

# The Best of Festival Cinema Invisible

The Invisible Cinema of Persian Speaking Communities & Beyond  
January 6 - 7, 2016 Old City Hall Redding, CA

CinemaInvisible.Org | [tinyurl.com/FCI-Tickets](http://tinyurl.com/FCI-Tickets)

Festival Cinema Invisible is an independent, not for profit venue dedicated to celebration of film, music and art of the Middle East that international audience may not otherwise see. FCI is committed to nurturing purposeful communication and meaningful cultural exchange. By introducing filmmakers and artists who may not have access to other mediums, the Festival provides a forum for dialogue and exchange of ideas. FCI offers filmmakers, musicians, and artists the opportunity to learn and grow by exhibiting their creative works, while encouraging the international public to expand their understanding and knowledge of the art and cinema of the region they may not be familiar with. FCI, aspiring to entertain and move the audience, features documentaries, independent, narratives, animations, experimental, short and full length films as well as music and the arts.

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# The Best of Festival Cinema Invisible

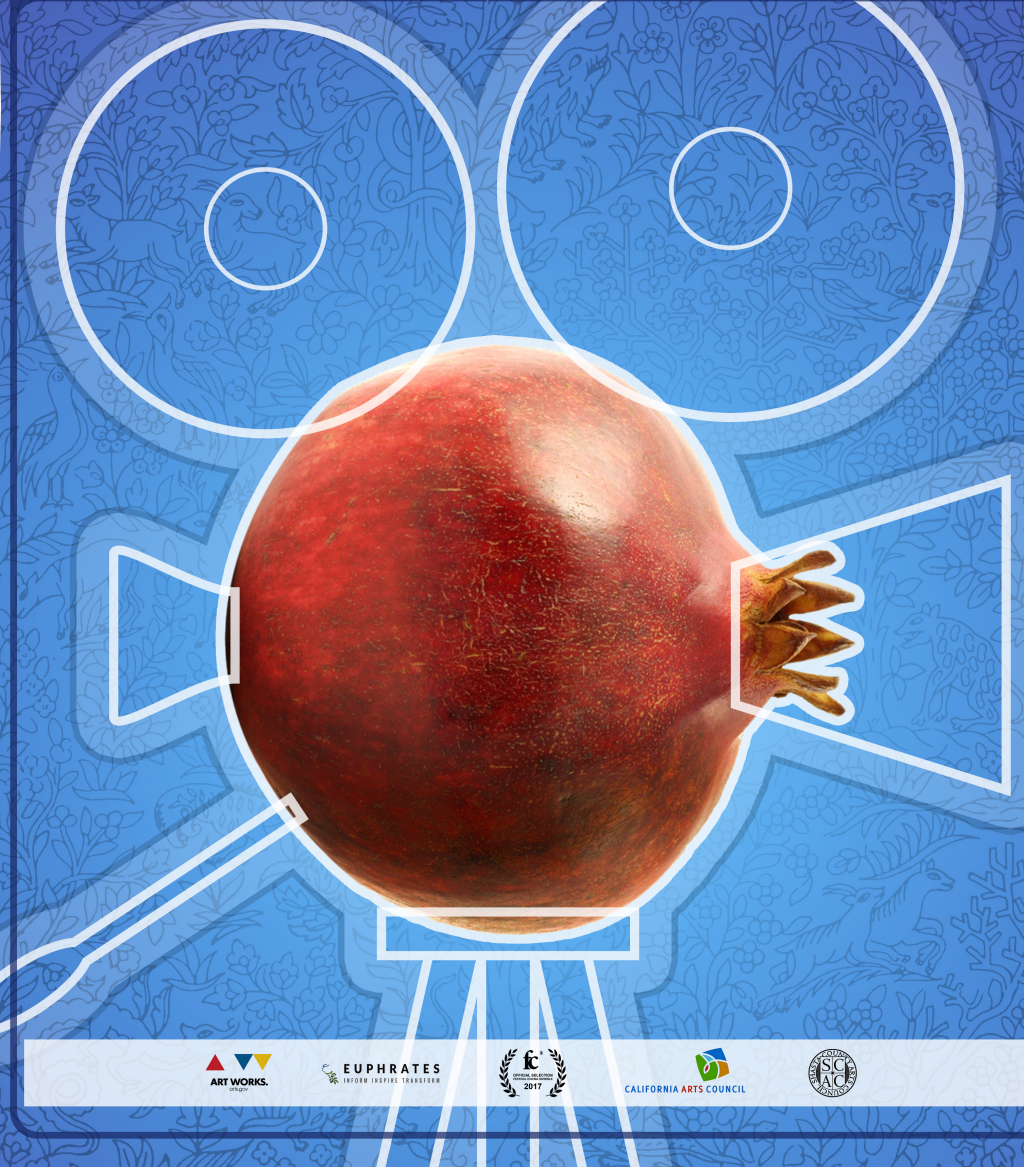
A festival of Contemporary films from the Middle East and North Africa

