

# Presskit

The Turtle | V 2023



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A person in silhouette is looking out a window at night. The window has horizontal blinds and a potted plant is visible on the sill. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window and the interior of the room.

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# Poster





# Director's Biography

## **Fatemeh Fereydoun**

Born in 15th February 1992 in Tehran, Iran . She holds BA and MA degrees in directing respectively from University of Tehran & Tarbiat Moddares University.

"Turtle" is her 2nd film that she's directed. After her first movie; "Camion", which has been participated in so many national and international film festivals. She has experienced cinema through editing feature films, short films and documentaries.

She has directed five professional plays with large cast and crew since she was 18 years old, which overall has had the audience of 5000 people.

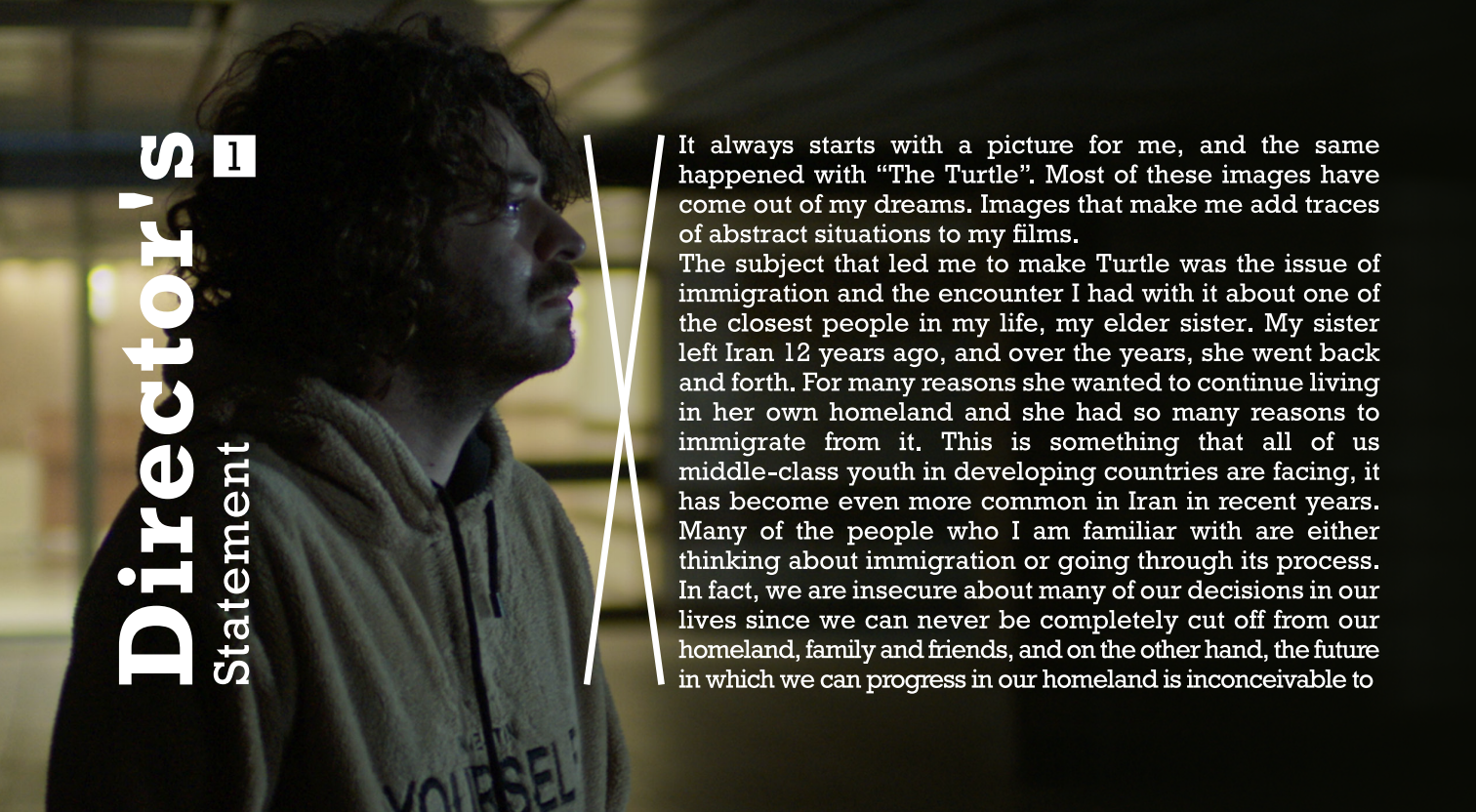


# Synopsis

Story

Saba scheduled to leave Iran tomorrow morning to start a new life with his mother. The film narrates the adventures of the same night til sunrise.

