



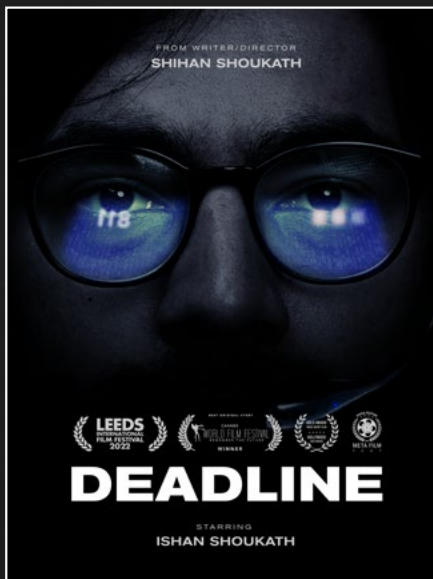
META FILM

F E S T

TOLERANCE AND UNITY THROUGH FILM

P R O G R A M

O C T O B E R
27-29 2022



DEADLINE

Director: Shihan Shoukath
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

A disturbed 811 operator navigates through connecting grieving callers amid another troubling day of disclosures - and realizations.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Shihan Shoukath, a filmmaker based in the United Arab Emirates, makes his full directorial debut with 'DEADLINE'. Shot in one night, the film is based on three years of intensive research on mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Shihan runs his independent production agency in Dubai, and partners on nearby independent film productions. Shihan often gets ideas for characters in his movies, from his various experiences in Philadelphia, where he was for seven years, the melting pot immigrant city of Dubai, and his country of origin, India.

Shoukath directed micro-short student films such as 'Anybody There?' and 'TENSHI' in 2018, which was chosen by various film festivals and was nominated as a finalist at the Gagarin.Doc International Student Film Festival. His dream is to coordinate a thriller featuring Edward Norton one day, and is currently focused on building his body of work as a director. Shihan is passionate about showcasing new independent films, videos and screenplays of all genres.

I wrote and directed this film, Deadline, just before the main cast member, Ishan, was due to move to jumpstart his acting career. The concept of the story, as fictional as it may be, has real life emotion and experiences about how quickly life can take a turn. The main character in the film has a similar experience and is finally re-connected to his mother, as she yearns to have just one more day with her son. The main character finds out the reality of his situation whilst suffering from depression from what he thought was his mundane job. In my personal experience at cancer foundations, I have met several women grieving over their lost young children in unexpected circumstances. This inspired me create a different perspective, writing from the main character's point of view. The character's frustration turns to realization. His mother attempts to helplessly bring him back through communication, instead of confronting him with anger. I found the lead actor, Ishan, to be the perfect fit for this solo role. His performance in this short film is so strong and emotional, that it brought life, ironically, to this character.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Shihan Shoukath - Director/Writer



CHILDREN OF ALL

Director: Gorkem Sifael
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

In a utopian society where newborns are reassigned among families to build an equitable social order, one woman who gave away her son to provide him with a better future discovers the true cost of her decision.

Individuals suffering from inequality are welcomed to a utopia—Ekila that offers equal opportunities to everyone living within its borders, but on one condition: Parents must give away their children at birth and receive someone else's to raise as their own.

Hoping to give a better future to her unborn child, Leanne joins Ekila after learning about the surprising logic behind the system. She embraces the baby daughter she is given as her own and advocates for this system for years; until the day she discovers her biological son and his 'assigned' abusive mother...

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Gorkem Sifael is a Turkish writer and director based in Dubai, UAE. He is known for documentary short films he directs and produces for global news channels. "Children of All" is his first narrative work and is a story inspired by his personal experiences and observations. The role of parenting in social inequality is an important topic of discussion for Gorkem, and he is hoping to use the short film to gather attention to the subject and tell the rest of the story as a feature-length film.

In this film, I wanted to explore the role of parenting in solving social inequality through the thematic question, "Can one embrace any child like their own?"

If empathy is the first step in solving social inequality, what would it take to spur the thought of, "that could have been me"? It is difficult to know each individual's story and easier to assume that they are here now due to the choices they have made along the way. However, that cannot be assumed for children. We can all agree that children do not get to choose or determine the conditions they are born into and the opportunities they will be given. A child does not beg or sleep on the street because of the choices they made, but because of those they couldn't get to make. Maybe we can all start by thinking, "that could have been my child". That is why I made "Children of All".

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Gorkem Sifael, Director & Writer
- Anika Boyle, Actress
- Maria Bello, Actress
- Tshego Seakgoe, Actress
- Casey Shannon, Actor
- Ivor Gracias, Actor
- Diane Patierno, Actress
- Tricia Van Gorp, Actress
- Crispin Dominic, Executive Producer
- Elias Trad, DOP
- Lavina Jaswani, Actress



IDI

Director: Neo Apelian
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Idi is an independent loner with a high tech remotely controlled home, who comes back after a long day to have some time to herself. Her otherwise normal evening takes a turn for the worst, when her decision to update the home system suddenly causes her trusty machines to operate autonomously, independent of her. The more Idi tries to regain control, the more she loses it

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Neo Apelian is an Armenian Lebanese Filmmaker who started his career in Dubai. After graduating from the MBRSC Storytelling and Film program at the American University in Dubai, he has since worked on sets of various local and international commercials, short films, and feature films such as “Star Trek: Beyond” and “The Ambush”. He has gained his experience in production department, before slowly transitioning into directing small ads. Alongside, He has actively independently helped produce independent short films. Over the last 6 years, he’s helped make various short films with many filmmakers based in Dubai.

His experience eventually earned him a win, as an independent short film producer, for the short film “Shah Mat” in the 48 hour film project Dubai 2016 at the Dubai International Film Festival 2017. That later went on to compete for the international 48 hour competition at Filmmapalooza Film Festival in Seattle, WA, USA in 2017.

In 2019, Apelian produced the short film ‘M1das’ with Jordanian film director Razan Takash. A philosophical journey of motherhood portrayed through a woman communicating with a child robot. The film screened in over 11 festivals worldwide gaining various nominations in the Sci-fi category in 2020.

Neo has since also been moving into writing short films, and finally following his passion for directing. Marking his first directorial debut with the quirky Sci-fi short film ‘IDI’ in January 2021. Winning the Gold Award for FirstTime Director, at the Hollywood Gold Festival 2021 in January.

IDI is an exercise for me in telling a story through music. I wanted to explore a quirky allegorical tale of a woman who is obsessed with the control over her digital house. The idea that it backfires helped me explore this unhealthy obsession we have with our technologies, and how one little thing can send your whole life into a spiral. Because we don’t seem to realize that we are giving as much control as we are getting.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Razan Takash, Producer
- Neo Apelian, Director
- Cris Mejia, Actress
- Nour Safieh, Actress
- Mousa Al Azeh, Sound Designer



THE DAWN OF THE GREAT STEPPE

Director: Akan Satayev

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

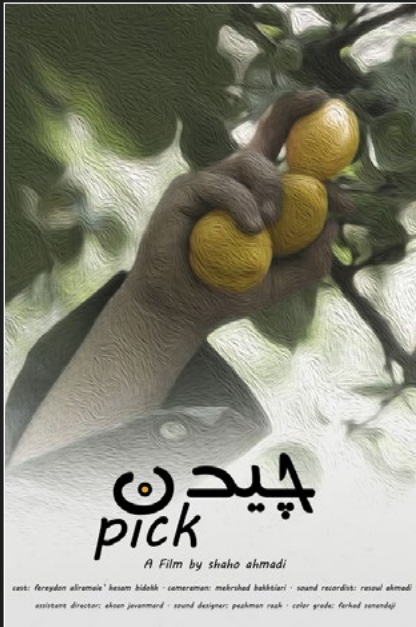
The film narrates the story of Khan Kassym as a leader-reformer.

His life path was built upon the indestructible struggle for the steppe region and the reconciliation of nomads' internal conflicts while preserving their fundamental moral principles.

Crushing victories and reinforcing of the state's borders strengthen Kassym's endeavor to his dream of making his people free, independent and strong.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Sabanbayeva Laura, Director



PICK

Director: Shahoo Ahmadi
Short Film

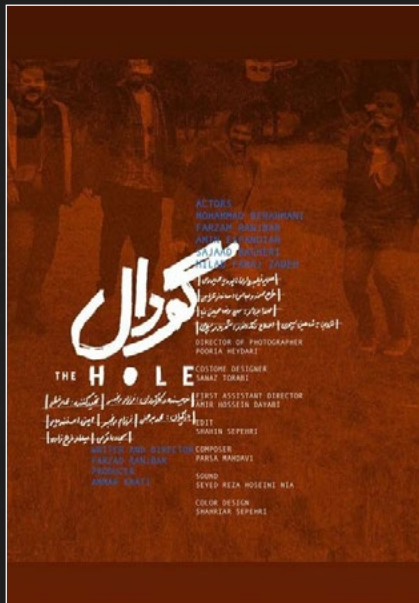
SYNOPSIS

The gardener notices on the day of picking the fruits while he is resting that they are stealing the fruits.

Director Statement:

I have been a filmmaking student for many years and I have tried this field by making short films.

These days, I have taken the path of filmmaking to discover the small moments of life and the simple and everyday human connection with the environment, which is full of deep human concepts. Storytelling on these topics is incredibly magical to me, and adding a personal perspective is something I like to do in my films. So the short film (picking) is an effort of me and what I discovered and felt is an effort.



