

Yellow Bus Movie Review- A Reflection on Human Nature

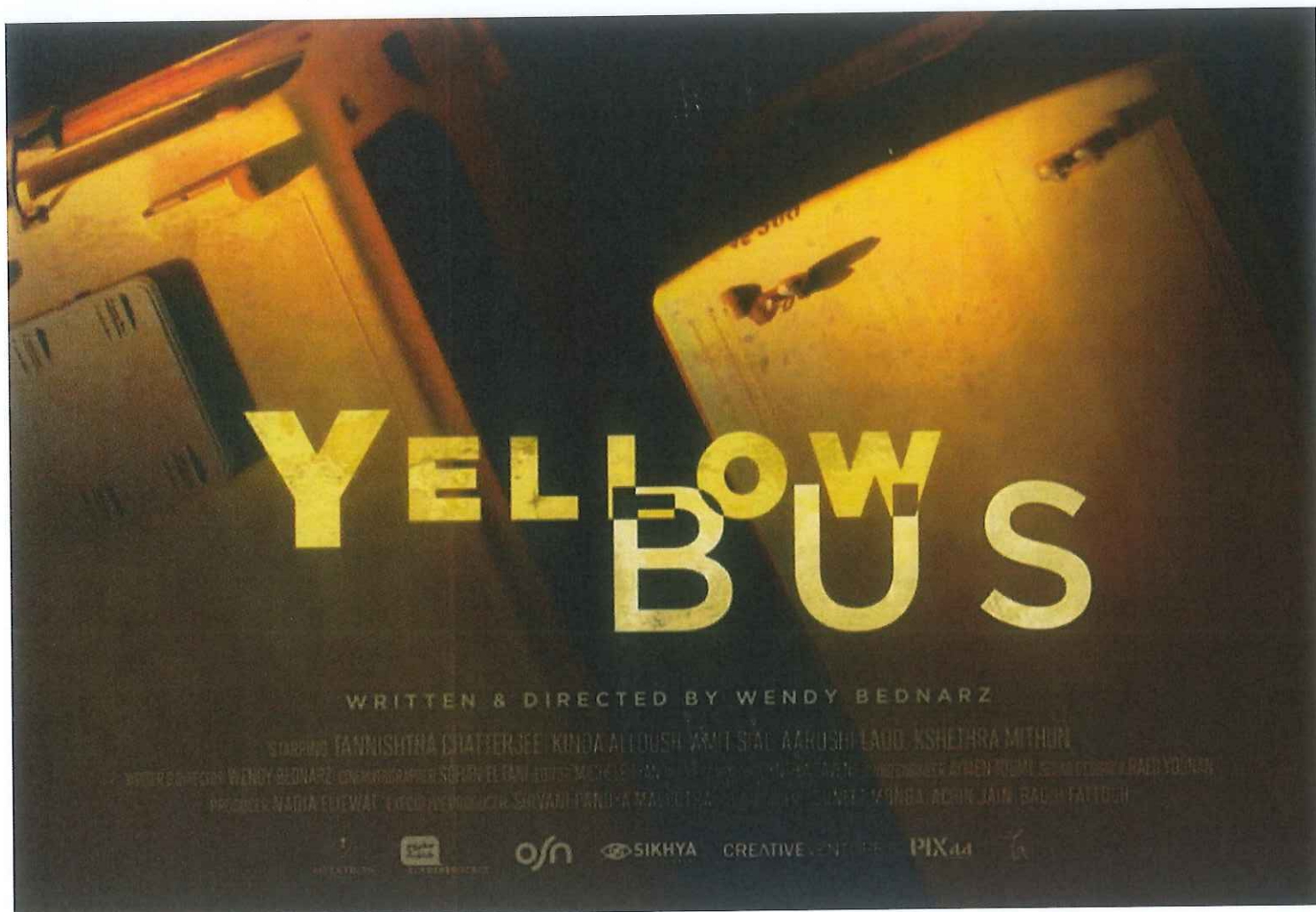
Yellow Bus Movie Review



By Yellow Bus Movie Review

Published 9 months ago • 3 min read





Yellow Bus Movie Review

Yellow Bus is more than just a movie; it is a profound narrative that challenges viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about negligence, guilt, and justice. Through stellar performances, especially by Tannishtha Chatterjee, and under the adept direction of Wendy Bednarz, the film strikes a perfect balance between being a moving personal story and a compelling socio-political commentary. As this review outlines, Yellow Bus is not only a cinematic triumph but also a crucial reflection on human nature and the essence of social responsibility. Wendy Bednarz's debut with Yellow Bus has certainly set a high bar in the realm of filmmaking. This part of the review will focus on Bednarz's directorial approach, which gracefully balances the intricacies of a tragic narrative with the necessity of a hopeful outlook. Through meticulous direction, Bednarz guides the audience through an emotional journey, while ensuring that the film's message of resilience and the quest for justice shines brightly. Yellow Bus stands as a testament to Bednarz's vision, which is both powerful and

poignant. While *Yellow Bus* is a film that primarily centers around a tragic incident, it succeeds in transcending mere storytelling to comment on broader socio-political issues. This section of the review aims to unravel how the film tactfully uses its narrative to speak on themes of negligence, systemic failure, and the dire consequences they hold for the most vulnerable in society. Through its compelling story, *Yellow Bus* sheds light on these critical issues, prompting audiences to reflect on the wider implications of personal and collective responsibility.

At the core of *Yellow Bus* is a narrative driven by the strong, resilient character of Anand, portrayed with depth and empathy by Tannishtha Chatterjee. This segment of the review will explore how Anand's journey of seeking justice for a young girl unveils the multifaceted human emotions that come with confronting tragedy. The film presents an array of characters, each affected in different ways by the incident, offering a panoramic view of human denial, guilt, and ultimately, the acceptance of loss. *Yellow Bus* skilfully navigates through these emotional landscapes, making it a poignant study of the human condition.

The movie *Yellow Bus* marks the extraordinary feature film debut of Wendy Bednarz, delving into the tragic story that revolves around the preventable death of a young girl abandoned on a school bus. This review takes a closer look at how the film weaves an emotional and investigative narrative that not only touches the heart but also ignites a flame for justice. With Tannishtha Chatterjee delivering a brilliant performance as Anand, the movie sets a precedent in storytelling by exploring themes of negligence, loss, and the quest for truth in the face of adversity.

Yellow Bus is a powerful and emotive film that goes beyond the traditional confines of storytelling. Through the journey of Anand, portrayed with unparalleled depth by Tannishtha Chatterjee, the movie opens up a dialog on accountability, justice, and the human capacity for empathy. This *Yellow Bus* Movie Review recognizes Wendy Bednarz's remarkable debut for its contribution to cinema not just as an art form, but as a medium for societal reflection and potential change. The film is a poignant reminder of the tragedies that can occur from negligence and the enduring strength found in the pursuit of justice. Not only does *Yellow Bus* serve as a moving account of personal tragedy and the fight for justice, but it also stands as a significant socio-political commentary. The movie reviews scrutinizes the

societal structures and attitudes that allow for such negligence to occur, pushing viewers to reflect on their roles within such systems.

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By [Christopher Vourlias](#)


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[Wendy Bednarz](#)'s "Yellow Bus," which follows a mother's quest for justice after suffering an unthinkable tragedy, won the prize for best film at the [Joburg Film Festival](#) during an award ceremony Saturday night at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg.

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Middle Eastern Drama About Search for Justice 'Yellow Bus' Takes Top Prize at Joburg Film Festival

By Christopher Vourlias ▾



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Wendy Bednarz's "Yellow Bus," which follows a mother's quest for justice after suffering an unthinkable tragedy, won the prize for best film at the [Joburg Film Festival](#) during an award ceremony Saturday night at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg.

The film, which world premiered at the Toronto Film

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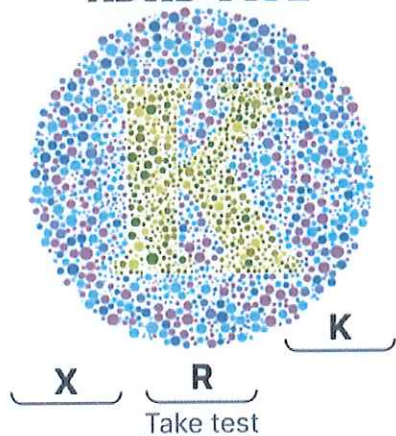
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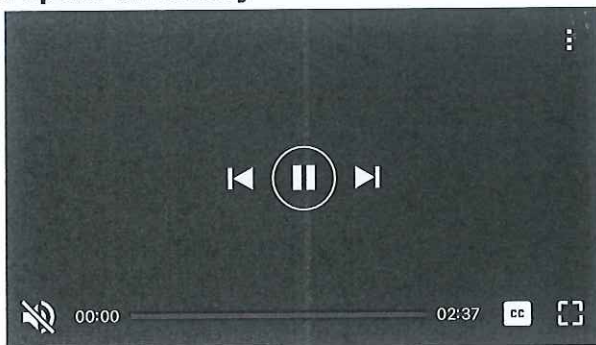
Festival, is set in an unnamed Arabian Gulf country and follows an Indian family that endures a tragedy when their daughter is neglected on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat. Consumed by grief, mother Anada ([Tannishtha Chatterjee](#)) sets out to find the truth about who is accountable.

In its citation for the prize-winning film, the jury noted: "This film spoke to the core challenges faced by marginalized immigrants. The protagonist's nuanced performance brought to light the resilience and determination needed when an individual faces a social-political system."

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Bednarz was not in attendance to accept the award. [Speaking to Variety](#) ahead of the film's Toronto premiere, the director said she was inspired to provide a voice to people who are marginalized or face unconscious prejudice in Middle Eastern society. "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that," she said.

Arab distributor MAD Solutions is handling international sales on "Yellow Bus."

The award for best African film went to [Ian Gabriel's](#) topical political thriller "[Death of a Whistleblower](#)," which premiered in Toronto and follows an investigative journalist who, with insider help, tries to expose the state capture of a corrupt South African security group that's fueling warfare in Africa and beyond. The pic had its African premiere in Johannesburg and quickly shot to the top of Amazon Prime Video's local charts with its same-day release.

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"This brave and important story highlights the plight faced by journalists in their often dangerous and uncharted quest to expose the truth," said the jury. "This fast-paced political thriller gives urgency to the matter at hand, that of whistleblowing."

Gordon Main's apartheid-era documentary "[London Recruits](#)," which opened the festival with its world premiere, won the award for best documentary. The film sheds light on a pivotal moment during the freedom struggle in South Africa, when the politician



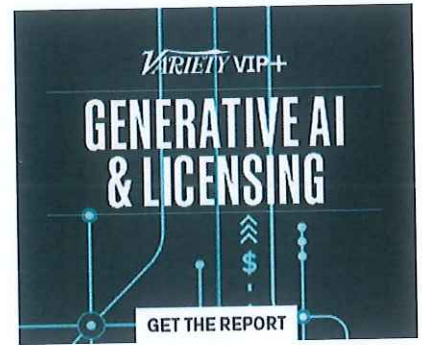
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and activist Oliver Tambo hatched a plan to infiltrate young British activists posing as tourists into the country, to help inspire ordinary South Africans to join the liberation movement.

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“This film brought a fresh and different perspective to a well-known subject matter,” said the jury. “The use of humor and brilliant storytelling connects us all in our humanity.”

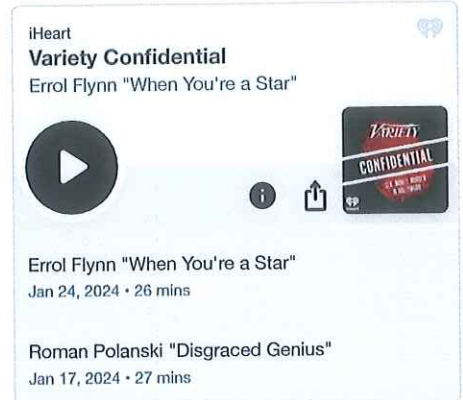
During his acceptance speech, Main expressed solidarity with the people of Gaza, as well as the victims of conflicts in Congo, Sudan and elsewhere. “I think if you can make a better world, we need to heal the terrible scars that are still unfolding around these tragic events in all of our recent history and current history,” he said.

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Describing it as a “childhood dream” to make films that can have a lasting impact, he added: “Of course, films don’t change the world. But they can inspire and bring hope and encourage all of us to do better things with this short life that we have on this earth.”

The jury also awarded a special mention to “[Who I Am Not](#),” director Tünde Skovrán’s exploration and celebration of life as an intersex person in South Africa. The Young Voices Award went to Ntokozo

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Mlaba for his short film "Everything Nothing." Veteran curator, programmer and founder of New York's Africa Film Festival Mahen Bonetti, meanwhile, was feted with a Special Recognition Award for her decades-long work to promote African cinema.

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The Joburg Film Festival wraps March 3 with the world premiere of "Snake," a psychological thriller by South African filmmaker Meg Rickards, ending a sixth edition that screened more than 60 titles from 30-plus countries.

"What a time to be alive in Johannesburg," said festival founder Timothy Mangwedi on Saturday. "What a time to be alive in Gauteng [province]. What a time to be alive in Africa."

