

# world citizen humanitarian film () festival

lt's **not** just a **film festival** It's an **experience** 

# 2023

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With the pleasure of being together at the 5<sup>th</sup> TRT World Citizen Humanitarian Film Festival, we would like to thank all the producers, panelists, and esteemed guests who participated in our organization.

Türkiye's public broadcaster TRT, with the principle "telling stories is sharing for solution", places human at the center of its broadcasting, production, organization, and digital platforms/applications and makes an effort to contribute to a fairer world order and to preserve the profundity of the meaning. Because profundity is the guarantee of the preservation of humanitarian feelings and the ability to feel the suffering experienced on the earth, regardless of whether it is far or near.

Today, in the world are calls and cries waiting to be heard more than ever before. Türkiye, by being a center where these voices are heard, felt, and conveyed to the international arena, keeps its struggle alive to protect the dignity of humanity. Our country carries out multidimensional and intense diplomacy traffic: global crises are addressed on the basis of consensus, international issues are discussed with common sense, and by bringing the parties together, proposals for just solutions are implemented. It is possible to summarize these efforts carried out under the leadership of our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, with the words of His Excellency, 'Freedom for all, peace for all, prosperity for all, justice for all, a peaceful and safe future for all'.

For this approach, which can enlighten the future of everyone in the world with a population of more than eight billion, a solid structure is certainly needed to identify issues and construct them accordingly. Therefore, on our shoulders as broadcasters are; bringing a fair perspective to the thematic distribution in news, production, and broadcasting and to be the voice of the voiceless. As one of the ultimate outcomes of this consideration, the TRT World Citizen Humanitarian Film Festival opens the door to those who prefer to look, through the viewfinder, at the geographies where the scales of justice are shaken.

As the host of this festival, I would like to express my gratitude to the esteemed participants, who combined their efforts with the power of cinema to breathe life into the world, and to all our distinguished guests.

Prof. Mehmet Zahid SOBACI TRT, Director General

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

## Festival Schedule

## Award Ceremony

10.30 - 11.30	Doors Open	18.00 - 19.00	Cocktail
11.30 - 12.30	Panel: Filmmaking	19.00 - 19.20	Opening Speech
12.30 - 12.40	Break	19.20 - 19.40	Special Movie Screening
12.40 - 13.30	Masterclass: Acting	19.40 - 20.20	Award Presentation
13.30 - 14.10	Lunch Break	20.20 - 21.00	Closing
14.10 - 14.40	Film Screening 1		
14.40 - 14.50	Break		
14.50 - 15.30	Film Screening 2		
15.30 - 16.00	Break		
16.00 - 16.45	Film Screening 3		
16.45 - 16.55	Break		
16.55 - 17.25	Film Screening 4		
17.25 - 17.30	Break		
17.30 - 18.05	Film Screening 5		



Derviş Zaim President of the Jury Director Writer and Produce

Derviş Zaim was born in 1964 in Limassol, Cyprus. He graduated from Boğaziçi University with a degree in Business Administration and later obtained his MA in Cultural Studies from Warwick University. He completed the Cinema Proficiency in Art program at Maltepe University's Faculty of Fine Arts. He has directed ten films and one documentary to date, writing the screenplays and producing most of them. In 1994, he was awarded the Yunus Nadi Prize for his novel "Ares in Wonderland". He has participated in numerous local and international art festivals, earning various accolades. Currently, he is a lecturer at Maltepe, Ankara Science, and Near East Universities. He is married and has one child.