THE HOLE

Director: Farzad Ranjbar

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

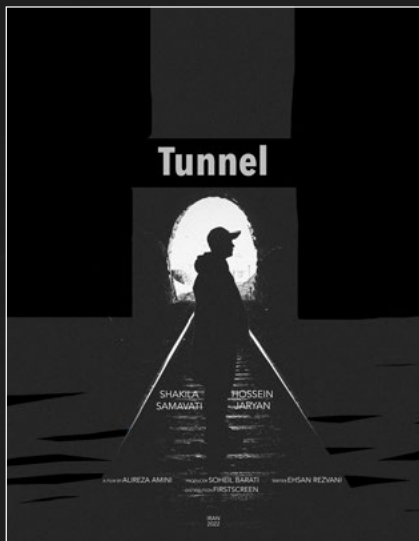
Due to his complex circumstances, Siavash joins a group that has no place in it

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Farzad Ranjbar was born in Tehran in 1985 and graduated from the Faculty of Radio and Television in 2011 with a degree in directing. I am currently making feature films and documentaries for television

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Farzad Ranjbar, Director



TUNNEL

Director: Alireza Amini

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

It's about a soldier who has lost all his family in war and wants to kill himself by sitting on a railway.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in 1970 in Tehran, Amini is a graduate of stage directing. He has made more than 20 short and documentary films and he was assistant director to Bahman Ghobadi's "A Time for the Drunken Horses." His debut feature film, "Letters of the Wind" (2002) and then his second feature film, "Tiny Snowflakes" (2003) were shown at many film festivals around the world (including Locarno, Pusan, Thessaloniki) and brought him international recognition.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Alireza Amini, Director
- Shakila Samavati, Actress



META FILM
FEST

THE WOUND

Director: Sahar Nourmonavar
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

A 9-year-old girl menstruates after the earthquake and loses her family while she knows nothing about it, and she thinks she has been wounded.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Sahar Nourmonavar was born in Shiraz on March 18th, 1981. She began studying her bachelor's degree in computer engineering in 2001, and her master's degree in industrial engineering in 2007. Sahar has been interested in reading books since she was a teenager. Reading books was accompanied by writing. After working for an IT company for 10 years, Sahar met a filmmaker friend and became interested in scriptwriting. She also began to take film classes and attended screenings at the Film Society, which deepened her love for cinema.

Sahar managed to pass a scriptwriting course with Asghar Farhadi and a directing course with Shahram Mokri. She is currently a student at Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture that was founded by Negar Eskandarfar. The wound is her first short film.

I believe that cinema allows us to share our understanding of life and the events around us. In this way, we help each other see the world in a broader dimension than before, and judgment becomes more thought-provoking

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Sahar Nourmonavar, Director



TALA' VISION

Director: Murad Abu Eiesh
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Syria 2014. Tala'vision tells the story of a 9 year old girl named Tala. Who spends most of her days watching football on TV; once ISIS issues a complete media ban. Tala is forced to turn her past time hobbies into a life or death situation.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Murad Abou Eisheh, Director



YOU PROMISE?

Director: Lin Laurin
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

"You Promise?" takes place in Malmö, Sweden in 1988. The story follows Vida, 5, and her brother Alex, 3, when they get a new father figure in the family. It's an aesthetic, poetic, and heartwarming short film about family love, divorce, and fear of change - from a five-year-old's perspective.

"You Promise?" has been selected to 18 international film festivals and counting. It has won 6 awards and 2 Special Mentionings.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Lin is a Malmö based filmmaker and performance artist who is very passionate about telling strong original stories. In 2011, she directed and produced a feature documentary called Iphigenia, which aired several times on national Swedish television, SVT, and was received incredibly well. "You Promise?" which is partly inspired by childhood memories, is her second narrative short film. Director Statement

This film is predominantly for grown-ups and older kids but from a five-year-olds perspective. I am convinced that this perspective will make the viewers relate to the story and reflect on how their own childhood has influenced them. -No matter their age, gender, nationality, or walk of life.



NEIGHBOURS

Director: Mano Khalil

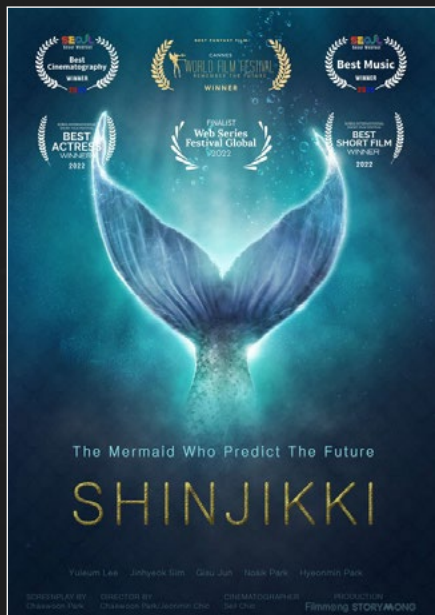
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

With a fine sense of humor and satire, the film tells of a childhood, which, between dictatorship and dark drama, also has its light moments. How much friendship, love and solidarity are possible in times of repression and despotism?

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Mona Khalil, Director
- Mazen Alnatur, Actor



「SHINJIKKI」 The Mermaid Who Predict The Future

Directors:
Chaewoon Park, Jeongmin Choi
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

In 329 AD, Eugene was a naval officer but exiled to the island and became the captain of a fishing boat, who shares a fateful love with the mermaid Shinjikki, who predict the future and they will save the villagers together from the mermaid hunter in this fantasy romance drama.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Park Chae Woon Profile

- Awards

- Best Screenplay at the 9th Screenplay Creation Competition Award in 1997.
- Grand Prize at the 20th Patriotic Art Contest in 1999.
- Selected at the 2nd Scenario Bank Competition in 2001
- Excellence Award at the Busan Scenario Contest in 2008
- Participation award at the Andong Traditional Culture Contents Museum Video Production Scenario Competition in 2009.
- Excellence Award at the 15th Traditional Culture Contents Storytelling Contest in 2018.
- Major Works
- Released in November 2002, screenplay for <Wet Dreams 1> (No. 1 at the box office).
- Released in January 2005, screenplay for <Wet Dreams 2> (No. 1 at the box office)
- April 2006, <The Forest> (35mm / 15 minutes) Screenplay/Director Invitation to 'Fantasia Film Festival' (2007, Canada)
- Release April 2007, <Shiny Day> screenplay
- Drama <'SHINJIKKI' The Mermaid Who predict the Future> Script/Director/Producer in 2022



MY PARTNER GIRAFFE

Director: Salaheddin Noori

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

A bookstore that makes money in an unusual way A person notices this unusual business and asks the bookseller for a ransom in exchange for not revealing it. The bookseller and his wife decide to get rid of him.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

38 years old and married with two children: a son and a daughter, a law graduate, a basic lawyer in a judiciary and a director and filmmaker trained by the Young Cinematographers Association, which is one of the most prestigious film schools in Iran.

Director Statement

My life is full of color, light and joy, and I like to transfer this color, light and joy to my films.

I also like my films to tell a story correctly and the audience to be satisfied with watching the film



TERMINUS

Director: Abu Iddris

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A Ghanaian chemist in his bid to vindicate his company in a lawsuit against an allegation stumble on something even more dangerous in the process. A hidden chemical formula in painkillers and antibiotics is altered for testing and profit gained by a pharmaceutical giant called ROMACEUTICAL. This development puts Ghana under the toughest of tests any nation could survive. But the President of Ghana is the strongest the nation has ever had being a woman, backed by a determined team and cabinet. Meanwhile, the Badibullu cartel will do anything to stop Ghana from exposing a 2-billion-dollar research finally ready to make profit after ten years of perfecting a secret formula. GHANA WILL NOT BREAK BUT BADIBULLU ALWAYS NEVER LOSES.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Yussif Abdulai Abdul-Manaf, Lead Actor
- Salma Mumin, Actress
- Mawuko Kuadzi, Producer



1+1

Director: Alaa Mahmoud
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

After the great war has destroyed the city, only a man and a woman, from the opposite parties remain. Both have to live in conflict between fighting and living in peace. An Egyptian director, Alaa Mahmoud graduated from the Higher Institute

of Cinema, Egypt. She directed the short film "Min Ali Biakhtar" (Who Chooses?), which was selected at Sharm El-Sheikh Film Festival (2019) and Trè Court International Film Festival (2019). Also, she directed the short film "Balloon" (2016). Her first feature film "1+1" was selected to compete in the official competition of Aswan International Women Film Festival. Alaa received Best Short Film award at Dubai Media Incorporated Mobile Short Film. Aswan International Women Film Festival Aswan Egypt Premiere Director Bi

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Alaa Mahmoud, Director
- Mostafa Bahgat, Producer



HUMMUS AND CHIPS

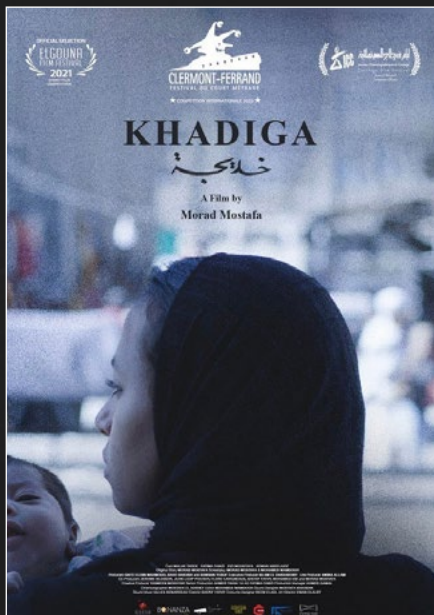
Director: Ahmed Almoghazy
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Set against the backdrops of Covid19 lockdown, grumpy racist grandma Margaret is lonely and anxious waiting for her Corona virus test result. For this reason, she will make an unusual decision and spend a full day with her Arab neighbor Bashar. Will this encounter go smooth?

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Ahmed Elmoghazy, Director
- Karim Adel Ayyad, Production Manager



KHADIGA

Director: Morad Mostafa
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Khadiga, young mother of 16 lives alone with her baby after her husband left for work in a remote city; in an ordinary day she makes her way through the hustle of Cairo streets to do some visits where she feels uncomfortable with the surroundings.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Morad is an Egyptian Filmmaker, born 1988 in Cairo, He studied the filmmaking at Cinema Palace in Egypt and then started his career in the film industry as an Assistant Director in various independent Films. And he collaborated as an Executive Director in "Souad" feature film which was in the official selection in Cannes Film Festival 2020 and Berlinale. He wrote and directed two short films "Henet Ward" and "What we don't know about Mariam" both had their world premieres in "Clermont-Ferrand" and has been selected in other major festivals (BFI London - Palm Springs - Busan - Thessaloniki - Stockholm - Karlovy Vary - Valencia - Shanghai - Buenos Aires - Cinemed Montpellier - FIFF Namur- Durban - Cairo) and has won more than 30 international awards.

