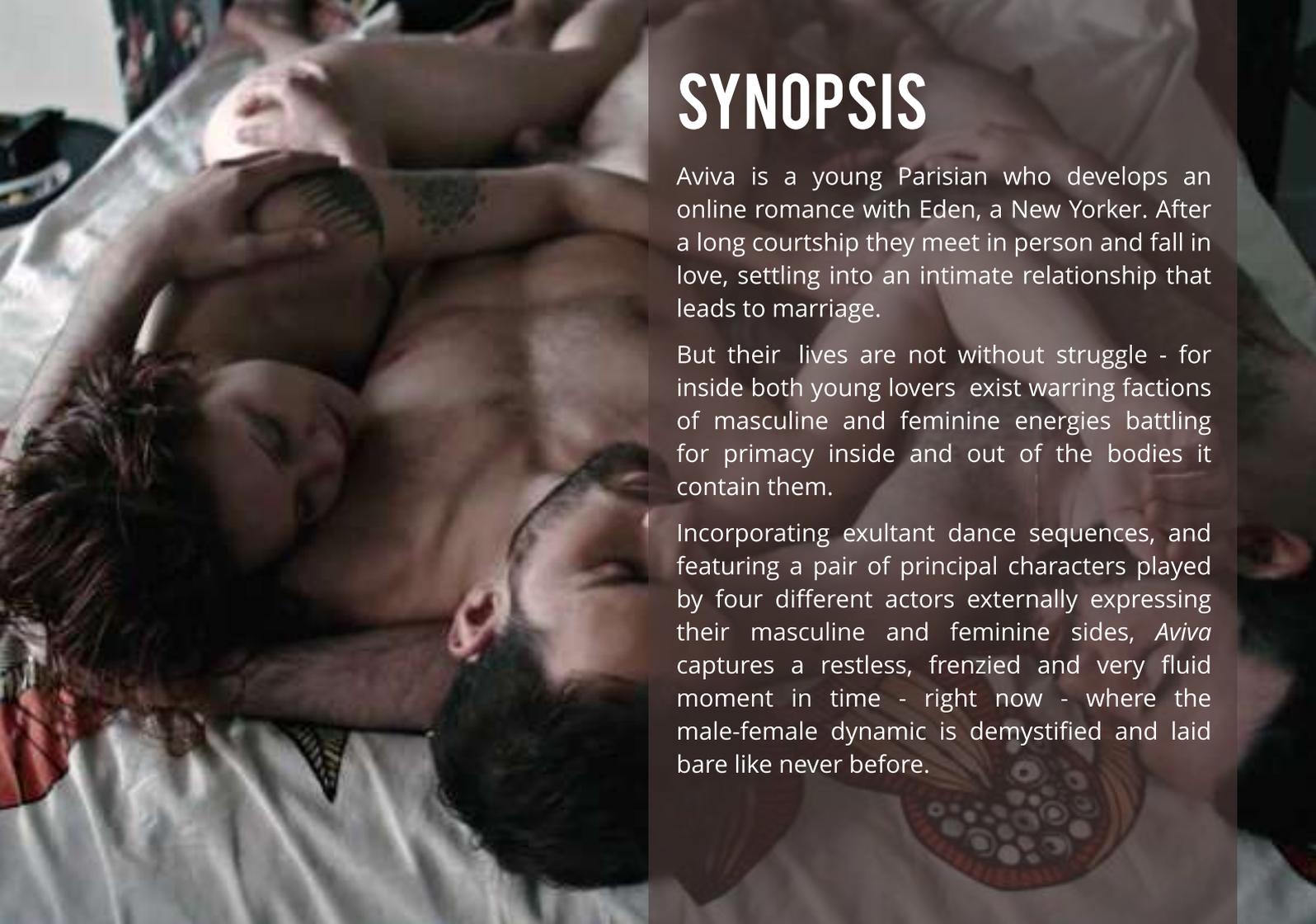




# AVIVA

A MOVIE BY BOAZ YAKIN



A photograph of a couple embracing in bed. The woman is on top, leaning over the man, with her arms around his neck. They are both looking towards the camera with soft expressions. The lighting is warm and intimate. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white sheet and a patterned pillow.

