

# The Storks

a film by Behzad Azadi



## Behzad Azadi

**E-mail:** azadibehzad24@gmail.com  
**Tel:** +33 6 05 82 17 37 (France)  
+98 9 12 65 45 305 (Iran)

**Production (Iran):** Pixelate Pictures Inc.  
**Producer:** Mohsen M. Shasha  
**Tel:** +98 912 2137800  
**Email:** mm.shasha@pixelatepictures.com  
**Production (France):** La Onda production  
**Producer:** Baptiste Bertin  
**Tel:** +33 6 14 24 08 85  
**Email:** baptiste@laondaprod.com  
**Production (Germany):** Road River Films  
**Producer:** Afsun Moshiry  
**Tel:** +49 1604 472 496  
**Email:** afsun@roadriverfilms.com

## Technical Information

**Title:** The Storks  
**Director:** Behzad Azadi  
**Screenplay:** Behzad Azadi  
**Nationality:** Iranian (Kurdish)  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Shooting location:** Shahindezh, Iran  
**Format:** 4K DCP  
**Duration:** 90 min

## Director's Information

Behzad Azadi enrolled in Undergraduate Creative Writing at Tehran Art University. He made his first short fiction, **Edriss** which won the Young Talent Award in Tehran's International Short Film Festival. His second short narrative **Temporary** won the best Jury Prize from Busan International Film Festival and numerous other festivals in Freiburg, Sydney, Izmir, Rio de Janeiro, Tripoli Film Festival, and Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival.

Behzad's graduation film **Slaughterhouse: Koshtargah** was selected for Cannes Cinéfondation in 2015. His films have attended numerous film festivals around the world and won a handful of awards in national and international festivals.

Attending his graduate course in 2016 at the Academy of Cinema and Television, he made his fourth short, **The Blue Class** and later in 2018, **Black Eared** which attended the New Orleans Film Festival. He is now working on his first feature under the working title **The Storks** which is an extended version of his well-received short film, **Slaughterhouse**.

## Festival de Cannes

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris  
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20  
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24  
E-mail:  
residence@festival-cannes.fr  
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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“Flying Somewhere, Not Here”.



## Statement of Intent

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I grew up in a Kurdish border town where many young Kids live within poor families that are collapsing under increasing political and economic pressures.

In my mind I lived now for some years with the character of Shaho, a Kurdish teenager who tries to find the reason for his father's disappearance. A tragic story within a three act classic structure with many ups and downs. Even in a neorealist aesthetic the film plays in dreamy landscapes and uses storks that live for real around the town as a leitmotif.

The destiny of Shaho is reflecting the story of many families around the world. Still a sparkle of light can be found even in pure darkness. I believe this film is such a light for Kurdistan.

## Synopsis

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Shaho, a 14-years old ambitious Kurdish teenager who is living with his mother and his little sister, tries his best to fill in for his father who disappeared two years ago. When he finds a dead man's body in the river near the border, the secret of his father's disappearance starts to be revealed. As Shaho gets closer to the widow of the deceased, he discovers that Ismael, the head of the town's cartel, has his finger in the game and is expecting a child from an affair with his mother.

## Synopsis

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Shaho, un jeune Kurde de 14 ans plein d'ambition vit avec sa mère et sa petite sœur et fait de son mieux pour remplacer son père disparu depuis deux ans. Lorsqu'il trouve le corps d'un homme mort dans une rivière près de la frontière, le secret de la disparition de son père commence à être révélé. En se rapprochant de la veuve du défunt, Shaho découvre qu'Ismael, le chef du cartel de la ville, est impliqué dans l'affaire et attend un enfant d'une liaison avec sa mère.

## Note d'intention

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J'ai grandi dans une ville frontalière kurde où de nombreux jeunes enfants vivent au sein de familles pauvres qui s'effondrent sous les pressions politiques et économiques croissantes.

Dans mon esprit, j'ai vécu pendant quelques années avec le personnage de Shaho, un adolescent kurde qui tente de trouver la raison de la disparition de son père. Une histoire tragique dans une structure classique en trois actes, avec de nombreux hauts et bas. Même dans une esthétique néoréaliste, le film joue dans des paysages de rêve et utilise comme leitmotiv les cigognes qui vivent réellement autour de la ville.

Le destin de Shaho reflète l'histoire de nombreuses familles dans le monde. On peut toujours trouver une étincelle de lumière même dans l'obscurité pure. Je crois que ce film est une lumière pour le Kurdistan.