Sahar Nourmonavar was born in Shiraz on March 18th, 1981. She began studying her bachelor's degree in computer engineering in 2001, and her master's degree in industrial engineering in 2007. Sahar has been interested in reading books since she was a teenager. Reading books was accompanied by writing. After working for an IT company for 10 years, Sahar met a filmmaker friend and became interested in scriptwriting. She also began to take film classes and attended screenings at the Film Society, which deepened her love for cinema.

Sahar managed to pass a scriptwriting course with Asghar Farhadi and a directing course with Shahram Mokri. She is currently a student at Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture that was founded by Negar Eskandarfar. The wound is her first short film.

I believe that cinema allows us to share our understanding of life and the events around us. In this way, we help each other see the world in a broader dimension than before, and judgment becomes more thought-provoking

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Morad Mostafa, Director
- Sawsan Yusuf, Producer



FORTRESS

Director: ZALESKY'S Slawek Zalewski
Animation and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

The authoritarian government declares a state of siege. They appoint a visually impaired old man as commander. The manipulated citizens trust the propaganda. Ignorance and

nonsense triumph. The city becomes a closed fortress made of cardboard. The authorities, to emphasize the threat, fire cannons in an unknown direction. The fortress becomes history, but the demons of war never sleep

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Illustrator, director of animated films, designer, graphic designer. Outsider and the connoisseur of serious and less serious music.

Studied in the Graphic Department of the Academy of Arts in Krakow. Diploma in Animation Film Studio of professor Jerzy Kucia. He makes a contact with Studio of Animated Films in Krakow, and debuts with a medium length animation - A'KUKU.

As a graphic designer, he collaborates with the British Council.

He establishes an auctorial graphic, animation and multimedia studio. He makes several animations and multimedia projects for the National Museum in Krakow. As an executive producer, he makes an medium length animated film INSECTUS / OWADEUSZ. He collaborates with Ludowy Theatre in Krakow. Now, he works on satiric cartoons, film and photography. An owner of a park bench, and free walking dogs' favorite.

Director Statement

The siege mentality creates the image of an enemy against whom mobilization requires closure of ranks and abandonment of individualism; be ready for the supreme sacrifice.



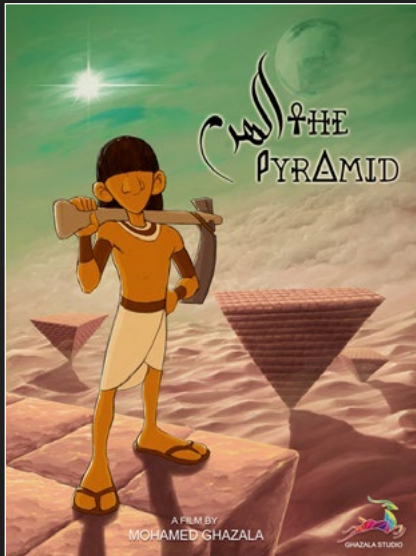
2 BOYS, 1 GIRL, 1 CHICKEN

Director: Lavis Anania-Kibale
Animation and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

2 brothers live with their mother in a poor village. They have the only chicken that lays eggs everyday. One brother is the favourite the other brother wants to be and hatches a plan.





THE PYRAMID

Director: Mohamed Ghazala
Animation and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

An ancient Egyptian tried to build an upside-down pyramid.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Mohamed Ghazala, Animation director, and Educator is an associate professor of animation and the chair of the Cinematic Arts School of Effat University/ Saudi Arabia. Besides being the Vice President of the International Animated Film Association, ASIFA, and the founder of its first chapter in Africa and the Arab world.

He served on several international Film & Animations festivals juries, including Stuttgart (Germany), Castelli Animati (Italy), SICAF (Korea), Animanima (Serbia), AnimaAfrik (Ghana), ReAnimania (Armenia), Animae Caribe (Trinidad & Tobago), AnimaBasauri (Spain), CICDAF (China) Chilemonos (Chile), Zanzibar Film Festival.

He has also been working as a visiting lecturer at several fine arts & film institutes such as Jilin animation institute (China), Cologne's Academy of Media Arts (KHM- Germany), NAFTI (Ghana), Durban Art & Animation center (South Africa), Antioquia University (Colombia).

Ghazala directed and co-directed many awarded films, such as "Carnival" (2001), "Crazy Works" (2002), "HM HM" (2005), "Sayari Yetu" (2006), including first Yemen's animated film "Salma" in 2006. "Honyan's Shoe" (2009), which won the Animation Prize at The African Movie Academy Awards (The African Oscar AMAA) in Lagos/Nigeria 2010.

He gave several workshops on animation in different countries and acted as a film consultant for several international festivals. In 2011, he published his first book "Animation in the Arab World" (Lambert AP. Germany). His second book, with the title "Animation in Africa," which published in Egypt in 2013.

Ghazala mainly concentrates on making independent experimental animated films on his own or in workshops (e.g., Greece, Tunisia, Capo Verde) or art residencies (e.g., UNESCO-ASCHBERG's to Colombia, UNESCO's Africa Animated to Kenya).

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Mohamed Ghazala, Director



EMILY

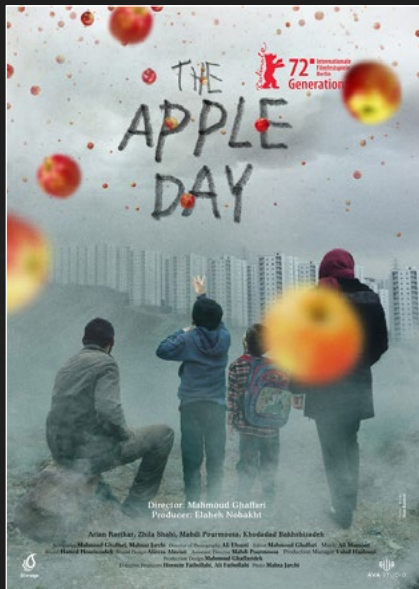
Director: Frances O'Connor
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

With a fine sense of humor and satire, the film tells of a childhood, which, between dictatorship and dark drama, also has its light moments. How much friendship, love and solidarity are possible in times of repression and despotism?

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Frances O'Conner, Director



THE APPLE DAY

Director: Mahmoud Ghaffari

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A first-grade primary school teacher in a poor suburb of Tehran assigns a letter to each student and asks them to bring items starting with an assigned letter, related to their fathers' jobs. Mehdi's father is a fruit seller and he must bring 30 apples ("Seeb" in Farsi) to class on the "S" Day. However, an

unfortunate event immerses the family in a crisis. Saeed, Mehdi's older brother, should find a way to overcome this challenge and help Mehdi for "the apple day".

(The Apple Day) is a true story depicting the life of poor people in the suburbs of Tehran who are trying to survive and improve their lives, despite the economic crisis. This film is the story of a family who have migrated to the city to fulfill the dream of a better life. Nevertheless, their hope becomes a mirage and they wish there was a way back to their hometown.

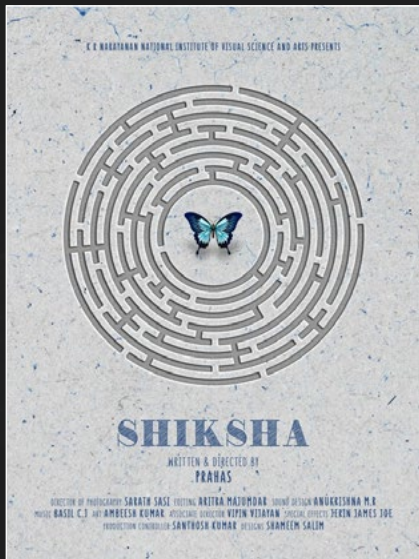
The Iranian people are suffering from international sanctions and an ineffective government these days. The deepening of economic crisis has been affecting children, younger generation, and their families in many ways. In the society where the family of our story lives, irrespective of the socio-economic classes, stealing and corruption are no longer considered as immoral acts. In this situation, while the moral collapse of society is imminent due to economic, social and political pressures, this family tries hard to protect itself from such a decay. But is this really possible?

In this film, I am trying to alert about the dark future that the Iranian nation might face soon. Children are growing up in an environment where immorality has become a norm. Indeed, indifference and negligence toward the situation of these children and their poor families, who are now a big part of the Iranian society, will surely face the Iranian society with deep social and moral crises in the near future.

Although the story happens in Iran within its particular context, I believe it could resonate with other societies as all countries in the post-Covid era are also facing some economic hardship.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Mahmoud Ghaffari was born in Tehran in 1976. He started Cinema with short fiction and documentary films. His film "The Apple Day" was selected in the 72nd Berlinale Film Festival.



THE DISCIPLINE

Director: Prahas N

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

A teacher disciplines her pupils when few unwanted incidents occur in a hostel of a residential school for children.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Prahas is Malayali independent filmmaker from India. He graduated from K R Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts, Kerala in Screenplay Writing and Direction. He has directed short films and documentaries.

