

# Raha

A film by Alireza Ghasemi



cinéfondation  
LA RÉSIDENCE

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### Technical Information

**Working Title:** Raha  
**Director:** Alireza Ghasemi  
**Screenplay:** Alireza Ghasemi  
**Nationality:** Iranian  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Format:** Digital  
**Length:** 90 min  
**Shooting location:** Iran  
**Shooting language:** Persian

### Director's Information

Alireza Ghasemi was born in 1990 in Tehran. He received his MFA in filmmaking from Tehran University of Art and spent an exchange year at Baden-Württemberg Filmakademie in Germany. In 2015 he founded the Globe International Silent Film Festival which is exclusively reserved for non-verbal short films. Alireza has written and directed four short films that have all been shown at many international film festivals and that have won numerous awards. His last short film, **Lunch Time**, was in competition at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival.

### Alireza Ghasemi

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### Festival de Cannes

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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.



With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.



### Synopsis

Raha, a 20-year-old university student has returned to her home city after a long time to find a way to get her mother out of prison. As an old tradition going on in some of Iran's small cities, every six months a lottery is held in which all the neighbours pay in some money and the winner gets all. Afterwards, the winner has six months to pay the money back to the neighbours.

Raha's mother has won the recent lottery. After investing the money in a financial institution, hoping to make a profit she loses it in the economic crisis.

With the neighbours having a case against her, she is now being sentenced. Only having two

weeks until the court's final decision, Raha has to get the neighbors' consent to drop the case. She finally gets some of the neighbors' consent. But some of the neighbours are expecting things in return, which slowly introduces Raha to the world of crime. Raha gradually understands that drug trafficking in prison is one of the most profitable businesses in Iran. She slowly begins to question whether it would be more beneficial for her family if her mother stayed inside the prison?

### Statement of Intent

People living in small cities in Iran are a symbol of hospitality and kindness but things change due to the extreme sanctions in Iran. There is a huge economic crisis, the middle class is disappearing and money is the first priority everywhere, even for generous rustic people. All of this heavily influences people's behaviour. I want to talk about this dilemma and how it can change every aspect of human connection – even a mother-daughter relationship.

### Note d'intention

Les personnes vivant dans les petites villes iraniennes symbolisent l'hospitalité et la gentillesse, mais les choses changent en raison des sanctions extrêmes en Iran. Il y a une crise économique énorme, la classe moyenne est en train de disparaître et l'argent est la première des priorités partout, même pour les gens généreux des campagnes. Tout cela influence fortement le comportement des gens. Je veux parler de ce dilemme et de la façon dont il peut changer tous les aspects du lien humain – même une relation mère-fille.

### Synopsis

Raha, jeune étudiante âgée de 20 ans, revient après une longue absence dans sa ville natale pour trouver un moyen de sortir sa mère de prison. Selon une tradition ancienne dans certaines petites villes d'Iran, une loterie est organisée tous les six mois. Tous les voisins donnent de l'argent et le gagnant emporte le tout. Le gagnant a ensuite six mois pour rembourser ses voisins.

La mère de Raha a remporté la dernière loterie. Après avoir investi l'argent dans un organisme financier avec l'espoir de réaliser un profit, elle perd tout pendant la crise économique.

Les voisins ayant monté un dossier contre elle,

elle va être maintenant condamnée. Ne disposant que de deux semaines avant la décision finale du tribunal, Raha doit obtenir le consentement des voisins pour abandonner les poursuites. Elle obtient finalement une partie du consentement des voisins, mais certains d'entre eux attendent quelque chose en retour, ce qui introduit lentement Raha dans le monde de la criminalité. Raha comprend peu à peu que le trafic de drogue en prison est l'une des entreprises les plus rentables d'Iran. Elle commence lentement à se demander s'il n'est pas plus avantageux pour sa famille que sa mère reste à l'intérieur de la prison ?