But they have been told that his mother has passed away therefore Others decide not to let him know so they don't disrupt his immigration, until Saba's lover decides to see him and maybe let him know, But before that the sun rises.



# Director's **1**

## Statement

It always starts with a picture for me, and the same happened with “The Turtle”. Most of these images have come out of my dreams. Images that make me add traces of abstract situations to my films.

The subject that led me to make Turtle was the issue of immigration and the encounter I had with it about one of the closest people in my life, my elder sister. My sister left Iran 12 years ago, and over the years, she went back and forth. For many reasons she wanted to continue living in her own homeland and she had so many reasons to immigrate from it. This is something that all of us middle-class youth in developing countries are facing, it has become even more common in Iran in recent years. Many of the people who I am familiar with are either thinking about immigration or going through its process. In fact, we are insecure about many of our decisions in our lives since we can never be completely cut off from our homeland, family and friends, and on the other hand, the future in which we can progress in our homeland is inconceivable to

# Director's Statement 2

us. This uncertainty forms the core of the film along with other elements like tension. The tension displayed in the turtle is the result of the situation in which we are living in Iran and has made us make decisions on a short notice. The turtle, which at the time of its production was intended to be merely a prediction of Iran's future situation, has now become a reality. For this film, I was not looking for a complicated story; like Camion, my first short movie, I was looking for what is going on in everyday life.

The feeling I wanted to share with the Turtle audience is an experience of constant tension and doubt. The feeling we go through and face on a daily basis in this geographical region, and humans in other parts of the world are less encountered with these types of situations. As a young person who has been able to achieve success in my academic and career so far, I have always been struggling to decide whether to leave or stay. The suspension that I tried to show in the film as well. The final scene of the film and the twilight that is seen at the beginning as well show the ambiguity of the conditions and the decision of the characters of the film in relation to this dilemma. Since the turtle is very close to my lived experience, I chose my parents' house as the movie's location.

The first challenge I faced for making the film was the process I had chosen for making it: The process that made me make my film twice; Once as a model and the second time as the original version. I wanted to make sure the film could be a success and this process

was something that I learned from Abbas Kiarostami in the process of making some of his films.

The second challenge was to make the film without any government or institutional funding and this was a very challenging task for an independent filmmaker in Iran, especially a female director. This economic challenge caused the filmmaking process to be delayed; Because it was a self-funded project.

My final challenge was to select actors who could work well with me on this project; Because I could not use amateur and novice actors for it due to long and stressful plans, and I needed people who had professional work experience.

Nonetheless, I have had produced this work of art that represents conditions and hopefully has given my audience some food for thought. I wish to succeed to accomplish this goal.

# Director's <sup>3</sup> Statement



# Cast

## Film

Music: **Ehsan Padeganeh**

Color Grading: **Farbod Jalali**

Costume Designer: **Sara Mojdeh**

Stage designer: **Alipouya Ghasemi**

Makeup designer: **Safoura Saffari**

Cinematography: **Sajjad Barati**

**Hossein Nasuri**

Script Supervisor: **Roxana Talebi**

Stage Assistant: **Reza Mohammadi**

Writer, Producer & Director: **Fatemeh Fereydoun**

Actors: **Navid Layeghi Moghaddam Hamid Pour-Azari, Nahal Dashti, Pavan Afsar, Omid Shahmoradi**

Director of Photography: **Saeed Barati**

Sound Recorder: **Hadi Manavipour**

Assistant Voice Recorder: **Ahmad Tafreshi**

Sound mixing and Sound editing: **Amin Sharifi**

Edited by: **Shahin Sepehri**

Assistant Director & Programmer: **Amin Sameti**

# Photos

Film









**Thanks**  
for watching



**FATE**

**ART**