The film captures sequence of events happening in a residential hostel for children during late 1990's in Kerala. The rigorous disciplining in the hostel reveals absurd ideas of self-making process. The film explores paradoxes and ambivalences in the modernisation project in a post-colonial country.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Prahas Nair, Writer/Director
- Aritra Majumdar, Editor



HOLD MY HAND

Director: Alexandra Alekhina
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Masha is over forty, and she is pregnant. The event is long-awaited and joyful - she and her husband really want children. A visit to the perinatal center casts doubt on the possibility of having a healthy baby - tests show a high risk

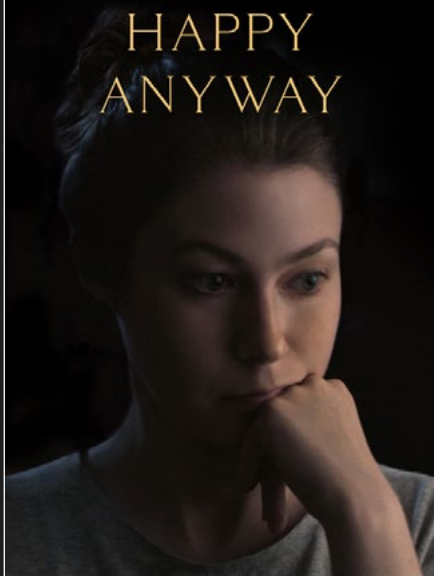
of having a child with the Down syndrome. Both Masha and her husband are confused and depressed, and the doctor suggests a risky medical test which will indicate for sure whether there are deviations in the fetus. Masha does not want to take risk because she is afraid of miscarriage, and her husband, on the contrary, is afraid to keep the pregnancy and become the father of a disabled child. It is not known what decision they would have made in the end if they had not been stuck in the elevator with a young Lisa who is going into labor right there. Masha pulls herself together and helps the girl, delivers her baby while Boris is completely confused and helpless. After leaving the elevator Masha decides to avoid the risky test and keep the pregnancy despite the risk. Masha breaks up with Boris. In due time Masha gives birth to a healthy baby.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Alexandra Alekhina , Director
- Dmitry Alekhin, Producer
- George Alekhin, Actor
- Ekaterina Afanaseva, Director Assistant
- Veronika Konnova, Actress

a film by Ahmet Serdar Karaca
Zeynep Karaca | Rong Li | Kunlun Zhang | Meng Wang

HAPPY ANYWAY



Produced at University of York, Copyright 2022, Ahmet Serdar Kar



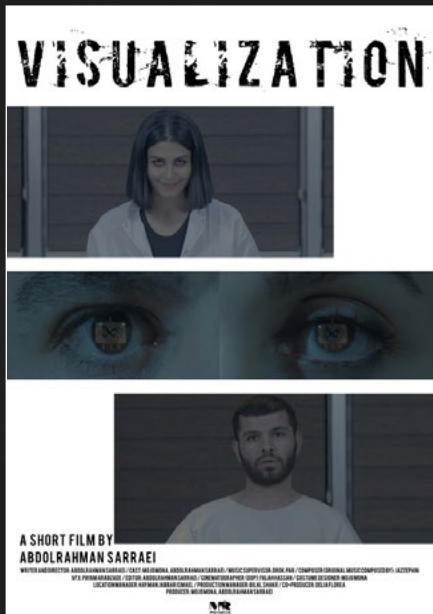
META FILM
FEST

HAPPY ANYWAY

Director: Ahmet Serdar Karaca
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

An illustrator who lost her boyfriend is depicted in the movie getting over her depression by creating happy memories.



VISUALIZATION

Director: Abdolrahman Sarraei
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

- Synopsis: When the mind flies!
- Genres: Sci-Fi (psychological fiction), Mystery, Thriller
- Country of Origin: United Kingdom, United States, France
- Filming location: Erbil, Kurdistan Regional Government
- Company Production and Distribution: M&R Pictures [US]
- Awards & Nominees: 10 wins and 9 Nominees

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Abdolrahman Sarraei is an Iranian-Kurdish Actor, Screenwriter, Film director, Film producer, President of Kurdistan International Independent Film Festival, ASAA (Abdolrahman Sarraei Academic Awards), Golden Eyes, Muzzle and founder of M&R Pictures [US].

He has not been allowed to return to work in Iran since 2019 due to his political activities, which are seen by Iranian officials as collaborating in counter-revolutionary propaganda. And since then he is in exile.

Director Statement:

I was born a human and I always tried to stay human.

I learned that nothing is higher than humanity and the earth belongs to all humans.

(Religion, race and nationality)None of this was our choice and I learned to respect all of them and we all have the right to life choice and our common language is love.

P.S: I am in exile, so my expression, my language, my media are my films and that's it.



DELVILLE WOOD

Directors:

Izette Blignaut, Connor Weidemann,
Mitchell Weidemann

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

A nine year old girl, Hannaneh, lives in poverty. Just released from prison, her father is addicted. Her five year old sister is mentally and physically disabled. A driving instructor, her mother is working so hard for the money to earn the living. Everything seems more complicated to Hannaneh when the news of some serial murders are widespread in the city and her self-giving mother is interviewed by the police as a suspect...

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in 1980 in Tehran, Ebrahim Sheibani is a graduate of acting and directing from Samandarian Art Institute and Film Directing (MA) from Tehran University of Art. After working as assistant director in more than 30 works, most notably with prominent Iranian cineastes such as Dariush Mehrjui, Abbas Kiarostami, Bahram Beizai, Nasser Taghvai, Rakhshan Banietemad, Ebrahim Hatamikia and Mehdi Fakhimzadeh, Sheibani made his first short film, DARK RISING, in 2001. One year later, he made his debut feature film, HONEY, POISONOUS HONEY, which was one of the national blockbusters. For his second film, CRIME SCENE, NO ENTRY, he earned a best director nomination in Fajr National Film Festival 2007. His third feature film, NOWHERE, NOBODY, gained public and critical recognition inside the country. Also active as a prolific director, writer and producer of TV movies and series, Sheibani made his fourth feature film, GOLDENBLOOD in 2021, narrating the odd real story of a serial killer.

Feature Films: 2001- Honey, Poisonous Honey; 2007- Crime Scene, No Entry; 2012- Nowhere, Nobody; 2021- Golden Blood.



LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE

Directors:

Josh Gordon

Will Speck

Animation and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Based on the best-selling book series by Bernard Waber, *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* is a live-action/CGI musical comedy that brings this beloved character to a new, global audience.

When the Primm family moves to New York City, their young son Josh struggles to adapt to his new school and new friends. All of that changes when he discovers Lyle - a singing crocodile (Shawn Mendes) who loves baths, caviar and great music - living in the attic of his new home. The two become fast friends, but when Lyle's existence is threatened by evil neighbor Mr. Grumps (Brett Gelman), the Primm's must band together with Lyle's charismatic owner, Hector P. Valenti (Javier Bardem), to show the world that family can come from the most unexpected places and there's nothing wrong with a big singing crocodile with an even bigger personality.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile will feature original songs performed by Shawn Mendes and written by the songwriting team behind *The Greatest Showman*, Benj Pasek & Justin Paul. Joining Pasek and Paul in writing original songs for the film are Ari Afsar, Emily Gardner Xu Hall, Mark Sonnenblick, and Jorjah Kwamé. Directed and produced by Will Speck and Josh Gordon, the screenplay is by Will Davies. The film is produced by Hutch Parker and executive produced by Kevin K. Vafi, Dan Wilson, Robert J. Dohrmann, Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Tarak Ben Ammar and Andy Mitchell.

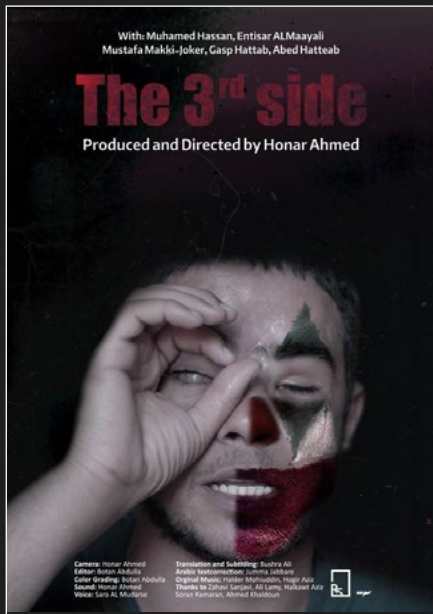


POET

Director: Darezhan Omirbayev
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The story about the Poet devoted his life to wooing the Muse and looking for the reason for living. The ability to sympathize with, feel with, do good, show mercy was the prior criterion for the poet in assessment of the people and the leading idea of his entire writing. The main character is the Almaty poet of about forty years old working as an editor in the small Kazakh newspaper. He and his colleagues understand that their writing is less and less popular in the up-to-date, rational society, that the time of mass interest in the literature, books, and poetry become the thing of the past over time. This is of course a great private tragedy for these modest writers



THE 3RD SIDE

Director: Honar Ahmed Jabbar
Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The story of the 2018 protests in Iraq that killed more than 600 people and injured nearly 25,000 others. Four protesters tell the story of the militia's involvement and the third side in the repression of protesters.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

He has 12 years of experience working as a war correspondent. Since 2009 he has covered the explosions and the security situation in the disputed areas of Iraq until the time of the emergence of ISIS.

-He has 15 documentaries that he filmed for Rudaw and 24 Kurdistan channels .

He covered the ISIS war in Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit and Shingal in Iraq.

Since the emergence of ISIS, Honer was the first reporter to try to get close to ISIS militants to make interviews with them.

He also covered the war between the Peshmerga and Al- Hashd Al-Sha'aby Forces. Covered the beginning of the war between ISIS and the Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous militia in the city of Sirte in Libya until the end of ISIS there.

Covered the forced deportation of Rohingyas on the Burma-Bangladesh border.

As the first correspondent from the Middle East, he arrived in Burma and from there conveyed the suffering of the people there who were constantly under threat of attack by the Burmese government.

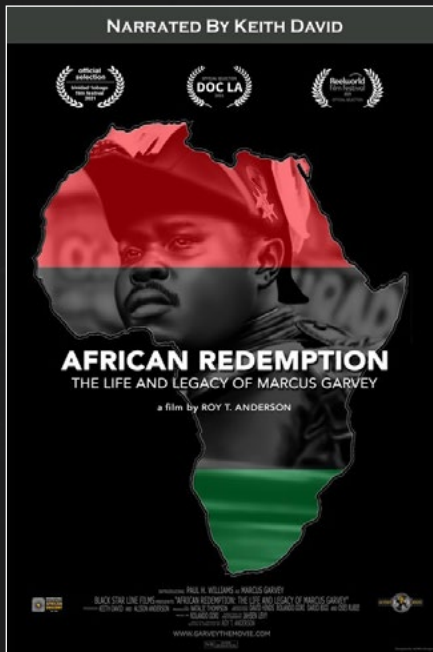
The film was shot during a very sensitive period, as militias are constantly looking for protest leaders to assassinate.

The best evidence is the story of Jasb Hattab, the man whose son was kidnapped by militias. Jasib Hatab was assassinated by Ansar Allah militias in Maysan province after filming part of his story.

