



# PRESS KIT

Noran Fikri ALEZABI - Nicholas ARUJAH - Xinyue MA - Yulin YUE - Xiaonan ZHOU







# PITCH

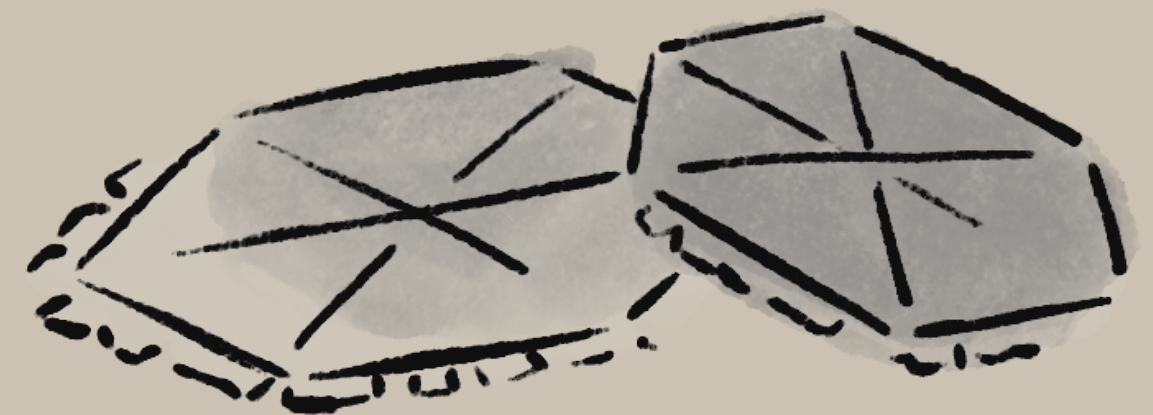
14-year-old Zain, a Palestinian swimming champion, faces war and man-made famine. He becomes the sole caregiver to his little brother. When aid drops into the sea, desperate for food, Zain is forced to swim—not for passion, but for survival.

# Director's Note

We took on the challenge of creating a film rooted in real-time events because we felt the importance and urgency to document and frame a moment in history where people are being starved before our very eyes and even humanitarian aid puts their lives at risk.

Our goal was to offer a respectful and honest depiction of the suffering and injustice endured by the Palestinian people, especially the children. We believe this film serves as a reminder that even the children who survive war often lose their childhood and for our own humanity, we must do everything in our power to protect it.

As this film lives on, we hope that it inspires more filmmakers to make films telling the stories of the vulnerable and giving them a voice.



# Synopsis

Zain Orouq, a 14 year old Palestinian swimming champion whose only dream was once to reach the finish line, now fights his way through a chaotic crowd at a food distribution station. His small body weaves between desperate hands and rising voices, all pleading for a single meal. But just as he reaches the front, the volunteer declares the aid has run out for the day. Zain walks back to his tent in a camp with an empty pot, takes a deep breath before going inside and then warmly he's greeted by his little brother, 6 years old, Nour, who has been playing with a stray cat and Zain's old swimming goggles.

As Zain is the sole caregiver of Nour, he feels some burden to have only come back with some water for him. He has to change Nour bandages, which is when we see that Nour has an arm amputation wound. Nour is a lively child who likes to tell stories and as an attempt to bring joy to his older brother he suggests to go fly some kites at the camp.

They walk together to a spot near the beach where kites dance in the sky. But before they can join, the brothers notice a crowd of people running towards the sea. Aid parachutes are falling from the sky, but into the water. One of the drops malfunctions, crashing violently into the sea. Fear ripples through the crowd. Zain hesitates. It's dangerous. But then takes a look at Nour then tells him to stay put and rushes toward the water.

As Zain dives in, memories rise up from within him of graceful laps across clear pools. We see Zain for the first time as the swimming champion he's always been, cutting through waves with determination. He reaches a crate just as another parachute plummets from above. The crate drops with violent speed, pulling Zain under. Nour witnesses this moment and rushes into the water, screaming for him.

From the depths, unconscious and bleeding, Zain slips into another memory; his family, whole and safe, wrapped in joy of his victory. His father's hand on the wheel driving them home after a win. His mother's prideful words. Nour's bright eyes filled with admiration. The memory of his brother brings forth his will for survival as he fights his way back to the surface, gasping for breath, but overwhelmed, he bursts into tears. Grief pouring out for the life he lost, the future stolen, and the pain of not being able to care for his little brother. Then, a glimpse of hope: a lone sack of wheat flour, floating. He swims toward it, clings to it desperately, but the soaked fabric rips and the flour dissolves in the water.

