



# NO BAND

A Film By Mohammad Tabarsa

**Sound Designer:**  
Behrooz Shahamat

**Colorist:**  
Jafar Sadeghi

**Poster:**  
Saleh Zanganeh

**Distribution:**  
Ayvision Films



**Producer:**  
Mahnaz Tafaghi  
Mohammad Tabarsa

**Cameraman:**  
Baran Anvari  
Hanif Khorasani nejad

**Editor:**  
Sajjad Khatiri

**Sound Recordist:**  
Afshin Eshraghi



**hotdocsforum**  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2023

# No Band

Documentary

Iran,67 min,2025

**Tagline:** In conservative Iran, Hanif forms a rock band, but societal and familial pressures, including discrimination, force him to confront harsh realities while bonding with his daughter.

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## Logline:

In a conservative Iranian city, 38-year-old Hanif defies his family's opposition to pursue rock music. When his band is disqualified due to members' minority religion, Hanif must confront societal barriers while navigating the struggles of his teenage daughter.



Film Link :

<https://filmfreeway.com/projects/3440896>

Password:2025

**Trailer link:**

<https://vimeo.com/1029984734>

**Short synopsis:**

**No Band** follows Hanif, a 38-year-old father in conservative Iran, who dares to pursue his dream of forming a rock band. When his group is disqualified from a major national competition—not because of their talent, but because three members are Baha'i, a persecuted religious minority—Hanif is forced to confront the harsh limits of self-expression in his society. At the same time, he begins to see his teenage daughter's silent rebellion in a new light. As their bond grows, Hanif begins to question the very system he once upheld, realizing that the fight for personal freedom spans generations.

**Synopsis:**

*No Band* follows Hanif, a 38-year-old man in a conservative Iranian city, who has always dreamed of expressing himself through rock music. Against his family's wishes and the limits of his society, he forms a band called "Noch." Preparing for a major music competition reignites Hanif's passion, but it also strains his marriage, as his wife grows concerned about the impact of his dreams on their family. When authorities disqualify the band due to the minority status of some of its members (three members were Bahaei), Hanif is forced to confront harsh societal realities.

During this challenging time, Hanif's bond with his teenage daughter deepens. Watching her struggle with the same rigid expectations he once ignored, he starts to understand her frustrations and the difficult path she faces. Through their shared experiences, Hanif begins to empathize with his daughter's struggles, ultimately realizing the strength they both need to navigate a society that resists individuality.

**Director Statement**

My own journey as a father and the challenges I face in raising my daughter amidst societal expectations resonate profoundly with Hanif's struggles. Also I feel a strong connection to Hanif's story in *No Band*. His fight for his passion for rock music, despite societal and familial opposition, mirrors my own struggles as a filmmaker in Iran.

Just as Hanif faces censorship and personal challenges in his music, I encounter similar obstacles in filmmaking. Our experiences highlight the universal struggle of pursuing one's dreams in a restrictive environment. In sharing Hanif's story, I aim to offer a reflection on the evolving perspectives of men who are confronting the very system they once supported, and to impart lessons about resilience and the pursuit of one's aspirations—lessons that I hope will resonate with viewers as much as they do with me as a father and a filmmaker.

### **Director Biography**

After 17 years teaching mathematics, he pursued a master's in cinema at Tehran Art University, becoming the first in his province to do so. He has taught filmmaking at Gorgan University and art centers. Inspired by meeting documentary filmmaker Mehrdad Oskouei, he focuses on creating feature documentaries.

### **Producer's Statement**

As a young woman raised in Iran, I've witnessed firsthand how fathers and brothers impose limitations on the girls in their families. I was one of those girls who faced criticism from my younger brothers for not adhering to traditional rules, such as wearing the hijab. Even now, my two educated younger brothers criticize me for living my life on my own terms.

I vividly remember the tragic story of two girls who were murdered by their brothers because their dancing videos went viral. The fear of a tarnished reputation led to their deaths, and such acts of violence continue in some remote villages. The government's inaction reflects a disturbing belief that fathers, brothers, and husbands are the rightful "owners" of women and girls.

In *No Band*, Hanif's story reveals a crucial shift: men who once supported these limitations are now facing similar restrictions themselves. Hanif's struggle to pursue his musical dreams despite societal obstacles mirrors the broader realization among men

that the system they supported has also imposed limitations on them. Through his journey, I aim to highlight these issues and challenge the cultural norms that perpetuate such injustices. My goal is to shed light on the struggles faced by women and inspire a shift towards a more supportive and equitable society.

### **Producer Biography:**

Mahnaz Tafaghi is an Iranian producer, distributor, and founder of AYVISION Films, an independent production and distribution company championing bold stories from Iran, Turkey, and the Middle East. She began as an international journalist before moving into film production and distribution at Eli Image Film, whose titles screened at Berlinale, IDFA, Hot Docs, and ZagrebDox, and which distributed *Finding Farideh*, Iran's Oscar submission.

Since founding AYVISION in 2019, Mahnaz has produced award-winning documentaries, including a 2024 Hot Docs Forum selection that also featured at Antalya Film Forum, Visions du Réel, Ji.hlava, and Close-Up Initiative. As a producer, her project Green Leafy Red Tomato was selected for TRT 12 Punto 2025.

She has served on juries at HiCare Environmental (Canada), Dhaka, and Manchester Short Film Festival, and frequently speaks on how women's stories and filmmakers can reshape society.