The protests began on October 1, 2018, killing 800 protesters and injuring 30,0. Although the demonstrations ended by force, Iraq has changed a lot since then.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Honar Jabbar, Director
- Novar Sherko Othman, Producer



AFRICAN REDEMPTION: THE LIFE & LEGACY OF MARCUS GARVEY

Director: Roy T. Anderson
Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The 'Negro Moses' arrived on the scene on August 17, 1887 in the tiny seaside town of St. Ann's Bay on the northern coast of Jamaica, fifty-three years after slavery was abolished in

that country. In his short life Marcus Mosiah Garvey, would go on to become the world's foremost Pan-Africanist and, in some eyes, the greatest civil-rights leader of the twentieth century. He dedicated his life to the project of redeeming Africa, which he saw as the home to civilization.

While his brand of talk appealed to millions of ardent followers, it also earned him some powerful enemies around the world, such as W.E.B. Du Bois of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and J. Edgar Hoover, a young government attorney fresh out of law school and working with the United States Bureau of Investigation (later the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]).

Award-winning director Roy T. Anderson peels back all the layers in his presentation of this oft- misunderstood and controversial figure in "African Redemption: The Life and Legacy of Marcus Garvey", a 85-minute feature-length documentary-film. Emmy-award winning actor Keith David (Greenleaf, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Crash) lends his voice as narrator on the film.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Roy Anderson, Director



OUR RIVER... OUR SKY

Director: Maysoon Pachachi

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Set against a backdrop of sectarian violence in 2006 Baghdad, Sara is a single mother and novelist trying to cope with unpredictable events unfolding around her. Like her neighbors, she tries to sustain a fragile sense of hope and live her life in the best way she can, despite an uncertain future.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Maysoon Pachachi is a London-based filmmaker of Iraqi origin. She was educated in Iraq, the USA and the UK. She studied Philosophy at University College London (BA) and then filmmaking at the London Film School. She was for many years a documentary and drama film editor in the UK, and has worked since 1994 as an independent documentary film director, mainly making films in, and about, the Middle East. Maysoon has also taught film directing and editing in Britain and Palestine (in Jerusalem, Gaza and at Birzeit University). In 2004, with her colleague, Iraqi filmmaker, Kasim Abid, she co-founded the Independent Film & Television College, a free-of-charge film-training center in Baghdad, whose students have now produced 17 short documentary films, shown at festivals and screenings internationally and within Iraq at a traveling festival. 'Our River... Our Sky' is her first feature film.



IMAGINE

Director: Ali Behrad
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Night in Tehran. A daydreaming cab driver falls in love with a woman he can't have, leaving to a series of encounters, filled with mystery and playful moments.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Ali Behradmehr, Director/Writer
- Azim Farayen, Makeup Artist



HARD SHELL, SOFT SHELL

Director: Emma Benestan
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Loved-up oyster farmer Az thinks he's made it. But when an elaborate proposal goes awry and his girlfriend Jess breaks his heart, Az is forced to confront his understanding of what happiness really looks like – both hers and his own.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

Stella Kelly Howard, Representative



BEFORE WE FORGET

Director: Nawaf Al Janahi

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Strangled by debt, and bad luck, Mohamed (46) is torn between a son he can't support his dreams, and a father who suffers from Alzheimer's.

His son Omar (22), who works at an auto parts store, wants to buy the store and needs money for the down payment. His father Ismail (67) is kept in his old house with a maid and a nurse, who both haven't received their last payments. Mohamed is in the middle of renovating his struggling physiotherapy business, which he took a loan for, one last step that he believes necessary to avoid shutting it down, and can't afford anything else. This makes the relationships strained between the three of them.

On top of that, Mohamed is hassled repeatedly by Fahad (42) who gave him the loan and not only reached a point of impatience, but also using the situation in a direct blackmail. Mohamed makes promises to avoid the aggressive threats, but he knows he is in trouble and it's a matter of time before things will fall down.

Things take a different turn when Ismail unexpectedly mentions a pile of money buried in the abandoned old family house in the on the other side of the country. Mohamed is reluctant to believe Ismail, but he has no other option but to pursue this last hope, and convinces his son to join him on this trip.

Together in one car, oblivious to the fact that Fahad is following them, they start the journey of three generations who will have to survive their differences and discover themselves, each other, and what truly unites them.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Nawaf Al Janahi, Director



HIT THE ROAD

Director: Panah Panahi

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A middle-aged couple and their two sons embark on a road trip across the Iranian countryside. Over the course of their journey, they bond over memories of the past, grapple with fears of the unknown and fuss over their sick dog.



SILENCED TREE

Director: Faysal Soysal
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

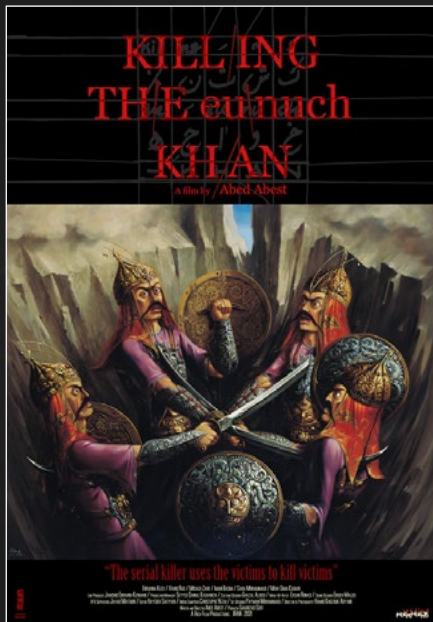
Hayati is a small-town literature teacher and a one hit wonder author who tries helplessly to hold on to his past: his shattering marriage, his sick old mother, a decaying walnut tree and the memory of his father. Instead of moving on

with his life and taking control, he passively accepts its blows and is only interested in digging into the past, until his discovery forces him to confront his own weakness and answer the question: is standing idle while witnessing evil being done is just as much of a sin as doing it?

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Faysal Soysal was born in Batman in 1979. He left medical school to focus on poetry and cinema in 2000. Between 2003 and 2007, he finished MA on "Film Directing" in Tehran Art University-Iran and at the same time "New Turkish Literature" at Van Yuzuncuyil University-Turkey. He did 4 short films in Iran, which were awarded at international film festivals. With 'Dreams of Lost Time'(35mm), he's become closer to find his own cinematographic language.

In 2008, with a scholarship, he attended to the New York Film Academy and directed 4 short films. He has been selected for Talent Campus of Sarajevo Film Festival at 2009. He did his first feature film 'Crossroads' in 2013, (Filmed in Turkey and Bosnia) and it got 13 awards from film festivals. He did documentary series for Al Jazeera and TRT TV. He used to be voluntary of Doctors Worldwide and produced Africa documentaries about their aid. They have been screened on TRT Documentary Channel in the name Worldwide Stories as 11 episodes. He published books on poetry and cinema. He is the director of International Amity Short Film Festival since two years. He finished his second feature film Silenced Tree as a first co-production of Turkish-Iranian at 2020.



KILLING THE EUNUCH KHAN

Director: Abed Abest

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The serial killer intends slaughter so much that the blood spills over the ditches of the city. To reach this target, he designs a plan in which victims kill victims. The plan carried out and the stream of blood gradually fills the ditches of the city by the people who kill each other.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born on June 21, 1987 in Iran, Abed Abest is a graduate of Architecture from Mahshahr Azad University in Iran. At the beginning, he has been engaged in theatre as actor, and writer. Then, he continued in cinema and took part in different projects. He started his career as a writer and director in his first short film, "I haven't seen Hossein since the day before yesterday" (2012).

In 2013, he took the lead role in "Fish & Cat", directed by Shahram Mokri, which was premiered at the Venice film festival.

Afterward, he wrote and directed a Medium-length film: "The Corner" (2014), premiered at the Cairo international film festival 2014.

His debut feature film, as writer and director, "Simulation" premiered at Berlinale Forum and TIFF in 2017. He has performed as lead actor in "Invasion", directed by Shahram Mokri, which was premiered at the Berlinale Panorama section and Karlovy Vary 2018. His second feature film is "Killing the eunuch KHAN".

We can imagine an Afghan military base is located in Iran,
 We can imagine a Taliban military ammunition depot is located at the central part of Iran,
 We can imagine an Iranian passenger airplane as an Iraqi jet fighter, whose commander of operation and the pilot bombard Iraq.
 All of these events could take place in Baghdad or in Kabul or...
 This is a repetitive story in the Middle East.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Abed Abest, Director/Script Writer



THE HORSE THIEVES

Director: Yerlan Nurmukhambetov
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A young family in a small village produces horses and becomes the victim of horse thieves. The head of the family is killed, and a 12-year-old Olzhas has to take care of his mother and sisters. His childhood has ended in an instant. Suddenly, they meet a man from the city that helps Olzhas and his family move to another village and start it all over again. On the way, they run into their father's killers.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Sabanbayeva Laura, Director



EL ARENA

Director: Jay b. Jammal

Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

El Arena navigates the underground world of battle rap in the Middle East, taking a first of its kind look into the stories, struggles, and perspectives of its most talented figures. Thanks to Lebanon's relatively liberal freedom of speech laws, Arab rappers from across the region come to Beirut to compete against one another. Outside of The Arena, these men's lives are defined by crumbling daily socioeconomic structures and war. But on the inside, they fight for a chance to be crowned king. Set against the backdrop of the current degradation of the region, and climaxing with the devastating 2020 Beirut Explosion, El Arena paints a picture of struggle, war, politics, and the ounce of hope that comes when raw talent is allowed to shine.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jay B. Jammal's childhood was characterized by an era of wars and constant moves around the Middle East and Europe. During his teenage years, he discovered his love for media and music and developed a creative passion to utilize these mediums to tackle challenging topics from around the Arab world. Jay later graduated with degrees in media and education and went on to teach visual media at universities in the United States. In 2019 he moved to Dubai and founded Soulhouse Media to cover some of the most compelling subcultures in the region. He has since received various International film-making awards.

I have been following "The Arena" for some years and I have been thoroughly impressed with the way they have assembled and developed battle rap culture in the Middle East.