Read More About: Ian Gabriel, Joburg Film Festival, Wendy Bednarz

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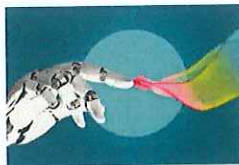
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Dec 6, 2023 7:11am PT

MAD Solutions Acquires World Sales Rights to OSN's First Original Feature 'Yellow Bus' (EXCLUSIVE)

By [Leo Barraclough](#)

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Courtesy of OSN

[MAD Solutions](#) has acquired world sales rights to [OSN's](#) first-ever original feature, "[Yellow Bus](#)," which world premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.

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A Mother's Quest for Justice in the Arabian Gulf Takes Centerstage in Toronto
Selection 'Yellow Bus'

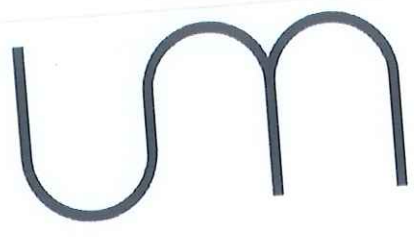
By [Naman Ramachandran](#)



Screen Project/Metatron Productions/Orbit Showtime Network/Creative Venture/Sikhya Entertainment/PIX44/Ta Films

A mother's quest for justice is the fulcrum around which [Toronto Film Festival](#) U.A.E. selection "[Yellow Bus](#)" revolves.

Set in an unnamed Arabian Gulf country, "Yellow Bus" follows an Indian family that endures a tragedy when their daughter is neglected on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat. Consumed by grief, mother Anada ([Tannishtha Chatterjee](#)), sets out to find the truth about who is accountable.



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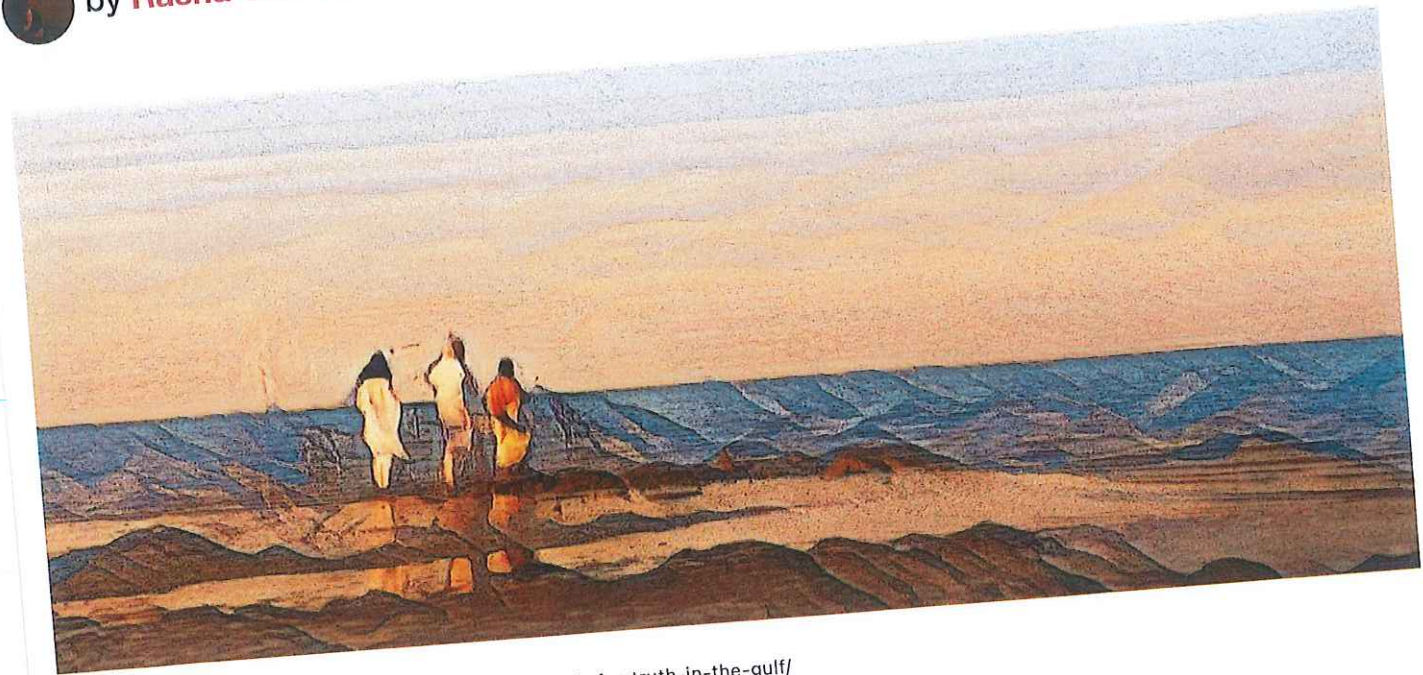
Review

Conversation

Yellow Bus: A mother's quest for truth in the Gulf

Set in a sand-swept Gulf city, Yellow Bus follows an Indian mother's relentless pursuit of justice against an oppressive neoliberal system. This debut film captivates with its emotional depth a woman's fight for accountability.

by **Rasha Chatta** — August 9, 2024 in **Review, Culture**





Yellow Sun, movie still, illustrated by Zena El Abdalla

Tags: Cinema Gulf countries Justice

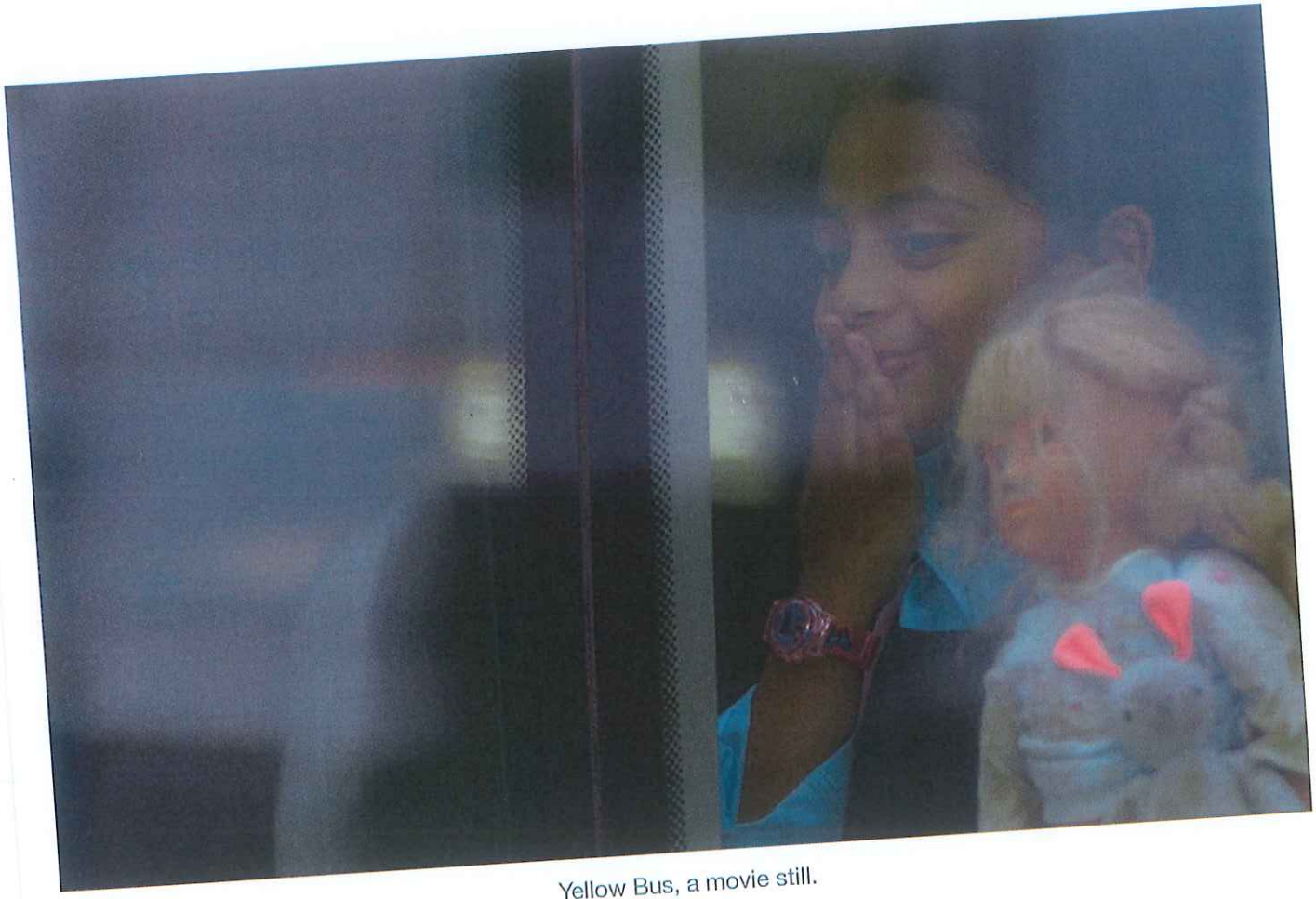


Films depicting the oppressive working conditions for migrants from impoverished countries living in the Gulf, such as *Aadujeevitham* (Goat Life, 2024) and *Gulf* (2017), have been on the rise in recent years. But what Wendy Bednarz's acclaimed debut film brings to cinema is a further, unexplored topic which has received relatively little coverage in international cinema: the further implications of an unjust system for immigrant family life.

Yellow Bus opens on a joyful morning in Ananda (Tannishtha Chatterjee) and Gagan (Amit Sial)'s small apartment, set in an unnamed, hot and dusty city in the Gulf. The morning routine resembles that of everyday: mother Ananda prepares breakfast and lunch boxes, father Gagan gets ready for work on the construction site, while daughters Ravina (Aarushi Laud) and Anju (Kshethra Mithun) prepare for yet another day at school, at the renowned Al-Ameer Academy, a beacon for future economic emancipation. The Indian family moved to the Gulf before the girls were born, searching for better life prospects and economic stability. All seems perfectly in order and the family displays scenes of an idyllic, harmonious life.

Ananda sees her daughters off as the school yellow bus comes to collect them. Soon after, however, she receives a fatidic phone call from the school administration announcing the tragic turn of events: Anju, who had fallen asleep during the ride, has been left to suffocate to death in the blistering, boiling bus, parked for hours under the midday scorching sun. The school headmistress hastily places all blames on the Pakistani driver and the Filipina bus attendant, which, as she reports, have been promptly dismissed. She hastens to bury the

accident, offering compensation money to Ananda, which the latter refuses.



Yellow Bus, a movie still.

Here, a tension between Gagan and Ananda arises. While the father is keen to stoically accept his fate and carry on with life, Ananda's search for truth and accountability becomes unquenchable. Her own investigation on the case progressively reveals the intricacies of a rotten system capitalising on neo-liberal values, on the exploitation of cheap, disposable labour, and a discriminate or non-existent judiciary system. Gagan is very much aware of his vulnerable position as an Indian construction site manager in the Gulf, one whose residency and thus livelihood is incumbent on being submissive to the system. Ananda, on the other hand, embodies the undefeated mother's relentless fight for justice and accountability. Her refusal, from the onset, to accept the official narrative of a series of negligence and mishaps and to submit to her humble position of a powerless immigrant woman eventually brings about a sense of justice.

Bednarz's award-winning modern-day thriller sheds light on an all-too common series of tragic events which afflict the underground, vulnerable working force of the Gulf, for whom the cost of justice often represents too high of a price to be pursued. It further weaves the portrait of the universal, staunch mother figure - superbly acted by Tannishtha Chatterjee- in the face of brutal, yet avoidable plights.



Rasha Chatta

Currently based in Berlin, Rasha Chatta is a comparative literature and cultural studies scholar, specialising in contemporary Arab migrant narratives, war literature, visual archives, and Arab comics. She holds a PhD from SOAS, University of London.



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by Staff Reporter — March 4, 2024 in News, Film partnerships

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The OSN Original is a fictionalised story of a six-year-old South Asian schoolgirl who falls asleep on a school bus and ultimately dies from heat exhaustion.

At the Joburg Film Festival, Wendy Bednarz's *Yellow Bus* won the coveted prize for Best Film during a gala award ceremony at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg.

Penned and directed by Wendy Bednarz in her feature debut, *Yellow Bus* boasts Jordanian producer Nadia Eliewat

as a key collaborator. Additionally, the film is co-produced by Indian producer Guneet Monga, an Oscar winner for Best Documentary Short Film at the 95th Academy Awards for her work on “*The Elephant Whisperers*.”

The cast of *Yellow Bus* includes Tannishtha Chatterjee portraying the lead role of the mother, Ananda, alongside Amit Sial as the father, Gagan, and Kinda Alloush as the school owner, Mira.

An OSN+ Original film, *Yellow Bus* narrates the poignant tale of an Indian woman residing in the Arabian Gulf, who embarks on a quest for truth and accountability after her daughter is left to die on a school bus amidst the scorching desert heat. Filmed in Abu Dhabi, the first feature film from OSN delves into universal themes such as motherhood, identity, social isolation, and coping with the loss of a child.