## January 6 & 7, 2017

Old City Hall  
1313 Market St  
Redding, CA  
530-241-7320

- January 6th : 6:00pm-10:00pm
- January 7th : 12:00pm-10:00pm

More info and tickets: [tinyurl.com/FCI-Tickets](http://tinyurl.com/FCI-Tickets)



## A Letter From The Euphrates Institute CEO And Founder

I moved back home to Redding two years ago with my husband and young family after spending twenty years away, which included college, graduate school, an early career in the CIA, consulting for the State Department in Washington, D.C., teaching at my undergraduate alma mater in the Midwest, and starting a non-profit organization called The Euphrates Institute.

Euphrates' mission is to "turn the 'Other' into a brother," a purpose which unfolded after an intense personal transformation I experienced in Iraq from 2003-2005. I went from seeing Iraqis as "the enemy" as a counterinsurgency analyst embedded with our Marines in al Anbar province, to seeing them as friends—working together to re-build their government after the collapse of Saddam's regime, and forging close, lasting relationships with the country's top leadership.

How I got from 'Other' to brother was sparked by a single moment along the Euphrates River when I found myself reflecting on its peace and tranquility, and realized that it flowed steadily through the battlefield of Fallujah—an unstoppable force no bombs or mortars could impede. The question was clear to me in that moment: Do I choose the path of life and peace, or the path of death and devastation?

I chose the river; and from that moment, I stopped fighting Iraqis and began to work with them.

This question of 'Other' applies to each one of us, wherever we are. In the wake of a divisive election and incidents of racism and intolerance around the country, and right here at home, it's a critical question for all of us to consider how we can turn 'Others' into brothers.

This question of 'Other' applies to each one of us, wherever we are. In the wake of a divisive election and incidents of racism and intolerance around the country, and right here at home, it's a critical question for all of us to consider how we can turn 'Others' into brothers.

Festival Cinema Invisible is one of those avenues to help us do this: to help us see more clearly, understand more deeply, the invisible 'Other'—whether it's people from the Middle East, women, children, minority communities, who are so often marginalized and silenced. In opening our eyes and hearts, we gain more compassion and practice with turning the 'Other' into our brother.

One of the programs that Euphrates runs is a worldwide network of Chapters that are learning about and engaging with the 'Other' in their local communities. In less than two years, our Redding Chapter has already accomplished amazing things, including hosting renowned speakers, organizing interfaith and International Day of Peace activities, hosting forums for Muslim exchange students to share their views, encouraging Congressmen to increase numbers of Syrian refugees in the U.S., etc. We aim to be a growing presence for our community, a source of light and inspiration, and to help folks reach out to their 'Other', whether that is the homeless, people of different races, ethnicities, or religions, or even a differing political party.

Thank you for partnering with us locally to bring the changes we wish to see in the world. Indeed, similar to the Euphrates, our own Sacramento River flows peacefully and steadily through the heart of our town, and reminds us we can always choose its way.

Janessa Gans Wilder  
Founder and CEO Euphrates Institute

# A Note From The President of FCI



In "As You Like It" Shakespeare writes, "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players." This is indeed as we, the world population, like it: an ensemble where differences are respected, thoughtfulness is cherished, and harmony is created. Yet, every day this stage is shaken by another explosion of dislike. The self-righteous extremists, thoughtless politicians, and inconsiderate academics contribute to the destruction of our unity.

Since last year's Festival, we have seen moments of hope, but far more and far too many days of violence and despair. The historic agreement with Iran, the new opening to Cuba, and the Syrian Peace Talks are encouraging news. But what happened in France, Yemen, Ukraine, and Belgium makes us, the artists, wonder if we have done enough to encourage negotiation, collaboration and reconciliation amidst this senselessness.