Battle rap is a raw artform usually involving two or more rappers trading rhymes, disses, and ciphers to showcase their creative and lyrical abilities. At The Arena, the crowd squeezes around the battlers in a circle, setting the mood for a truly unique and intense cultural experience. When someone's rhymes hit or are exceptionally cutting, the room buzzes with energy and cheers. However, if a rapper's rhymes miss, then the crowd will let you know by their boos. This has never been done in Arabic before, and I was confident that the world would be interested to see what Arabic-specific culture has to bring to the art of battle rap.

What also made this story interesting is that the rappers that perform in The Arena lead very complex lives. Some work day jobs in war torn nations, others are completing university degrees in order to immigrate to the west. Some are escaping wars and working on their refugee status. Nevertheless, these contenders still manage to compete at the highest level. Furthermore, this annual event is set up in Beirut Lebanon specifically due to its liberal freedom of speech laws. As such, Arab rappers can say whatever they want without breaking any laws or facing any repercussions from local authorities. These elements along with all the socio-political problems in the Middle East make this story extremely unique and noteworthy. What will this freedom of speech mean to rappers coming from oppressive dictatorships? How will their varying backgrounds and cultures clash on stage? Will art resolve conflict or will conflict prove to be too complicated in the Middle East? These were some of the questions that inspired this film.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Jay B. Jammal, Director



IN THE MIND'S GARDEN

Director: Matteo Balsamo

Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

On the shores of Lake Como, an association for mental health meets once a week to write a periodical. Everyone bring their story, their ups and downs, their tragedies and solidarity. Patients, psychiatrists, and photoreporters from all over the world offer a unique view on mental health, its social implications, hospitals, treatments, support for families, and the regulations governing the sector.

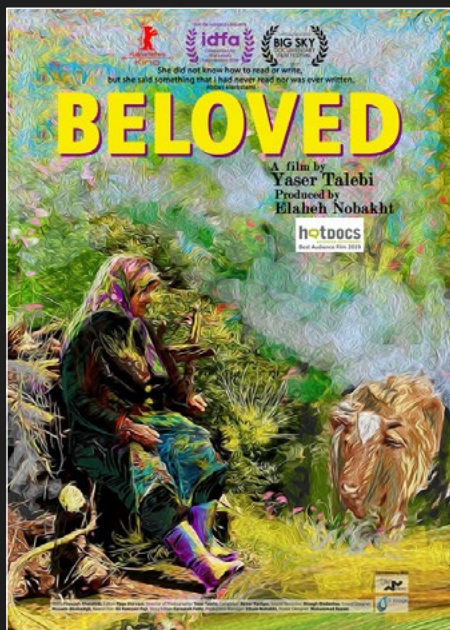
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Matteo Balsamo was born in Broni, Italy, in 1977. He began his career as an actor for theater, short and feature films, including "Cado Dalle Nubi", "Vallanzasca - Gli Angeli del Male" by Michele Placido, and "Solo per un weekend" by Gianfranco Gaioni. After specializing in directing, he shot commercials, short films, video clips, web series, and his first docufilm "In Prima Linea" (On the front line), awarded in Italy and abroad.

The stigma of mental illness is more alive than ever. Sometimes even in the patient himself, who feels marginal and dangerous. "In the Mind's Garden" wants to document mental distress in Italy and abroad, through the testimonies of patients, photojournalists, psychiatrists, and journalists, who tell a still uncomfortable truth. And then we meet the association "Oltre il Giardino" of Como, a group of people - patients or volunteers, it doesn't matter! - which opens the doors to a glimpse of everyday life: they meet to write their periodical, but they reveal themselves without shadows with a huge desire for redemption and not for commiseration. Diamonds emerge behind the rough stones.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Matteo Balsamo, Director/Producer
- Rosella Bertone, Producer/Script Writer
- Paolo Fosso, Executive Producer/Composer



BELOVED

Director: Yaser Talebi

Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Eighty-two-year-old Firouzeh is not afraid of hard work. From dawn to dusk, the fiercely independent herder takes care of her beloved cows in the mountains of Northern Iran, without any access to electricity, gas or phone. Married at a young age to an older man, she's long been a widow, and none of her 11 children ever come to visit. But she enjoys her

solitary life in harmony with nature, and won't hear the well-meaning advice from nearby villagers that it's maybe time to retire. No matter the difficulties, this indomitable woman will always choose her hard-won freedom over comfort among people.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Yaser Talebi, Born in a Northern city in Iran in 1982, is a film director, producer, screenwriter, and editor who has also made his name as a creative director.

Yaser is a member of the Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association (IRDFA), and his films have been screened at festivals worldwide and won numerous awards.

In his documentary, he chose the observation method. The basis of observational documentaries is that the audience, watching the film, realizes that in the absence of a camera, everyday reality would have taken place - the genre seeks to avoid judgment.

He has made many documentaries for television. Including a series of travel documentaries, which examines and introduces history, civilization, rituals and traditions, ancient sites, delicious food, etc. he was as a jury member at the International Outdoor Documentary Film Festival of China OUTDOCS in 2021.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Yaser Talebi, Director, Cinematographer, Editor
- Elahe Nobakht, Producer
- Farzaneh Fathi, Writer of Beloved & I wont remain alone
- Elham Nobakht, Assistant Producer
- Ali , Researcher
- Mina Alikhani, International coordinator of all the five films



MASHA AND DUDARAI

Director: Damir Tastembekov

Feature Film

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Bukhatrbayev Yerlan, Director Kinoark&Kinoplexx Theatres Kazakhstan
- Petyukh Mariya, CEO Euroseating Cental Asia
- Tauekel Mussilim, Actor
- Anuar Bakmetov Actress



HOLY BREAD

Director: Rahim Zabihi

Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

This is the story of everyday life of people who trade their lives for earning a bread with holy death! Holy Bread is about the hard life of people who smuggle goods in order to support their families. Because of this they are forced to hike arduous mountains putting their lives on the line. The father of a household may be swept to his death by an avalanche, or hit by a soldier's bullets.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Elahe Nobakht, Producer



CHOSEN

Director: Joseph Juhn

Documentary and Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Since 1903, only two Korean Americans were elected to US Congress. In 2020, five Korean Americans of vastly diverse backgrounds with competing political views run for the seat.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Joseph Juhn is a Korean American lawyer-turned-documentary filmmaker. Prior to becoming a full-time doc-maker, Joseph worked as a New York attorney for 4 years at a Korean government agency based in Manhattan, specializing in Intellectual Property and Startup law. A serendipitous backpacking trip to Cuba in 2015 changed Joseph's life when he ran into a Korean descendant by chance, inspiring him to rekindle his storytelling aspirations.

"Jeronimo", Joseph's first feature film, was accepted to 17 film festivals around the globe and opened in theaters in Korea in November, 2019, drawing over 20,000 audiences and receiving one of the highest audience ratings among all movies that year. He is currently working on his next feature documentary project, "CHOSEN", which is about 5 Korean Americans that ran for US Congress in 2020, 4 of whom were elected.

Joseph earned a BA in Film & Video at UC San Diego, and a JD at Syracuse University College of Law.



MUTHAYYA

Director: Bhaskhar Maurya
Feature Film

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Hemanth Kumar C R, Creative Producer
- Vrinda Prasad, Producer



META FILM
FEST

DISTRICT TERMINAL

Director:

Bardia Yadegari, Ehsan Mirhosseini

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A graveyard of waste and buried cities. The population had either died of the virus or migrated or imprisoned in quarantine blocks. A thick, unrelenting layer of industrial polymers covered all the waters. The layer kept the water from rising to the atmosphere, and so the old, tired earth had not seen any rain for years.

The young man and his mother spent the daylight scavenging and the night hiding from the quarantine enforcers.

Peyman is a poet who is living in two parallel worlds, in the

present world with his mother in an old town in the west of Tehran, the capital of Iran, struggling with drug addiction, poverty and a secret forbidden love affair which has exhausted him, and on the other hand with a bigger challenge fighting with censorship, dictatorship and preservation of the environment, and the increasing fear of a forthcoming war that is becoming more frightening day by day; and another imaginary fictional world, in a near future, and in this story, in their destructed and ruined town which is evacuated and abandoned because of sand storms, global warming and lethal viruses, he and his mother are only seeking survival and trying to stay alive. In the present world, Peyman's only hope is to save himself from this situation by marrying a woman who lives in USA, and perhaps immigrating from Iran to US via this marriage, which is becoming more out of reach like the everyday complicated life itself. The pressures are increasing, his close friends and relatives are being gone because of the pressures from the dictator government and common hopelessness, and the bad economic situation, loneliness, delusions and dead/imaginary characters like his father or the censor clerk of Ministry of guidance are driving him crazier day by day.

Peyman is looking for redemption hopelessly, but what is his main drive to go through his dark life and deprives him of any chance for prosperity, is the Death Instinct, an ambiguous and unknown desire which makes death more accepting for him than life.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

BARDIA YADEGARI (born 27 september 1980) and EHSAN MIRHOSSEINI (born 20 August 1985) are two young talented Iranian screenwriters and film directors who also starred in The Golden Bear winner film of 2020 Berlin Film Festival "There Is No Evil" directed by Mohammad Rasoulof.

While studying cinema at Iranian Youth Cinema Society in Tehran, Bardia & Ehsan began working as Film Critic in Iranian Cinema magazines, newspapers and Social Medias. Their collaboration in the following years resulted in writing and directing many short, documentary and feature films together, Most of which are directed by acclaimed Iranian film directors



DISTRICT TERMINAL

A film written and directed by BARDIA YADEGARI and EHSAN MIRHOSSEINI
screenplay BARDIA YADEGARI, FAROOSH AZADI, ALI HEMATI, GANJOM TAGHAI
with SAHAR JAHANARA, SARA AJROODI, ALI KAMALI, MEHRABAN SALAMATI and REZA BAHRAMI
produced by FAROOSH AZADI and BARDIA YADEGARI



GOLDEN BLOOD

Director: Ebrahim Sheibani

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

A nine year old girl, Hannaneh, lives in poverty. Just released from prison, her father is addicted. Her five year old sister is mentally and physically disabled. A driving instructor, her mother is working so hard for the money to earn the living. Everything seems more complicated to Hannaneh when the news of some serial murders are widespread in the city and her self-giving mother is interviewed by the police as a suspect...