In their commendation for the prize-winning film, the jury highlighted: “This film addressed the fundamental challenges encountered by marginalised immigrants. The protagonist’s nuanced performance illuminated the resilience and determination required when an individual confronts a socio-political system.”

Arab distributor **MAD Solutions** has taken on the responsibility of handling international sales for *Yellow Bus*.

Tags: OSN original Wendy Bednarz Nadia Eliewat Amit Sial featuredpost OSN MAD Solutions Kinda Alloush Yellow Bus Tannishtha Chatterjee Joburg Film Festival

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Culture **Film**

OSN's first feature film 'Yellow Bus' hopes to heal through its tragic premise

Shot around the UAE, the drama tells the story of a community dealing with death of young girl left in a school bus



Director Wendy Bednarz with lead actress Tannishtha Chatterjee on the set of 'Yellow Bus'

Chris Newbould
April 21, 2022

It has been more than 10 years since the 2011 launch of OSN's Arabic channel OSN Ya Hala, a move that would see the leading regional broadcaster in house production.

It started with OSN's first original, the [Ramadan comedy favourite Hind](#)

As streaming has increasingly become the norm for global entertainment, ownership of your own content has become key to financial and critical success. OSN has continued to bring more of its originals to the region and even launch them to viewers in the US and Canada.

But the broadcaster had not produced its own feature film ... until now.

Yellow Bus, shooting for which was recently completed in the UAE, will be available on the OSN+ streaming service alongside a planned cinema release.

It is the work of New York University Abu Dhabi media tutor and writer-director Bednarz, who makes her feature debut alongside experienced Jordanian [Nadia Eliewat](#) (*Solitaire*, *When Monaliza Smiled*).

The film tells the tragic story of a young girl who dies from heat exhaustion accidentally left behind in a school bus, and the ordeal her grieving mother goes through after the event.

It is a story that will be all too familiar to residents of the region, with similar incidents having taken place in real life all across the Middle East and Indian subcontinent.

Bednarz insists that she does not want to focus on specific events as much as the universal nature of grief.



"This type of tragedy, children being left behind in locked vehicles, happens all over the world and is not limited to a geographic area or to the journey of a single person," she says. "The only reality is the sad one."

"These characters could be of any cultural background, though what makes *Yellow Bus* especially compelling is that the story takes place in an unspecified part of the Gulf where the complex societal structures challenge the status quo."

"Given the current geopolitical climate, I hope that *Yellow Bus* will resonate with audiences as humans, we share a lot of commonalities."

"We justify our actions, both the good and the bad, that's how we live. My hope is that *Yellow Bus* will touch the hearts of anyone who is grieving and perhaps act as a catharsis for relief from their pain."

The story may be fictionalised and the location unspecified but on

...surely be familiar to residents of the UAE is the cultural melting pot in which take place.

"The film is a reflection of the world in which we live. A diversity of people and languages," says Bednarz. "It's primarily in Hindi, English and Arabic, includes Urdu and Tagalog.

"Although English is my mother tongue, I've lived for over a decade outside

"During this time, through the knowledge shared with me by my local colleagues and through my own imagination, I've aspired to step over the boundaries of experience and enter the lives of others."

Those collaborators, in particular Bednarz's producer Eliewat, were crucial to *Yellow Bus* to the screen.

"Nadia made the leap from script doctor to producer, and without her belief in *Yellow Bus* would have remained on the page, forever probably," Bednarz

"Selling a feature film set in the Arab world, told in five languages, with an American writer-director was not an easy sell.

"Nadia built an incredible team, one that was multicultural, to mirror the project. The rest is history in the making."

Bednarz also praises her main cast — Indian actress Tannishtha Chatterjee as mother Ananda, Syrian actress Kinda Alloush as widowed single mother Nour, and Indian actor Amit Sial's grieving father Gagan — in bringing this multicultural story to the screen successfully.

"Some things just don't translate between languages," she says. "Instead, it became an intense collaborative process and often meant rewriting on set and sometimes heated debates about how to speak the words most authentically while maintaining the integrity of what I had written."

"Even though I lived with the character for a long time during the writing process, Tannishtha knew Ananda better than anyone and was able to breathe life into the dialogue in ways that positively cracked open the story."

"I'm incredibly grateful to all the actors for their steadfast commitment to the story as powerfully and truthfully as possible."

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[What the success of 'Dune' at the Oscars means for Abu Dhabi](#)

On a broader level, Bednarz says she hopes to be able to achieve at least some of her ambitions when her film is released this year.

First is to pave the way for more independent, character-driven films to be made in the region, and for those stories to become accessible to a wider audience with the support of a major player like OSN.

Second, the director lives in the hope that perhaps her film could save just one child's life some day.

OSN's first feature film 'Yellow Bus' hopes to heal through its tragic premise

"There are thousands of children across the globe who are left in locked and tragic consequences," Bednarz says.

"If a single life can be saved by raising awareness of such situations, I would think the film was worth making."

Yellow Bus will be available on OSN+ and in cinemas later in 2022

Updated: April 21, 2022, 7:06 AM

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Yellow Bus Movie Review- Unveiling Negligence and Pursuit of Justice

Yellow Bus Movie Review



By Yellow Bus Movie Review

Published 8 months ago • 3 min read



Yellow Bus Movie Review



Yellow Bus Movie Review

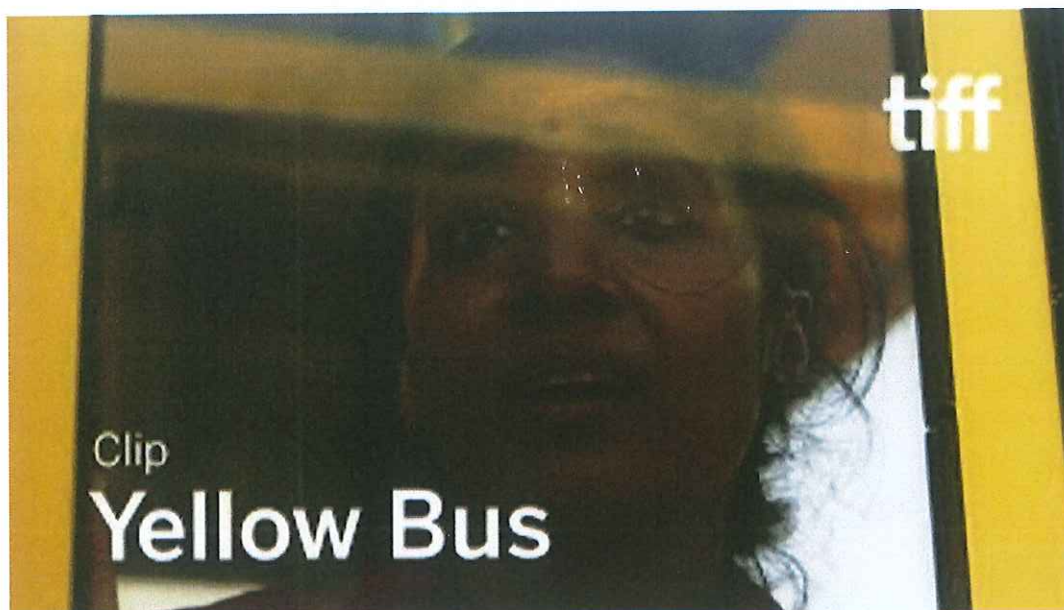
Yellow Bus Movie Review is very good. The film highlights the remarkable story of Wendy Bednarz's feature film debut, an emotional tale surrounding the preventable death of a young girl abandoned on a school bus. Anand, brilliantly portrayed by Tannishtha Chatterjee, sets out in search of justice. She uncovers disturbing details, shedding light on the horrific incident and the tragic end caused by negligence.

Unveiling Negligence:

The movie skillfully unravels layers of negligence that led to the devastating loss of a young life. From the oversight of the bus driver to the indifference of school authorities, each aspect is meticulously portrayed, leaving a profound impact on the audience. The narrative delves into the systemic failures that allowed such a tragedy to occur, prompting reflection on the importance of accountability and responsibility.

Seeking Justice:

Anand's journey becomes the focal point of the film as she embarks on a quest for justice. Tannishtha Chatterjee's portrayal of Anand is compelling, capturing the essence of determination and resilience in the face of adversity. Through her relentless pursuit of truth, Anand becomes a symbol of hope and resilience, inspiring viewers to stand up against injustice and fight for what is right.



Yellow Bus Movie Review

Emotional Depth:

The film resonates deeply on an emotional level, eliciting a range of feelings from the audience. From sorrow and anger to empathy and compassion, **Yellow Bus** navigates through a spectrum of emotions, leaving a lasting impact on its viewers. The heartbreaking reactions of the characters involved in the incident serve as a poignant reminder of the human cost of negligence and the importance of empathy in times of tragedy.

Socio-Political Commentary:

Beyond its emotional narrative, **Yellow Bus** also offers insightful socio-political commentary. The film sheds light on broader issues, bureaucratic inefficiency, societal apathy, and the disparity in access to justice. By intertwining personal tragedy with larger societal issues, the movie prompts critical reflection on the systemic challenges that plague our communities, urging viewers to contemplate the role they can play in fostering positive change.

Exploring the Narrative:

The narrative of **Yellow Bus** unfolds as Anand, portrayed with depth and conviction by Chatterjee, embarks on a relentless quest for justice. Through her journey, the audience is led through a maze of disturbing revelations surrounding the tragic incident. Bednarz masterfully crafts a narrative that keeps viewers engaged, weaving together elements of mystery, emotion, and social commentary.

Character Depth and Portrayal:

One of the standout aspects of **Yellow Bus** is the depth of its characters and the nuanced performances that bring them to life. Chatterjee's portrayal of Anand is both powerful and nuanced, capturing the complexities of her character as she grapples with grief, anger, and a fierce determination to uncover the truth. Each character in the film is meticulously crafted, adding layers of depth to the story and enhancing the overall viewing

experience.

Themes of Denial and Guilt:

At its core, *Yellow Bus* is a reflection on the human experience in the face of tragedy. The film explores themes of denial and guilt, depicting how individuals cope with the consequences of their actions or inactions. Through Anand's journey, the audience is confronted with the harsh realities of negligence and its devastating impact on lives. Bednarz skillfully navigates these themes, prompting viewers to contemplate their own responses to injustice and tragedy.

Yellow Bus Movie Review is a powerful cinematic masterpiece that transcends its genre boundaries. It skillfully combines investigative elements with emotional depth, offering a thought-provoking commentary on justice, and societal responsibility.

VOCAL



About the Creator



Yellow Bus Movie Review

While *Yellow Bus* is a film that primarily centers around a tragic incident, it succeeds in transcending mere storytelling to comment on broader socio-political issues. This section of the review aims to unravel how the film tactfully uses.

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Yellow Bus Movie Review: Unveiling Negligence

In "**Yellow Bus Movie Review**," Wendy Bednarz makes an impressive feature film debut, weaving a poignant narrative around the preventable demise of a young girl left behind on a school bus. Anchored by the compelling portrayal of Anand, brought to life by Tannishtha Chatterjee, the film embarks on a quest for justice. As Anand delves deeper, disturbing truths emerge, exposing the harrowing circumstances and tragic consequences of negligence. Seamlessly blending investigative fervor with raw emotional resonance, the movie lays bare the anguish and denial of those implicated in the tragedy. Through its nuanced exploration, "Yellow Bus Movie Review" confronts the complexities of human fallibility and the burden of guilt borne in the wake of unforeseen calamity. Striking a delicate balance between personal introspection and broader socio-political critique, the film emerges as a powerful testament to the enduring impact of complacency and the pursuit of accountability.

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Yellow Bus Movie Review: A Heartfelt Dive into Tragedy and Justice

Yellow Bus marks the impactful debut of Wendy Bednarz in the world of feature films, presenting an emotional and powerful narrative that tackles a grievous topic. The movie narrates the story of Anand, remarkably brought to life by Tannishtha Chatterjee, who embarks on a quest for justice following the preventable death of a young girl left forgotten on a school bus. The film delicately weaves investigative drama with deep emotional currents, highlighting the tragedy of negligence and the profound impact of human denial in the face of catastrophe.

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29 Aug 2023

TIFF's review published on Letterboxd:

In Wendy Bednarz's feature debut, an Indian woman living in the Arabian Gulf embarks on a search for truth and accountability after her daughter is left to die on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat.

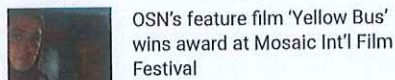
Ananda (Tannishtha Chatterjee) and Gagan (Amit Sial) emigrated to the Arabian Gulf from India in search of new opportunities and a better life for their family, which soon grew to include daughters Ravina and Anju. But their dreams are shattered when Anju, their youngest, dies after being forgotten on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat.

Devastated and literally clinging to her daughter's ashes, Ananda launches into a desperate search for truth. She knows there is something being withheld. When the school returns with a customary offer of *diyya* — court-ordered blood money for a wrongful death — Ananda refuses it. She also refuses the excuses and condolences she is presented with, all too thin to ease the weight of her grief and the unravelling of her family. Despite Gagan and Ravina's pleas, Ananda will not quit until her standard of accountability — not the school's — is met and Anju's tormented soul is put to rest.

