

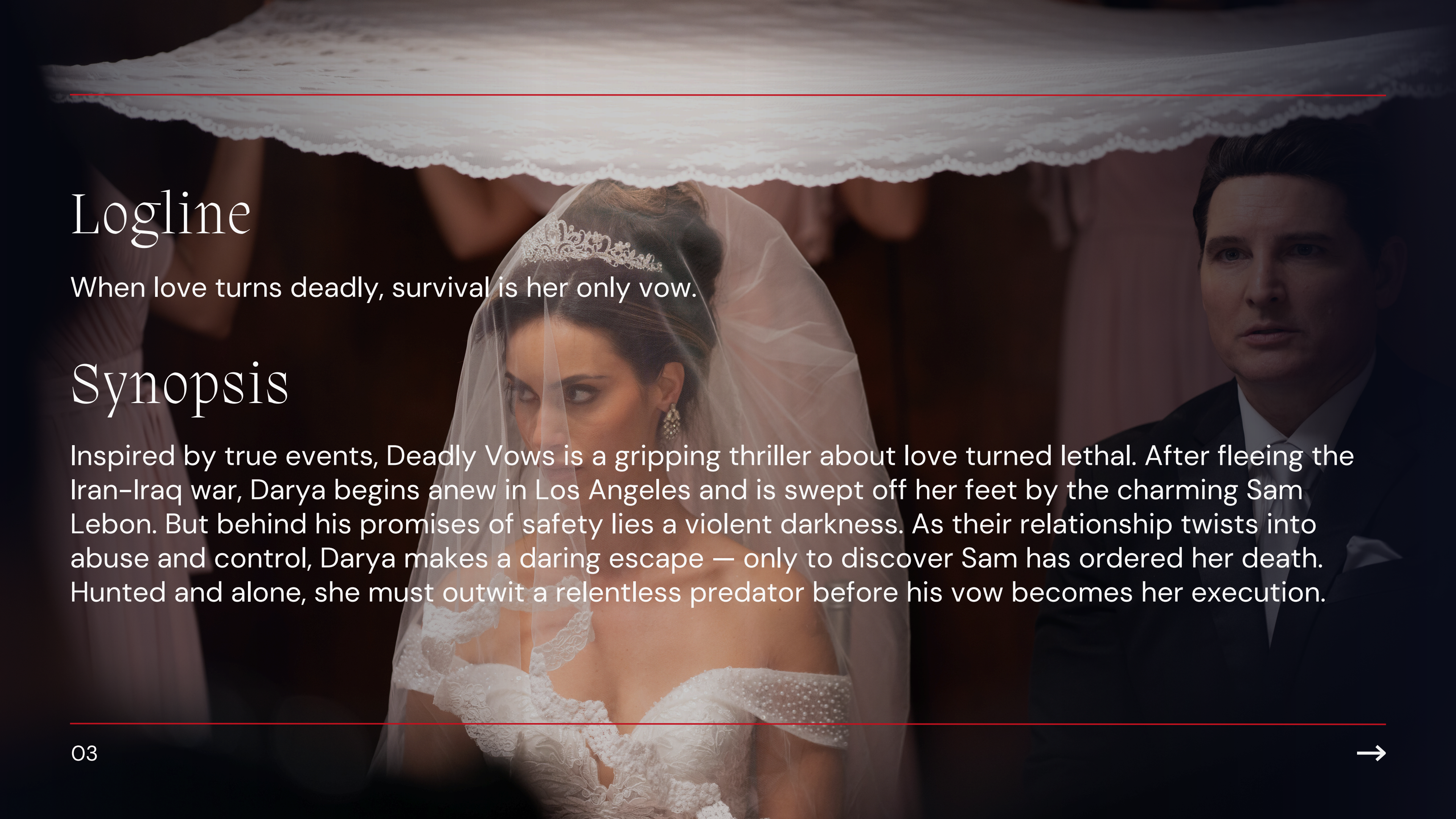


DEADLY VOWS

Press Kit

Specifications

- **Written by:** Sofia Monzerratt & Georgia Menides & Niall Cassin & Josh Ridgway & Bella Bahar Danesh
- **Story by:** Bella Bahar Danesh
- **Director:** Jared Cohn
- **Co-Director:** Bella Bahar Danesh
- **Producers:** Bella Bahar Danesh, Luna Chang, Daemon Hillin
- **Genres:** Psychological Thriller, Crime, Based on a true story
- **Runtime:** 1 hour 37 minutes 50 seconds
- **Completion Date:** May 2025
- **Country of Origin:** United States
- **Country of Filming:** United States
- **Language:** English
- **Shooting Format:** Digital
- **Aspect Ratio:** 2.39:1
- **Film Color:** Color
- **Formats Available:** DCP or Digital

