

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Iran, Naghmeh Shirkhan moved to America with her family a year before the Islamic Revolution. Her father returned to Tehran in the hopes of resuming his career, while the rapidly ensuing Iran-Iraq war prompted her young mother to remain in America indefinitely. The immigrant experience of separation, displacement, and the struggles of starting anew are major themes in Naghmeh's work. In 2010 her first arthouse feature, *The Neighbor (Hamsayeh)*, hit the festival circuit to wide critical acclaim. Soon after, she began working on her second feature, *Maki*.

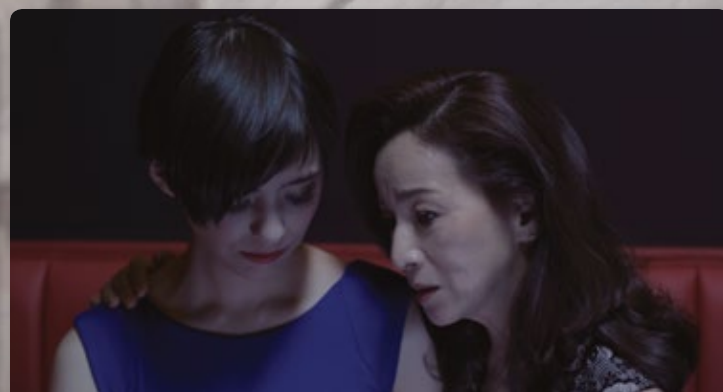
Education

Boston University; Bachelor of Science in Broadcasting and Film 1994

Feature Films

2017: *Maki*, Fiction, 103min, 4K, Color, Japan/USA
2010: *The Neighbor (Hamsayeh)*, Fiction, 108 min, HD, Color, USA/Canada, theneighbor-film.com

MAKI



THE NEIGHBOR (HAMSAYEH) AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

Best Feature Film: Festival Cinema Africa, Asia and Middle East, Milan 2011 Outstanding Canadian Feature: Reel World Film Festival, Toronto 2011 Best Supporting Actress: Parisa Wahedi, Los Angeles International Film Festival, USA 2010
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Canadian Front 2011 Premio Citta di Venezia, Venice Viennale 2011 Miami International Women's Film Festival 2011 Chennai International Women's Film Festival 2011
Montreal World Film Festival 2010 Vancouver International Film Festival 2010 Chicago International Film Festival 2010 Sao Paulo International Film Festival 2010

A Film by Naghmeh Shirkhan



SYNOPSIS

Set in the heart of New York City, *Maki* is a modern love story depicting a young Japanese woman's coming of age. The main character Maki (aka Eva) and her lover Tommy can no longer conceal their affair once she learns she is pregnant with his child. Their charismatic and persuasive boss, Mika, steps in to help. The story unsettles as it quietly plays out, revealing each character's true intentions.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to explore themes of love and loss, power and manipulation through a foreign lens. I found inspiration in the Japanese Diaspora in New York City. The characters in *Maki* leave Japan seeking change and a new start, but the deeper human need for a sense of belonging throws them back together in the Japanese subculture of New York City. The possibilities for dramatic tension captured my imagination and allowed me to experiment with form and style. *Maki* is a labor of love, made in the spirit of independent films by directors I deeply admire such as Jean-Luc Goddard, John Cassavetes, and Agnes Varda, to name a few.



CAST

Mieko Harada Mika/Mama-San
Julian Cihri Tommy
Naomi Sundberg Eva/Maki
Yurika Ohno Yumiko
Blanca Vivancos Violet

CREW

Director Naghmeh Shirkhan
Screenplay Naghmeh Shirkhan
Japanese Translation Yuichi Tazawa
Directors of Photography Ben Wolf (US)
Katsunori Yanagijima (Tokyo)
Editors Naghmeh Shirkhan
Shogo Yokoyama
Music Patricia and Noel Brennan
Sound Mixer Matt Gundy, Tom Paul
Sound Recorder Andrew Salomone
Set Designer Anna Kathleen
Costumes Hannah Kittel
Hair/Make-up Amanda Forsyth/EITA
Production Manager JB Bruno
Line Producer Nicky Akmal
Producer Shohreh Golparian
Associate Producer Curtis Smith
Production Companies Ugly Productions and Small Talk Inc.
Graphic Design Elizabeth Grove

Shooting Format: 4K Digital Original Language: Japanese/English
Camera: Sony A7S Subtitled in: English
Lenses: 50, 85, 28-135, 70-200, 500 Running Time: 103 min
Screening Format: Digital DCP Year: 2017
Sound: 5.5.1
Ratio: 1.1:85
Fiction – Color – 103 min – 2017 – Japan/USA

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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