## Ismaël Ferroukhi

Jury Member Director and Writer

Born in Kenitra, Morocco, Ismaël Ferroukhi is self-taught. After directing his first short film, "L'Exposé", in 1993 which got two prizes at Cannes Film Festival, he co-wrote the script for the film "Trop de Bonheur" (1994) also presented at Cannes. In 1995, he wrote and directed the short film "L'Inconnu", which was part of the triptych "Court-toujours" produced for Canal Plus/Arte. He has also directed two films for television, "Hakim" (1997) and "Petit Ben" (1998). "Le Grand Voyage" (2004) is his first feature film which won the "Lion of the Future" at the Venezia Film Festival and received many prizes in several international festivals around the world. He directed a short film, "La Paire De Chaussure" (2007) then devoted his time to his second feature film: "Free Men" (2011). His last film "Mica" (2020) was screened at different festivals around the world. Totally shot in Morocco, Mica was on screens in late 2021 in France and Morocco. He is working on his next film "Nefs".





## Suat Köçer

Film Critic

Born in 1980 in Erzurum, he has published his critiques, research studies, and interviews on cinema in national newspapers and magazines. In August 2010, he established the cinema magazine Film Arası. He hosted the weekly TV program Film Arası on TRT Türk. He has directed several national and international film festivals. He has authored four books, three in literature and one in cinema. He remains active in the field of cinema writing.

## Vuslat Saraçoğlu

Jury Member Director and Actress

In 2010, Vuslat Saraçoğlu joined the Sarajevo Talent Campus and participated in the 2013 feature fiction film "Why I Can't Be Tarkovsky" both as an actress and production coordinator. Her debut feature film "Borç" released in 2018, was showcased and competed in numerous international festivals, including Gothenburg, San Francisco, Moscow, Carthage, and Kerala. It received the 'Best Film' award at the 37th Istanbul Film Festival, 'Best First Film' at the 8th Malatya Film Festival, and 'Best Editing' and 'Best Actress' awards at the 6th Bosphorus Film Festival. The film's lead actor, Serdar Orçin, was honoured with the 'Best Actor' award at the Sadri Alışık Cinema Awards in 2019. The shooting for Vuslat Saraçoğlu's second feature film project, titled "Bildiğin Gibi Değil" was completed last summer.





## **Reshad Strik**

Actor and Presenter

Reshad Strik, of Bosnian origin, was born on 22 June 1981 in Canberra, Australia. He grew up on the Central Coast of New South Wales, Australia. Following his appearance in a national commercial, he attended the Australian Academy of Theatre and Arts. After graduating, he landed a role in the series "Headland." This led him to work in Hollywood, Los Angeles, United States of America, where he starred in numerous films. His breakthrough as a leading actor came in the psychological thriller "Don't Look Up", directed by Hong Kong filmmaker Fruit Chan. In 2010, Reshad Strik got married in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Immersing himself in the culture and language of his ancestors, he resided in Sarajevo, producing and directing music videos and commercials. He also filmed two feature films in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2013, he relocated to Istanbul, Turkey, where he starred in the series "Filinta" and "Dirilis Ertugrul", broadcast on TRT. Reshad Strik documented his challenging life journey across various countries and Anatolia in the TRT Belgesel documentary titled "New Member of Our Family."

## Merve Üçer Preliminary Jury

Born on 15 May 1992 in Ankara, she obtained a degree in Philosophy from Ankara University DTCF. Alongside her academic pursuits, she nurtured her passion for acting, which began in her childhood, and performed in private theatres. She has notably appeared in the series "Beni Bırakma", "Acemi Anneler", and the film "Çılgın Dershane 3". Presently, she serves as the presenter of the Culture Agenda program on TRT Türk while portraying the character Zeynep in the German series "Lamb" aired on the channel.



## Atilla Öner

Preliminary Jury Actor, Writer and Theatre Director

Atilla Öner studied economics at Duisburg University. He graduated with honours in acting from the Theater der Keller in Cologne in 2005. This was followed by a first engagement at the Rheinisches Landestheater Neuss and production-related roles at Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Theater Hagen, Atze Musiktheater as well as various film and television roles in Germany and Turkey. In 2019, he received BKM funding for script development together with Benjamin Hopkins. In 2022, he staged his own piece "I'm Strom", which he wrote, as well as developing and staging the documentary theatre piece "Territory" in 2021.



