



DIRECTED BY
BUĞRA MERT ALKAYALAR

BOCUK

AN ANCIENT RITUAL

PRODUCER: BUĞRA MERT ALKAYALAR CO-PRODUCERS: İLKER SAVAŞKURT (AMİRLER FİLM) GAYE ALKAYALAR ÖZLEM KURT BABACAN
FEATURED SPEAKERS: AYŞE AKBAŞ, ATİYE GÖZLÜKLÜ, MEHMET BERK YALTIRIK, MEZİDE DEMİREL, NURTEN TINMAZ, RIFAT ÇALGIN
TANİR DEMİREL NARRATOR: İLKER SAVAŞKURT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: HAKAN KARAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: EMRE ARSLAN
CAMERA ASSISTANTS: KUTAY KÜMBETLİ, BERKAY KURT EDITOR: KAĞAN TUNCA SOUND DESIGN: CAN ÜLGENÇİ ORIGINAL SCORE: YAĞIZ ORAL
COLOR GRADING: KAAAN TÜFEKÇİYAŞAR JR. COLORIST: TUNA ÜNER POSTER DESIGN: MUSTAFA GÖCMEZLER ENGLISH SUBTITLES TRANSLATION: KAĞAN TUNCA



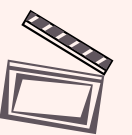
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SYNOPSIS



“Bocuk” traces the remnants of a Balkan-Turkic belief said to date back to the Middle Ages, still alive in a remote village of Thrace. This docudrama explores the contemporary meaning of an ancient winter ritual and documents the local narratives surrounding it. Blending fear with tradition, the film invites viewers to discover the extraordinary Night of Bocuk, a practice still observed across generations in Turkey.



CREW

Director/Producer: Buğra Mert Alkayalar

Co-Producers:
İlker Savaşkurt (Amirler Film)
Gaye Alkayalar
Özlem Kurt Babacan

Assistant Director: Hakan Karan

Director of Photography: Emre Arslan

Camera Assistants: Kutay Kümbetli,
Berkay Kurt





CREW

Editor: Kağan Tunca

Sound Mixing: Can Ülgenci

Sound Design: Guillaume Bonjour

Original Score: Yağız Oral

Color Grading: Kaan Tüfekçiyaşar

Junior Colorist: Tuna Üner

Poster Design: Mustafa Göçmezler

TECNHNICAL DETAILS

Country of Production: Turkey

Year of Production: 2025

Shooting Place: Edirne, Keşan, Çamlıca Village / TURKEY

Genre: Documentary; Docu-drama

Length: 19'

Color: Color

Shooting Format: 4K ULTRA HD

Camera: Sony A7SIII, Sony A7IV, DJI Mini 2, DJI Air 3, DJI Osmo Action 4, DJI Osmo Pocket 3

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Sound Mix: Stereo

Original Language: Turkish

Available Subtitle: English & Spanish





DIRECTOR

Alkayalar completed a Bachelor's degree in Cinema and Television at Anadolu University in 2020 and a Master's degree in Cinema and Television in 2024. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Cinema at Marmara University. He has participated in national and international festivals such as the Golden Boll Film Festival, MotelX, Curtas Festival do Imaxinario, H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival and Morbido Fest. He is currently working as a Research Assistant at Istanbul Kültür University and continues his studies in cinema.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With *Bocuk: An Ancient Ritual*, my aim was to capture and revive one of the most enigmatic yet lesser-known traditions of our cultural heritage: Bocuk Night. Rather than approaching it through conventional interviews or explanatory narration, I chose to immerse the audience directly in the atmosphere of this winter ritual — from the intimate preparations to the eerie celebrations under the coldest night of the year. Through a hybrid cinematic language blending handheld, drone, and action cameras, the film seeks to reflect both the folkloric roots of the ritual and its contemporary transformation under the influence of popular culture, often likened to Halloween. By giving voice to local participants, historians, and cultural custodians, the documentary aspires not only to preserve and transmit this tradition but also to invite international audiences to experience its haunting, communal, and timeless spirit.

CONTACT

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