

# Noah Tree

a film by Cenk Erturk



## Cenk Erturk

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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.

## Technical Information

**Working Title:** Noah Tree  
**Director:** Cenk Erturk  
**Screenplay:** Cenk Erturk  
**Nationality:** Turkey  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Format:** HD  
**Length:** 97 min  
**Shooting location:** Eskisehir, Turkey

**Production Company:** Hayali Ihracat Film  
**Email:** [info@hayaliihracat.com](mailto:info@hayaliihracat.com)

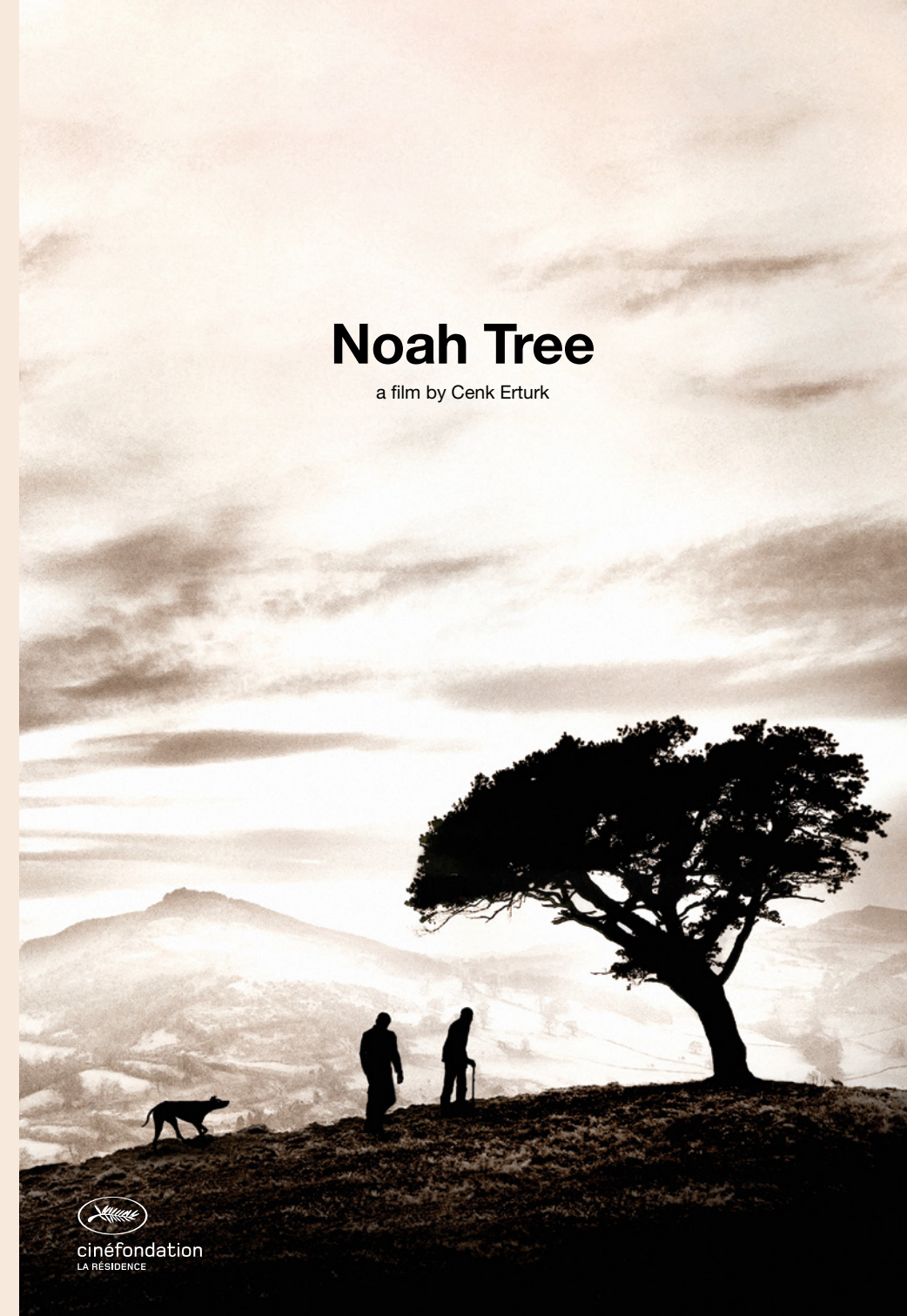
## Director's Filmography

Cenk completed his MFA at NYU Tisch Graduate Film Program in 2016. He attended Sarajevo Film Festival's Talent Campus in 2009 and next year, his short film project, **Posthumous**, was selected to be produced with a special funding from Sarajevo Film Festival.

Cenk's last short film, **A Long Day**, is a character study for his first feature film project, **Noah Tree** and won First Run Film Festival's **Wasserman Award**. Cenk is currently working on Noah Tree as a resident of Cannes Film Festival Cinéfondation's The Residence. Noah Tree won the **Most Promising Project** award at Crossroads Co-Production Forum of Thessaloniki International Film Festival. It has also been shortlisted for **Sundance Screenwriters Lab** and **Film Independent Screenwriting Lab**. Noah Tree is a grantee of **NYU Production Lab** and won **Purple List** award in 2016.

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## Synopsis

Omer goes to his dying father's childhood village to fulfill his last wish: bury him under the Noah Tree his father claims to have planted long ago. But the villagers believe

the tree to be the first tree prophet Noah planted after the Great Flood and they will do anything to stop Omer from 'debasing' their 'sacred' tree.

## Statement of Intent

I've grown up in a big conservative family but luckily, my mom and dad was open-minded enough. Religion and politics was always an important part of my family life. So, I had chance to observe 'religion and its effect on our daily lives' from a very intimate place. During my university years, I spent more time reading religion and I realized that the religion in my country is not what it is in Quran, the holy book of Muslims: 95% of Turkey is Muslim. 95% of Muslims do not practice

