

## SILENCED TREE

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### Logline

A short while after his dominant wife abandons the wimpy and meek Hayati, who is a literary teacher in a patriarchal town, the police find an unrecognized female corpse by the lake. Hayati wants to state that the body belongs to his wife and to take the blame for the murder that someone else committed.

### SYNOPSIS

Hayati is a small-town literature teacher and a one hit wonder author who tries helplessly to hold on to his past: his shattering marriage, his sick old mother, a decaying walnut tree and the memory of his father. Instead of moving on with his life and taking control, he passively accepts its blows and is only interested in digging into the past, until his discovery forces him to confront his own weakness and answer the question: is standing idle while witnessing evil being done is just as much of a sin as doing it?

### FROM DIRECTOR

When I was on my way to find and establish the language of my cinema, being forced to watch all the injustices and murders of our century played a big role in choosing story of 'Silenced Tree' for my second film. Even though recently the media's attention to the increasing number of killings of women (in 2019, 474 women were killed by violence in Turkey) intensified in recent years, I noticed that there is not a sincere and worthy study, mentioning these tragedies. The most tragic issue was the fact that this savagery was still happening in a society that emphasizes morality and justice a lot. I want to look at a woman's murder as a side-story from a different perspective and to bring in different dimensions.

With this film, I want to find the dying down fire of our conscience by confronting us, namely humanity, with our dark and cowardly traits and blaze the fire with optimism. For this reason, I want to penetrate the cost of witnessing a murder and suicide over a minimal event within different perspective. In my story, I want to discuss in detail the obscure literary teacher Hayati's being a specter to a murder (slaughter of a woman by his husband) outside the town and not do anything against it as a problem of the entire humanity's consciousness issue. I designed Hayati as a writer, who tries to protect his hope in the name of artistic creation in distress and deprivation like Van Gogh, so that we can think more broadly about what a pathetic and impotent individual can do and can not do in the face of crime and murder. In this case, when a person is looking for a strong root and hope through writing and literature, despite starting to live with his father's fate of

suicide, what this person, disabled with feebleness, cynicism, and skittishness, will do when he witnesses a murder that his father witnessed. This question has always been a question I have encountered with different shades of environment that I lived in. In my film, Hayati, the most weak and helpless person among those who have power and potential, sacrifices him and undertakes the murder committed in order to clean the common conscience of mankind. Because he knows like we know that the killings of woman will not end with the capture of the killer. However, waking up the conscience of the society and pulling under great responsibility is a big step forward for the future generations not to crush the weaker ones.

## CAST

Hayati	Serdar Orçin
Yaprak	Sezin Akbaşoğulları
Ahmet	Ali Mert Yavuzcan
Serap	Kübra Kip
Kadife	Şebnem Dilligil
Turgut	Rıza Akın

## CREW

Written and Directed by	Faysal Soysal
Co-Producer	Ali Nouri Oskuei (Iran)
Director of Photography	Vedat Özdemir
Sound	Mustafa Bolükbaşı
Editing	Mostafah Khergepoosh
Composing	Payam Azadi
Sound Design	Mohsen Roushan, Mohammad Javaherizade
Color Grading	Hootan Haghshenas
Visual Effects	Yasin Allahdadian
Set Design	Natali Yeres
Art Design	Nezihe Ateş
Costume Design	Gülşah Yüksel
Make Up	Gonca Sönmez
Production	Turkey/Iran, 2020

## Festival Journey

39th Istanbul Film Festival Turkish Premier (27th July 2020)  
31th Ankara Film Festival (7th September 2020)  
27th Adana Film Festival, Turkey (14th September 2020) / **Best Music, Best Actor**  
42nd Moscow Film Festival, International Premier (5th October 2020)  
Eurosia Film Festival, Russia (November 2020) **Best Camera**  
Meraki Film Festival (31st January 2021)  
6th Bremen Film Festival, Germany (15th April 2021) **Best Literature Film**  
Near Nezaireth Film Festival (2nd June 2021)  
Izmir Film Festival (29th June 2021)  
25th Turkish-German Film Festival (25th July 2021)

