AURORA SKY

A FEATURE FILM SCREENPLAY
BY **ELEANOR VENESS**

LOGLINE
"AFTER HER HUSBAND MYSTERIOUSLY DIES ON THEIR WEDDING DAY, NOOR IS HAUNTED BY ASTER'S APPARITION. A STRANGE MAN CONVINCES NOOR TO JOURNEY TO THE UNDERWORLD AND REVIVE HIM. EXPECTING A BABY, NOOR MUST RESIST TEMPTATION TO LOOK BACK."

TAGLINE
"PERHAPS THE WORLD HAS MOMENTARILY TURNED UPSIDE DOWN?"

FORMAT
TV FEATURE (60 MINS)

GENRE
MAGICAL REALIST DRAMA

SETTING
KINGSTON, SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM. CONTEMPORARY.

WHY THIS STORY, WHY NOW?

Aurora sky plays with representations between mythology, present reality and magical realism, in which the gods become flesh. Set in kingston, surrey, united kingdom. Modern day. The story also tackles the highly current topic of refugee rights in the UK, exploring mental health and generational trauma. The story has a strong, female protagonist. Animation and puppetry features within the film, representative of the otherworldly aesthetic of the underworld. Its theme of looking back in retrospect echoes that of the ‘orpheus’ myth.

‘AURORA SKY’ was inspired by the ‘Orpheus’ myth. Here’s why this interpretation of the Orpheus myth is different…

- The time structure of the script is focused on a foreshadowing, introducing the tense dynamic between Noor and dan the billboard man before her entrance to the underworld. He appears throughout the story, rendering him a timeless being. By introducing Noor’s search for her deceased husband in the beginning, before aster dies, the audience are led to want to know what happens in the linear story.

- The magical surrealist aspect in the script is grounded by hyper-realism. After death, aster appears to Noor in her visionary, psychotic state of mind. The audience are led to question what is real, merging the distinction between reality and mythological other-worldlyness.

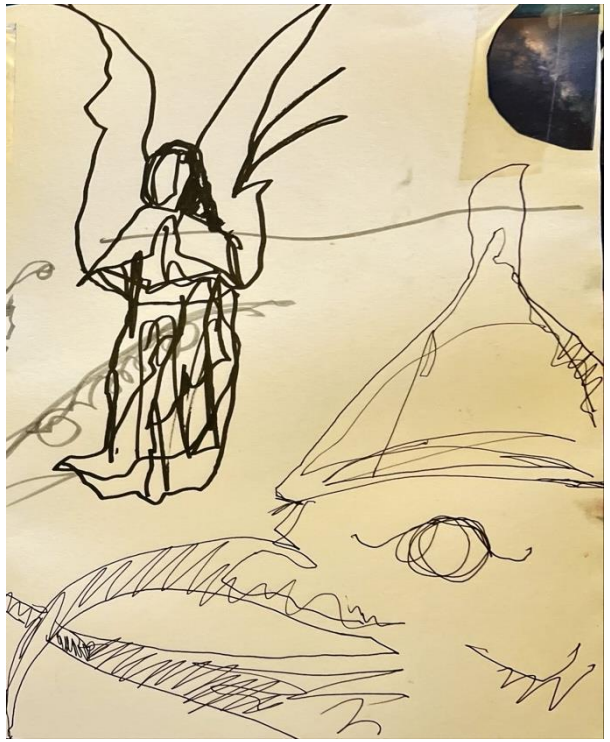
- The protagonists’ genders are swapped, with Noor as the ‘orpheus’ character who travels to the underworld in search of ‘Eurydice’, her husband aster. This gives the story a strong, female protagonist.

- The story setting focuses on a community in south-west london in the town of kingston, making it modern and hyper-localized.

- There is a third-person objective narrator, dr. Benevolent, who represents the wisdom of the ages, rendering the story timeless.