This rich and affecting feature debut from American writer-director Wendy Bednarz queries the raw complexities of cultural exchange without pleasantries, landing a deft social critique thick with emotional tension. Chatterjee (*Brick Lane*, TIFF '07) channels a searing stoicism and ferocious resolve, giving a chilling lead performance, dynamically captured by cinematographer Sofian El Fani (*Blue is the Warmest Color*, TIFF '13; *Timbuktu*, TIFF '14). A sobering and resolute examination of the Gulf's evolving cultural landscape, *Yellow Bus* imparts an unforgettable lesson in the power of a mother's determination against all odds.

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OSN's feature film 'Yellow Bus' wins award at Mosaic Int'l Film Festival

by Staff Reporter - September 25, 2024 in News, Film partnerships



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The OSN Original is a fictionalised story of a six-year-old South Asian schoolgirl who falls asleep on a school bus and ultimately dies from heat exhaustion.

OSN's first original feature, *Yellow Bus* directed by Wendy Bednarz, has won the Spotlight Award at the Mosaic International Film Festival.

Penned and directed by Wendy Bednarz in her feature debut, *Yellow Bus* boasts Jordanian producer Nadia Eliewat as a key collaborator.

Written and directed by American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz, *Yellow Bus* stars Kinda Alloush alongside Bollywood sensation Tannishtha Chatterjee, Amit Sial, and Aarushi Laud, discovered by director Wendy Bednarz in Dubai, portraying the pivotal role of the child.

A collaborative effort between the US, India, Jordan and the UAE, *Yellow Bus* is produced by Jordanian producer and Screen Project founder Nadia Eliewat in partnership with Guneet Monga, founder of Sikhya Entertainment.

During the film's premiere in Toronto, Bednarz shared insights with Variety magazine, revealing her inspiration to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals grappling with unconscious bias in Middle Eastern society. She said: "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that."

Set against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf's scorching desert, *Yellow Bus* weaves a tale around a mother's anguish over the loss of her child and her relentless pursuit for closure. Exploring themes of alienation and connection, the film mirrors the experiences of individuals navigating a multicultural environment.

The narrative unfolds when the daughter of an Indian family is tragically left behind on a school bus, leading to her untimely demise. As each family member grapples with the aftermath, the grieving mother embarks on a quest for truth and accountability, refusing to rest until justice is served. Will her relentless determination bring solace amid tragedy?

MAD Solutions handles the film's international sales rights and theatrical distribution across the Arab world, while the cinematography is crafted by French Tunisian cinematographer Sofian El-Fani, renowned for his international accolades.

Tags: [featuredpost](#) [OSN](#) [MAD Solutions](#) [Yellow Bus](#)

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‘Yellow Bus’: Watch An Exclusive Clip From Wendy Bednarz’s Feature Debut — Toronto

By [Diana Lodderhose](#)

September 8, 2023 7:00am





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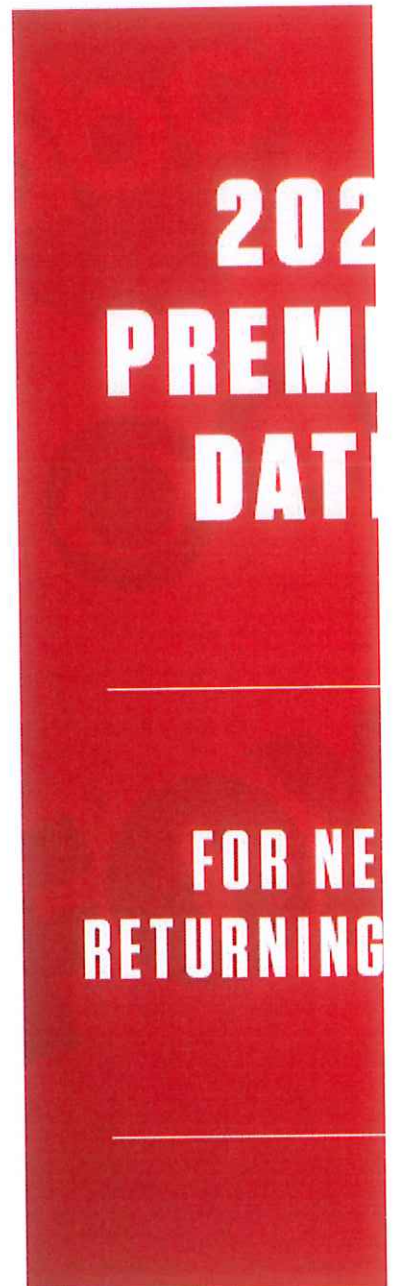
EXCLUSIVE: Here's an exclusive clip from Wendy Bednarz's upcoming feature debut *Yellow Bus*, which is world premiering in the Toronto Film Festival's Discovery program this weekend.

Based on true events, the film follows an Indian family living in the Arabian Gulf facing unspeakable tragedy after their youngest daughter is left to die on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat.

Consumed by grief, the girl's mother Anada (Tannishtha Chatterjee) sets out to search for the truth surrounding her daughter's death and find who should be held accountable. As accusations unfurl, Anada demands each suspect to confront their darkest secrets and own their part in the senseless tragedy.

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Bednarz, who writes and directs, describes the film as a “heartfelt story of a mother’s journey to grieve the loss of her child and to forgive those responsible, including herself.”

She added: “As a working-class Indian expat, Anada Ishwar is not just any mother – she must fight to make her voice heard.”

Chatterjee, who is known for starring in Sarah Gavron’s 2007 British title *Brick Lane*, is joined by Kinda Alloush, Amit Sial, Aarushi Laud and Kshethra Mithun.

The UAE-Jordan-Indian-U.S. co-production is produced by Screen Project, Metatron Productions, OSN, Creative Venture, Sikhya Entertainment and Ta Films. Nadia Eliewat produces while Guneet Monga Kapoor is co-producer.

Shivani Pandya Malhotra, who is managing director of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Festival, is executive producer on the project.

Yellow Bus debuts at TIFF on Sunday, September 10, 2023. Check out the clip above.

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by Staff Reporter — May 16, 2024 in Cinema Theatres, News



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The OSN Original is a fictionalised story of a six-year-old South Asian schoolgirl who falls asleep on a school bus and ultimately dies from heat exhaustion.

OSN's first original feature, *Yellow Bus* directed by Wendy Bednarz, is set to hit **Vox Cinemas** across Saudi Arabia and the UAE starting May 16.

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Written and directed by American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz, *Yellow Bus* stars Kinda Alloush alongside

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Egyptian-Lebanese film 'Arzeh'

Bollywood sensation Tannishtha Chatterjee, Amit Sial, and Aarushi Laud, discovered by director Wendy Bednarz in Dubai, portraying the pivotal role of the child.

A collaborative effort between the US, India, Jordan, and the UAE, *Yellow Bus* is produced by Jordanian producer and Screen Project founder Nadia Eliewat in partnership with Guneet Monga, founder of Sikhya Entertainment.

During the film's premiere in Toronto, Bednarz shared insights with *Variety* magazine, revealing her inspiration to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals grappling with unconscious bias in Middle Eastern society. She said: "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that."

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MAD Solutions handles the film's international sales rights and theatrical distribution across the Arab world, while the cinematography is crafted by French Tunisian cinematographer Sofian El-Fani, renowned for his international accolades.

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Ghana implements national space policy

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The policy is expected to serve as a framework for utilising space science and harness the power of space technology to propel economic growth and ensure sustainable development.

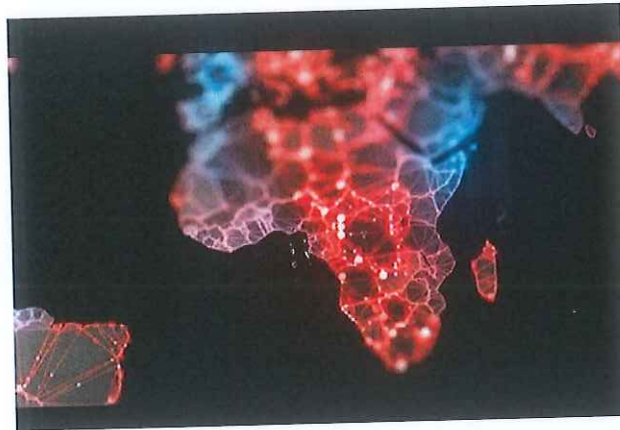


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Ghana launched its national space policy on November 5, 2024, marking a significant milestone in its growing space sector. The policy is expected to serve as a framework for utilising space science and harness the power of space technology to propel economic growth, enhance national security, and ensure sustainable development. With space technology already being used across various sectors such as agriculture, health, transportation, energy, and security, the policy seeks to strengthen coordination between governmental agencies and the private sector and optimise space-related activities for the country's development.

The new policy also aims to address gaps such as fragmented efforts in coordinating and accessing space data from multiple entities. It will ensure that space technology usage is well-coordinated, standardised, regulated, and sustainably managed.

Dr Joseph Bremang Tandoh, Director of the Ghana Space Science and Technology Institute (GSSTI) emphasised that the policy would allow Ghana to use its growing space capabilities for meaningful applications that support economic growth and job creation while positioning the nation as a contributor to the African space ecosystem.

The Ghana Space Policy aligns with the country's broader national development objectives, particularly within the Coordinated Programmes for Social and Economic Policies (2017-2024). It focuses on integrating space science and technology (SST) into critical areas such as resource management, climate monitoring, agricultural development, and infrastructure planning. This would support the

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nation's pursuit of sustainable economic, social, and environmental development.

One of the policy's central goals is to improve Ghana's ability to manage the biophysical environment effectively. By coordinating and promoting space-based technologies across different sectors, the policy aims to enhance the country's capacity to address challenges like climate change, food security, and resource management. Further, it seeks to position Ghana as an active player in the global space community by fostering international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and infrastructure investments in space technology. Ghana's participation in space science research and technological advancements is expected to open new avenues for investment, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Beyond its application in various sectors, the Ghana Space Policy envisions the creation of sustainable revenue streams and job opportunities across the space industry. These opportunities will span multiple thematic areas, including satellite communications (satcom), Earth observation (EO), global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), astronomy, and space component manufacturing.

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OSN commissions first original feature 'Yellow Bus'

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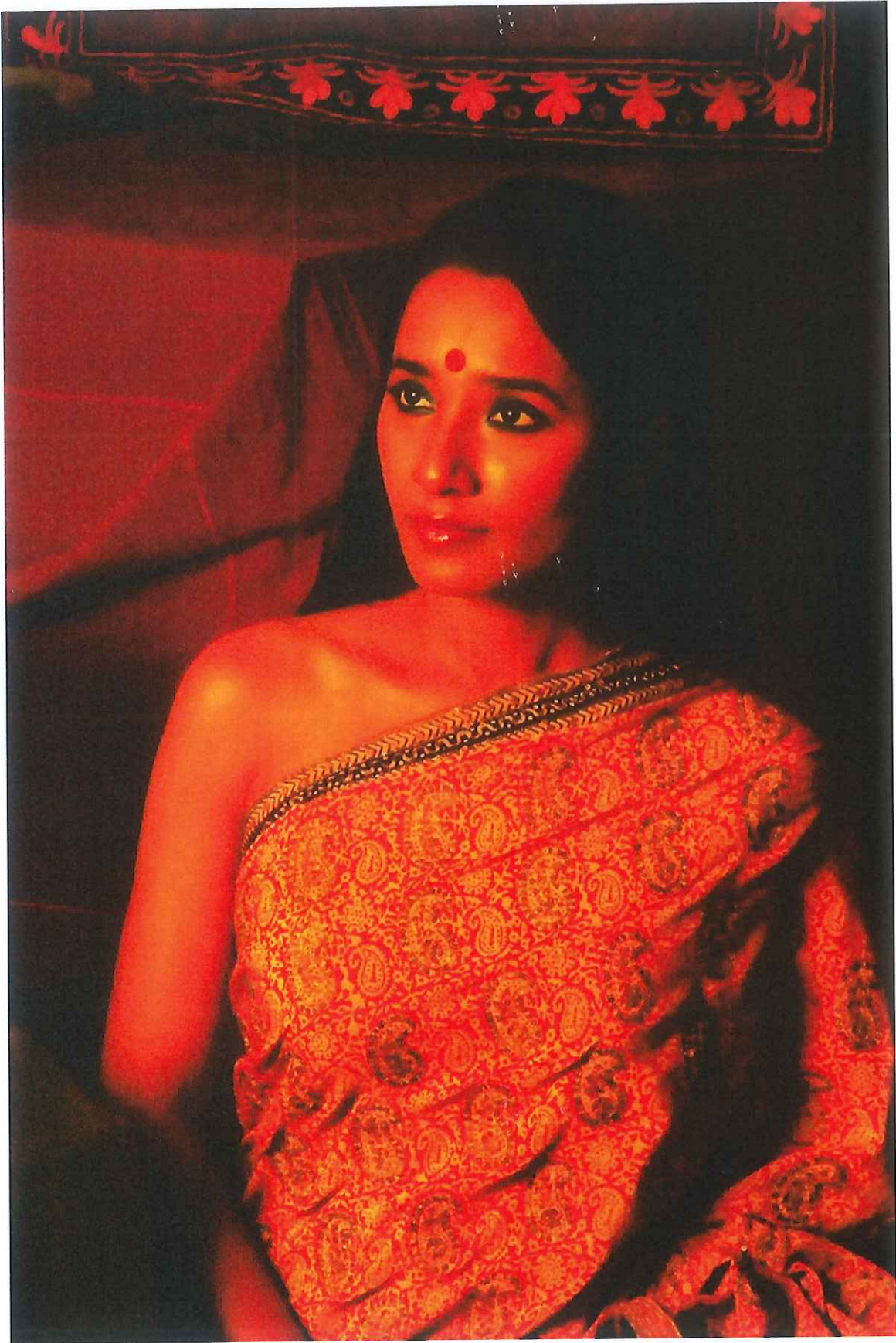
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Amit Sial as Gagan. (Supplied)



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Kinda Alloush as Mira. (Supplied)



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Tannishtha Chatterjee as Ananda. (Supplied)

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- Film to premiere on the platform this year after theatrical release

DUBAI: Streaming service OSN, which has been investing heavily in original content, has announced its latest original, "Yellow Bus," which marks its foray into feature films.