13th Pri-Fest Film Festival (27th August 2021)  
Torino Underground Cinefest, Italy (5th September 2021) **Best Film, Best Editing**  
11th Beijing Film Festival (25th September 2021)  
7. Balkan Panorama Film Festival, Turkey (2nd October 2021) **Best Film, Best Actor**  
Ankara Accessible Film Festival (17th October 2021)  
21th Frankfurt Turkish Film Festival (25th October 2021)  
6th London City Film Awards (12th November 2021) **Best Foreign Feature Film**  
6th Festival of Moving Image-The Artists Forum New York( 2th December 2021) **Best Narrative Film, Best Actor**  
9th Antakya Film Festival, Turkey (16th December), **Best Actor**

### **Awards:**

27th Adana Film Festival, Turkey (September 2020)  
Best Music, Best Actor

Euroasia Film Festival, Russia (November 2020)  
Best Camera

6th Bremen Film Festival, Germany (April 2021)  
Best Literature Film

Torino Underground Cinefest, Italy (September 2021)  
Best Film, Best Editing

7. Balkan Panorama Film Festival, Turkey (October 2021)  
Best Film, Best Actor

6th London City Film Awards (November 2021)  
Best Film

### **DIRECTOR/BIOGRAPHY**

Faysal Soysal was born in Batman in 1979. He left medical school to focus on poetry and cinema in 2000. Between 2003 and 2007, he finished MA on "Film Directing" in Tehran Art University-Iran and at the same time "New Turkish Literature" at Van Yuzuncuyil University-Turkey. He did 4 short films in Iran, which were awarded at international film festivals. With 'Dreams of Lost Time'(35mm), he's become closer to find his own cinematographic language. In 2008, with a scholarship, he attended to the New York Film Academy and directed 4 short films. He has been selected for Talent Campus of Sarajevo Film Festival at 2009.

He did his first feature film 'Crossroads' in 2013, (Filmed in Turkey and Bosnia) and it got 13 awards from film festivals. He did documentary series for Al Jazire and TRT TV. He used to be voluntary of Doctors Worldwide and produced Africa documentaries about their aid. He published books on poetry and cinema. He is the director of International Amity Short Film Festival since two years. Silenced Tree is his second feature film. He became father of twins: Aliye and Aziz in 2018.

## **DIRECTOR/FILMOGRAPHY**

### **Feature Film**

*Silenced Tree, 2020*

*Crossroads, 2013*

### **Documentary**

First Songs has been Changed in Istanbul, 2014

Missing Times in Srebrenica-Prijedor, 2015

Worldwide Stories 11 episode, 2014-2015

Mother of Srebrenica 5 episode, 2015

### **Short Film**

*Forbidden Dream, 2005*

*Ithak,i 2005*

*The Day I Became My Mother, 2006*

*Dreams of Lost Time, 2007*

*Mizan-sen, 2008*

*What Time It Is ?, 2008*

## **AWARDS**

### **'Crossroads'**

Best Screenplay at 32.Tehran International Fajr Film Festival, 2014

Best Turkish film of 2013 by Eskader Art Critics

Best New Talented Director 25.Ankara Film Festival, 2014

Special Juri Prize, 10.Kazan International Film Festival, 2014

Best Actor, 6.Prifest Kosova International Film Festival, 2014

### **"The Dreams of Lost Time"**

Best Short Film - Boston Turkish Film Festival, 2008

Best Cinematography and Best film - Marmara University Film Festival, 2007

Honorary Award - Tehran International Short Film Festival, 2007

Best Short Film - Istanbul International Film Festival, 2007

### **"The Day I Became My Mother"**

Special Media Prize - Baku Audio Visual Film Festival, Azerbaijan, 2006

### **"Forbidden Dream"**

Second Short Prize - Kristal Klaket Film Festival, 2007

Best Script and Best Cinematography - Kisa Cek Short Film Festival, 2006

Best Film- Human Rights Short Film Festival in Istanbul, 2005

Best Film from Qazvin (Iran) Short Film Festival, 2005

### **His Books:**

Düşe Yağmalanan Hayal Kuyusu, poetry, 2003

Bir Ölünün Defteri, poetry, 2011

Akdenizdeki Çöl, Sohrab Sepeheri & F.G. Lorca, translated poems, 2011

The re-found Hope, A. Tarkovsky's Cinema, Babak Ahmadi, Translation, 2011