## Enes Ateş

Preliminary Jury Director and Writer

Enes pursued Film Sciences at Paderborn University in Germany. Upon returning to Turkey, he obtained his master's degree from Kadir Has University. In 2014, he gained recognition for his film "En Uzun Yol" (The Longest Road), earning the Best Short Film award at the International Bosphorus Film Festival. In 2019, he ventured into feature-length productions as a screenwriter and director with the film "Afacanlar: İş Başa Düştü" and followed it up in 2020 with "The Last Party".



### **PANEL: FILMMAKING**

In this special discussion, our Jury Members share valuable insights into the foundational principles of telling stories that matter, and navigating the film industry. From finding your inspiration, to getting your film produced, this talk will explore the details of how you can use fictional stories to share human truths.

#### **Speakers**

**Derviş Zaim** President of the Jury, Director, Writer and Producer

> **Ismaël Ferroukhi** Director and Writer

> > **Suat Köçer** Film Critic

**Vuslat Saraçoğlu** Director and Actress

**Reshad Strik** Actor and Presenter

#### **MASTERCLASS: ACTING**

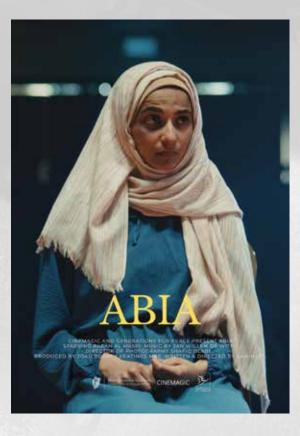
A deep dive into the fundamentals of acting, this Masterclass will take you through the different elements of crafting your performance and portraying your character on film. Through an exploration of the various elements of acting, including choosing your roles, shaping your character, and film acting techniques, you will be provided with the tools to bring out your own unique performance.



## Pelin Karahan

#### Actress

Pelin Karahan, born in Ankara on October 6, 1984, pursued her education in the Tourism and Hotel Management Department at Anadolu University after completing her primary and secondary schooling. She began her acting career in 2006, playing Aslı Zeybek in the TV series "Kavak Yelleri." She also appeared in various commercials. Karahan gained great popularity when she took on the role of Mihrimah Sultan in the TV series "Muhtesem Yüzyıl" in 2012. In 2015, she portrayed Aylin Harmanlı in the series "Yeter," and in 2018, she played Tülin in "Yuvamdaki Düşman." In 2021, she assumed the role of İnci Dereli in "Bir Zamanlar Kıbrıs." She also hosted cooking shows on Show TV and Star TV. In the film world, she appeared in "Dalgalar Ve İzler" (2021) and "Güven Bana" (2023). In 2023, she surprised audiences by participating in the theater play "Şaşırt Beni," written and directed by Selçuk Aydemir. Most recently, she played the character Tuğba in the TV series "Şebeke" on TRT's digital platform channel, tabii.



Screening Time: 14.10

ABIA

Abia is a Syrian refugee living in Jordan with her husband. Suffering under the oppression of an arranged and abusive marriage, she searches for salvation from her desperate situation.

Director: Sam Nutt Producer: Joan Burney Keating MBE Screenplay: Sam Nutt Cast: Raean Al Masri

Sam Nutt is an award-winning producer-director hailing from Northern Ireland, now based in London. His extensive portfolio spans a diverse spectrum of creative endeavours, encompassing music, commercials, branded content, broadcast, and film, on both national and global stages. Throughout his career, Sam has had the privilege of collaborating with a stellar array of talent, including notable figures such as Ariana Grande, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles, Jude Law, Lewis Capaldi, and The Prince and Princess of Wales. His creative prowess has also been sought after by prominent brands and enterprises, including Coca-Cola, Universal Music Group, PepsiCo, Sony Music, BBC, and more. With an impressive track record of delivering exceptional content and collaborating with top-tier talent and brands, Sam Nutt is dedicated to continue pushing the boundaries of creativity in media and entertainment.