"Yellow Bus" tells the story of a schoolgirl who dies from heat exhaustion after falling asleep on a school bus and is left behind.

The movie follows her mother Ananda, played by Tannishtha Chatterjee, as she searches for the truth about her daughter's death.

"Yellow Bus" explores universal themes of motherhood, grief and dealing with loss against the backdrop of Gulf culture.

"We were drawn to the story as it works on many levels. It takes you on a heartbreaking roller-coaster of the mother's desperation, while also covering controversial themes and concepts that are rarely addressed in this region," said Darine ElKhatib, senior vice president of Arabic services and original production at OSN.

The film is written and directed by Wendy Bednarz, who has previously directed short films such as "On Crystal" and "Leaving Gussie," and is produced by award-winning Jordanian screenwriter and producer Nadia Eliewat.

In addition to Chatterjee, the cast includes Amit Sial as the father, Gagan, and Kinda Alloush as the school owner, Mira.

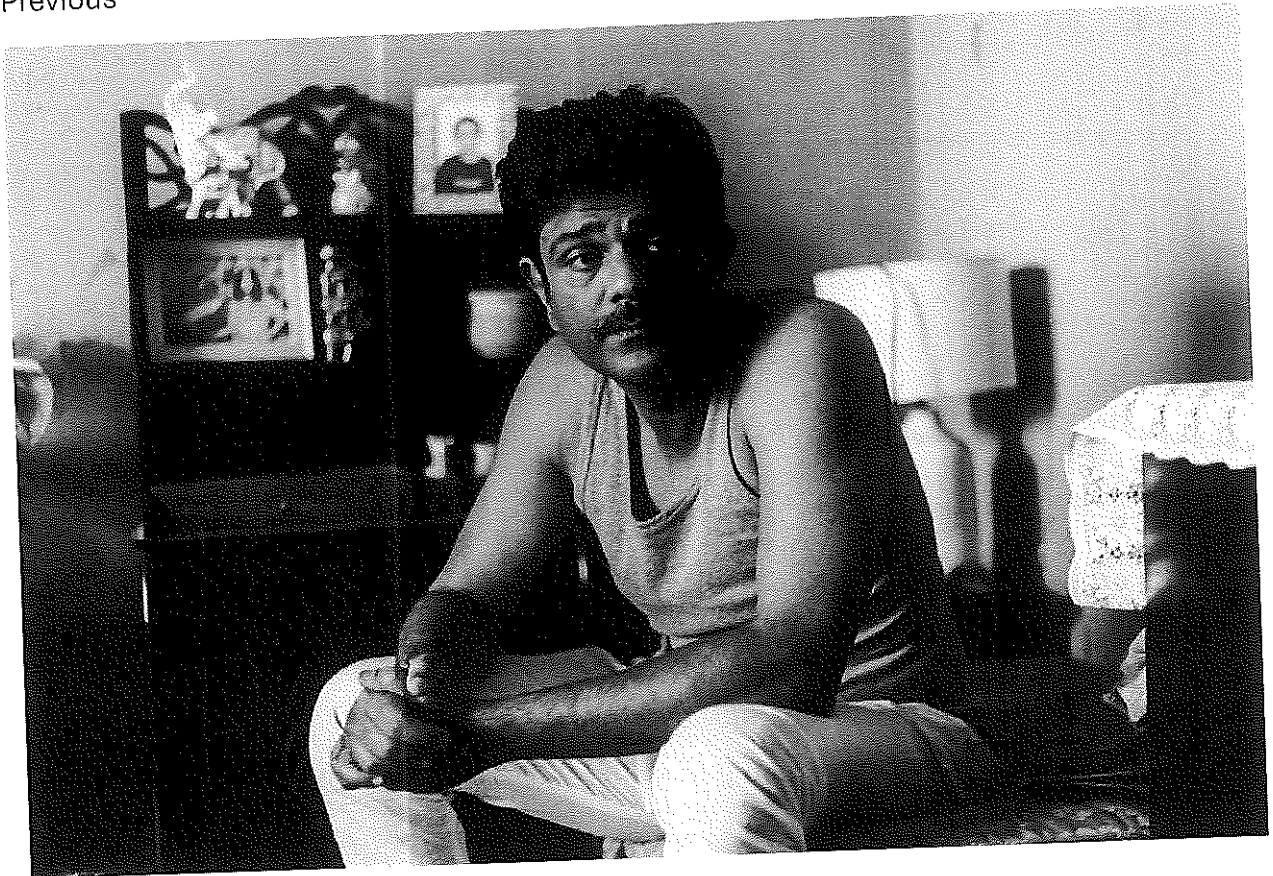
“I can’t imagine a mother going through the loss of her child; it was a very emotional role for me to immerse myself in the character. The production of the film and the atmosphere on set were a truthful reflection of real life with its diversity of languages and accents,” said Chatterjee.

Alloush added: “When I read the script’s first 10 pages, I knew I wanted to be a part of this film. It’s a relatable story that can take place anywhere.”

The shooting of the film has been completed, and it will premiere on the platform later in the year after its theatrical release.

OSN commissions first original feature 'Yellow Bus'

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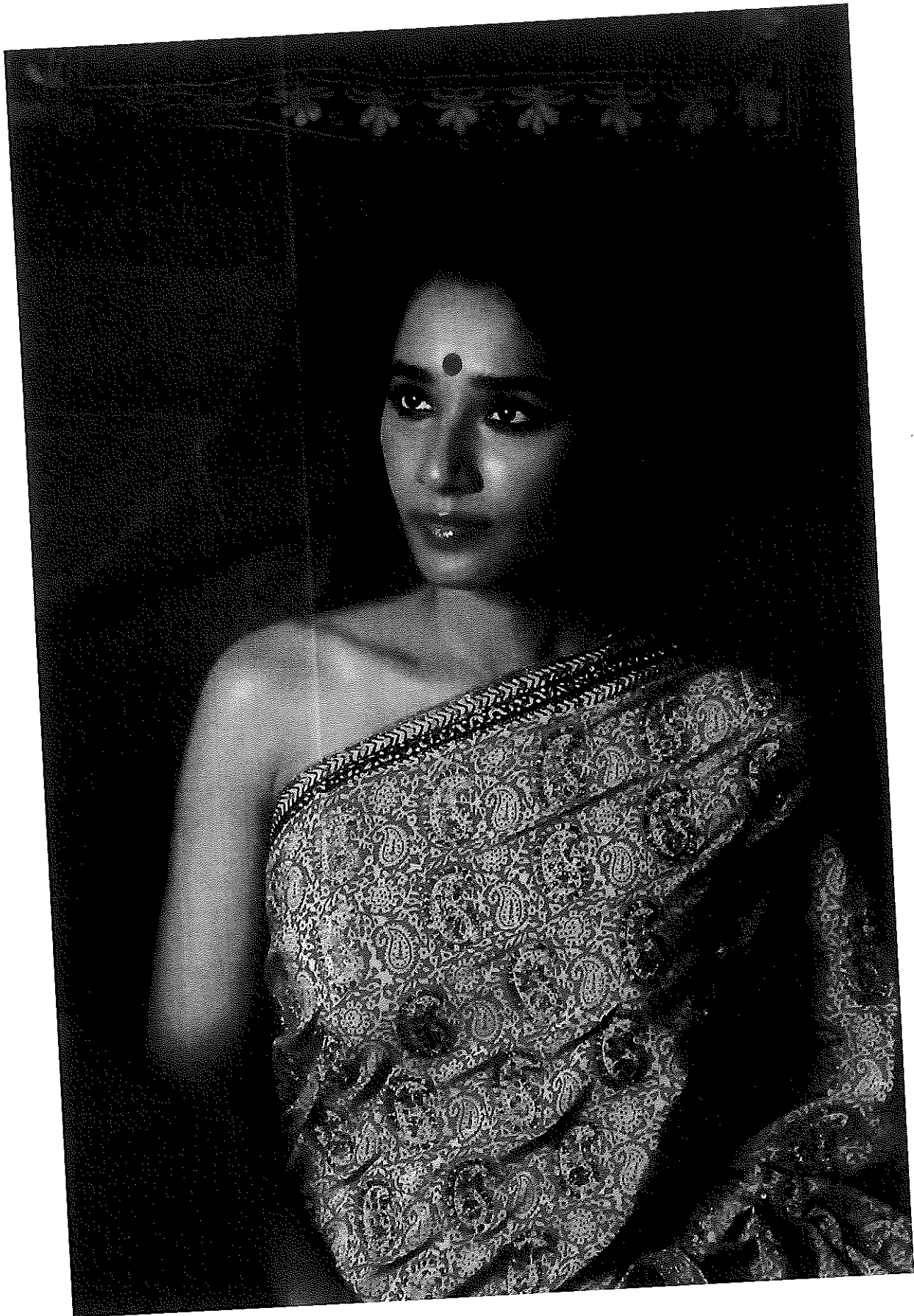
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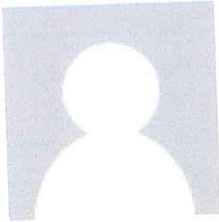
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Vox Cinemas to release OSN's feature film 'Yellow Bus' across UAE and KSA



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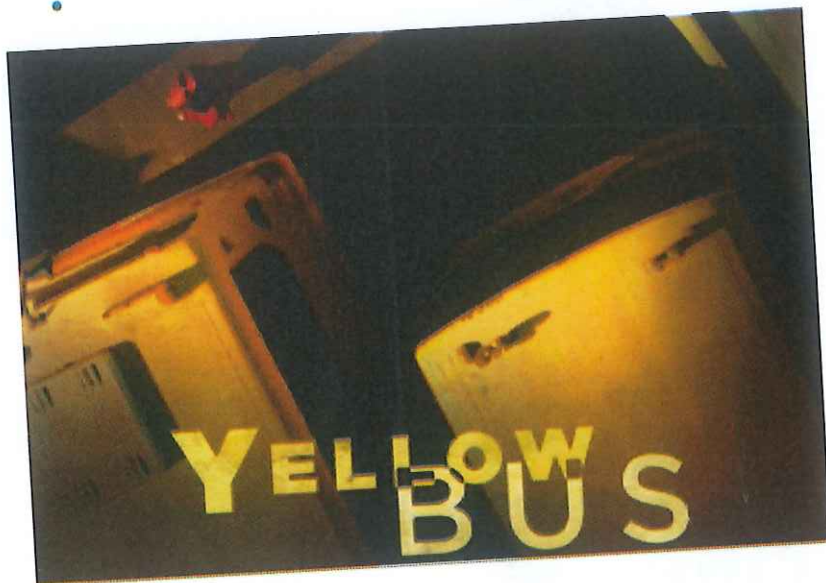
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Yellow Bus Movie - Review on A gripping tale of motherhood, grief and justice

"Yellow Bus," directed and written by Wendy Bednarz, is a poignant drama that delves into the depths of a mother's agony and her relentless pursuit of truth.



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[Yellow Bus Movie Review](#)

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Dubai, United Arab Emirates Feb 6, 2024 (Issuewire.com) - "Yellow Bus Movie," directed and written by Wendy Bednarz, is a poignant drama that delves into the depths of a mother's agony and her relentless pursuit of truth. Justice after a tragic incident involving her daughter, Anju, unfolds in the scorching heat of the Middle East. The film takes its audience on an emotional rollercoaster, skillfully portraying the aftermath of an unimaginable loss and a mother's unwavering determination to seek accountability and closure.

At the narrative's core lies Tannishtha Chatterjee's compelling portrayal of Ananda Ishwar, a mother shattered by the harrowing fate that befalls her six-year-old daughter, Anju. The film masterfully captures the emotional turmoil of Ananda as she grapples with grief, anger, and an unyielding desire for justice. Chatterjee's performance is powerful, capturing the essence of a mother's love and agony with raw authenticity.