Festival Cinema Invisible (FCI), now celebrating its sixth year, has had one purpose: to use the arts as a way to open dialogue and understanding among cultures. FCI is a not-for-profit organization committed to facilitating a medium for artists from the Middle East and beyond to share their creative works with their American colleagues, while introducing international community to the art and culture of regions they are less likely to be familiar with. Stressing the human similarities and cultural congruences, FCI aims to offer an environment conducive to understanding of "the self" and "the other," as well as a shared personal and cultural experience. Therefore, we hope to make a contribution, however minimal, to understanding, appreciation, and acceptance among people that may otherwise be conflicted. It is certain that such ambition cannot be realized without your assistance and collaboration. To that end, we are thankful to the Euphrates Institute's support in providing the opportunity to reach you, our audience. We are also grateful to you for your enthusiasm and encouragement in fostering this much needed artistic dialogue. We hope that with your help FCI will grow to become a major platform for the artistic and intellectual exchange.

Mahmood Karimi Hakak,  
President and Founder FCI

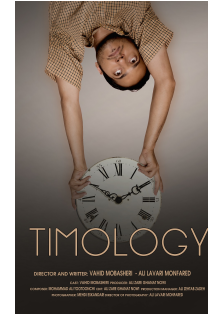
# The Best Of Festival Cinema Invisible

## Screening Schedule

Saturday, January 6

(6 PM - 10 PM)

Session 1: Time & Space, Twists & Turns (6:00 PM-7:20 PM)



**\*WEST COAST PREMIER\***

*Timology* (2015, Vahid Mobasher, Iran)

*Timology* represents contemporary man's bewilderment in time and space and fruitless effort in an absurd circulation.



**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*Vaghti Az Kenare Ham Migozarim (When We Pass By Each Other)* (2011, Elika Rezaee, Iran)

Lives crisscross in modern Tehran to form a hyperlinked narrative.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Caravan* (2016, Suzannah Mirghani, Qatar)

In the suspended time and space of a Doha traffic jam on reclaimed land flows a stream of consciousness of a cross section of Qatari society.

Session 1: Time & Space, Twists & Turns (6:00 PM-7:20 PM)



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Tomorrow After Yesterday* (2014, Behzad Moloud, Iran)

Filmed in one take, "Tomorrow after Yesterday" is a dynamic, fast-paced action short that follows a car thief after a hit-and-run accident.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Six O'Clock* (2016, Keivan Mohseni, Iran)

Everything happens at six sharp.

Session 2: Women & Gender (7:30p-8:30p)

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*The Night the Earth Stopped* (2011, Pouya Nabbi, Iran) - FCI 2014

A family gathers at home waiting for the end.

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*Cirque Shab / Night Circus* (2008, Majeed Beenteha, Iran)

A short experimental piece that comments on the place and role of women in Iranian society.

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*4Minutes 47Seconds Til* (2012, Elika Rezaee, Iran) - FCI 2016

Shot in real-time, 4MIN47SECOND TILL... shows what profound events can unfurl in such a short time frame.

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Zaina's Cake* (2015, Nada Almojededi, Saudi Arabia)

Zaina, a new college graduate, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is struggling to start her own cake baking business without her father's approval. When she meets Ma'an, she jumps at the opportunity to change her life.

**\*NORTH AMERICA & US PREMIER\***

**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Temptation* (2016, Armin Mahmoudi, Iran)

What (or "who") tempts people to go too far?

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*When the Kid was a Kid* (2011, Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, Iran)

Taha, a ten-year old, plays with other neighborhood children where they imitate their parents' roles. Living with his divorced mother, Taha understands new things about his mom by playing her role.



**\*WEST COAST PREMIER\***

*Hijab Made in Iran* (Omid Ghiyael, Iran)



Session 4: Family Friendly (12:00p-12:50p)

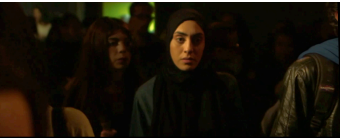
*Autumn Leaves* (2015, Saman Hosseinpour, Iran)



A young Iranian girl's morning walk to school is interrupted by an unexpected discovery.

**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Let's Rock* (2016, Younes Yousfi, Morocco)



Marya a young Muslim girl decides to attend a rock concert wearing her veil.

*1-0* (2014, Saman Hosseinpour, Iran)



A soccer match has a surprising effect on a young fan.

Session 3: Music in Iran - Before & After the Revolution (8:40-10:00)

*The Scorpio* (2011, Faride Saremi & Omid Hashemlu, Iran)



This 43 minute film is a documentary about an Iranian rock band called "The Scorpio" and the impact of rock music on Iranian youth culture during its pre-revolution period in Iran.