Screening Time: 14.50

#### **BRANKA**

Yugoslavia, 1991. Far away from the war zones, Branka gets a job in the maternity ward of a state hospital. The young woman is all alone, but it turns out loneliness is not the hardest burden Branka has to carry when she realizes newborns are disappearing from the hospital.

Director: Ákos K. Kovács Producer: Gabor Osvath, Zsuzsi Gyurin Screenplay: Ákos K. Kovács, Tamas Olah Cast: Dina Musanovic, Nenad Pecinar, Dorottya Antoci, Natalia Vicei

Film director and cinematographer Ákos K. Kovács was born in 1991 in Yugoslavia. He studied Cinematography at the Metropolitan University in Budapest. He made his debut at the Berlinale Generation in 2014 with his graduation film "Away" (Directed by Roland Ferge), which earned an honorable mention of the International Jury of Generation Kplus. Following this success, he started to work as a screenwriter and film director. "Branka" is his first short film.





Screening Time:

16.00

#### **CODE OF SILENCE**

While pursuing a suspect, police officer Thomas loses his service weapon in a scuffle with the fleeing suspect. His partner, and long-standing friend Grebe, sees no other option than to shoot the suspect and kill him. Thomas is not entirely convinced that Grebe's actions were right, and now has to decide whether his moral obligation is to truth, or to loyalty.

Director: Leonard Mink Producer: Leonard Mink Screenplay: Clara Scheiner Cast: Thomas Bartling, Nils Kreutinger

Leonard Mink was born in Bad Soden in 1994. After graduating in 2013, he began studying Economics (B.Sc.) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in 2014. Following the completion of this degree, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Motion Pictures from 2017 to 2021 at Hochschule Darmstadt. Concurrently with his studies, in 2015, he founded the production company Seehund Media, where he works as a director and editor. He has garnered recognition for his work, including winning awards like the "New Talents" prize at the Eyes and Ears of Europe 2022.





DISPLACED

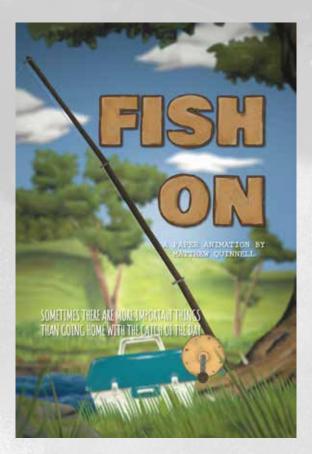
A group of ping-pong players in Kosovo are training to reach their goal of participating in the Olympics, but are struggling to find a location where they can practice regularly. As they move their equipment to various locations around town, their journey reflects the real-life struggles many of them have faced as a result of war.

Director: Samir Karahoda Producer: Eroll Bilibani Screenplay: Samir Karahoda Cast: Jeton Mazreku, Ermegan Kazazi, Rifat Rifati

Screening Time: 16.00

Samir Karahoda began working as a photographer in 1992. In 2003 he completed his photography studies at the Academy of Fine Arts at Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul. In addition to his work as a photographer, he is also a cinematographer, tutor and curator of the short film program at the Documentary and Short Film Festival DokuFest. His documentary short film "In Between" was his directorial debut, which in 2019 had its world premiere at the Berlinale. Displaced (Pa vend) was his second short film which in 2021 premiered at Official Competition at Festival de Cannes where was awarded with EFA nomination for European Film Awards 2021. Among others Displaced, won IMDb Pro short cuts award as best short film at Toronto International Film Festival, best nonfiction at Sundance Film Festival. In 2019 Karahoda was awarded with Annual Cinematography Award from Ministry of Culture of Kosovo. He is also a member of European Film Academy.





#### **FISH ON**

A Grandfather takes his Grandson on a fishing trip in the countryside, and learns there are more important things than going home with the catch of the day.

