Stiletto

"A PINK FAMILY TRAGEDY"

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Written and Directed by CAN MERDAN DOĞAN
MURAT KILIÇ - NİHAL YALÇIN
RÜZGAR YAMAN - POYRAZ KARAKUŞ - YILDIZ GÜNGÖR
Produced by Erkan Taşkıran Executive Producer Selda Durna Director of Photography Fırat Lita Sözbir
Original Music Uran Apak Edited by Çisem Baydar Production Design Elif Taşçıoğlu Graphic Design Kutlay Sındırgı
Gaffer Giray Gergin Sound Emirhan Kankaya Sound Design and Mix Onan Karagözoğlu Colorist Ercan Koçak
Make Up and Hair Style Çiğdem Uzundag Key Grip Şamil Kılıç Special Thanks Gertraud Bracker
Apex Encore
THE POST QB BROTHERS
ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG
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STILETTO

''A pink family tragedy''

Written and Directed by: **Can Merdan Doğan**
Produced by: **Erkan Taşkıran**
Length: **17.49 min.**
Genre: **Dark Comedy, Dramedy**

Can an object define us?

LOGLINE

Hasan (45) is a nightshift taxi driver. He sees a woman in stilettos passing by while he is on his way back home in the morning. In a world where the boundaries of being a man are already set, he does something that is to become a disaster greater than global warming!

SYNOPSIS

Hasan (45) is a night shift taxi driver. While he is on his way back in the morning, he sees a woman in stilettos passing by.

Intrigued by the sight, Hasan retrieves a mysterious black plastic bag from the boot of his taxi and makes his way back home. His wife Aysel (38) and his sons Gökhan (10) and Özkan (7) are apparently not home.

Hasan, taking advantage of his family's absence and wanting to fulfill his desires, takes something out of the plastic bag. That day Aysel happens to return early from her work of housekeeping. In a world where the boundaries of being a man are already set, Hasan does something that is to become a disaster even greater than global warming!

At the end of the day, Hasan, Aysel and their young sons are going to be left to face Hasan's desires! The family members will have to make a choice between the disaster and their own happiness.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My motivation for making this film is based on the question of "can an object define our identity"?

We experience the fact that femininity and masculinity are being taken too seriously through various public representations. Being a woman and being a man are defined culturally by objects. Wherever we may live, cultural norms start to reveal their restrictive effects when we behave outside of the habitual representations of woman and man. This means if our behaviors, appearance and desires don't match the norm, our identity is open to questioning. For example, a man wearing high heels might pose a great threat to traditional society! It is expected by society that a man will try to flirt with a young woman in stilettos more so than to be in stilettos, especially in a cultural environment in which the boundaries of manhood are strictly set.

The threat for the family institution starts with the intrusion of the stilettos into the household inside a black plastic bag. From this perspective, stilettos are taking the role of a main character who is causing "chaos" in the family.

My objective is to address controversial problems and question the concepts of masculinity, femininity and the family institution, through the character of Hasan. By doing this, it is my intention to neutralize the cultural codes associated with objects, in other words, query society through the film. I believe that life is far too short and way too colourful to come to a decision about our identity with a single answer.

Is a man wearing stilettos truly a greater threat than global warming!?

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Can Merdan Doğan (1987, Turkey) is a filmmaker and playwright. He studied at Ankara University Theater Department and completed his Master's at Kadir Has University Communication Department (Cinema and TV) in Istanbul.

Dogan was nominated for '**playwright of the year**' at the Journal of Theatre Awards in 2013 for the play '**I Played Games with My Dad When I Was a Kid**', which won the Afife Award for the year's best actress in a musical comedy. In 2014, he worked as a screenwriter and assistant director on the movie **Arabesque Underground**, which premiered at the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival and won 5 other awards in Turkey.

Most recently, he has been pursuing his PhD. in Media, Theater and Popular Culture in Germany. He is interested in queer cinema and hybrid forms of storytelling.

The short movie **Stiletto** is his first work as a director.