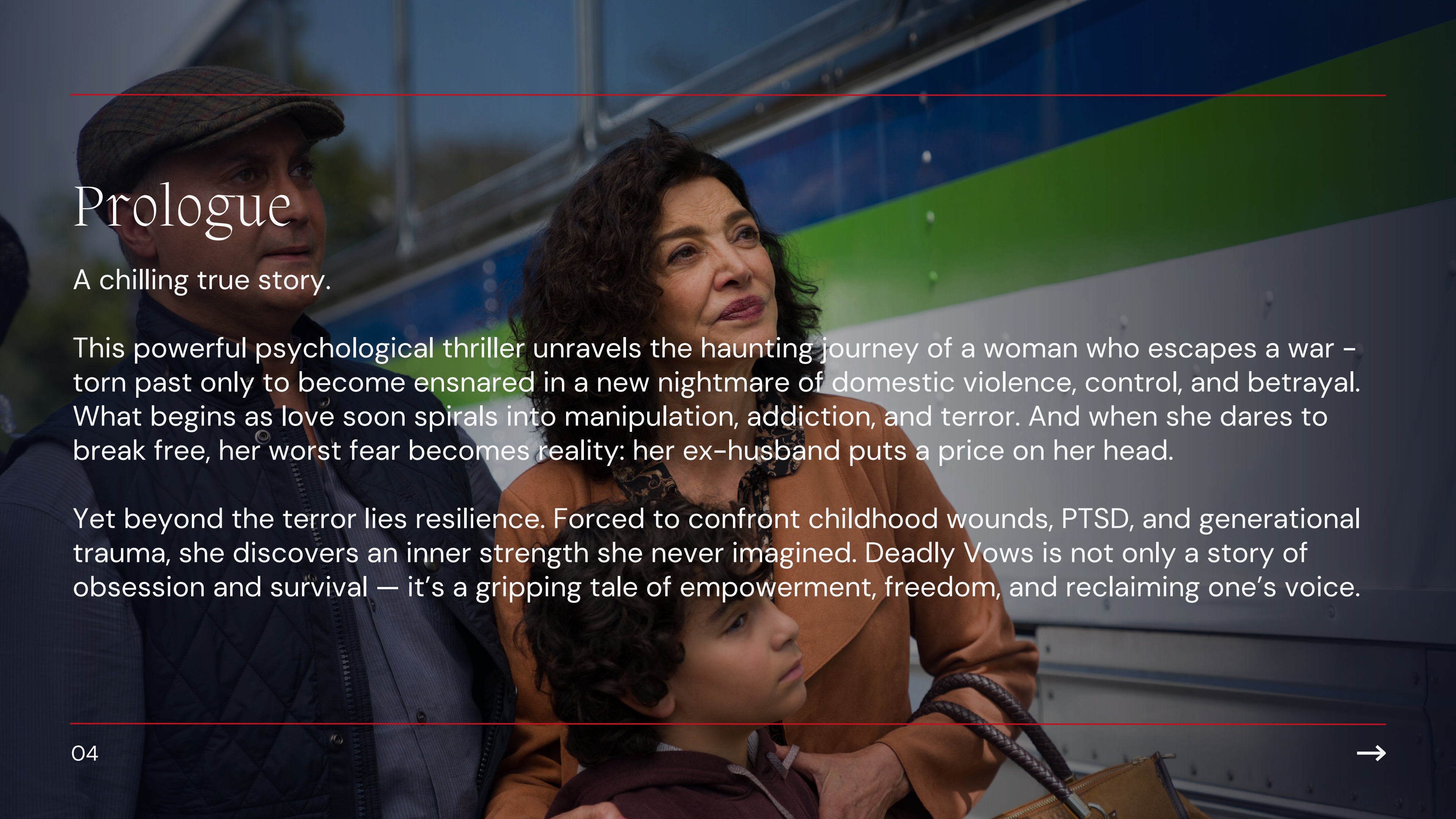


Logline

When love turns deadly, survival is her only vow.

Synopsis

Inspired by true events, *Deadly Vows* is a gripping thriller about love turned lethal. After fleeing the Iran–Iraq war, Darya begins anew in Los Angeles and is swept off her feet by the charming Sam Lebon. But behind his promises of safety lies a violent darkness. As their relationship twists into abuse and control, Darya makes a daring escape — only to discover Sam has ordered her death. Hunted and alone, she must outwit a relentless predator before his vow becomes her execution.

A man, a woman, and a young boy are shown from the chest up, looking off to the right with serious expressions. The man on the left wears a flat cap and a quilted jacket. The woman in the center has curly hair and wears a brown top. The boy in the foreground has curly hair and wears a maroon hoodie. They are standing in front of a blue and green structure, possibly a train or a modern building.

Prologue

A chilling true story.