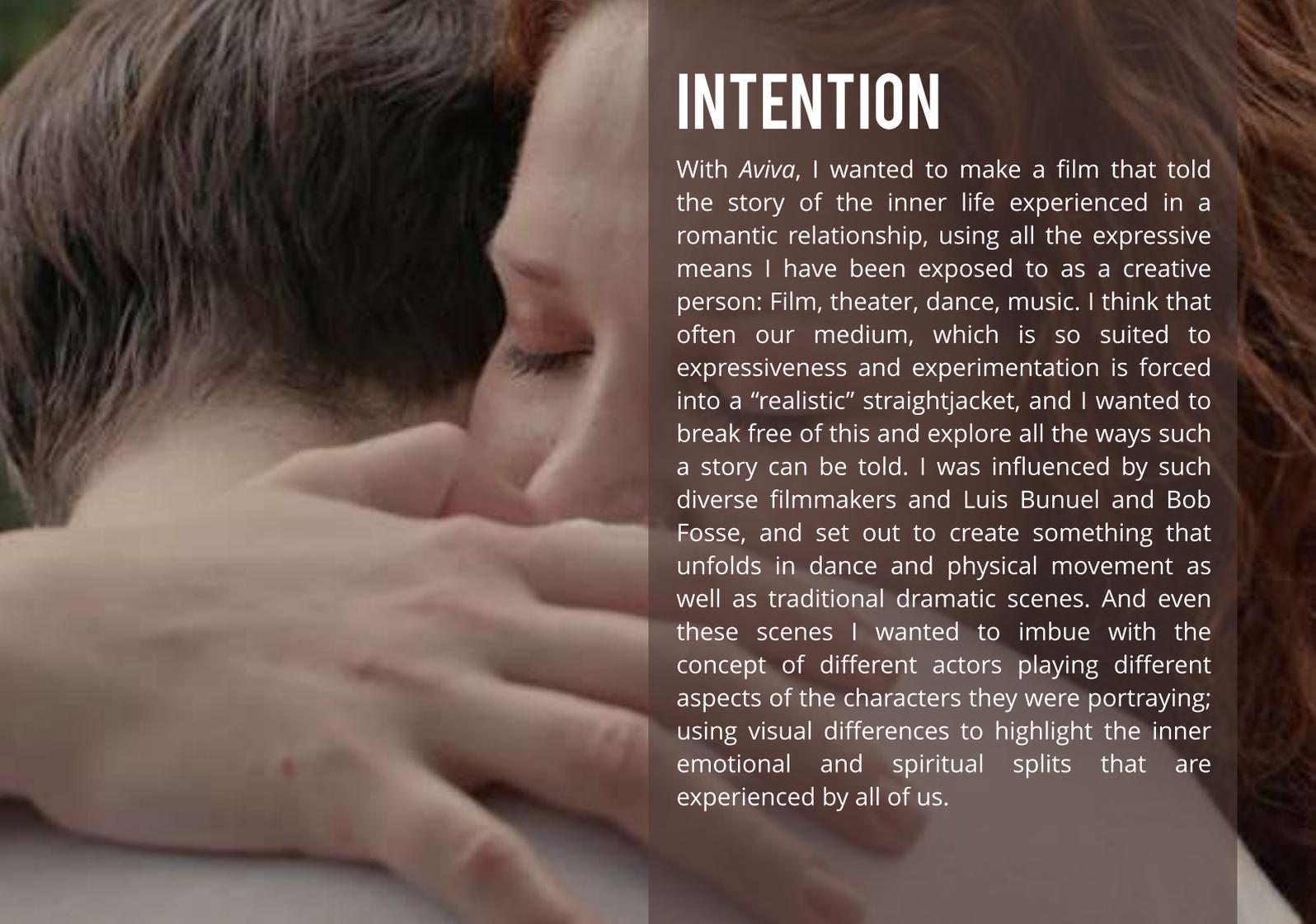
# SYNOPSIS

Aviva is a young Parisian who develops an online romance with Eden, a New Yorker. After a long courtship they meet in person and fall in love, settling into an intimate relationship that leads to marriage.

But their lives are not without struggle - for inside both young lovers exist warring factions of masculine and feminine energies battling for primacy inside and out of the bodies it contain them.

Incorporating exultant dance sequences, and featuring a pair of principal characters played by four different actors externally expressing their masculine and feminine sides, *Aviva* captures a restless, frenzied and very fluid moment in time - right now - where the male-female dynamic is demystified and laid bare like never before.





# INTENTION

With *Aviva*, I wanted to make a film that told the story of the inner life experienced in a romantic relationship, using all the expressive means I have been exposed to as a creative person: Film, theater, dance, music. I think that often our medium, which is so suited to expressiveness and experimentation is forced into a “realistic” straightjacket, and I wanted to break free of this and explore all the ways such a story can be told. I was influenced by such diverse filmmakers and Luis Bunuel and Bob Fosse, and set out to create something that unfolds in dance and physical movement as well as traditional dramatic scenes. And even these scenes I wanted to imbue with the concept of different actors playing different aspects of the characters they were portraying; using visual differences to highlight the inner emotional and spiritual splits that are experienced by all of us.



WONDER  
WHEEL



# WRITER-DIRECTOR

**BOAZ YAKIN's** first feature as writer and director, "Fresh", starring Samuel L Jackson and Giancarlo Esposito, won the Filmmaker's Trophy at the 1994 Sundance Film Festival, as well as prizes in the Tokyo Film Festival and other festivals throughout Europe.

