

## Technical Information

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**Working Title:** After Dark  
**Director:** Erenik Beqiri  
**Screenplay:** Erenik Beqiri  
**Nationality:** Albania/France  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Shooting location:** Albania  
**Duration:** 100 min  
**Production Companies:** Origine Films, On Film Production

## Director's Information

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Erenik studied at the Academy of Arts in Tirana, where he graduated with a Master's degree in Film Directing. His last short film **The Van** premiered in the Official Competition of Cannes Film Festival 2019 and was screened in more than 60 film festivals.

Erenik's films showcase the characters' inner struggles as they confront the socio-political space they inhabit, ultimately coming down to unsettling decisions that define them as comic, tragic, or grotesque portraits of society. His feature project **After Dark** is the first Albanian project to be selected at Canne's Cinéfondation Residence, in 2020.

Main previous work: **The Van**, 15 min. (2019)  
Best International Short Film at *Show Me Shorts* – Best Fiction Short Film at *Urban Films Festival* – Jury Award at *Paris Courts Devant* – Special Jury Prize at *HollyShorts Film Festival*.

## After Dark

a film by Erenik Beqiri



cinéfondation  
LA RÉSIDENCE

## Erenik Beqiri

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## Festival de Cannes

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

# After Dark

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## Synopsis

In Tirana, Tom and Anna have been together for over two years, keeping their love hidden and protecting it from external influences. The day has come to tell the truth and make their relationship official with Tom's father. But how can he explain to him that Anna, like all the members of her multi-cultural family, needs blood to survive and cannot endure the daylight?

Among the social storm that takes over Tirana and the ongoing demonstrations, their relationship takes a furious spin that demands sacrifices.

## Statement of Intent

Tirana is probably the least welcoming city to build a home. It's breathing in chaos, filled with contradictions, plagued with social conflicts bound to explode at any minute.

This couple is seeking acceptance in an ever-changing city that first challenges their identities then makes them fight for survival. Anna is a Vampire, but *After Dark* is not a vampire film. There won't be any capes, fangs, crucifixes... They're not immortal, they are a cursed extension of our society that cannot find where they fit in.

I want to describe them as flawed sensitive beings, with desires and needs just like us. Focusing on ordinary and everyday things. Deep down, *After Dark* tries to answer a simple question: can we really feel the same towards each other when we are so different?

## Synopsis

Tom et Anna vivent ensemble à Tirana depuis plus de deux ans, gardant leur amour caché et le protégeant des influences extérieures. Le jour est venu de dire la vérité au père de Tom et d'officialiser leur relation. Mais comment peut-il lui expliquer qu'Anna, comme tous les membres de sa famille multiculturelle, a besoin de sang pour survivre et ne peut pas supporter la lumière du jour? Entre le climat social explosif qui règne à Tirana et les manifestations en cours, leur relation va être mise à rude épreuve et va leur imposer de faire des sacrifices.

## Note d'intention

Tirana est probablement la ville la moins accueillante pour y construire un foyer. Elle respire le chaos, est pleine de contradictions et de conflits sociaux qui peuvent exploser à tout moment.

Ce couple cherche à se faire accepter dans une ville en perpétuel changement qui remet d'abord en question leur identité puis les oblige à lutter pour leur survie. Anna est un vampire, mais *After Dark* n'est pas un film de vampires. Il n'y aura pas de capes, de crocs, de crucifix... Ils ne sont pas immortels, ils sont une extension maudite de notre société qui ne trouve pas sa place.

Je veux les décrire comme des êtres sensibles imparfaits, avec des désirs et des besoins comme les nôtres. Je veux me concentrer sur des choses ordinaires et quotidiennes. Au fond, *After Dark* tente de répondre à une question simple: pouvons-nous vraiment ressentir la même chose l'un envers l'autre en étant si différents?