**FCI 2017 preview!**

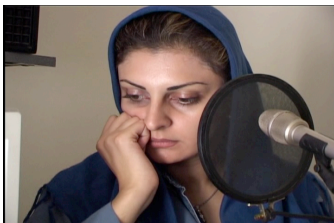
*Hope* (2016, Salar Pashtoonyar, Afghanistan/ Canada)



A Canadian soldier "B.Pos" and his friend "Faisal" an Afghan kid sit on a barren ground hopeful for a better future.

*Back Vocal* (2000, Mojtaba Mirtahmasb, Iran)

"Back Vocal" (Sedaye Dovom - 40 mins.) explores the prohibition of female solo singing in Iran, and tells the story of female vocalists struggling to be heard 24 years after the Islamic Revolution.





*The Fan* (2014, Fatemeh “Shirin” Sohani, Iran)

Threatened by the latest model, a circular fan is afraid of becoming obsolete.



*Fish* (2016, Saman Hosseinpour, Iran)

An elderly couple find a creative solution for a small crisis.



*Oboor / Passing* (2015, Pegah Arzi, Iran)

A whole life as seen through the first day of school. *Oboor* is an adaptation of the book Half a Day by Najib Mahfouz, who was the first Arab writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*About Arif* (2016, Hasan Kalender, Turkey)

Arif, a man with Down Syndrome, has a very special relationship with his mother and an important goal: dancing with a woman.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*The Apprentice* (2014, Tayfun Belet, Turkey)

Today there is only one master who can produce the parchment paper that was available in Bergama in the 190's B. C. The 82 year old Master Ismail wants to transfer his skills to someone to keep leather processing and parchment making alive. This is the story of a woman who managed to persuade him to take her on as his apprentice.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

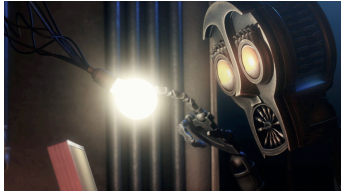
*After the Curtain* (2015, Emelie Mahdavian, USA/Tajikistan)

Four female dancers battle shifting cultural norms in the Post-Soviet, predominantly Muslim nation of Tajikistan. This intimate portrait is seen through the performers' eyes as they weigh their love of art against economic hardship, loneliness, and social reproach. The film also celebrates the rich dance and music culture of the Central Asian country largely unknown in the West.



*Tavsan Kani* (2016, Yagmur Altan, Turkey)

Just an ordinary day at an old mysterious Turkish country house where its demanding resident prefers an extraordinary way of brewing tea.



*Golden Shot* (2015, Gonen Gökalp, Turkey)

In a dark world, machines keep watch in their small houses and imagine the sun will one day return and take them to the sky. Small lights barely keep them alive and dreaming, but one machine takes matters into its own hands.



*Dad's Fragile Doll* (2015, Ali Zare Ghanatnowi, Iran)

A girl reconstructs the events leading to her father's imprisonment and execution using dolls her mother made.



**\*NORTH AMERICA & US PREMIER\***  
**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Little Thing* (2016, Or Kan Tor, Israel)

A tiny creature searches for companionship in an empty city. His music transforms the space around him and calls to others.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*The Empty Page* (2016, Siavash Khodaei, Iran)

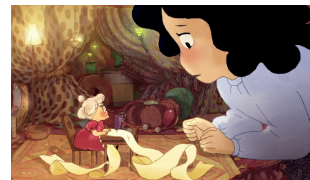
A short film about a person who wants to write a book.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*The Suit* (2016, Moreno Nour, USA/Iran)

A short film about a man from another planet trapped in a suit trying to live on earth.



**FCI Redding exclusive!**

*Lilou* (2015, Rawan Rahim, Lebanon)

Lilou is extremely sensitive and curious, but also crippled by an unbearable shyness. She receives the power to see into people's past, which forces her out of her introversion.



*One Thousand And One Teardrops* (2014, Fateme Ahmadi, UK/Iran)

On her first day of school, little Louly is faced with a question: what should she wear? The ugly school uniform or whatever she wants? Luckily, she is visited by a magic teardrop-keeper who helps her.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*NGO* (2016, Sam Christie, UK/Iraq)

NGOs, or Non Governmental Organizations take many forms, but the term NGO has recently come to mean groups such as the UNHCR that help the needy in troubled parts of the world.

