May 2025)
- EBS Pitching Korea (August 2025)



Director & Producer - Pauline Blanchet

Pauline Blanchet is an award-winning French director and producer focused on urbanism, nationalism, and identity based in Skopje, North Macedonia. Her first short documentary, 'Zuckerberg You Owe/Own Me,' gained international recognition. She has participated in creator support programs at CPH DOX, Sheffield Doc Fest, Ateliers Médicis, and received a Sundance Co//ab fellowship. Recently, she has worked in XR storytelling on environmental issues, especially in the Arctic, partnering with the New Images Festival and Garage Stories. She received the Special Mention Sandbox Films at AFO in 2024. Her academic work focuses on collaborative filmmaking for research. She was part of the multisensory experimental cinema cohort at Open City and holds a BA from SOAS and an MA with distinction from the University of London Institute in Paris. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD at the School of Advanced Study.

Producer & Editor - Avdi Thachi / Lumiere Films (MK)

Avdi Thachi is a film producer and editor from North Macedonia, crafting human-centered stories through his company Lumiere Films. His work spans award-winning titles like Everybody Calls Redjo, Farmer's Blues, and the short documentary Antigona, selected at Sheffield DocFest. In 2025, he was selected for EURODOC and presented Big in Gazi Baba at Cannes Docs, Hot Docs Deal Maker, and Sheffield's MeetMarket. He has pitched at EastDoc, GoEast, and Balkan Film Market. Thachi also led a local team for LA-based agency MeteorGO and produced content for Hyundai Korea, MTM Watch, and served as a documentary jury member in New York.



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