This powerful psychological thriller unravels the haunting journey of a woman who escapes a war – torn past only to become ensnared in a new nightmare of domestic violence, control, and betrayal. What begins as love soon spirals into manipulation, addiction, and terror. And when she dares to break free, her worst fear becomes reality: her ex-husband puts a price on her head.

Yet beyond the terror lies resilience. Forced to confront childhood wounds, PTSD, and generational trauma, she discovers an inner strength she never imagined. Deadly Vows is not only a story of obsession and survival — it's a gripping tale of empowerment, freedom, and reclaiming one's voice.

A man and a woman are shown in a close-up, medium shot. The woman, on the left, has long brown hair and is wearing a red top under a grey cardigan. She has a serious, almost somber expression. The man, on the right, has short brown hair and is wearing a dark green polo shirt. He is looking down at the woman with a concerned or intense gaze. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a blue sky.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Deadly Vows is more than a film — it is a powerful reflection of survival, resilience, and the urgent need to confront the realities of domestic violence. Inspired by true events, this story goes beyond being just a thriller; it shines a light on the silent battles many endure and the unimaginable courage it takes to reclaim one's life. From the beginning, our mission was to tell this story with honesty and authenticity. With an extraordinary cast — Shiva Negar, Peter Facinelli, Shane West, Billy Zane, and Oscar nominee Shohreh Aghdashloo — we were able to bring these characters to life with both intensity and truth. Their commitment reminds us that cinema has the power not only to grip audiences through suspense but also to ignite conversations that can lead to real change.

This project also carries a mission beyond the screen. In 2013, producer and co-director Bella Bahar Danesh founded Paradise Charity, a self-funded organization supporting survivors of domestic violence. Through shelter, therapy, and resources, Paradise Charity has helped women and children rebuild their lives. With Deadly Vows, our goal is to give part of the proceeds to charities that fight domestic violence and advocate for women's rights — ensuring this story continues to make an impact long after the credits roll.



Our hope is that Deadly Vows will do more than just resonate on screen. We hope it inspires empathy, sparks awareness, and serves as a reminder that no one should face abuse alone.

Watch more about the inspiration behind the film here:

- [KTLA Interview with Shohreh Aghdashloo & Shiva Negar](#)
- [Peter Facinelli opens up about the powerful true events that inspired Deadly Vows](#)