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in 1980 in Tehran, Ebrahim Sheibani is a graduate of acting and directing from Samandarian Art Institute and Film Directing (MA) from Tehran University of Art. After working as assistant director in more than 30 works, most notably with prominent Iranian cineastes such as Dariush Mehrjui, Abbas Kiarostami, Bahram Beizai, Nasser Taghvai, Rakhshan Banietemad, Ebrahim Hatamikia and Mehdi Fakhimzadeh, Sheibani made his first short film, DARK RISING, in 2001. One year later, he made his debut feature film, HONEY, POISONOUS HONEY, which was one of the national blockbusters. For his second film, CRIME SCENE, NO ENTRY, he earned a best director nomination in Fajr National Film Festival 2007. His third feature film, NOWHERE, NOBODY, gained public and critical recognition inside the country. Also active as a prolific director, writer and producer of TV movies and series, Sheibani made his fourth feature film, GOLDENBLOOD in 2021, narrating the odd real story of a serial killer.

Feature Films: 2001- Honey, Poisonous Honey; 2007- Crime Scene, No Entry; 2012- Nowhere, Nobody; 2021- Golden Blood.

Comfort is an external matter and tranquility is an inner one.

It is possible for the people to live in comfort.

I mean that it's just possible.

But there are a few people living in tranquility.

But...

The life is too wild to let it carry you on.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Ebrahim Sheibani, Director/Writer/Producer
- Bahar Ghasemi, Actress



LANDLESS

Director: Tooraj Aslani
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The film portrays the forced emigration of a musician who live in a city in Iraq Syria border. The woman is pregnant and she is waiting for her baby's birth. After that DAESH occupies some towns in Syria and Iraq, they set out to the Turkish border with some other people to go to Europe.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Tooraj Aslani was born on Dec 26, 1973 in Kermanshah, Iran. He has graduated in Graphics from Kermanshah conservatory and film directing. He has been shooting more than 100 films as director of photography for Iranian and Iraqi and Turkey cinema and received a lot of prestigious awards from around the world. He is also an investor, executive producer and producer of fictions and documentaries. Now he directed his third feature film "Landless". Ginkgo (Suspended Narrative), 2014, 77 min, fiction, feature film. Gold Runner, 2018, 86 min, fiction, feature film. Landless, 77 min, fiction, feature film.

Director Statement

We know the good and bad of oil. Good for its wealth, on a bad for the wars over the oil wealth that befall the residents of the oil-rich countries. As an Asian born in Iran, Iraq, Syria. I have witnessed bitter events that root in oil and the smell of blood that rises from oil. The formation of ISIS was another threat that has caused much destruction in the past decade. I believe the language of the cinema can be revealing like a mirror in order to end today's atrocities.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Raz Kalkawat Rashid, Co-Producer



WHEN THE RAIN SETS IN

Director: James Hughes

Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Kenzie and Treyden, a couple who've been swept up in a whirlwind six-month romance, find themselves confronting a painful question: Has their love story come to an end?

OSCAR NOMINATED EDITOR OF GREEN BOOK

14 AWARDS AT FIRST 10 FESTIVALS

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

In his career, James has directed hundreds of actors, including Emmy Winners and BAFTA Winners. He has been a Speaker for BAFTA, the Screenwriting Expo in Los Angeles, and numerous film festivals. His BAFTA Qualifying short film, *The Velvet Abstract*, is narrated by Emmy Winner Tobias Menzies (*Outlander*, *The Crown*), scored by Jean-Pascal Beintus (*The Shape of Water*, *Harry Potter*, *Argo*) and edited by the Oscar Nominated Editor Patrick J Don Vito (*Green Book*). The film screened at over 100 festivals.

James followed this with his BAFTA Qualifying short film, *The Inuring*. It won 20 awards at its first 60 film festivals, a one in three win ratio. It was also selected as one of the 4 best short films of the year at the Sky TV televised National Film Awards.

James has just released two new short films. The first of these, *The Sands of Time*, features an ensemble cast, including Olivia Williams (*The Sixth Sense*).

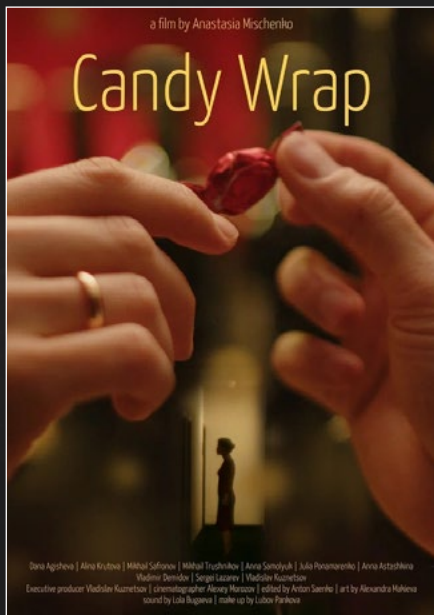
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He is now in post-production on his next short film release, *Sonar*, an underwater adventure, with his team in five international cities. The film will be released in February.

James is also in post on his latest film, *Chairs*, starring two BAFTA winning leads. James cast the film himself, as well as being its sole Producer, Location Manager, and Production Manager. It will be released this spring. He is now developing his fiction feature debut.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- James Hughes, Writer/Director/Producer



CANDY WRAP

Director: Anastasia Mischenko
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Dasha confessed to her mother, that she has been desperately trying to overcome romantic feelings for her best friend's fiancé. Little does she know her always-right-Mum is in a peculiar situation herself...

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Anastasia Mischenko, Director



TO FATHER

Director: James Hughes
Short Film

SYNOPSIS

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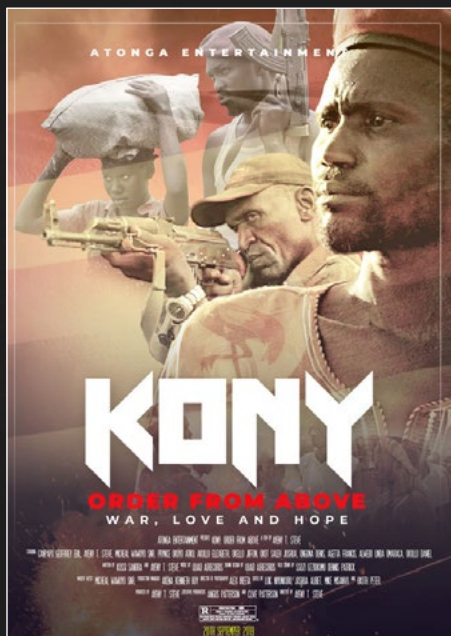
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KONY ORDER FROM ABOVE

Director: Steve T. Ayeny

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Two children (Otti and Aguti) fall in love during the tumultuous Northern Uganda Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency, but are separated when Otti is abducted at the age of 11.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Steve T. Ayeny, Director
- Philippa Ama Bentuma Arthur, Africa Film Market



BANDIRMA F. CLUB'S

Director: Ömer Faruk Sorak
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

After losing his father for the sake of a flying balloon at the age of 9, Umut's emotional connection to the sky and space, his dream of reaching the space that his father saw as his dream, is suddenly triggered after the Sputnik satellite, which the Soviets sent into space in 1957. Umut, who thinks 'If they do it, why can't we do it', should

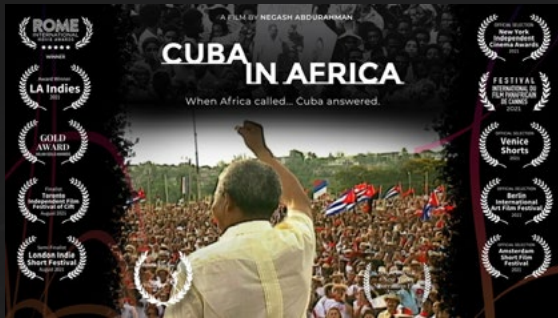
keep the promise he made when he said goodbye to his father.

Umut, "just sit tight" despite those who say, with his beloved Leyla, his dear friends Hasan and Mustafa, with Çingen Necati, the joy of Bandırma with his clarinet and with the Missile Club they founded together, he goes on a journey to the sky, from there to space and finally to the other side of the world, where he will lose his great love Leyla.

With starring Alina Boz (Leyla), Denizcan Aktaş (Umut), Erkan Kolçak Köstendil (Çingen Necati), Aslı Bekiroğlu (Atay Yıldız (Hasan), Öykü Gürman (Teacher Nurgül), Gökhan Yıkılkan, Gökrem Sevinç, Altan Erkekli and their valuable actors Bandırma Missile Club, with its story inspired by real events, brings Turkey's start to the space race to the big screen with its impressive narration.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Deniz Can Aktaş Lead Actor
- Vecihi Oral, Manager Of Deniz
- Aslı Bekiroğlu, Lead Actress
- Atay Yıldız, Lead Actor
- Çağlar, Director



CUBA IN AFRICA

Director: Negash Abdurahman
Documentary and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

The dramatic untold story of 420,000 Cubans- soldiers and teachers, doctors and nurses- who gave everything to end colonial rule and apartheid in Southern Africa.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Negash Abdurahman, Producer



MARSH CLOUDS: THE OYSTERS OF HARRIS NECK

Director: Kevin Mannens
Documentary and Short Film

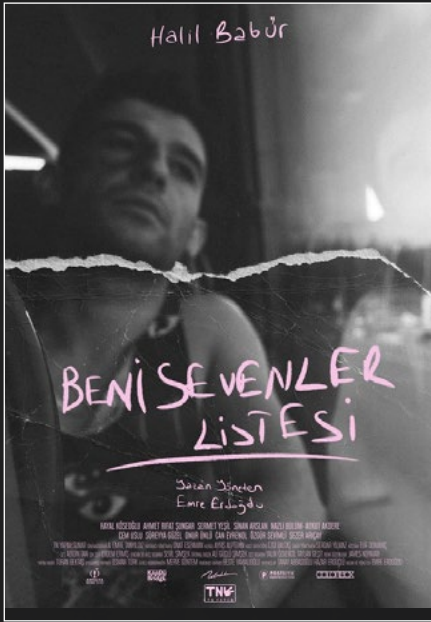
SYNOPSIS

The Timmons family has been picking oysters in Harris Neck, GA for more than 100 years. The land they call home has a tragic history. Marsh Clouds tells a story of trauma and racism - and the perseverance to overcome against all odds.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Kevin Mannens is a VFX designer turned documentary filmmaker. Mannens is known as a visceral, versatile and visionary imagineer; his work a symbiosis of tactile visuals and engaging narrative.