He followed with "A Price Above Rubies" (starring Renee Zellweger), which was featured at the Davville festival, and released by Miramax films. He has since alternated between personal, independent projects and studio movies, such as "Remember the Titans" (starring Denzel Washington), "Uptown Girls", "Safe", (starring Jason Statham,) "Max", released world-wide by MGM, and the Sundance premiere "Death in Love", (starring Jaqueline Bisset and Josh Lucas). Yakin's most recent independent film, "Boarding School," was released in 2018.





# PRODUCER

**CARLOS ZOZAYA** is an independent feature film director & producer - BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Key crew for critically acclaimed films such as: *The Fits* (Dir. Anna Rose Holmer), *The Eyes of My Mother* (Dir. Nicolas Pesce), *Catfight* (Dir. Onur Tükel), *We The Animals* (Dir. Jeremiah Zagar) & more recently, he Co-Produced *Chained For Life* (Dir. Aaron Schimberg). Produced: Carlos helmed Sebastián Silva's *Tyrel* premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, released by Magnolia Pictures in 2018. His upcoming projects include *Are You Mad* (Dir. Micaela Durand & Daniel Chew), *Freakazoid* (Dir. Isaac Gabaeff), and *Geppetto* (Dir. Z Behl)- the latter of which was developed in tandem with the Biennale College Cinema Program and EP's Benh Zeitlin (*Court 13*) & Jonas Carpignano (*StayBlack*). In 2018 he was selected as an IFP fellow for the IFPR Producer's Lab in Rotterdam. Carlos was raised in Mexico City and now resides in Brooklyn, New York

# CAST



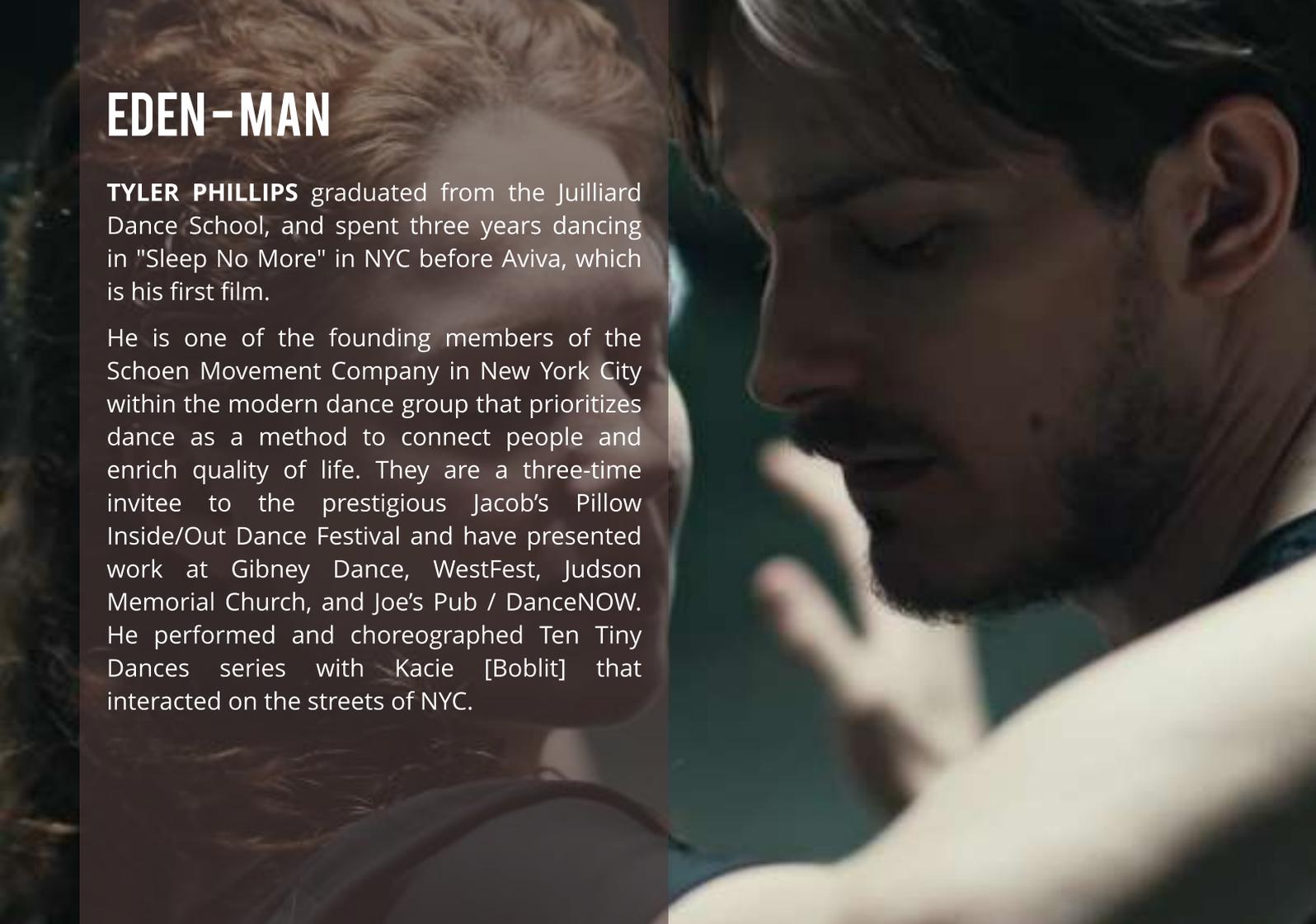
A close-up, slightly blurred portrait of a woman with light-colored eyes and a soft smile, looking towards the camera. The image is the left half of a dark-themed graphic.