Shot in both Iraq and the UK, "NGO" seeks to raise questions about who really helps who and more importantly how.



*Land of the Lost* (2016, Hawraz Mohammed, Iraq/ Kurdistan)

A man who lost his wife and children during the mass exodus of Kurds in 1991 spends his life searching for them.



**\*NORTH AMERICA & US PREMIER\*  
FCI 2017 preview!**

*Dyab* (2016, Mazin M Sherabayani, Iraq)

12-year-old Dyab is a Kurdish Yazidi boy living at Arbat refuge camp, after the horrendous attacks by the Islamic States on their villages at Shingal Mountains (Sinjar). However, Dyab's dream is to become a filmmaker and actor and tell the stories and sufferings of his people to the outside world.



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Siege* (2016, Thaeer Al Shamali, Turkey)

A short film based on the tragic reality lived by Syrians under siege.



**\*NORTH AMERICA & US PREMIER\*  
FCI Redding exclusive!**

*The way home* (2015, Begonia Randhav, Sweden)

After escaping the war in their home country Sabah and a part of her family ends up at the hospital in Sweden. As developments unfold Sabah will have to make a difficult choice for both herself and her family.



**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***

*Bare Digar Khaterati Ke Doost Midashtam (Once again memories I loved)* (2011, Erika Rezaee, Iran)

A man tries to hold on to the remnants of his life.

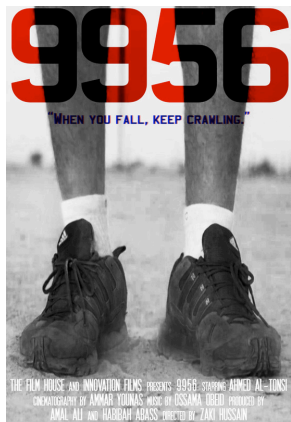
Break (5:35-6:40)



**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Zainab* (2016, Morad El-Sayed, Egypt)

Zainab is an Egyptian girl from a village called "Esna" in Upper Egypt. This village imposes specific restrictions on girls by virtue of customs and traditions. Zainab refused to accept these restrictions and decided to change her life by working outside her hometown.



**\*NORTH AMERICA & US PREMIER\***  
**FCI Redding exclusive!**

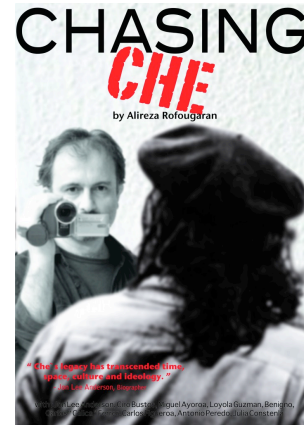
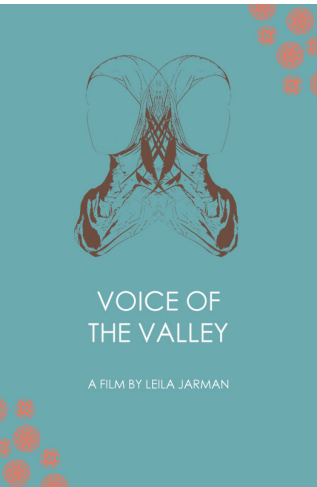
*9956* (2016, Zaki Hussain, Qatar)

Just as life, when you fall, you have to keep crawling.

**\*REGIONAL PREMIER\***  
**FCI 2017 preview!**

*Voice of the Valley* (2015, Leila Jarman, Jordan)

With no formal journalistic training, Asma and Munira produce and broadcast a groundbreaking socio-political radio program called "Voice of the Valley." Their radio program calls attention to the issues facing this neglected area such as the water shortage, poverty, corruption within the local government, and neglect—problems which have not yet been addressed by governmental officials in Amman.



*Chasing Che* (2009, Alireza Rofougaran, Iran)

Inspired by a biography of Che Guevara, the director, an Iranian businessman, switches the course of his life and embarks on an odyssey through Latin America and Europe.

Closing Remarks

## Director Biographies

**Fateme Ahmadi** (*One Thousand and one Teardrops*) was born and raised in Shiraz, Iran and was awarded first prize in the Literature Olympiads, a nationwide humanities competition, granting her permission to complete two undergraduate courses simultaneously. Fateme completed degrees in Persian Literature and Filmmaking at Tehran University and The Art University of Tehran, respectively. In 2009, she completed the MA General Linguistics course at the Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran before becoming the first individual awarded a scholarship from Magic of Persia to attend the two-year MA Filmmaking program at The London Film School. During the course, Fateme wrote, edited, and directed more than ten short films, including four documentaries for BBC World. Fateme is now working toward her feature film, set in both London and Tehran.