The goal of my documentaries is to raise awareness about social and environmental issues - and hopefully bring about meaningful change.



THE LIST OF THOSE WHO LOVE ME

Director: Emre Erdoğan
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Yılmaz is the most famous of Cihangir, the neighborhood of celebrities. He is the dealer and close friends of famous filmmakers and actors. Together with the drug operations held in Istanbul and around, Yılmaz is getting paranoid about not being loved by them anymore. This paranoia

makes him take bigger risks day by day and Yılmaz will be destroyed slowly by the gravity of the desire for being loved.

He was born in 1990 in Bolu/Turkey. He dropped out collage (Istanbul Marmara University) to chase his dream which was always filmmaking. After a few short films and directing experiences, he wrote and directed his first medium length film The First Day of Human History in 2015 and his first feature Snow in 2017. In 2019 he completed the shootings of his second feature film The List of Those Who Love Me. In 2021, he directed the comedy series Bonkis that was a Blu TV original production and he co-directed a drama installation İçimdeki Yangın written and co-directed by Halil Babür. He started the script development of his third feature film project Gelecek Gelecek that is planned to be completed in 2023.

"Undoubtfully, love is the highest stage."

This film is about the peril of being loved. Although this wish causes shaping our characters to the direction of people's like who we want to be loved, and moving away from individuality, it can return to a menace with grudge feeding to the same people in case of not requiting your love. This situation is an example in my own way.

Also, I will tell this story with the only way I love contrarily my main character, after purifying the emotion of being loved. I will shoot this film 16mm with 4:3 ratio, so I will perform an edge contrast between characters and expression, because I tell my stories first to myself like most artists. The symptom I mention, is a situation that I fell in me and try to beat. Succeeding it comes with telling stories for a storyteller. And I will tell it just with my own way, subjectively, without any external factor exposure. Because, "An artwork is not an artwork, if it has not a bound with an artist's life experience." My purpose is finding pure, full me with a story; doing the thing I love with love, with people I love, like I love. Because love will save us.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Tanay Abbasoğlu, Producer
- Merve Gönkem , General Coordinator
- Mehmet Can Evrenol, Actor



THE HOOP

Director: Ahmet Toklu
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Ahmet has a problem while deciding to learn to play basketball in order to impress his beloved girl Kezban. There is no place where he can play basketball in his slum neighbourhood.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Ahmet Toklu was born in İstanbul in 1987. He graduated from Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Cinema-Television Department in 2011. He won two awards such as "Best of Short Film Screenplay" from The Short Film Scenario competitions, which was co-organized by the Türksak Foundation and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, with his scripts "Confrontation" in 2009 and "The Return of Eylül" in 2011. In his screenplay of his last short film Nursing Home, he won the Best Second Scenario award in the Short Film Screenplay, organized by Infak Foundation. He competed in many festivals including Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival and Akbank Short Film Festival with his short film "Nursing Home" in 2015. Since 2009 he has been working as a director assistant in various television series and film projects. Cagan Irmak, Derviş Zaim and Murat Saraçoğlu, among others. Ahmet Toklu, one of the founders of Film Arası one of the leading cinema magazines of our country, became the publication coordinator of the first 30 issues of the magazine. He has a movie book titled "A Tired Warrior; Halit Refik".

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Ahmet Toklu, Director/Writer
- Gözdeh Busra Sanrı, Stylist
- Murat Yildirim, Distributor



MUKAGALI

Director: Bolat Kalymbetov

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Since 1903, only two Korean Americans were elected to US Congress. In 2020, five Korean Americans of vastly diverse backgrounds with competing political views run for the seat.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Joseph Juhn is a Korean American lawyer-turned-documentary filmmaker. Prior to becoming a full-time doc-maker, Joseph worked as a New York attorney for 4 years at a Korean government agency based in Manhattan, specializing in Intellectual Property and Startup law. A serendipitous backpacking trip to Cuba in 2015 changed Joseph's life when he ran into a Korean descendant by chance, inspiring him to rekindle his storytelling aspirations.

"Jeronimo", Joseph's first feature film, was accepted to 17 film festivals around the globe and opened in theaters in Korea in November, 2019, drawing over 20,000 audiences and receiving one of the highest audience ratings among all movies that year. He is currently working on his next feature documentary project, "CHOSEN", which is about 5 Korean Americans that ran for US Congress in 2020, 4 of whom were elected.

Joseph earned a BA in Film & Video at UC San Diego, and a JD at Syracuse University College of Law.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Sabanbayeva Laura, Director



I WON'T REMAIN ALONE

Director: Yaser Talebi

Documentary and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

Seyed Jalal, a blind 86 years old man and his wife Bibi Soraya, 80 years old with chronic nerve disease live in poverty conditions. Their two sons moved to the city. They got a devastating news about their son's brain death. The old fragile blind father, has to make a decision whether to donate his son's healthy parts to help 16 other patients.

Five years later, the crew-team visits the old couple. Jalal is now very old, fragile and a sick man. His mind and soul is ready to leave this world. His last wish before he dies, he asked the camera crew-team to find the person with Hassan's heart. He wishes to rest his head on the person's chest and die peacefully.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Yaser Talebi, Born in a Northern city in Iran in 1982, is a film director, producer, screenwriter, and editor who has also made his name as a creative director.

Yaser is a member of the Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association (IRDFA), and his films have been screened at festivals worldwide and won numerous awards.

In his documentary, he chose the observation method. The basis of observational documentaries is that the audience, watching the film, realizes that in the absence of a camera, everyday reality would have taken place - the genre seeks to avoid judgment.

He has made many documentaries for television. Including a series of travel documentaries, which examines and introduces history, civilization, rituals and traditions, ancient sites, delicious food, etc.

he was as a jury member at the International Outdoor Documentary Film Festival of China OUTDOCS in 2021.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Yaser Talebi, Director & Editor



CHILDFREE

Director: Sara Bahramjahan
Documentary and Short Film

SYNOPSIS

This documentary is about Iranians who decided to have no children.

Sara Bahramjahan is a freelance director and editor that currently live in Tehran, Iran, but grew up in Shiraz. she has

graduated from Suresh university in the field of film directing. she has directed two short films that are called "Node" and "Everything for a guest" and one experimental film that are called "Crossroad of thinking". It is worth to note that her second film " Everything for a guest " was presented in the Tehran festival in 2007. Childfree film is her first experience in producing and directing of documentary field. This documentary represents the concern of Sara and those who have the same opinion about having children in this era of Iran.

As a matter of fact my childhood concern up to now led me to produce this film. we have faced lots of challenges for producing it, such as prohibition of making films about these subjects in our country and low budget . To be honest, The taboo of talking about such subjects in My country motivates me to produce this film and give a chance to women whose ideas are ignored in my country, so It makes this film more special for me.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Sara Bahamjahan, Director
- Mohammad Mahdi Shamameh, Producer



TRAPPED

Director: Manal Khaled

Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

Different women from various social backgrounds find themselves trapped in the events unfolding in the Egyptian streets and apartment blocks.

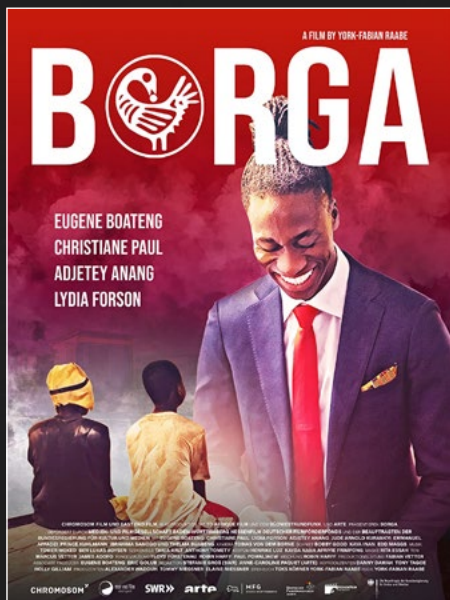
Their entrapment is not necessarily limited to concrete walls and locked doors, but it is imposed by the inner conflicts and thoughts. Even though the women share similar dreams of breaking free from social constraints and conditions, each fights her own battle.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Manal Khaled is an Egyptian filmmaker who studied Philosophy at the University of Alexandria. She worked in Misr International Film and has a vast experience working with award winning directors, such as Saad Hendawi, Kamla Abou Zekri, Hani Khalifa and Mohamed Ali. Also, she attended many master classes and workshops on filmmaking, screenwriting and film criticism. Most recently, she has finished shooting her feminist feature documentary film An Hour or So with American director Adolfo Martinez who teamed up previously in a number of works with the celebrated director McGee.

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Manal Khaled, Director



BORGa

Director: York-Fabian Raabe
Feature Film

SYNOPSIS

The two brothers Kojo and Yoofi grew up on the electronic waste dump Agbogbloshie, which is based within Ghana's capital Accra. In order to survive, they are extracting valuable metals by burning western electronic devices. Kojo is a second born son who wants to gain the acknowledgement and respect of his father. One day Kojo meets a 'Borga' from Germany. His dream of going there was born. 10 years later he leaves his family behind in order to fulfil his dream of becoming a Borga. Arriving in Germany after a five-year odyssey through the continents he realizes quickly that he was chasing a myth. Germany does not welcome him with open arms. But going back is no option! Being ashamed of coming home not having made it, he has to fulfil the picture of the wealthy Borga from Germany...

Cast & Crew in Attendance:

- Lydia Forson, Lead Actress
- Eugene Boateng, Lead Actor
- Daniel Damah, Producer/ Executive Producer