Bednarz's direction skillfully navigates the narrative, presenting pivotal scenes that resonate deeply with the audience. The sequences are meticulously crafted, evoking emotions from empathy to sheer disbelief. Particularly striking is the scene where Ananda licks her daughter's ashes, a heart-wrenching moment that encapsulates the profound love and longing of a grieving mother and gives the audience chills. Bednarz's ability to infuse such poignant moments throughout the film showcases her adeptness at storytelling and connecting with her audience on an emotional level.

The film's strength lies in its ability to maintain a gripping narrative from start to finish. As Ananda embarks on her quest for truth, the audience is on an intense journey, experiencing the highs and lows of her pursuit of justice. The refusal to accept blood money from the school authorities is a testament to Ananda's unwavering resolve to uncover the truth and hold those responsible for their negligence.

Moreover, the symbolism embedded within the film is both poignant and thought-provoking. The scene where the family bids their last farewell to their remaining child by the sea, juxtaposed with the passing yellow bus no. 22, is a stark reminder of life's harsh realities and the inevitability of moving forward despite tragedy. These moments linger in the audience's mind, emphasizing the film's ability to leave a lasting impact.

Despite being a low-budget production, "*Yellow Bus Movie*" captures the audience's attention through its compelling narrative and emotionally charged performances. The film's ability to evoke genuine empathy and provoke introspection regarding societal issues, such as accountability and negligence in educational institutions, is a testament to Bednarz's skill as a filmmaker.

SLASH FILM

Yellow Bus Review: How Far Will You Go For Justice? [TIFF 2023]

REVIEWS MOVIE REVIEWS

Yellow Bus Review: How Far Will You Go For Justice? [TIFF 2023]



BY BARRY LEVITT SEPT. 11, 2023 8:20 AM EST

It's a sweltering day on the Arabian peninsula, but Ananda's (Tannishtha Chatterjee) family is happy. Ananda and her husband Gagan (Amit Sial) can barely keep their hands off each other, smiling at one another like newlyweds. Ananda lovingly and delicately prepares pomegranate for her two daughters' school lunches, six-year-old Anju (Kshethra Mithun) and older sister Ravina (Aarushi Laud). Ananda walks her kids to the bus, and waves excitedly as they drive away, the joy reciprocated in her daughter's faces.

But this gleeful day is about to come crashing down around them. Anju has fallen asleep on the school bus, and a series of small, unfortunate decisions compound, and Anju is left on the bus while the rest of the kids go to school. In the suffocating heat, Anju gets heat

asphyxiation and dies. Ananda and Gagan are called into the school, believing their daughter has wet herself again. But the reality is far worse than they could have ever imagined.

The death has left Ananda's family completely broken. How does one even recover in the face of such tragedy and injustice? The dishes and tears pile up, suffering under the overwhelming grief. After the courts rule the situation a wrongful death, the school offers Ananda a cash settlement, a blood money payout to help the family deal with and ease their grief. Ananda, however, is deeply offended by the money, calling it a bride; seething, she tells the principal, "My daughter does not have a price."

This interaction spurs Ananda to fight for the truth. It's impossible for her to forget Anju, and the more she thinks about it, the more things don't seem to add up. The doll Anju had with her is gone — there's no trace of it on the bus where they found her. Other details feel off — the bus door was jammed when Ananda dropped them off, but this bus has a perfectly functioning door. But the deeper Ananda gets into seeking justice for Anju, the more she drives herself from the family she already has, who want to try and pick up the pieces and carry on as a family without their beloved Anju.

In "Yellow Bus," cultures are clashing — Ananda's Hindu faith does not allow her to accept money. But where they've moved to it's a perfectly normal practice. Writer-director Wendy Bednarz's script often strives too much for generality, painting the class and race struggles of Ananda's family with broad strokes. In one scene, the principal's daughter remarks "Imagine what it's like to live where you're treated like you're invisible" about Ananda, but we never get a sense of how that manifests in Ananda's life. But while the screenplay goes overly general to feel more universal, it actually ends up making the story lose its specificity, refusing to even pinpoint where "Yellow Bus" takes place (It takes place along the Arabian Gulf, which narrows it down to about nine countries). It's as if the film really wants to make clear that this could happen anywhere, without realizing that losing a child and wanting justice is about as relatable an idea as you can get.

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

The First OSN Original In The Region To Debut At The Toronto International Film





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EXCLUSIVE: Here's an exclusive clip from Wendy Bednarz's upcoming feature debut *Yellow Bus*, which is world premiering in the Toronto Film Festival's Discovery program this weekend.

Based on true events, the film follows an Indian family living in the Arabian Gulf facing unspeakable tragedy after their youngest daughter is left to die on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat. Consumed by grief, the girl's mother Anada (Tannishtha Chatterjee) sets out to search for the truth surrounding her daughter's death and find who should be held accountable. As accusations unfurl, Anada demands each suspect to confront their darkest secrets and own their part in the senseless tragedy.

Bednarz, who writes and directs, describes the film as a "heartfelt story of a mother's journey to grieve the loss of her child and to forgive those responsible, including herself." She added: "As a working-class Indian expat, Anada Ishwar is not just any mother – she must fight to make her voice heard."

Chatterjee, who is known for starring in Sarah Gavron's 2007 British title *Brick Lane*, is joined by Kinda Alloush, Amit Sial, Aarushi Laud and Kshethra Mithun.

The UAE-Jordan-Indian-U.S. co-production is produced by Screen Project, Metatron Productions, OSN, Creative Venture, Sikhya Entertainment and Ta Films. Nadia Eliewat produces while Guneet Monga Kapoor is co-producer.

Shivani Pandya Malhotra, who is managing director of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Festival, is executive producer on the project.

Yellow Bus debuts at TIFF on Sunday, September 10, 2023. Check out the clip above.

Written and directed by American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz, *Yellow Bus* stars Kinda Alloush alongside Bollywood sensation Tannishtha Chatterjee, Amit Sial, and Aarushi Laud, discovered by director Wendy Bednarz in Dubai, portraying the pivotal role of the child.

A collaborative effort between the US, India, Jordan, and the UAE, *Yellow Bus* is produced by Jordanian producer and Screen Project founder Nadia Eliewat in partnership with Guneet Monga, founder of Sikhya Entertainment.

During the film's premiere in Toronto, Bednarz shared insights with Variety magazine, revealing her inspiration to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals grappling with unconscious bias in Middle Eastern society. She said: "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that."

Set against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf's scorching desert, *Yellow Bus* weaves a tale around a mother's anguish over the loss of her child and her relentless pursuit for closure. Exploring themes of alienation and connection, the film mirrors the experiences of individuals navigating a multicultural environment.

The narrative unfolds when the daughter of an Indian family is tragically left behind on a school bus, leading to her untimely demise. As each family member grapples with the aftermath, the grieving mother embarks on a quest for truth and accountability, refusing to rest until justice is served. Will her relentless determination bring solace amid tragedy?

MAD Solutions handles the film's international sales rights and theatrical distribution across the Arab world, while the cinematography is crafted by French Tunisian cinematographer Sofian El-Fani, renowned for his international accolades.

The Telegraph *online*

Thursday, 07 November 2024

Tannishtha Chatterjee on her film Yellow Bus: ‘For mothers, it is a difficult film to watch’

Wendy Bednarz’s directorial debut *Yellow Bus*, starring Tannishtha Chatterjee and Amit Sial, had its Asia premiere at Jio MAMI 2023

Sameer Salunkhe Calcutta Published 06.11.23, 04:50 PM

connected over her vision and how she saw the role. She has two children, and our main producer Nadia Eliewat also has two kids, so it was sort of a thing where mothers connected with the whole thing — the aspirations that mothers have for their kids and the pressures that kids face. Maybe it was more in our parents' generation. We try to balance it out a little. Yet, it is still there and especially how immigrants face this and that's why they move out of their countries in search of a better life for themselves and their kids. But it's not always like that, right? Tragedies also happen. *Yellow Bus* is a heartbreaking story.

Is *Yellow Bus* inspired by real-life incidents?

Tannishtha Chatterjee: Yes, it is inspired by true events.

How did you prepare for a character that goes through such extreme pain and emotional turmoil?

Tannishtha Chatterjee: I did not prepare for it. If I had prepared, I probably would have ended up in a mental asylum. I was disturbed throughout filming. I just put myself into that situation. I had to come out of it constantly.

My producers Nadia Eliewat and Guneet Monga Kapoor had given me the option of taking my daughter with me to the shoot because I was going to be out of India for five-six weeks. That was very sweet of them but I chose not to. Because, first, I didn't want to disturb my daughter's schedule. Second, I didn't want to come back after this trauma (shooting) and then meet my daughter.

I wanted to disconnect myself and just be the actor and not think about my daughter at all. Even then it was difficult because every time I saw the little girl who was playing the part, I just couldn't see her. Losing your child is obviously the worst that could happen to any human being.

What were the other challenges of shooting the film in Abu Dhabi?

Tannishtha Chatterjee: On the last three days of the shoot, 20 people on the set got Covid. I didn't get it, Wendy the director didn't get it and the DOP did not get it. So, the ones affected by the virus were isolated and we somehow finished the shoot. The rules and precautions in UAE were strict, so we had to take at least three tests before we could go on set. There were very few cases in the UAE but there were many in India at that time (the second wave).

***Yellow Bus* had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2023. Any response or reaction to the film that has stayed with you?**

Vox Cinemas to release OSN's feature film 'Yellow Bus' across UAE and KSA



by [Staff Reporter](#)



May 16, 2024

in [Cinema Theatres](#), [News](#)

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The OSN Original is a fictionalised story of a six-year-old South Asian schoolgirl who falls asleep on a school bus and ultimately dies from heat exhaustion.

OSN's first original feature, *Yellow Bus* directed by Wendy Bednarz, is set to hit [Vox Cinemas](#) across Saudi Arabia and the UAE starting May 16.

Penned and directed by Wendy Bednarz in her feature debut, *Yellow Bus* boasts Jordanian producer Nadia Eliewat as a key collaborator.

Tannishtha Chatterjee: Oh yeah. At TIFF, there was a woman who was howling during the screening. There was another woman who cried during the Q&A session because she lost her brother in a similar way. She said, 'My mother would love to watch this film and it will be cathartic for her.' There were a lot of emotional reactions like that.

I saw the film for the first time at TIFF. And the first 15 minutes, my co-actor Kinda Alloush from Syria, who is a huge Middle-Eastern star, and I were holding hands and we had tears in our eyes. Kinda is also a mother. For mothers, it is a difficult film to watch. You never want this to happen to anyone.

You have a daughter. You are a daughter. How would you describe a parent's love for their child?

Tannishtha Chatterjee: It is unconditional. It is the most secure relationship from their side. Not from the child's side always. Because as we grow up, we have so many other things and parents become a part of our lives. But for parents, the child is always the centre of their lives. My parents have always made sacrifices for me. If the world falls apart, they are always there for me. And that security is so amazing, just to feel it. I try to provide that to my child.

Obviously, therefore, it is devastating when we lose our parents. That unconditional space that you could always go to is not there anymore. Having said that, there are problems in a parent-child relationship — pressures, expectations and responsibilities. Sometimes, parents' love can also be toxic and there are things like honour killings. But I think that's a problem with patriarchy, not parental love.

Playing such a challenging role can give you something and also take away a part of you. What did Yellow Bus give you and take from you?

Tannishtha Chatterjee: I feel every film makes me grow. It doesn't empty me in any way. It enriches me and Yellow Bus did that in many ways. I am going to be 43. At this age, we are still getting these fantastic roles, which is great. We are also crossing borders. Yellow Bus is such a beautiful collaboration between India, UAE, Jordan and the USA. Some of the cast members are from Syria. This across-borders collaboration was enriching.

This whole idea of mothers getting together and working also creates an atmosphere that is conducive to supporting motherhood; it felt wonderful. The fact that we can be mothers and working women and we understand each other. At times, Wendy (director) had nanny problems during the shoot, so we used to take turns to play with her and Nadia's children



Tannishtha Chatterjee.

Following its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2023, Wendy Bednarz's directorial debut feature film, *Yellow Bus*, had its Asia premiere at Jio MAMI 2023 in Mumbai. The film is a poignant drama starring Tannishtha Chatterjee and Amit Sial. In a heartfelt conversation, Tannishtha Chatterjee talks about *Yellow Bus*, her character, motherhood and the challenges of shooting the film.

What was your reaction when *Yellow Bus* was offered to you?

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Tannishtha Chatterjee: I was in two minds. On the one hand, I thought that it was a fabulous role as an actor. I had become a mother three years before this film was offered to me. I knew that I could do justice to the part. But on the other hand, I was feeling tortured wondering whether I should be putting myself into that situation. Because as an actor, you have to imagine, 'How would I react if this happened to me?' and 'Why do I want to do that to myself?'

Initially, it was that dichotomy. But once I had a chat with director Wendy Bednarz on Zoom because she lives in Abu Dhabi, we absolutely hit it off on the first note itself. We

by Sahira Dharamshi September 7, 2023

FBLNTWMAIL

Yellow Bus is all set for its global premiere at the 48th TIFF taking place this month

OSN's first original movie in the MENA region is all set for its global premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival 2023.

