

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT (EPK)

BENYAMIN KHODABANDEH

Director | Colorist | Visual Storyteller

"Sculpting shadows, human isolation, and psychological realities from the high-contrast landscapes of Iran."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Name:** Benyamin Khodabandeh (بنیامین خدابنده)
- **Primary Roles:** Film Director, Lead Colorist, Cinematographer
- **Education:** B.A. Candidate in Cinema Directing, Damghan University
- **Hometown / Origin:** Saravan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran
- **Key Recognition:** Winner at 19th Nahal Int'l Student Film Festival, 13th Madreseh Festival, Farabi Cinema Foundation Olympiad Commendation, Official Selection at Artelesia Social Film Festival (Italy).
- **Institutional Leadership:** Festival Director, 3rd Fanous Khayal National Student Film Festival (2025).
- **Contact & Inquiries:** BenyaminKhodabandeh@gmail.com | @benilorn

1. BIOGRAPHY & ARTISTIC PROFILE

Benyamin Khodabandeh is an Iranian independent filmmaker, director, and professional colorist born in 2004 in Saravan, Sistan and Baluchestan. Currently pursuing his degree in Cinema Directing at Damghan University, Khodabandeh's work explores the fragile boundaries between human memory, perception, and internal isolation.

Hailing from a region with a stark, sun-drenched, high-contrast landscape, Khodabandeh developed a distinct visual language early in his career—one defined by heavy chiaroscuro lighting, dark monochrome palettes, and low-key atmospheric storytelling.

A quintessential "multi-hyphenate" artist, he frequently directs, shoots, edits, and color grades his own projects. His technical mastery of Post-Production tools allows him to use color grading not merely as a post-production tool, but as a primary narrative force during the scriptwriting process. With over 12 independent projects to his credit, Khodabandeh has emerged as one of the prominent young voices in contemporary Iranian student and independent cinema.

2. DIRECTOR STATEMENT & CINEMATIC PHILOSOPHY

"For me, cinema is not about recording reality; it is about capturing the shadow that reality casts on the human mind. My films are journeys into the 'unseen' the unspoken fears, heavy silences, and psychological limbo that define human existence."

"Growing up in Sistan and Baluchestan, light and dark were never subtle; they were sharp, unforgiving, and dramatic. This natural environment shaped my visual obsession with low-key lighting and monochromatic contrast. I view characters not as static entities, but as tragic figures wrestling with forces larger than themselves—time, memory, and grief.

In my work, every frame is crafted to resonate emotionally before it informs narratively. Through high-density shadows and silent character beats, my goal is to give the audience space to feel the weight between the frames."

3. FEATURED SLATE & SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Invisible Shadows (سایه‌های ناپیدا) | 2025

- **Type:** Short Narrative / Surrealist Drama (In Post-Production)
- **Roles:** Director, Editor, Lead Colorist
- **Logline:** A haunting exploration into the distortion of memory, where a man's perception of his own physical space begins to fracture under psychological strain.
- **Visual Style:** High-contrast monochrome, claustrophobic framing, low-key lighting.

Blindly Blind (کورکور) | 2024

- **Type:** Psychological Noir
- **Roles:** Director, Lead Actor (as *Siavash*)
- **Logline:** A dark, character-driven examination of self-deception and moral ambiguity in a world devoid of light.
- **Key Features:** High dynamic range contrast, noir atmosphere, intimate character study.

A Great Man (یک مرد معرکه) | 2023

- **Type:** Experimental Comedy / Drama
- **Roles:** Director, Screenwriter, Producer
- **Accolades:**
 - **Winner:** Statue for Best First-Year Film – *19th Nahal International Student Short Film Festival* (Tehran)
 - **Official Selection:** *14th Artelesia Social Film Festival* (Benevento, Italy)
- **Logline:** An absurdist, poignant look at an eccentric character searching for purpose amidst societal detachment.