Director: Matthew Quinnell Producer: Matthew Quinnell Screenplay: Matthew Quinnell, Falstaff Dowling-Mitchell Cast: Falstaff Dowling-Mitchell, Courteney Mayall

Screening Time: 16.55

Growing up in Hamilton, New Zealand, Matthew has long-held a keen interest in film and television. Along with friends from school he has helped make numerous short films that have gone on to feature in several New Zealand and international film competitions and Festivals. Recently he has moved into stop motion and 2D cardboard/paper animation. He hopes to continue to develop in the field of animation and create new and exciting worlds and stories.





Screening Time: 17.30

#### **FLYING IN DARKNESS**

After her father is killed in an explosion at the local market, his eldest daughter Najeeba, still a young girl herself, must take over the responsibility of managing his vegetable stand. Forced to confront the harsh realities of living in a male dominated society, she has to grapple with some tough decisions.

Director: Safar Ali Danish Producer: Safar Ali Danish, Aun Ul Haider Screenplay: Safar Ali Danish Cast: Howra Batool, Nargis Batool, Abdullah Jan Ghaznavi, Najeeb Hazara, Mirza Husssain Hazara

Safar Ali Danish is an award-winning filmmaker based in Quetta, Pakistan. He graduated from Iqra University with a degree in "Film & TV". As the founder of the first production house in Quetta, Filmsaaz Production is a pioneer in the film industry in the region. He has received 13 international awards & 20 official selections for his short film "Parwaz Dar Shab" and has been recognized for his documentary films as well. His work aims to convey the unique experiences and perspectives of the people in his community to the world. He is passionate about using film as a medium to raise awareness and promote social change.





Screening Time: 17.30

#### LEFT-HANDED

Maryam is a 38-year-old woman living in poverty who heads a family of four. She decides to cut off her right hand while working in a poultry slaughterhouse to get insurance money and pay off her debts. She starts to practice with her left hand to do daily chores. However, on the day she intends to amputate her right hand, the machine suddenly jams, and Maryam's left hand is accidentally amputated instead.

Director: Nasrin Mohammadpour Producer: Fariba Arab Screenplay: Nasrin Mohammadpour Cast: Yasaman Nasiri, Roham Asadi, Soheil Rezaei, Leila Dalir

Nasrin Mohammadpour graduated with degrees in Cinema and Sociology, and also has an MA in Feminist Studies. She is a Writer, Director and Social Worker, who uses cinema to address social issues in the realm of women, family and children. As a social worker, she helps to empower women acting as Head of Households, and works on the issue of child labor as well.







Screening Time: 16.00

#### NAMELESS

An ordinary school day told through the eyes of a seven-year-old boy, made up of games, classes, and meals with friends. However, when the day ends the veneer of normality vanishes, and the tragic reality of this young boy is realized.

Director: Gisella Gobbi Producer: Francesco Lopez Screenplay: Gisella Gobbi Cast: Salami Luca Bolaji

Gisella Gobbi made her theatrical debut at the Taormina Arte Festival directing the play "Knepp" by J. Goldemberg, followed by the play "Camille" by Dacia Maraini at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto. She directed "Il Legame" by A. Sthers for the opening of the Todi Festival. Gisella has also directed many opera performances, such as Donizetti's opera "Maria Stuarda" for the Romolo Valli Theatre in Reggio Emilia. In television, Gisella has worked as a second unit director for many TV series, collaborating with the main Italian productions; among them "L'Isola" and "Braccialetti Rossi". She directed two episodes of the docu-series for Rai Storia "Nel Segno Delle Donne" produced by Anele. In 2021 she wrote and directed the short film "Senza Nome" (Nameless) for the company OZFILM.