**Nada AlMojadedi** (*Zaina's Cake*)

**Thaer Al Shamali** (*Siege*)

**Yagmur Altan** (*Tavsan Kani*) is a 3D Artist who was born and raised in Istanbul, currently living and working as a Character Artist in NYC. He has his Bachelor degree on Visual Communication Design from Sabanci University, where he won the Poster Competition Award while working as a Graphic Designer. Before moving to NYC to earn his MFA degree at SVA on 3D Animation, he worked in Istanbul as a 3D Generalist in a leading game company, Yogurt Computer Technologies. He completed his thesis 3D animated short film *Tavsan Kani* that he wrote and directed in December 2015. Currently he is working at Nito, Inc as a Lead Character Artist & Animator.

## Director Biographies

**Pegah Arzi** (*Oboor (Passing)*) studied film making at the New York film academy and the Young Cinema Society of Iran, she has also attended a script-writing workshop with Paul Schrader and a film-making workshop with the acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi.

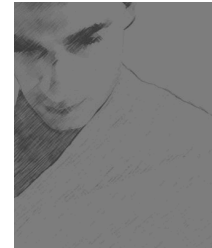
**Majeed Beenteha** (*Cirque Shab*) is a self-taught photographer and filmmaker born in Esfahan, Iran. *Cirque Shab* (Night Circus), his first foray into filmmaking, is a short experimental piece that comments on the place and role of women in Iranian society.

<http://www.beenteha.com/>

Originally from Siverek/Urfa, **Tayfun Belet** was born in Izmir/Turkey. He had a role in many theatrical plays between the years 1998 and 2004. He then started producing film and theatre music. After that, he earned a full scholarship to Yaşar University and studied at the english department Radio, Cinema and Television. He has continued his academic life doing his masters at the Art and Design Faculty at the same school, studying Film Design. He began working at various international documentaries as the second director before starting his career as a director. He has studied various topics including Anatolian and Mezopotamian culture. He started his director career in 2006. He has successfully finished 10 documentaries to date and has worked on many high profile company commercials.

**Dr Sam Christie** (*NGO*) has been a tree surgeon, the drummer for Michael Head & the red elastic band (among others), a bbc radio producer, an english teacher, a Mountain Leader and an academic. What he loves most of all though, is making films.

<http://www.dr.samchristie.com/>



## Director Biographies



**Morad El-Sayed** (*Zainab*) is a Freelance Filmmaker, Scriptwriter and Narrator. He has also worked as a journalist and producer at Dream TV, Rotana, CBC Extra & Ten TV.

**Ali Zare Ghanatnowi** (*Dad's Fragile Doll*) was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1981. He became interested in cinema and theatre during his teen years. Nowi started work as playwright and assistant director in Iran Radio & TV in 1998 and completed various radio & TV training courses by 2000.



**Anahita Ghazvinizadeh** (*When the Kid was a Kid*) (b 1989, Tehran, Iran) earned her BFA in cinema from Tehran University of Art and her MFA in studio arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Anahita has studied with Abbas Kiarostami and is influenced by his cinematic style. In 2011, she started to work on a trilogy of short films with children as main characters. "When the Kid was a Kid" (2011, Iran) and Needle (2013, US) are the first two finished pieces. "Needle" premiered in Cannes Film Festival, Cinefondation selection and won the Premier Prix. Anahita was selected as one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Cinema in 2013 by the Filmmaker Magazine. She is also the co-writer of the acclaimed feature film, "Mourning" (2011). Childhood and parenthood, family theater, and exploring notions of growth and gender identity are the main themes of her work. <http://anahita.mixform.com/>.

**Omid Ghiyael** (*Hijab Made in Iran*)

## Director Biographies

**Gonen Gökalp** (*Golden Shot*) was born in 1989 and raised in Hatay/Turkey in a pastoral environment. He was always amazed with systems of the nature and it ignited a passion for him to create systems for imaginary creatures.

**Saman Hosseinpuor** (*1 – 0, Autumn Leaves, Fish*) was born in 1993 in Kurdistan/Iran. He started acting in Theater when he was just 14 years old, and started filmmaking at 2008. Hosseinpuor earned a Diploma of Cinematography and an Associate's degree of Graphic Design.