the religion. 95% of Muslims who don't practice the religion say that they would fight for the religion but Islam means 'peace' in its original language, Arabic. Besides being a simple and emotionally engaging journey in which we experience the conflicts and differences between a father and son who share a similar fate, I hope that Noah Tree will also be a good and thorough reading on what is happening nowadays in Middle East around the 'religions'.

"Goodness is not possible in this world but at least justice is. That is why I fight for it."

*Omer*

"La bonté n'est pas possible dans ce monde, mais au moins la justice l'est. C'est pourquoi je me bats pour elle."

*Omer*

## Synopsis

Omer se rend dans le village d'enfance de son père mourant pour accomplir son dernier souhait: l'enterrer sous l'arbre de Noé que son père prétend avoir planté il y a longtemps. Mais les villageois croient

que l'arbre est le premier arbre planté par le prophète Noé après le Grand Déluge et ils feront tout pour empêcher Omer de «dégrader» leur arbre «sacré».

## Note d'intention

J'ai grandi dans une grande famille conservatrice, mais heureusement, ma mère et mon père étaient assez ouverts. La religion et la politique ont toujours été une part importante de ma vie familiale. Ainsi, j'ai eu la chance d'observer «la religion et son effet sur nos vies quotidiennes» de très près. Pendant mes années d'université, j'ai passé plus de temps à lire la religion et j'ai réalisé que la religion dans mon pays n'est pas ce qu'elle est dans le Coran, le livre sacré des musulmans: 95% de la Turquie est musulmane. 95% des musulmans ne

pratiquent pas la religion. 95% des musulmans qui ne pratiquent pas la religion disent qu'ils lutteraient pour la religion, mais l'islam signifie «paix» dans sa langue originale, l'arabe. En plus d'être un voyage simple et émotionnellement attachant dans lequel nous observons les conflits et les différences entre un père et son fils qui partagent le même sort, j'espère que Noah Tree sera aussi une lecture réussie et complète sur ce qui se passe aujourd'hui au Moyen-Orient autour des «Religions».

