

Producer's Statement - I MUST GO DOWN BY THE SEA AGAIN

I Must Go Down by the Sea Again is the debut feature film of Kosovar filmmaker Leart Rama. It is a personal, emotional, and visually rich story about self-discovery, love, and change. Leart is both a filmmaker and a DJ, and this background gives the film a special atmosphere where sound and image work together to create a strong emotional experience.

This film is also important because it tells a rare queer story from Kosovo. Such narratives are still not common in our region, and Leart approaches the subject with sensitivity, honesty, and courage. Although it is rooted in our local reality, the film speaks about universal feelings and can connect with audiences everywhere.

The project already has a solid foundation. We have production support from the Kosovo Cinematography Center, the Albanian National Center of Cinematography, and QAA'23 (Egypt), led by Mostafa El Kashef, who will also be the Director of Photography. We are waiting for the results from the North Macedonia Film Agency and are in active discussions with potential co-producers in Switzerland and Germany.

At the moment, we have secured around 50% of the total budget. Our main goal now is to complete the financing in order to follow our production plan. We aim to start shooting in mid-April 2026. In parallel, we are also looking for partners for post-production, especially in sound design, sound mix, and color grading, which are essential for the final artistic quality of the film.

As we participate in the Balkan Film Market, we are actively looking for collaborators who may wish to join our project. We are open to conversations about co-production, post-production partnerships, and other forms of support that can help bring this film to its full potential.

The project moves forward with clear vision, strong momentum, and an international team who believes deeply in the story. With the remaining support, we aim to bring this meaningful and much-needed film from Kosovo to audiences across Europe and beyond.

Valmira Hyseni - Producer