

Parham Khakzad

Mahdi Habibi

Sophia Fasihi Quj

Ayda Bahrampour

237°C

A film by

Mahdi Habibi

Ayda Bahrampour

Written by **Ayda Bahrampour** Producers: **Ayda Bahrampour** and **Mahdi Habibi** Rewritten by **Mahdi Habibi**
Assistant director: **Amir Ali Jarrahi** Director of Photography: **Edris Mahmoudi** Assistant cinematographer: **Ali Kafian**
Script supervisor: **Sepehr Abbasi** Sound recordist: **Ali Cheraghi** Behind the scenes photographer: **Soroush Abbasi**
Scenic design and costume by **Rana Rahimi** Editor: **Mobin Ahmadi**

LOGLINE

A coffee order goes terribly wrong when a young man walks into his regular café only to find that no one understands him.



SYNOPSIS

A young man stops by his usual café to order an Americano. But things take a surreal turn when the barista responds in a language he doesn't understand. Confused and thrown off, he turns to his friend Ali, who also works there—only to find that Ali, too, speaks the same strange, incomprehensible tongue. Frustrated and unable to communicate, he's handed a menu, but the words are just as meaningless. It's in this moment—disoriented, anxious, and helpless—that he suddenly receives a reminder on his phone: he has an important interview coming up. Just as his confusion boils over, a woman walks in and effortlessly orders an Americano. Desperate, he tries to grab the coffee to show Ali his order, but the moment slips away as she leaves.

Feeling ignored, alienated and reminded of why he so desperately needs a coffee, he grabs a handful of coffee beans and some water, mixing a rough brew right there on the table. In a last, defiant act, he drinks it—only to crack a tooth on an unground bean. And it's only then, broken and exhausted, that he's given the coffee he asked for. He is yet again misunderstood, the coffee is in the wrong cup size.



DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY:

Mahdi Habibi and Ayda Bahrampour

Mahdi Habibi and Ayda Bahrampour are a directing duo who began collaborating in 2021. Since then, they have worked on multiple short films, steadily refining their distinct artistic voices. Currently, they are pursuing careers on opposite sides of the world—Ayda is an undergraduate student at NYU Tisch, Mahdi is an actor in theater and television and a director of short films in Iran. Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, and deeply passionate about cinema, they set out to create a film that encapsulates the psychological and societal landscape of their time. The result was “237 degrees Celsius” .

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

237 Degrees Celsius emerged as a response to the pervasive absurdity of the city, capturing its surreal yet profoundly human essence. Set against a backdrop that blends the mundane with the surreal, the film explores the unsettling experience of a protagonist who wakes up to find that his closest friends have inexplicably adopted a language he cannot understand. This seemingly simple yet deeply disorienting premise sets the stage for a broader exploration of alienation, exclusion, and the silent fractures that run through society.

At its core, 237 Degrees Celsius is a meditation on the struggle to be understood. Language, the fundamental tool of connection, becomes an impassable barrier, leaving the protagonist in an isolating void where even the people he once trusted become strangers. This serves as a metaphor for the ways in which societal structures dictate who is included and who is left behind. The film examines how discrimination—both overt and insidious—manifests in everyday interactions, making alienation not just an individual experience but a shared reality for those who do not conform.

As the protagonist grapples with his sudden exclusion, his desperation to reconnect drives him to break societal conventions. His actions become a reflection of the fundamental human desire to be acknowledged, to be heard, and to reclaim agency in a world that has rendered him invisible. His journey is one of increasing frustration, mirroring the suppressed anxieties of a generation that feels unheard and constrained by forces beyond their control. The film does not offer easy answers but instead leans into the tension of this experience, allowing the audience to sit with the discomfort of being left out while the world around them carries on seamlessly.

By embracing absurdism, 237 Degrees Celsius invites viewers to engage with its themes on both an intellectual and emotional level. The film's surreal elements do not exist for spectacle alone; rather, they serve as a reflection of an underlying reality that feels just as strange and incomprehensible. In this way, the film provides a space for audiences to process the absurdity of their own environments, channeling collective anxieties into a narrative that resonates beyond its immediate setting.

The title, 237 Degrees Celsius, carries its own layered significance. Taken from the melting point of coffee, it symbolizes the protagonist's breaking point—the moment where pressure, confusion, and exclusion become too much to bear. Just as coffee transforms irreversibly at this temperature, so too does the protagonist, his internal struggles culminating in a moment of irreversible change. The name also suggests a slow, simmering tension—an intensity that builds over time until it can no longer be contained.





TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Project Title (Original Language): درجه سانتیگراد ۲۳۷

Project Type: Short, Student

Genres: Drama, Youth, Fantasy

Runtime: 6 minutes

Completion Date: March 1, 2025

Country of Origin: United States, Iran

Country of Filming: Iran

Filming Locations: Tehran, Iran

Language: Persian

Shooting Format: 4K digital

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Film Color: Color

Student Project: Yes - NYU in New York and Kharazmi University in Tehran



CAST AND CREW

directed by Mahdi Habibi and Ayda Bahrampour

Written by Ayda Bahrampour

Rewritten by Mahdi Habibi

Producers: Ayda Bahrampour and Mahdi Habibi

Assistant director: Amir Ali Jarrahi

Cast: Parham Khakzad, Mahdi Habibi, Sophia Fasihi Quj, Ayda Bahrampour

Director of photography: Idris Mahmoudi

Assistant cinematographer: Ali Kafian

Editor: Mobin Ahmadi

Sound recordist: Ali Cheraghi

Sound designer: Mohammad Qasemi

Music by: Amir Sanjari

Colorist: Sina Heidari Zade

Scenic design and costume by Rana Rahimi Tari

Script supervisor: Sepehr Abbasi

Production assistants: Nima Parsa, Arastoo Chekani

Behind the scenes photographer: Soroush Abbasi

Special thanks to: Sanaz Hashemi, Shahriar Zandi, Mohammad Habibi



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