The Best Color of This City (بهترین رنگ این شهر) | 2022

- **Type:** Experimental Short / Music Video
- **Roles:** Director, Cinematographer, Editor
- **Accolades:**
 - **Winner:** Statue for Best Editing – *13th Binesh Film Festival*
 - **Winner:** Statue for Best Cinematography – *13th Binesh Film Festival*
- **Logline:** A visual tone-poem juxtaposing urban concrete with poetic expressions of color and

solitude.

Ziba (زيبا) | 2021

- **Type:** Short Narrative Drama
- **Roles:** Director, Colorist
- **Accolades:**
 - **Winner:** Statue for Best Editing – *8th Madreseh Short Film Festival*

4. HONORS, AWARDS & FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

- **19th Nahal International Student Short Film Festival (2023)**
Statue for Best First-Year Film — A Great Man
(Venue: Farabi Hall, Tehran)
- **14th Artelesia Social Film Festival, Italy (2023)**
Official International Competition Selection — A Great Man
(Venue: Benevento, Italy)
- **13th Binesh Film Festival (2022)**
Statue for Best Editing & Statue for Best Cinematography — The Best Color of This City
- **6th Iranian Youth Filmmaking Olympiad — Farabi Cinema Foundation (2022)**
Special Jury Commendation for Distinct Cinematic Structure — For the Last Color of This City
(Jury: Rasoul Sadrameli, Hadi Moghadamdoost)
- **8th Madreseh Short Film Festival (2021)**
Statue for Best Editing — Ziba
- **Social Issues Photography Festival (2020)**
Honored Photographer Award

5. TECHNICAL & COLOR GRADING SPECS

As a certified DaVinci Resolve colorist, Benyamin Khodabandeh brings high-level technical expertise to every production step:

- **Primary Color Grading Suite:** DaVinci Resolve Studio (HDR / Rec.709 Workflows)
- **Visual Specializations:** Low-Key Lighting Design, High-Dynamic Contrast, Chiaroscuro Emulation, Film Grain & Print Emulation (Kodak/Fuji profiles).

6. INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP & CURATION

- **Festival Director:** *3rd Fanous Khayal National Student Film Festival (2025)*
Supervised national entry selections, managed jury panels featuring acclaimed Iranian filmmakers (e.g., Mehran Kashani, Azadeh Moussavi), and oversaw screenings of 80+ selected works at Damghan University.
- **Exhibition Curator & Educator:**
Organized community photography and post-production workshops at the Contemporary Arts Gallery of Saravan; curated the "*Sun's Shadow*" group photography exhibition.

7. VERIFIED PRESS & MEDIA LINKS

1. **Farabi Cinema Foundation / Ministry of Culture:**
Olympiad Commendation Article — farhang.gov.ir/fa/news/673483
2. **Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS):**
19th Nahal Festival Winners Announcement — iycs.ir/nahal19-winners
3. **Mehr News Agency:**
Appointment as Festival Director for Fanous Khayal — mehrnews.com/news/6695295
4. **Tasnim News Agency:**
Madreseh Festival Award Coverage — tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1401/08/28/2806652
5. **Tiwall Arts Platform:**
A Great Man Official Screening Profile — tiwall.com/p/great.man

8. MEDIA KIT & ASSETS AVAILABILITY

The following high-resolution assets are available upon request for festival programmers and press outlets:

- **Headshots:** High-res director headshots (behind camera / grading suite).
- **Film Stills:** 300 DPI high-contrast stills for *Invisible Shadows*, *Blindly Blind*, and *A Great Man*.
- **Trailers & Screeners:** Password-protected Vimeo/Viddler screener links.
- **Posters:** High-resolution digital posters (PDF/TIFF formats).

PRESS & FESTIVAL CONTACT

- **Direct Email:** BenyaminKhodabandeh@gmail.com
- **FilmFreeway Profile:** Benyamin Khodabandeh
- **Instagram:** @benilorn
- **Base:** Tehran / Damghan / Saravan, Iran