



Synopsis

Mahi is a widow mourning the death of her only son. One day she bumps into Behrooz, her teenage sweetheart, who had left Iran following the scandal of his relationship with her. Despite their families' objections, the previous relationship begins to re-assert itself. Mahi, however, finds out that Behrooz is emotionally involved with a young woman, Sara, who in turn learns of her fiancé's previous love. Sara is now in two minds about marrying Behrooz and emigrating to Canada. On the horns of these emotional entanglements the three characters have to make decisions not only about their emotions, but also their future lives.

Director's statement

Making my second feature was very challenging after the well-received *Nahid*. I didn't want the success of my first feature to inhibit me from innovating in my second. Indeed, I wanted to use a more creative visual language and employ a novel cinematic narration. Through my direction and film editing, I've tried to give each character a distinct dimension, but all within the context of a uniform visual and audio style. In this way I hope to portray a love story that is accessible to people of all cultures, whilst also maintaining all that is specific to Iran.

The *Israfil* of the title refers to the archangel who brings the dead back to life on Resurrection day. In our narrative it is love that is rekindled.

The film focuses on three main characters and their interpretation of events: two women from different cultures and generations who love a man each in their own way. Rather than giving in to traditional values, they redefine love through today's emotional requirements. *Israfil* is thus a modern love story.

Biography

Ida Panahandeh was born in Tehran, Iran in 1979. She obtained a degree in Film Photography in 2002 and a master's in Film Direction in 2005, both from the Arts University of Tehran, where she began her film career with several short films.

After university she was invited to direct films for Iranian television, with which she won awards at numerous national festivals.

In 2009 she took part in the Berlin 'Talent Campus'.

Having as a central theme a woman's place in modern society she has, throughout her work, focused on women's rights. This she did with her first feature, 'Nahid', which won her worldwide acclaim.



Filmography

Short Films:

2010: *Irاندokht*, Documentary, DVCAM, 26min
2009: *Winter Vases*, Fiction, HDCAM, 48min
2008: *Redroot Pigweed (Cockscomb Flower)*, Fiction, HDV, 17min
2007: *City Lights*, Fiction, HDV, 20min
2005: *Those Hands*, Fiction, DVCAM, 13min
2004: *Taxonomy*, Fiction, DVCAM, 24min
2003: *An Infinite Integral*, Fiction, DVCAM, 15min
2002: *The Door is Ajar*, Fiction, 16mm, 7min
2001: *Romulus*, Fiction, 16mm, 15min
2000: *The Bazaar*, Fiction, 16mm, 10min
1999: *The Train Station*, Fiction, 16mm, 12min

Documentary and TV Movies:

2013: *From The South East*, TV Movie, 90min
2012: *The Lost Honor of Mr. Sadeghi*, TV Movie, 90min
2012: *Mrs. Ghamar's House*, Documentary, 63min
2010: *The Story of Davood & The Dove*, TV Movie, 90min

Feature Films:

2017: *Israfil*, Fiction, Colour, 100min, Iran
2015: *Nahid*, Fiction, Colour, 105min, Iran

Cast

Hedieh Tehrani _____ *Mahi*
Pejman Bazeghi _____ *Behrooz*
Hoda Zeinolabedin _____ *Sara*
Merila Zareil _____ *Taji*
Pouria Rahimi Sam _____ *Ali*

Crew

Director: Ida Panahandeh
Screenplay: Arsalan Amiri & Ida Panahandeh
Director of Photography: Morteza Gheidi
Editing: Hayedeh Safiyari
Music: Majid Pousti
Sound Recorder: Jahangir Mirshekari & Mehdi Ebrahimzadeh
Sound Mixer: Hossein Abolsedgh
Set Designer: Keyvan Moghadam
Costume Designer: Sara Samiei
Make-Up: Soudabeh Khosravi

Executive Producer: Hamed Parvinkhosravi
Production Manager: Hossein Beshgard
Producer: Mastaneh Mohajer
Production Company: Avaye Nafas Studio

Shooting format: Apple ProRes 444 / 3.2k
Camera: ALEXA XR
Lenses: Zeiss Master Prime, Angenieux

Screening format: DCP
Sound: 5.1
Ratio: 1.85:1; Some Scenes: 2.35:1 & 2:1
Original version: Persian
Running time: 100 min
Year: 2017

Fiction – Colour – Iran

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ISRAFIL



A FILM BY IDA PANAHANDEH