The next morning, Zain secures a torn piece of parachute fabric atop their tent to improve their conditions. Next to him, Nour stands completely still and silent. Lulu brushing against his legs, trying to draw him into play. But Nour doesn't move, his eyes fixed on his brother. He quietly, tugs at Zain's jacket, and says to him:  
"Zain... I'm hungry." Zain freezes. He says nothing, then reaches his hand for Nour to comfort him.







# Voices

**Zain** Bashir Alsharbati

**Nour** Talia Alsharbati

**Mother** Rasha Alsharbati

**Volunteer** Ahmed Rehan

**Running Man** Mjd Ali

**Sports announcer 1** Luke Ashworth

**Sports announcer 2** Justin Porrelli

**Crowds**

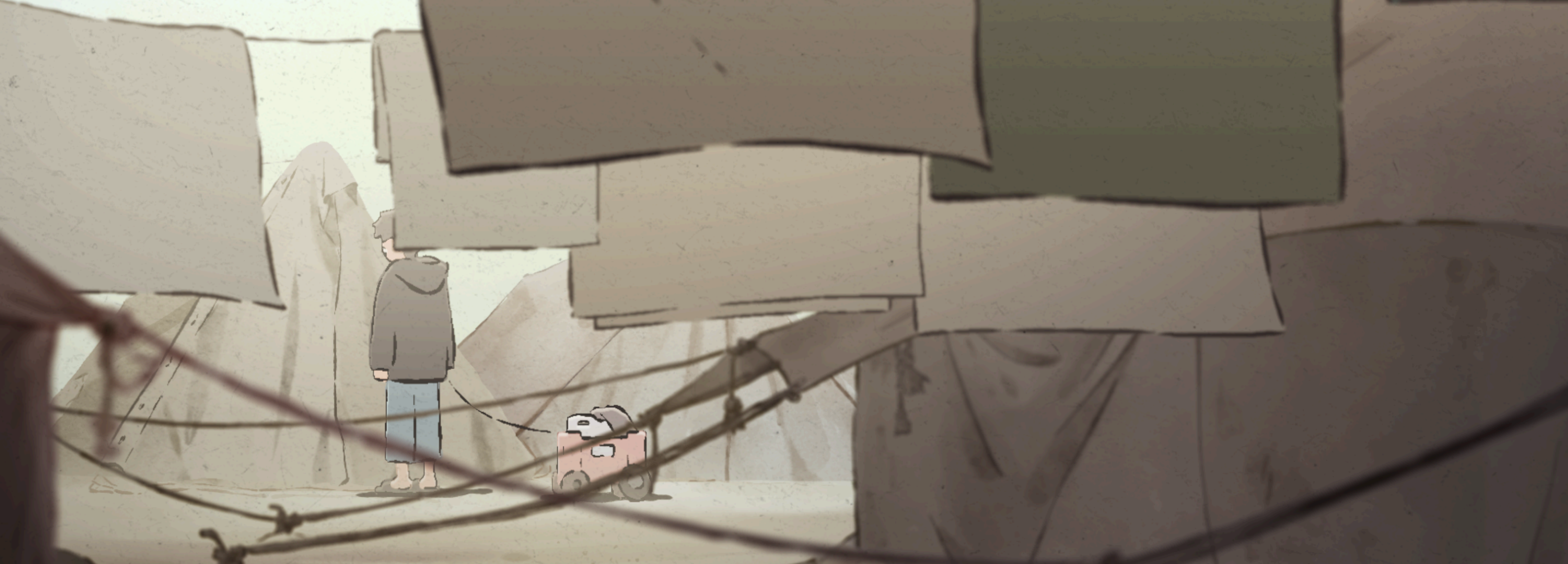
Judy Ali Mjd Ali Montaser Abu Alul Nael Alsharbati Layali

Awwad Mariam Basha Haia Dakwar Nizar Ghanadri Aya

Gomaa Tamar Kassis Waseem Khair Ahmed Rehan Siwar

Tannous





# Film Info

**Title:** GAUZE

**Year of Production:** 2025

**Genre:** Drama/Fictional Documentary

**Duration:** 7'45

**Language:** Arabic

**Subtitles:** English and French

**Technique:** 2D Computer Animation

**Format:** 1,77:1



# Contact



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