Learn more or support Paradise Charity: www.paradisearcharity.org

Jared Cohn
Director

Bella Bahar Danesh
Co-Director & Lead Producer

Cast



Darya

Shiva Negar



Melody

Shohreh Aghdashloo



Sam

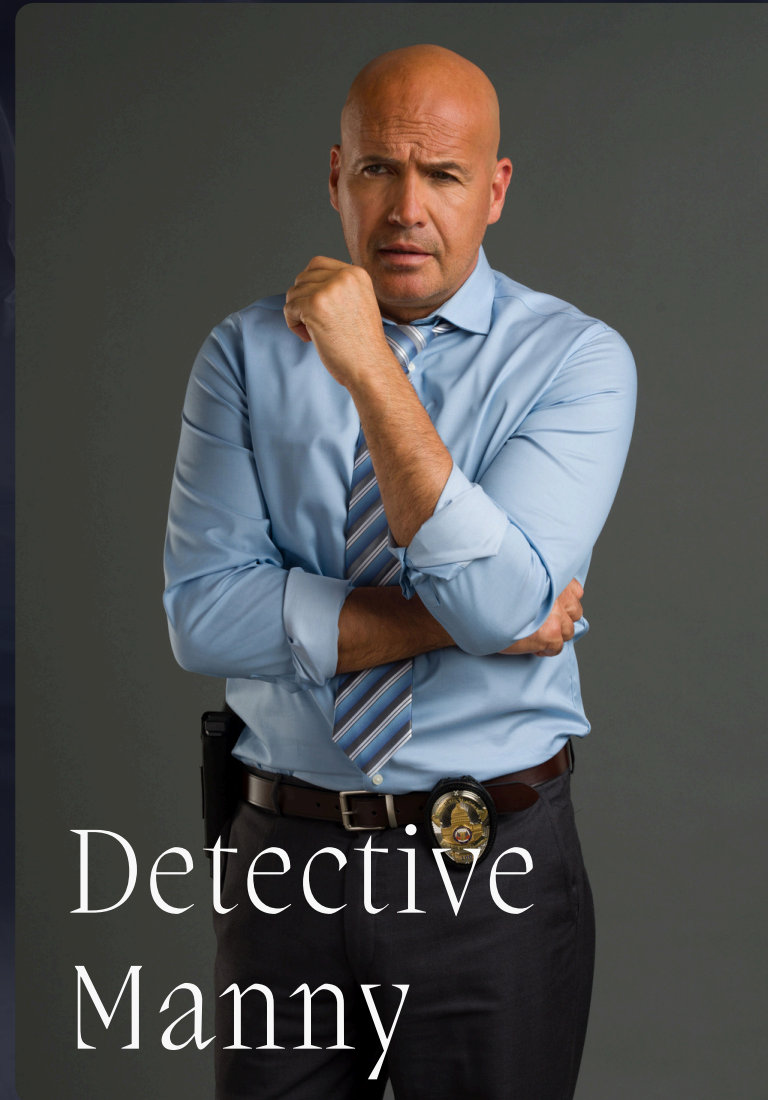
Peter Facinelli

Cast



Max

Shane West



Detective
Manny

Billy Zane

Director

Jared Cohn

Jared Cohn is a film and television director, writer and producer based in Los Angeles, California. Born and raised in New York, Jared received a bachelor in fine arts from the from New York Institute of Technology... then went west. Jared enjoys music, painting, photography, cinematography and watching mixed martial arts and boxing.





Bella Bahar Danesh

Co-Director
Producer
Writer/Story
Creator

Dr. Bella is a Producer, Co-Director, and Executive Producer known for her bold, socially conscious storytelling in film. She is the lead producer and co-director of *Still Smiling* (also known as *Deadly Vows*), a powerful psychological thriller inspired by true events, exploring domestic violence, survival, and justice. The film stars Shiva Negar, Billy Zane, Peter Facinelli, Shane West, and Shohreh Aghdashloo, and has garnered attention for its gripping narrative and impact-driven message.

In addition to *Still Smiling*, Dr. Bella has executive produced the action-packed feature *Angels Fallen: Warriors of Peace* and other projects listed on her IMDb profile, reflecting her strong interest in psychological thrillers, women-led stories, and films that promote awareness around human rights and resilience. With a diverse background in entrepreneurship across healthcare, finance, cannabis, and real estate, Dr. Bella brings a strategic, results-driven mindset to every production she leads.

In 2013, she founded Paradise Charity Group, a nonprofit organization fully funded by her for over a decade. The charity supports over 800 orphans in Baja, Mexico, covering critical needs such as housing, food, medical care, and education. Dr. Bella is passionately committed to protecting children from exploitation and violence, and to giving them a safe, loving environment where they can heal, grow, and succeed. She also ensures that ill and vulnerable children receive the urgent care they need for a full recovery and a brighter future.



Luna Zhang
Producer

Luna Zhang is an highly adept and expertly trained business executive and serial entrepreneur who has successfully built and exited multiple companies in the fields of high-end fashion, medicine, and tech. She has built a reputation for being a savvy businesswoman with powerful market insight and strong negotiation skills.

As an independent producer and business development executive, she is adept at deal-making, investor relationships, strategic partnerships, finance, and sales and distribution. She also has strong relationships with top management companies, agencies, producers, and other above-the-line talent.

Her slate of films, television series, documentaries, and animated features often reflect her passion for meaningful storytelling, women empowerment, Asian and minority representation, and social consciousness. She is also a financier of short form content and her films support women and LGBTQ community.

Luna has an MBA from University of Southern California, and certificates in Entrepreneurship and Leadership from her extended study at Harvard University.



Daemon Hillin
Producer

Daemon Hillin is a highly acclaimed producer known for his creative vision and business acumen in the independent film industry. As President of Benetone Films U.S., he handles packaging and financing for the multinational company.

He is also the CEO of Hillin Entertainment, his own independent production company. Hillin has produced over 35 feature films with A-list talent and directors, including "Apache Junction", "Final Kill" and "Ghost House." His recent films, such as "Battle for Saipan", "Maneater" and "Death of me" have been financially successful and well-received by audiences.

Hillin has also been recognized by the Thai government for his contributions to the international film industry. In addition to his producing capabilities, he specializes in film financing, GAP financing, distribution, and film production, making him the go-to man for film production in Southeast Asia.

Galleries

[Click here for Deadly Vows approved Galleries](#)



Stills

[Click here for Deadly Vows Stills](#)



BTS

Day_1

Day_2

Day_3

Day_4



Paradise Charity

Deadly Vows supports Paradise Charity, a self-funded organization founded in 2013 by Bella Bahar Danesh, producer, co-director, and lead producer.

Paradise Charity provides shelter, therapy, and safe spaces for survivors of abuse and children with special needs, including dorms for displaced young women and children.

A portion of the proceeds from Deadly Vows will go directly to charities fighting domestic violence and supporting battered women, helping survivors rebuild their lives.

[Paradise Charity Website](#)

Festivals Official Selection



Contact us

Bella Bahar Danesh
Co-Director, Producer

310-340-9708 phone
info@andstillsmiling.com
<http://deadlyvows.com/>

[IMDB](#)

[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