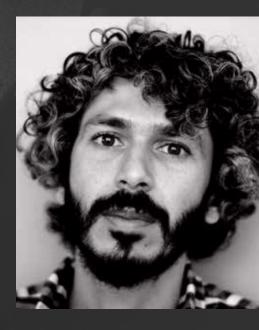
Screening Time: 14.50

#### NIGHT

Night brings peace and sleep to all the people in a broken town, ravaged by destruction and war. However, the mother of a missing child refuses sleep, remaining vigilant through the night for her lost child. Night has to trick her into sleeping to save her soul.

Director: Ahmad Saleh Producer: Fabian Driehorst, Jessica Neubauer, Saleh Saleh Screenplay: Ahmad Saleh Cast: Hiam Abbass, Salma Saleh, Rafia H. Oraidi

Ahmad Saleh is a Palestinian/German writer and director. His first film, "House" (2012) won a second place in the German Short Film Award and his second film, "Ayny" (2016) won an Academy Award. Recently he finished his third short film, "Night" and is developing his first feature.





Screening Time: 16.55

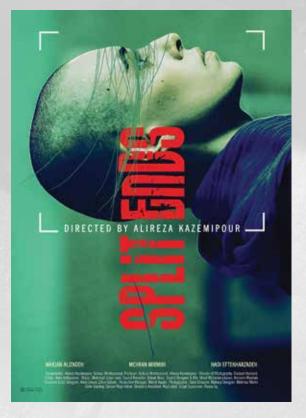
#### QUANDARY

In a land where vitality is gradually decreasing due to environmental pollution, a fisherman who cannot find food establishes a bond with the fish he caught in a lake after much effort. He is torn between hunger, and his conscience.

Director: Ebubekir Sefa Akbulut Producer: Ebubekir Sefa Akbulut Screenplay: Ebubekir Sefa Akbulut Cast: İbrahim Erdoğan

Ebubekir Sefa Akbulut was born on January 11, 2000 in Erzurum. He graduated from Selcuk University, Faculty of Communication, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema in 2022. He works actively as a Director and Editor in Istanbul. In 2023, he is doing his Master's Degree at Selcuk University, Faculty of Communication, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema.





Screening Time: 14.10

#### SPLIT ENDS

A bald girl and a young boy with long hair are both facing a problem with the Tehran Morality Police. Police surveillance cameras have mistaken the boy for a woman because of his long hair and confiscated his car, and the young girl, despite her shaved head, has to pay a fine for not properly wearing hijab. Feeling humiliated by the police officer, they decide to punish him in their own way.

Director: Alireza Kazemipour Producer: Solmaz Mortezavand Screenplay: Alireza Kazemipour, Solmaz Mortezavand Cast: Marjan Alizadeh, Mehran Mirmiri, Hadi Eftekharzadeh

Alireza Kazemipour is a multi-awarded Iranian- Canadian screenwriter, director, and producer. He gained his master's degree in Film directing from the faculty of art at the University of Tehran in 2010 and directed his first short film "Slowness". He made his second film "The Blue Bed" in 2020 and it has been selected and screened for more than 160 Film festivals around the world and has received 53 awards and nominations. Recently, he has directed a documentary feature film "Margin vs. Center" (2021), and two short movies "Split Ends" (2021), and "The Gold Teeth" (2022) that are screened in international film festivals nowadays. Social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues are his concerns.





Screening Time: 16.55

#### THE SPRAYER

In a land occupied by a tyrannical army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private. Many of the people and soldiers do not even know what a plant looks like, until one day, a soldier finds a seed buried deep down in the dust. His curiosity is the beginning of something extraordinary.

Director: Farnoosh Abedi Producer: M.Reza Karimi Saremi, Negah Khezre Fardiar, Mohammad Ghaffari Screenplay: Farnoosh Abedi, Pegah Fardiar Cast: Samin Ghorbani

Farnoosh Abedi was born in Isfahan, Iran in 1985. He graduated in Theater from the Art & Architecture University. He has been making animations since 2000. He directed more than 20 short animated films, 2 TV series, 2 documentary films and several TV commercials.



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