- The main character is pregnant throughout the story, climaxing in the birth at the end and the child at two-years-old in the

LIST OF CHARACTERS (AND WHO THEY ARE)



- **NOOR ABADI/VITALIS** – NOOR IS THE HEROINE. 32. A MUSICIAN WHO PLAYS THE OUD, AN ARAB HARP-LIKE INSTRUMENT EXPECTING ASTER'S CHILD. THE 'ORPHEUS' CHARACTER.
- **DR. BENEVOLENT** - AN AGELESS, TIMELESS BEING. HE PROVIDES THE THIRD-PERSON VOICEOVER NARRATION TO THE STORY AND HAS A WARM, LEARNED MALE VOICE. THE 'EURYDICE' CHARACTER.
- **ASTER VITALIS** – NOOR'S HUSBAND, WHO LATER APPEARS AS AN APPARITION AFTER DEATH.
- **DAN THE BILLBOARD MAN** - AKA THE GATEKEEPER TO THE UNDERWORLD. REPRESENTS 'HERMES', MESSENGER OF THE GODS. RESEMBLES AN ORDINARY MAN, WEARING A BILLBOARD IN PROMOTION OF HIS "UNDERWORLD" NIGHTCLUB.
- **NELL OKOWE-SMITH** – NOOR'S FOSTER MOTHER. SHE MANAGES A REFUGEE AND ASYLUM COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHICH IS FOUNDED ON SOCIALIST AND BUDDIST PHILOSOPHY.
- **RAFAT AND MARWA ABADI** – NOOR'S DECEASED PARENTS, WHO ONLY APPEAR IN HER VISIONS.
- **GANNA** – UKRAINIAN, LIVES IN NELL'S PHOENIX CENTRE. THE BRUSQUE BUT FLIGHTY, EASTERN-EUROPEAN "MANIC PIXIE DREAM GIRL" BEST FRIEND OF NOOR.
- **BERNARD** - AN ASYLUM SEEKER FROM SOUTH SUDAN. LIVES IN THE PHOENIX CENTRE.
- **ANDROULLA VITALI** - ASTER'S PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER. 91. IN A WHEELCHAIR.
- **ADAM STEWART** - ASTER'S BEST FRIEND.
- **DR. LINDA ALOKA** – NOOR'S PSYCHIATRIST: SPECIALISES IN NEURODIVERGENCE, ADHD, ETC.
- **THE THREE-HEADED DOG (ALNITAK, ANILAM, MINTAKA)** - THE THREE-HEADED DOG LIKES TO QUESTION WHOEVER IS AT THE DOOR TO THEIR UNDERWORLD. THEY CANNOT ACT AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN DOGS, DESPITE HAVING HUMAN SPIRITS. A TRIO OF GROTESQUE, ANIMATED GARGOYLES.
- **AURORA** - NOOR'S DAUGHTER. APPEARS IN THE EPILOGUE, AGED TWO YEARS OLD.
- **THE CELEBRANT** - TO NOOR AND ASTER'S WEDDING
- **THE PRIEST** - GOVERNS PROCEEDINGS FOR ASTER'S FUNERAL.
- **THE JOURNALIST** - APPEARS WHILE INTERVIEWING NELL ON A CURRENT AFFAIRS TV SHOW.
- **THE POLITICAL OPPONENT** - APPEARS WHILE OPPOSING NELL ON A CURRENT AFFAIRS TV SHOW.

ANIMATION, MUSIC & OTHER DETAILS

- Animation features prominently within the film, representative of the otherworldly aesthetic of the underworld.
- Key moments are punctuated by the realm of descendent darkness, representative of
- Noor's womb, with a growing foetus, against a backdrop of stars.
- The underworld and its creatures are all animations; including the character of the three-headed dog.
- Noor has synesthesia and sees visions in music. her deceased parents appear to her in these visions on two occasions.
- After aster's death, he appears to Noor as 'apparition aster', surrounded by an animated fuzzy vignette.
- Noor, the lead character, is a talented musician. music thus plays an important role in the script.
- Her lead instrument is the qanun, a harp-like instrument. an Arab string ensemble plays at Noor and aster's wedding.
- The underworld nightclub pulsates with modern electronic music. sounds are infused between classical string and electro-contemporary.
- The script begins and ends with Noor humming to the tune of 'Unforgettable' by Nat King Cole.
- Another song which features is 'stars' by Nina Simone.

