

Alexandra Magold

Good morning today as wild Wednesday and my name is Alexandra Magold. I've just finished talking to a couple of Catalan moviemakers they are Anna and Heiko and we're close friends. And this is why I've felt the need to speak, this intro to after the fact, because I think you can feel that we're friends. And at times we kind of forgot that this is supposed to be a serious interview. What Anna is talking about here is her latest project. It's a movie called Sinjar, and she led an all female film crew to Kurdistan to tell the story of Sinjar. If that rings a bell, it's because it was the siege of Mount Sinjar where the Peshmerga tried to protect the Yazidi people for as long as they could until ISIS and ISIL took over and they sold over 6000 women and children into sex slavery. And so the movie looks at their fates from three different perspectives. It's incredibly exciting. It's compelling. It is disturbing and it's very real. And then Anna also tells what it takes to get a team out of there once a pandemic hits, because, of course, they, too, were affected by covid and they had to find a way to get out of a region that is not easy safety wise, where you cannot even get your film equipment insured and how she did this and how they all got home and got that movie made. That's what this conversations about enjoy.

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So it's recording now.

Anna Bofarull

OK, ok, great. So, yeah, I'm Anna Bofarull. I'm a writer, director and producer based in Barcelona Heiko Kraft and co-founder of the film company Kaboga with Anna. And we are currently working on a film project called Sinjar.

Actually, Sinjar is a region in the city based in Iraqi Kurdistan, close to the border of Syria. And they're in 2014, Islamic State entered that region and killed all men and basically took women and kids and made them sex slaves. So our film is going to tell three stories related with this situation. One of them is following a mother that is imprisoned inside the house in ISIS territory with three of her younger kids. Then we follow also the story of the daughter.

They were separated when they were captured and actually she manages to escape, just tries to go back home. And in this process, she turns into a female fighter and discovers how powerful she can be. And we have also a third story based in Barcelona where a mother of a kid disappears. It's a young man and she will discover that he just left for Syria to join Islamic State and will try to discover what happened to him. And yeah to understand what what did she do wrong.

And actually, this is a film, a project that we started to film in February in Iraqi Kurdistan in real location, working both with actors and with real people that were playing characters, but very close to them. And actually, it was quite interesting for a European film production. It was it's crazy somehow to film in Iraqi Kurdistan because it's a place where there's no insurance and a lot of things are happening and changing

on the way. So you have actors that decide to be in the film and then suddenly they don't appear or location that where headquarters and suddenly one month later are not part of the Kurdistan region anymore.

So, like, crazy things that you cannot imagine in your normal life. And then suddenly what you cannot expect is that Covid appears. We were locked down for one week, but it was OK because we were working and we actually managed to film to shoot all what was expected. But then we needed to go back home. We had never thought that this shooting that was quite crazy already to go to Kurdistan to film in a real location.

We would finish inside a helicopter from Erbil to Baghdad and then the American military airport in a military plane to Saragossa.