## EDEN – WOMAN

**BOBBI JENE SMITH** born in Centerville, Iowa. 2005-2014 a member of the Batsheva Dance Company, artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. An alumnus of the Juilliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Her choreography has been in The Batsheva Dance Company, PS122 COIL Festival, A.R.T, The Israel Museum, Luminato Festival, The Wild Project, Machol Shalem, Sacramento Ballet, The CCA, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. Her films include, "Annihilation" dir. Alex Garland, "MA" dir. Celia Rowson-Hall, and "Yossi" dir. by Eytan Fox. The documentary "Bobbi Jene" swept the Tribeca Film Festival, winning best documentary, best cinematography, and best editing in 2017. In 2018 starred and choreographed "Mari" directed by Georgia Parris, which premiered at BFI London.

***BOBBI JENE SMITH - CHOREOGRAPHER 'AVIVA'***





## EDEN – MAN

**TYLER PHILLIPS** graduated from the Juilliard Dance School, and spent three years dancing in "Sleep No More" in NYC before Aviva, which is his first film.

He is one of the founding members of the Schoen Movement Company in New York City within the modern dance group that prioritizes dance as a method to connect people and enrich quality of life. They are a three-time invitee to the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Dance Festival and have presented work at Gibney Dance, WestFest, Judson Memorial Church, and Joe's Pub / DanceNOW. He performed and choreographed Ten Tiny Dances series with Kacie [Boblit] that interacted on the streets of NYC.





## AVIVA – WOMAN

**ZINA ZINCHENKO** born in Moscow, Russia. She graduated from CODARTS in the Netherlands with a BA degree in 2007. In the Netherlands Zina Worked with various choreographers like Ken Ossola (NDT), Anouk van Dijk and more. 2006-2009 She danced for The Itzik Galili Dance Company and with for The Noord Nederlands Dands Company 2009-2011. In 2011 she joined The Batsheva Ensamble in Tel Aviv, Israel and later was invited to join The Batsheva Dance Company in 2012-2018 where She was trained in Gaga. She started teaching Gaga and Naharin's repertoire in 2012 in Moscow, Israel, Japan, Poland, USA, and Europe. Her films include: "The tale of love and darkness" dir. Natalie Portman, and most recently in "7 days in Entebbe" by Jose Padilha. And after moving to USA she performs in Sleep No More immersive theatre by Punch Drunk in New York.



## AVIVA – MAN

**OR SCHRAIBER** was born in 1992 in the city of Jerusalem, where he studied at the 'Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance' high school. In 2010 Batsheva Dance Company, in which he danced for seven years. In parallel to his time he served in the IDF for three years. 2016 Or appeared in the 'Bobbi Jene' and 'Mr. Gaga' documentary films. In 2017, moved to New York City to study acting at the Stella Adler Studio for Acting. In 2018, he starred in and co-choreographed Boaz Yakin's feature film 'AVIVA.' In 2019 joined the Tony winner 'The Band's Visit' National Tour as 'Zelger'. He is a core member of AMOC (American Modern Opera Company), has choreographed with roles in numerous music videos & short films including collaborations with Netta Barzilai, Jose Padilha, and Yemen Blues.





# CREW

DIRECTOR: Boaz Yakin

WRITER: Boaz Yakin

PRODUCERS: Boaz Yakin, Carlos Zozaya

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Arseni Khachaturan

EDITING: Holle Singer

PRODUCTION DESIGN: Estee Braverman

ART DIRECTION: James Hamme

COSTUME DESIGN: Stacy Jansen

CHOREOGRAPHY: Bobbi J Smith, Or Schraiber

COMPOSER: Ryan Shields

SONGS BY: Asaf Avidan

**USA - FRANCE, 2019 - 116 MINUTES**

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