**Zaki Hussain** (1995)



**Hasan Kalender** (*About Arif*) studied cinema at D.E.Ü Faculty of Arts. His documentary film called "Remainings of the History" has been included in Documentary Movies Association (BSB) and has been on display in some European Countries. "For One Last Breath" and "Last Decision" which he made with the financial support of Ministry of Cultural Affairs was rewarded both at local and foreign festivals.

He was an assistant director for two years and then started making commercial films. He won the award for "Best Fiction" at 48th Golden Orange Awards. He became the director of the series on National Channel called "Love Abroad" after the 6th episode between 2013-2014. He did the editing and post production supervising of the movie called "Dairy Philosopher" which was on display in 2014. He directed the movie called "Sebahat and Melahat" in 2015 by Mint Production. He took scenario lessons at Ebru Ceylan's scenario workshop. He is currently working on new projects.

## Director Biographies



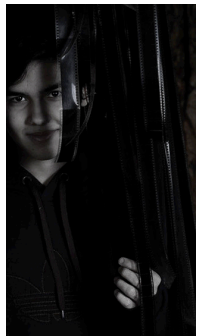
**Or Kan-Tor** (*Little Thing*) grew up in Kenya and has volunteered as a wild puma walker, served as an army medic and worked as a fitness instructor and contractor, before he found out that you can get paid to sit in front of a computer. He is now an animator living in Israel working on TV series and feature films.

**Siavash Khodaei** (*The Empty Page*)



**Emelie Mahdavian** (*After the Curtain*) is a filmmaker, dancer, musician, and Fulbright scholar whose work frequently deals with gender, media, and global politics. Her feature-length documentary *After the Curtain*, about the struggles of four women dancers in Tajikistan, premiered at Lincoln Center as part of Dance on Camera 2016 and is currently showing in film festivals worldwide. She is completing an experimental motion capture dance film called *Intangible Body*, a collaboration with an Iranian dancer and computer scientists that explores dance and censorship in Iran. She is currently in pre-production for two feature documentaries to be shot in Afghanistan in 2017.

**Armin Mahmoudi** (*Temptation*) was born in 1999 in Ardabil, Iran. His father is an actor and director in both cinema and theater and his mother is an actress and make-up artist. Armin first began acting in TV through his dad and wanted to follow in his footsteps, but after he found his passion for filmmaking he started to write scripts at the age of 14 and directed his first professional movie in 2016.



## Director Biographies



**Suzannah Mirghani** (*Caravan*) is a Communication and Media studies graduate and an independent filmmaker working on highlighting stories from the Gulf region, with a particular focus on Qatar. Being of multicultural background, she is interested in stories that examine the interconnectedness of multiple—and sometimes seemingly opposing—ethnicities and identities. She is especially interested in exploring the wealth of multicultural encounters that occur in a traditionally cosmopolitan place like Qatar.

Her most recent short film “Hind’s Dream” premiered at the 2014 Abu Dhabi Film Festival, received an award for “artistic vision and poetic screenwriting” at the 2014 Ajyal Film Festival, and was selected for the short film corner at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.



**Mojtaba Mirtahmasb** (*Back Vocal*) was born in 1971 in Kerman. Before returning to his native region, though, Mirtahmasb embarked on an extensive and meaningful journey through post-1979 Iran, moving from Tehran to Khuzestan, all the while documenting the lived experiences of his people. From 1992 to 1995 he studied at the University of Art in Tehran. Mirtahmasb directed nine documentary-fiction films, each of which took as its main subject an element of Iranian Islamic culture. In 1997 he turned to an event emblazoned on the collective conscience of his people: the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). He directed 3 video clips, which were known collectively as *War and Martyrs*. In 2002 Mirtahmasb began his exploration of the Iranian music industry with his 2004 films *Off Beat* and *Back Vocal*. He has also taken part in notable collaborations working as a sound recordist for Mohsen Makhmalbaf, as assistant director alongside Mazieh Meshkini and Samira Makhmalbaf and his collaborative effort with Jafar Panahi *This is Not a Film* which garnered international acclaim.

## Director Biographies



**Vahid Mobasheri** (*Timology*) was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1987 and graduated from the University of Animation of Shiraz. He started work as play-write and assistant director for Iran Radio & TV in 2008, and has produced more than 15 works for TV.