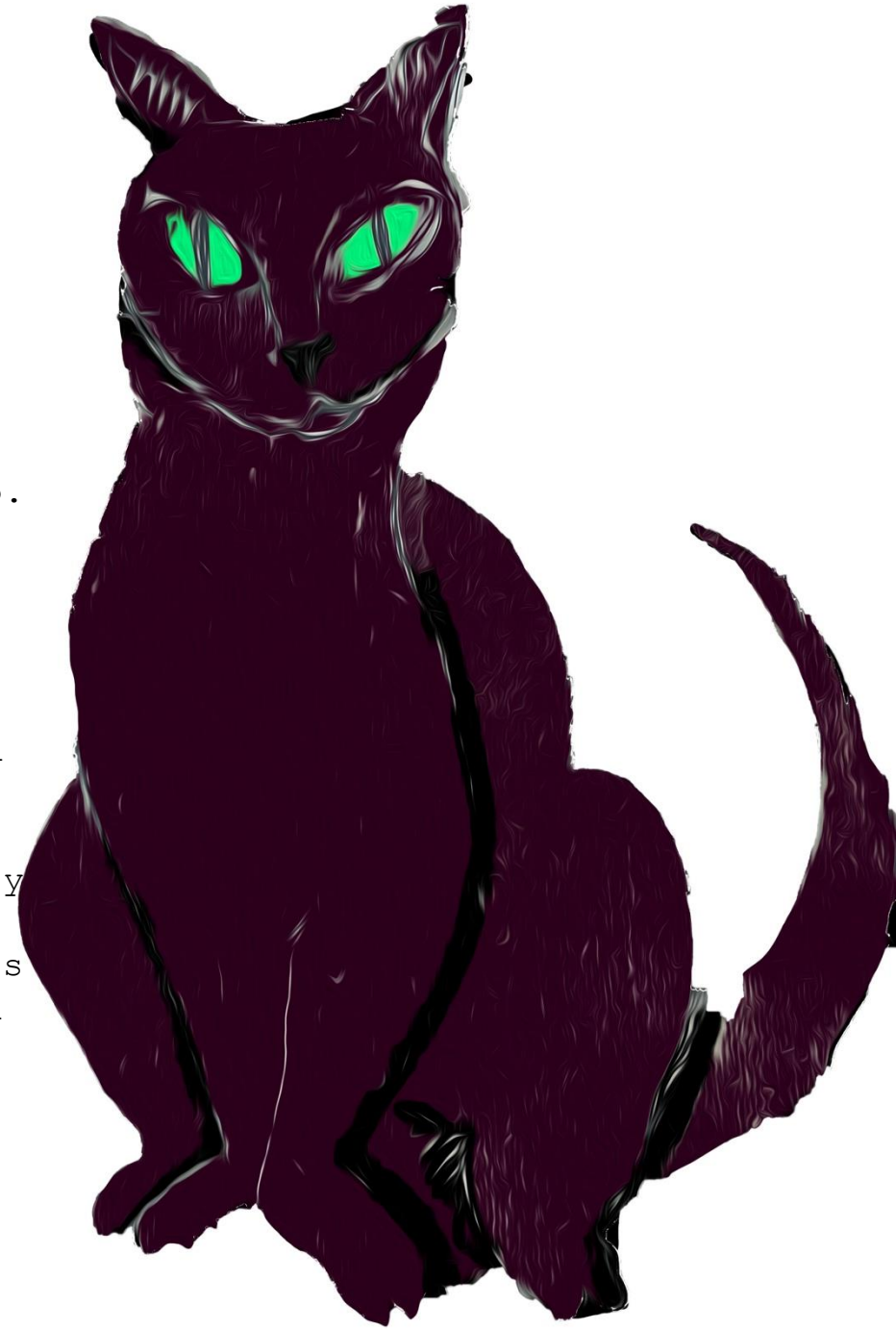
OTHER KEY INFORMATION

- The script was written speculatively to reduce the number of filming locations, while retaining the magical realism as described.
- Languages which feature in the script other than English (albeit briefly, in speech) are Arabic and Cypriot Modern Greek.
- The script is written to feature animation and CGI.