OSN's first original movie in the MENA region, *Yellow Bus*, is all set for its global premiere at the 48th Toronto International Film Festival, which is from September 7 – September 17, 2023. The much-anticipated release is written and directed by Wendy Bednarz and produced by Screen Project and Metatron Productions in co-production with Sikhya Entertainment and Pix44 Productions.

The filming took place in Abu Dhabi with support from the Abu Dhabi Film Commission and is based on the story of a South Asian woman living in the region. According to tiff.net, "In Wendy Bednarz's feature debut, an Indian woman living in the Arabian Gulf embarks on a search for truth and accountability after her daughter is left to die on a school bus in the sweltering desert heat."

Written and directed by American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz, *Yellow Bus* stars Kinda Alloush alongside Bollywood sensation Tannishtha Chatterjee, Amit Sial, and Aarushi Laud, discovered by director Wendy Bednarz in Dubai, portraying the pivotal role of the child.

A collaborative effort between the US, India, Jordan, and the UAE, *Yellow Bus* is produced by Jordanian producer and Screen Project founder Nadia Eliewat in partnership with Guneet Monga, founder of Sikhya Entertainment.

During the film's premiere in Toronto, Bednarz shared insights with *Variety* magazine, revealing her inspiration to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals grappling with unconscious bias in Middle Eastern society. She said: "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that."

Set against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf's scorching desert, *Yellow Bus* weaves a tale around a mother's anguish over the loss of her child and her relentless pursuit for closure. Exploring themes of alienation and connection, the film mirrors the experiences of individuals navigating a multicultural environment.

The narrative unfolds when the daughter of an Indian family is tragically left behind on a school bus, leading to her untimely demise. As each family member grapples with the aftermath, the grieving mother embarks on a quest for truth and accountability, refusing to rest until justice is served. Will her relentless determination bring solace amid tragedy?

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REVIEWS, TIFF • SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



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TIFF 2023 Review: A Search for Answers Drives Wendy Bednarz's "Yellow Bus"

A tragedy involving a small child grows into a far larger one when her mother starts an investigation of her own in this wrenching drama.



STEPHEN SAITO

 
SHARES

Writer/director
Wendy

Writer/director Wendy Bednarz takes note of the changing architecture in the Arabian Peninsula in the opening moments of "Yellow Bus," cross-cutting scenes of towering, shimmering skyscrapers with as-yet-to-be-developed parts of the city where buildings are two stories at most. The old and new ways of doing things are reflected in the architectural design, but to undertake such massive projects, it's embedded into the construction of them as well when the developments requires an influx of immigrants for whom there is the promise of making a living, but not necessarily a life when the city remains foreign. The filmmaker doesn't linger on these images for long, but they stay in your head as her absorbing debut feature unfolds, detailing a tragedy that somehow begets an even greater one when an Indian family, whose patriarch has come to work in the country, learns their youngest daughter Anju (Kshethra Mithun) has died after falling asleep inside a hot school bus and her mother Ananda (Tannishtha Chatterjee) believes closure can only be found by knowing everything that happened the day of the incident.

The audience is privy to this information well before Ananda is, which makes "Yellow Bus" unusual in finding tension elsewhere – and plenty of it as Ananda starts conducting her own investigation after local authorities rule the death an accident. There's no reason to disagree with their assessment from what's shown by Bednarz, though there's any number of small, seemingly insignificant occurrences that everyone who crossed paths with Anju on her way to school can now feel unduly guilty for, from the bus attendant (Jennifer Dabu Lara) who doesn't go all the way to the back before stepping off to Anju's older sister Ravina (Aarushi Laud), who rushed off to class assuming that her sister would leave after everyone else did. While Ananda is angry at everyone without having the full picture for herself, she becomes fixated on the bus door, which had a tendency to jam and should've likely been replaced by the Al-Ameer Academy, the female-run institution that is a point of pride among the locals when it represents progress., though as Ananda learns when its headmistress (Kinda Alloush) tries to settle the case with a few Manila envelopes full of cash, beholden to certain old ways of handling such sensitive issues.

A propulsive drama starts to take shape watching all involved make the wrong moves for the right reasons. Although Anju's death deserves to be mourned, the film observes that no one has the time to when consumed with their own rage towards one another, with no way to either grieve or seek resolution when every exchange ends up aggravating the situation further. "Yellow Bus" not only explores the cultural differences that exacerbate the issues at hand, but ones that exist within families themselves when at school, Ravina feels more comfortable speaking to the headmistress than her mother after feeling somewhat responsible for Anju's death, which is welcome by the headmistress not as some trump card over Ananda, but a tonic for the lack of communication she has with her own daughter.

Bednarz, with “Blue is the Warmest Color” cinematographer Sofian El Fani, will occasionally take ordinary scenes into a slightly surreal and eerie realm, envisioning for instance the phalanx of buses in the school parking lot that Ananda searches through for the one her daughter died in as a maze with no way out. But more impressive is how she is able to pull this feeling off from scene to scene as the situation spirals out of control and characters act irrationally only because of how they’re relating to one another. “Yellow Bus” may raise some questions about the foundation on which this modern-day society is built, but its own nuts and bolts are quite sturdy and proves to be seriously strong stuff.

“Yellow Bus” will screen again at the Toronto Film Festival on September 12th at 6 pm at the Scotiabank 13.

Yellow Bus Movie Review- A Gripping Tale of Justice and Negligence



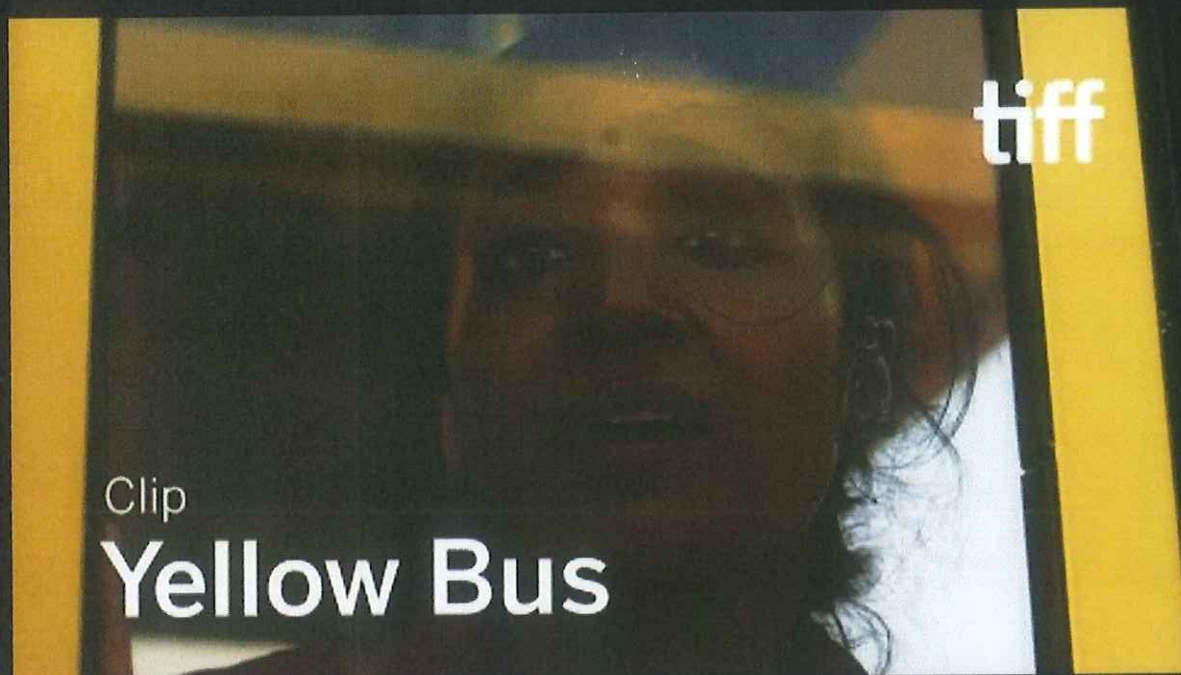
Yellowbusmoviereview · Follow

3 min read · Mar 4, 2024



The [Yellow Bus Movie Review](#) delves into the poignant and powerful narrative crafted by Wendy Bednarz in her feature film debut. This cinematic endeavor brings to light the heart-rending story of Anand, portrayed brilliantly by Tannishtha Chatterjee, as she embarks on a quest for justice following the preventable death of a young girl abandoned on a school bus.

Yellow Bus Movie Review: A Haunting Journey Towards Justice



Yellow Bus Movie Review

The Emotional Resonance:

Bednarz's storytelling prowess shines through as the movie captures the emotional depth of Anand's journey. The film intricately weaves together the strands of sorrow, frustration, and determination, drawing the audience into the character's quest for justice. Anand's portrayal serves as the emotional anchor, allowing viewers to empathize with the devastating consequences of negligence.

Investigative Narrative:

Yellow Bus doesn't merely rely on emotional appeal; it skillfully

integrates an investigative narrative, unraveling the disturbing details surrounding the tragic incident. The plot unfolds like a gripping mystery, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats as Anand peels back the layers of negligence that led to the young girl's untimely demise.

Human Denial and Guilt:

A central theme in Yellow Bus Movie Review is the exploration of human denial and the haunting guilt that accompanies tragic events. The film courageously confronts the uncomfortable reality of individuals unwilling to accept responsibility for their actions, providing a reflective commentary on the broader societal implications of negligence.

Heart-Wrenching Reactions:

One of the film's strengths lies in its portrayal of the ripple effects of the incident on those connected to it. Yellow Bus captures the heart-wrenching reactions of individuals who played a role, directly or indirectly, in the tragedy. Through nuanced performances, the film showcases the emotional turmoil experienced by each character, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

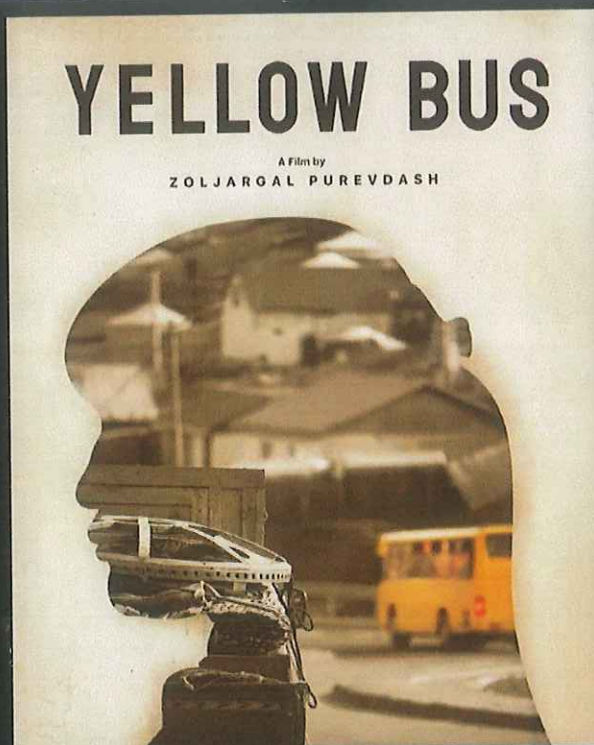
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Yellow Bus Movie Review stands as a testament to Wendy Bednarz's directorial prowess and the captivating performance of Tannishtha Chatterjee.



Yellow Bus Movie Review

Balancing Tragedy and Commentary:

Yellow Bus strikes a delicate balance between introspective tragedy and socio-political commentary. The film doesn't shy away from addressing the systemic issues that contribute to such unfortunate events, providing a thought-provoking commentary on the need for societal change and accountability.

Conclusion

Yellow Bus Movie Review stands as a testament to Wendy Bednarz's directorial prowess and the captivating performance of Tannishtha Chatterjee. The film's ability to intertwine an emotional narrative with a

compelling investigative plot sets it apart, making it a must-watch for those seeking a thought-provoking exploration of justice, denial, and the human condition. Yellow Bus leaves a lasting impact, urging audiences to reflect on the consequences of negligence and the imperative for societal introspection.

FAQs

Ques1: What is the central theme of the movie?

Ans: The preventable death of a young girl abandoned on a school bus.

Ques2: How does the film combine investigative and emotional elements?

Ans: It skillfully intertwines the exploration of disturbing details with heart-wrenching reactions.

Ques3: What emotion does the movie specifically focus on?

Ans: Human denial and the painful guilt associated with tragic incidents.

Ques4: What balance does the film strike?

Ans: It strikes the right balance between introspective tragedy and socio-political commentary.