**Hawraz Mohammed** (*Land of the Lost*) was born in 1983 in Kurdistan of Iraq, he earned his degree in sociology, and then worked as a filmmaker. Mohammed also has more than 10 years of experience in TV programs and documentaries.



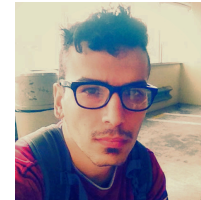
**Keivan Mohseni** (*Six O'clock*) was born in 1988 in Gerash, Iran. He began his career in filmmaking in 2005 with the short documentary "Abed." Ever since, he has made short films and documentaries, mostly experimental and his films have screened in international festivals. He has also worked in the fields of cinematography and editing



**Behzad Moloud** (*Tomorrow after yesterday*) was born in 1975 in Iran. He started his career as an filmmaker in IYCS ( The Iranian Young Cinema Society ) in 1995. Behzad has written and directed several films, including some documentary and feature films, and has managed photography for feature films and TV.

## Director Biographies

**Pouya Nabbi** (*The Night the Earth Stopped*) is a filmmaker from Tehran, Iran.



**Moreno Nour** (*The Suit*) earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Tehran University (2011, Tehran, Iran) and his Master of Fine Arts in Animation from Savannah College of Art and Design (2015, Atlanta, GA).

<http://morenoanim.com/>



**Salar Pashtoonyar** (*Hope*) is an Afghan-Canadian; Toronto based writer, director and producer. He graduated from Toronto Film School (Film Production) in 2014. He currently works as an executive assistant to acclaimed filmmaker Deepa Mehta "Fire, Earth and Water".



Lebanese and Iraqi, **Rawan Rahim** (*Lilou*) studied History of Art and Interior design. She lives and works between Beirut and New York.

## Director Biographies



**Begonia Randhav** (*The way home*) is a Swedish-Kurdish Law School student at Stockholm University. She is a One Young World Ambassador and filmmaker who recently was awarded with the International Humanitarian Platinum Award for her filmmaking and humanitarian work. She combines global issues with her passion of filmmaking and uses it to provoke a discussion.

On the 25th of November in 2014 she launched a campaign film for United Nations Association of Sweden to raise awareness of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against women. She did that while she was the Millennium Development Goals Ambassador for the United Nations Association of Sweden. The campaign went viral in Sweden, and when she represented Sweden at the One Young World Summit, the world youth leaders and founders of the organisation were so affected by the campaign, it went international. She currently works with unaccompanied refugee minors and also within the women's refugee.



**Erika Rezaee** (*4minutes 47 second till, Once again memories I loved, When We Pass by Each Other*) graduated from the AFI Conservatory with an MFA in editing. She has edited multiple feature narrative and documentary films, including most recently edited, feature -Length Documentaries: "Memorias Del Fuego"2016, "Jews Step Forward"2015 and narrative feature "Automatic at Sea,"2014-15 by Sundance Award-winning filmmaker Matthew Lessner.

## Director Biographies

**Alireza Rofougaran** (*Chasing Che*) was born in Tehran, Iran; June, 1965. He was a businessman until 2004, when he changed careers to make his first film: Chasing Che, inspired by reading and translating Jon Lee Anderson's biography: Che Guevara; A Revolutionary life. His other translations include Isla Negra, selected poetry of Pablo Neruda and Evita, a biography of Eva Peron. He has also taken acting parts in several films, including an interactive video of Anna Gutto's New York play: In Security April 2009, Mona Zandi's Tv film Intercepted Lines, Adel Yarghi's feature Meeting Leila and Ashgar Farhadi's latest unreleased feature; The Salesman. In addition to Chasing Che he has also directed Huma Bird of Fortune and Ali vs. Ali. He currently lives in Tehran, translating books and making films.

### **Faride Saremi & Omid Hashemlu** (*The Scorpio*)



Born in Iraqi/Kurdistan, **Mazin M Sherabayani** (*Dyab*) is based in London/UK. Mazin earned an MA in Film, Television and Screen Media at Birkbeck University and achieved Bsc Honours in Digital Media & Cultural Studies. Mazin is the winner of several awards for short films and documentaries.

**Fatemeh "Shirin" Sohani** (*The Fan*) earned an M.A in animation directing (Tehran Art University). She is a Concept Artist, Texture artist and Storyboard artist, and *The Fan* is her directorial debut.



**Younes Youfsi** (*Let's Rock*) is a Moroccan director and actor who lives in Paris, France.

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