AURORA SKY – SYNOPSIS

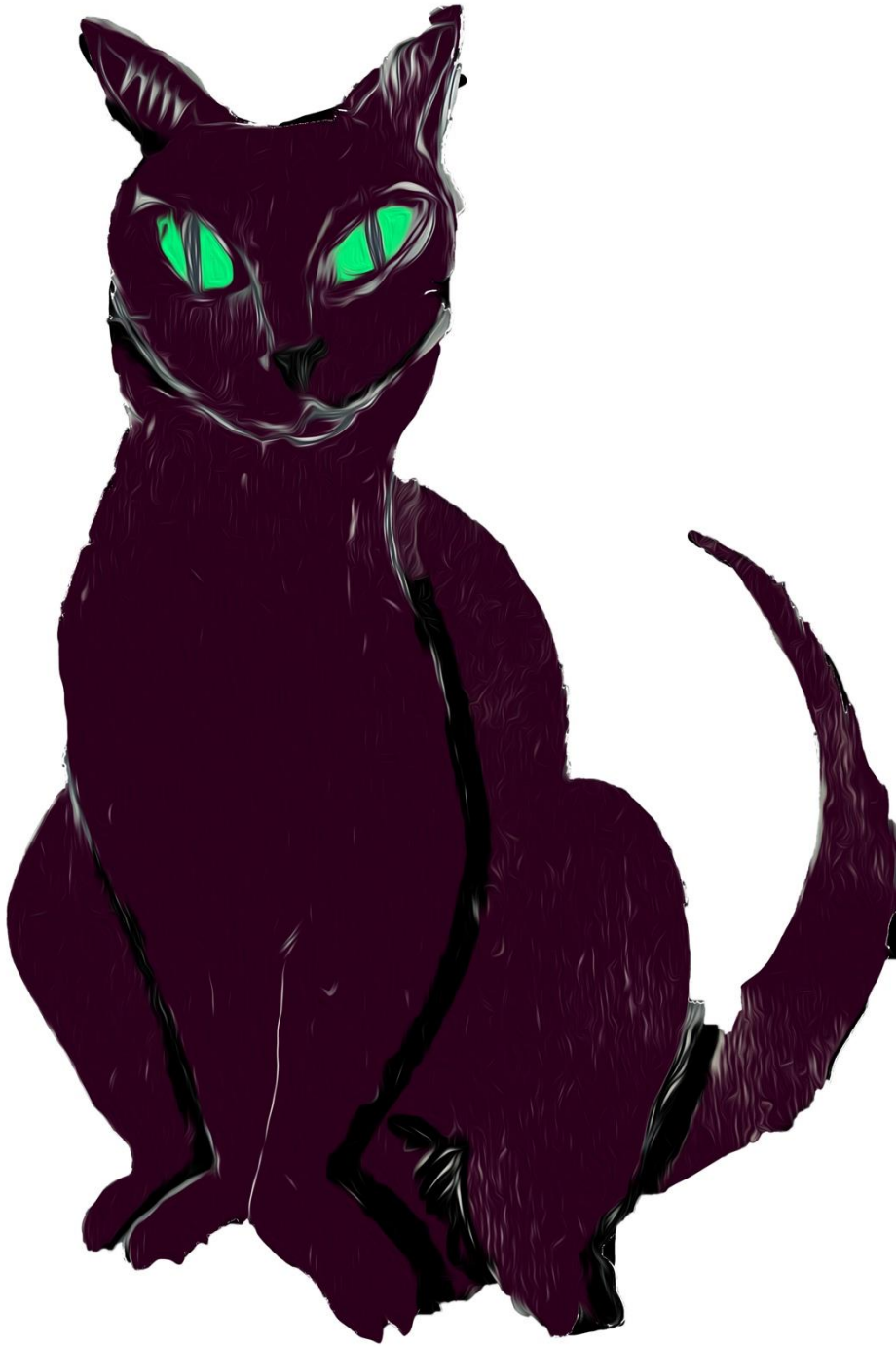
Noor must come to terms with her pregnancy and her stark, unknown future and in doing so confronts her murky past and her grief; she risks her welfare of that of her unborn baby in the drive to bring her deceased husband back from the grave.