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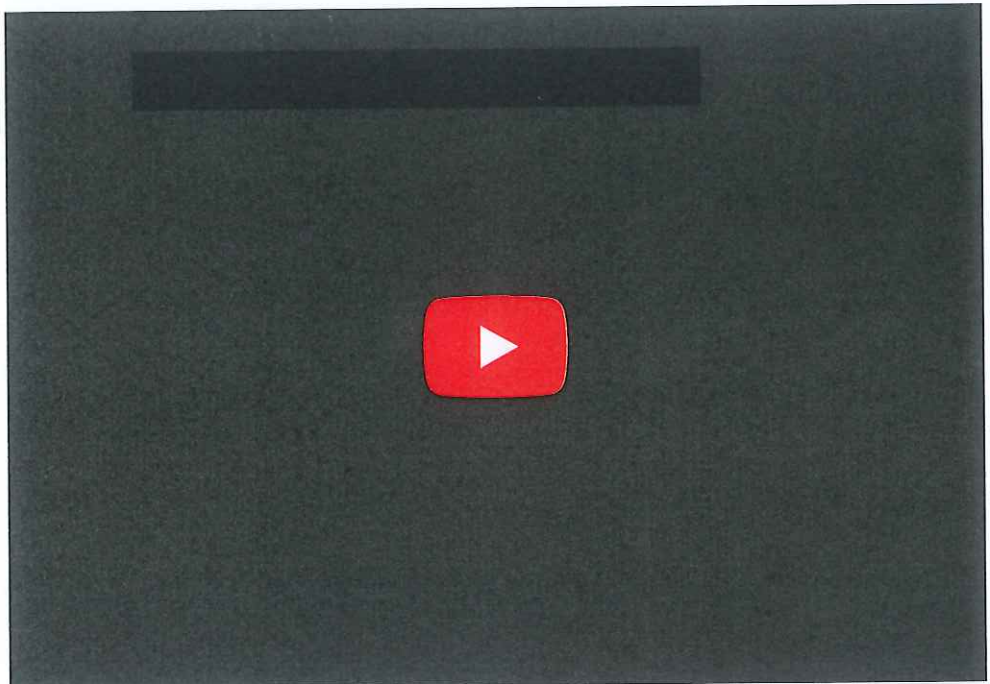
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Yellow Bus - the story of being imperfect, but humane parents

Wendy Bednarz launched her career in the fashion industry of NYC under Stephen Sprouse at Andy Warhol's Factory, fostering a passion for unconventional and visual storytelling. She traverses diverse narratives through film, photography, and video installations, with works showcased globally, earning accolades from venues like NY MoMA, Montreal World Film Festival, and Venice Film Festival. This is the first of its kind, Indo-Jordanian production, co-produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor.

Wendy's inaugural fiction feature, 'Yellow Bus,' marks her debut in the genre. Starring Tannishtha Chatterjee and Amit Sial, 'Yellow Bus' is inspired by a real event of the tragic, avoidable death of a little girl, forgotten in a school bus only to succumb to the heat.

Here's her exclusive Q&A with Asian Voice:

1. Over the years, you may have seen multiple issues that the Indian diaspora and migrants in general face abroad, despite working harder than the locals. Why do you think that is the case? How did that translate into the plot of Yellow Bus?

I think it's really hard to make a home away from families in a foreign country to feel valued for your contributions. There should be a lot of gratitude for the people who come and do that because it's giving up a lot more than probably the remuneration they receive in return perhaps. In Yellow Bus there are all kinds of Indian diaspora living in the Gulf, some of them own banks, and a lot of them are workers in the oil industry. I chose a very specific one - a family with a home and not living in a camp. So there is a certain amount of success. The main protagonist Ananda (Tannishtha Chatterjee) is very educated and has given up her career to raise the children.

2. The film humanises the protagonists, perhaps a first in cinema like this, which may be very cathartic for a lot of parents who aren't perfect. Where did this idea germinate from?

It germinated from my being in me being an imperfect parent. I'm interested in the fact that all of us as humans are flawed. We



Director Wendy Bednarz with actor Tannishtha Chatterjee at the screening of Yellow Bus at Mumbai Film Festival 2023

make mistakes, and this was a very interesting entry point to the story for me as I was thinking about all the characters. As a parent, I couldn't imagine putting my child on a school bus and then not returning home to me and my first thought was - I would be angry at the school at the system but I probably would be most upset with myself.

3. You're being applauded for getting the minute details of Indian culture

perfectly right in the film. How did you manage to do that, considering you don't speak the Hindi language?

The right producers, the right crew, the crew, the background, the crew backgrounds, mirror those of the story, the casting was extremely important. I had a priest, a Hindu priest on speed dial who I would speak to. I was just constantly asking a lot of questions and listening to the translation of the screenplay was very challenging. It was written in English, I naively assumed that it would easily translate into Hindi Arabic and Urdu and it was not an easy process. This kind of caveat was a benefit that the discovery of directing in a language that was not my own also was very freeing because it allowed me to look at the performances.

4. We're amid a migrant, cost-of-living and a larger human crisis, where Yellow Bus is a very relevant film. What can the diaspora take away from it and what can the people from other cultures, non-Black Asian Minority Ethnic learn about being a little less harsh on themselves?

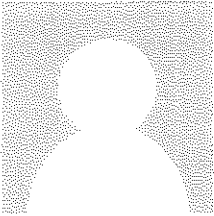
Yes, I agree with this. I can tell you that I believe that the diaspora coming to countries must allow themselves to have a voice even when they may feel that they don't have one. I think it's very important that people speak up. It's challenging to be away from families challenging to be subjected to cultural norms that may not make sense at first, to a person. I think that surrendering to these challenges is just super important as to knowing that no one is alone in this. This is the shift. This is a worldwide shift as as people move from one place to the other and it does come with discomfort but it doesn't mean at the end of the day that their contributions are any less valuable.

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MIDDLE EAST

OSN's feature film
award at Mosaic Int'l Film Festival

'Yellow Bus' wins



by Staff Reporter

September 25, 2024



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The OSN Original is a fictionalised story of a six-year-old South Asian schoolgirl who falls asleep on a school bus and ultimately dies from heat exhaustion.

OSN's first original feature, *Yellow Bus* directed by Wendy Bednarz, has won the Spotlight Award at the Mosaic International Film Festival.

Penned and directed by Wendy Bednarz in her feature debut, *Yellow Bus* boasts Jordanian producer Nadia Eliewat as a key collaborator.

Written and directed by American filmmaker Wendy Bednarz, *Yellow Bus* stars Kinda Alloush alongside Bollywood sensation Tannishtha Chatterjee, Amit Sial, and Aarushi Laud, discovered by director Wendy Bednarz in Dubai, portraying the pivotal role of the child.

A collaborative effort between the US, India, Jordan and the UAE, *Yellow Bus* is produced by Jordanian producer and Screen Project founder Nadia Eliewat in partnership with Guneet Monga, founder of Sikhya Entertainment.

During the film's premiere in Toronto, Bednarz shared insights with Variety magazine, revealing her inspiration to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals grappling with unconscious bias in Middle Eastern society. She said: "It's a dance here to tell these stories truthfully, to give voice to these stories, even invisible people, I was challenged on that."

Set against the backdrop of the Arabian Gulf's scorching desert, *Yellow Bus* weaves a tale around a mother's anguish over the loss of her child and her relentless pursuit for closure. Exploring themes of alienation and connection, the film mirrors the experiences of individuals navigating a multicultural environment.

The narrative unfolds when the daughter of an Indian family is tragically left behind on a school bus, leading to her untimely demise. As each family member grapples with the aftermath, the grieving mother embarks on a quest for truth and accountability, refusing to rest until justice is served. Will her relentless determination bring solace amid tragedy?

MAD Solutions handles the film's international sales rights and theatrical distribution across the Arab world, while the cinematography is crafted by French Tunisian cinematographer Sofian El-Fani, renowned for his international accolades



Yellow Bus Movie Review

 Dubai

Yellow Bus Movie is an outstanding example of cinematic excellence. The film's lead character, Anand, impressively depicted by Tannishtha Chatterjee, drives the plot with a heart-rendering performance



Yellow Bus Movie Review- A Gripping Tale of Preventable Tragedy

Yellow Bus Movie Review is very good. The film captures the poignant narrative of Wendy Bednar's directorial debut, delving into the heartrending story revolving around the preventable demise of a young girl abandoned on a school bus. Anchored by the stellar performance of Tannishtha Chatterjee as Anand, the film embarks on a quest for justice, unraveling unwhispering truths surrounding the tragic incident exacerbated by negligence.



Exploring the Story:

Yellow Bus Movie Review centers around Anand, portrayed with raw emotion by Tannishtha Chatterjee, as she grapples with the harrowing aftermath of a young girl's death due to neglect. Through Anand's relentless pursuit of truth and justice, the film unveils the layers of negligence that led to the tragedy, shedding light on the culpability of those involved. Wendy Bednar's astute direction ensures that each revelation strikes a chord, amplifying the gravity of the situation and igniting a visceral response from the audience.

Yellow Bus Movie - A Review of Bednarz's Thought-Provoking Film

"Yellow Bus Movie Review" directed by Wendy Bednarz in 2013, is a poignant drama that transcends conventional storytelling, delving into societal issues and personal grief. Set in the Arabian Peninsula, the film explores the contrast between rapid urban development and persistent socio-cultural challenges. This review examines the movie's intricate themes, narrative structure, and performances, showcasing "Yellow Bus" as a compelling cinematic experience.

Yellow Bus Movie- A Review of Profound Emotions and Social Impact

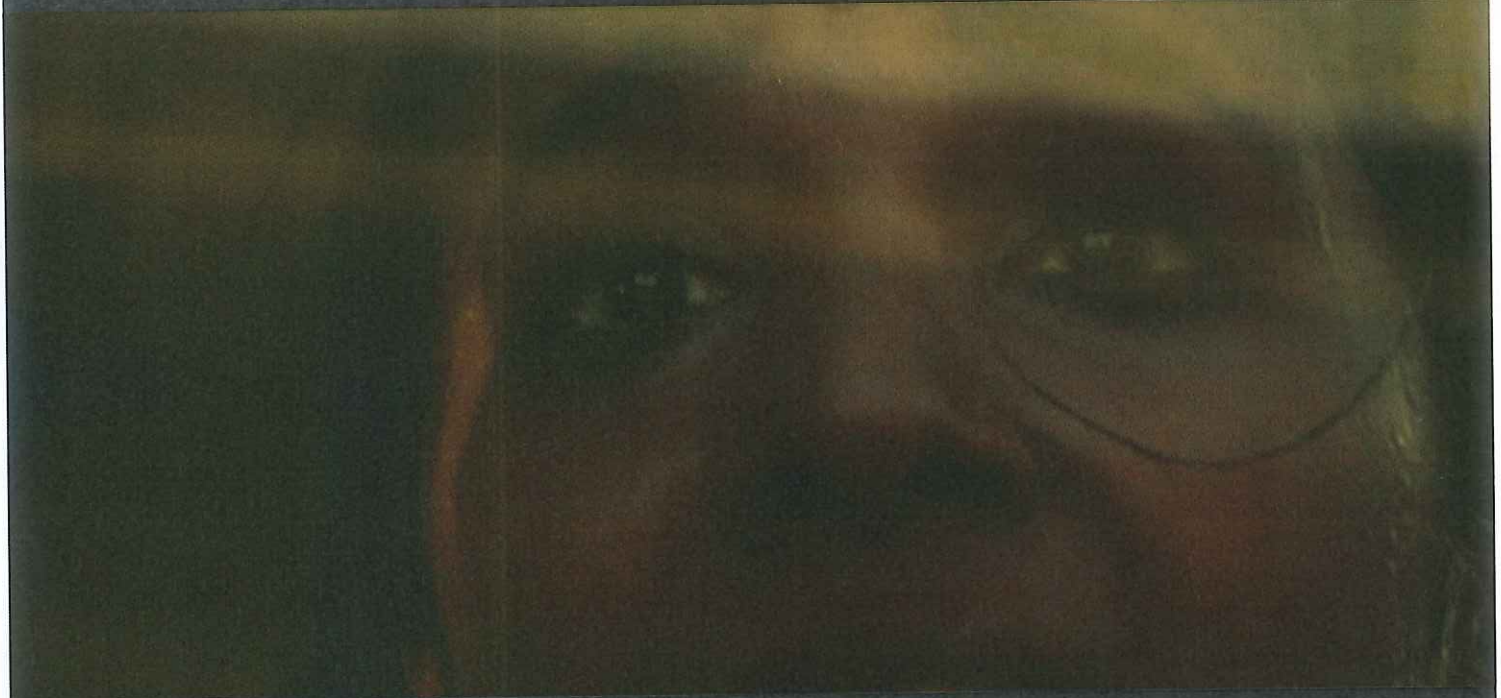


Multicultural Narratives

Wendy Bednarz's background in the fashion industry and extensive experience in filmmaking bring a unique perspective to "Yellow Bus." The film deftly interweaves the lives of diverse communities in the United Arab Emirates, presenting authentic portrayals of Muslims, Indian Hindus, and Filipino Christians. This multicultural lens adds emotional depth to the narrative, highlighting the struggles and interactions between different communities.

BEAUTIFUL, INTERESTING, INCREDIBLE CINEMA.

SEE WHAT'S PLAYING



YELLOW BUS

▶ TRAILER

Directed by **Wendy Bednarz**
United States, United Arab Emirates, 2023

Drama

🕒 112

SYNOPSIS

An Indian woman living in the Arabian Gulf embark accountability after her daughter is left to die on a desert heat.

This film is not currently playing on MUBI
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