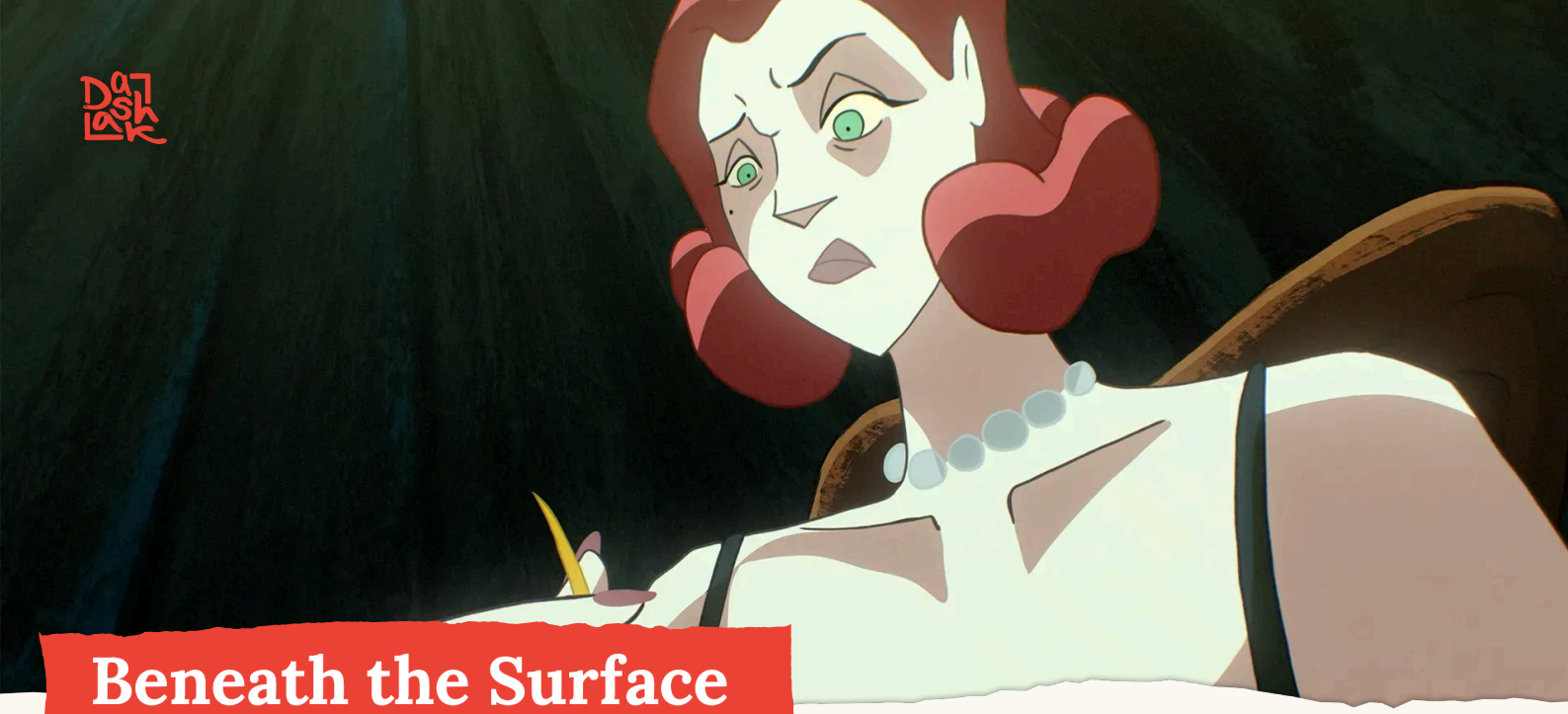


Beneath the Surface

2025 · ORIGINAL · 9′12″ · IN DISTRIBUTION

Urged by her boyfriend and friends, naive Ana goes down into a basement pub, where a drinking game of drawing straws turns into a fight for her life.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Persuaded by her boyfriend and friends, Ana joins a night out around a lit table in a basement pub. A waiter introduces a straw-drawing game where short straws mean no drinks, and each round fuels growing cruelty and eerie visions. Slipping into delirium, Ana sees her boyfriend's betrayal and watches her friends mutate into grotesque rats. Blocked from escaping, she faces one final round of life and death—clutching the last long straw as her only chance to break free and survive.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In my early twenties, fear of not belonging kept me silent—until swallowed words turned into anger and self-loathing. Writing Ana, I poured that struggle into a night out that spirals into a grotesque rat-king knot: a metaphor for how relationships, whether built on care or selfishness, can trap us. Though marked by what she leaves behind, Ana discards the final straw not as a prize, but as salvation—choosing to set boundaries and finally claim her own voice.

FACT SHEET

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PRODUCER
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YEAR
2025

LENGTH
9′12″

ANIMATION TECHNIQUE
Short

PRODUCTION
Studio Dashak, Academy of Arts Banja Luka

SUPPORTED BY
Audio-Visual Centre of Republika Srpska

WATCH

▶ **Teaser** youtu.be/aPvft340MUE







Let's talk

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