NOOR sits in a graveyard, cries. The gravestone reads: 'ASTER JAMES VITALIS. 1987 - 2024'. Noor strokes her large, heavily pregnant bump. A cat circles her. Noor responds to the creature wit familiarity, follows the cat toward a clearing in the shadows: 'THE CERBERUS ARMS - Welcome to the Underworld!' A shadow of a man stands in the porch way: DAN THE BILLBOARD MAN. Noor cannot turn to look into Aster's eyes on returning to the living world. Noor accepts, makes her first step. Noor and Aster's small wedding ceremony in a church; witnessed by NELL, Noor's foster Mother, ANDROULLA, Aster's Grandmother and ADAM the best man. NOOR AND ASTER'S DATING BACKSTORY. The rings are exchanged, followed by the kiss. The wedding reception: A celebratory explosion of people, dancing, drinking, confetti thrown. Noor declines a cigarette Aster offers, makes the announcement that she is pregnant. Inside: A shadowy figure of a BARMAN serves Aster and Adam snakebite shots. Aster starts to mysteriously choke, runs outside. Aster collapses, dies. Aster's funeral. Noor watches Aster's casket: the new, APPARITION ASTER, emerges. He tells Noor that she is the only person who can see him. After the service, NELL and NOOR agree that she is coming to live with her in Noor's childhood home of the Phoenix Centre for refugees. Noor performs, plays her qanun in a market square, busks. DAN THE BILLBOARD MAN approaches, he knows about Noor's deceased husband.



SYNOPSIS CONTINUED.

Dan asks Noor if she wants to see Aster again. She replies, “of course I do”. Dan the Billboard Man tells Noor to call him to receive instructions on how to enter the Underworld. Dr. LINDA ALOKA and Noor in the psychiatrist’s office. Dr. Aloka is concerned about Noor’s visions. Apparition Aster watches them. Noor admits that she can see Aster as though he were there with her; Apparition Aster disappears at this moment. Dan the Billboard Man appears to Noor in visions around Kingston town centre. Dr. Linda Aloka calls Nell, tells her that Noor is being prescribed antipsychotics. Noor holds the mysterious phone number in her palm, calls it. Dan the Billboard Man answers the phone, instructs Noor to the war memorial in town and look for a black cat; bring her qanun. The black cat will guide her to the Underworld. Noor faces the THREE-HEADED DOG, animate, difficult to get past. Noor plays her instrument, lulls them to a calm sleep. Noor seizes the opportunity to step forward. A large nightclub. Across the dance floor is Aster. Noor tells Aster that she has come to rescue him. Aster tells Noor that he wants their unborn daughter to be called Aurora. There is a dock of small boats with oars. As they drift to the human world, Noor looks back at him, Aster disappears. Above on the bridge, Dan the Billboard Man declares his obsessive love for Noor, tells her that he killed Aster, proposes to Noor; she defiantly refuses. Dan metamorphoses into a black cat, runs away. Noor is on a hospital bed, gives birth to the child: Aurora Sky Vitalis. Two years later. Noor attends Aster’s grave; leaves a bouquet of red roses. AURORA, 2, toddles through the grass, points, “Mama! A cat!”Out of the corner of Noor’s eye, the tail of a black cat whips in the growth.



ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER ~ ELEANOR VENESS

Screenwriter | Filmmaker | Visual Artist

- Eleanor Veness is Cannes Script winner for Best Female Screenwriter, Winter 2026. Her Feature Film script, 'Aurora Sky', has won and made Finalist in multiple international awards, including 'Best Fantasy' at Hollywood Indie Festival 2026.
- Her specialist sub-genre is magical realism. All of her stories are in synthesis within rich, encapsulating world-settings, constructed by character-driven narratives. Eleanor's stories carry other-worldly or fantasy aspects, grounded in humanistic realism. Eleanor's work is unconventionally told, often breaking with traditional structures with a desire to innovate storytelling method and inspire imagination from gritty reality.
- Eleanor writes to get to the core of humanity and communicate those messages. In 'Aurora Sky', the central imperative to 'not look back' carries the weight of generational trauma and the protagonist Noor's Arab refugee heritage. Noor must accept the traumas of her past in order to face a brighter future of stability. 'Aurora Sky' explores the concept of oral histories and migrational diasporas as told through commentary on refugee rights in the United Kingdom.
- Her portfolio demonstrates a wide range of genres and formats, including Drama, Comedy Drama, Historical, Biopic, Memoir, Horror and Thriller. Eleanor is currently adapting a 2024 novel into a feature film screenplay. She has written for feature, TV series and short, a play and another book adaption. Eleanor became 4 x award-nominated for her TV pilot/series 'Sam: A Teenage Girl' in 2020 - 2021.
- Eleanor also works as an artist and lives in South-West London with her husband and their cat, Pixel.