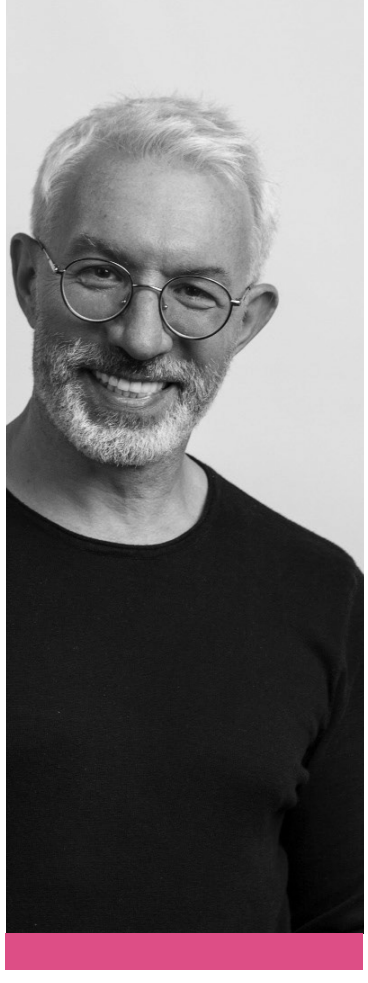
2021 Stiletto: "A Pink Family Tragedy"

2014 Arabesque Underground

"Van Film Festival"
Best Film, Best Director, Best Original Music, Best Director of Photograpy

"Turkish film critics association (siyad) Awards"
Best Music

Istanbul Film Festival
Antalya International Golden Orange Film Festival



CAST AND CREW

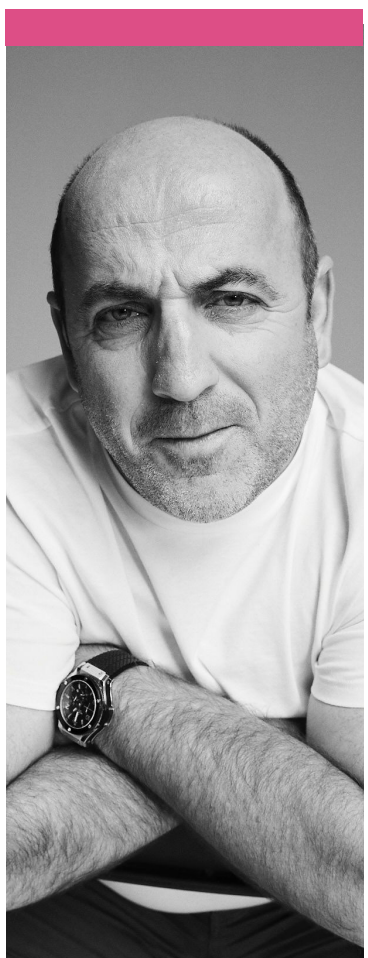
PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Erkan Taşkıran studied Communication Sciences at EGE University in Izmir, Turkey. He attended a one-year production workshop that was held by well-known Turkish producer Zeynep Atakan, who was the producer of the Cannes Palme D'or winning director Nuri Bilge Ceylan. During his training, Taskiran produced his first short movie "The Theory of Almodóvar" with director Halit Eke in 2017. His second short film is "Stiletto", which he produced in 2021.

Murat Kılıç played the role of Hasan. He is one of the best actors in the contemporary Turkish cinema. He played Cannes award-winning productions such as Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (Nuri Bilge Ceylan, 2011), Album (Mehmet Can Mertoğlu, 2016) and The Announcement (Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun, 2018) which won a special jury prize in Venice Film Festival.

Nihal Yalçın played the role of Aysel. Nihal Yalçın is highly a talented well-known actress in the contemporary Turkish cinema. Her works have achieved great success at festivals such as Venice Film Festival and Tokyo International Film Festival where the film Somewhere in Between (Yesim Ustaoglu, 2012) was nominated, and in Underground (Zeki Demirkubuz, 2012) which was nominated at the Dubai International Film Festival.

Fırat Lita Sözbir is our director of photography. He joined this project with his many years of experience in advertisement and in the film industry. Sozbir won the award for the best cinematographer in the "short corner" section at the Moscow Film Festival with the movie Quintessence in 2018.



Selda Durna is our executive producer and costume designer. She has been working as the costume designer on many marvelous international films for 8 years. These films include Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival awarded 'best script' for Something Useful (Pelin Esmer, 2017) and Zer (2017). She based in Istanbul.

Elif Tascıoğlu is our production designer. She is an award-winning art director and production designer in Turkey, Istanbul. She has received many awards from different festivals such as Ankara Film Festival and Turkish Film Critics Association Awards. She is currently at the peak of her career.