

مدیته بند
فیلمی از علی رضا خاتمی
a film by **Alireza Khatami**
OBLIVION
VERSES



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Alireza Khatami

2167 Lake Park DR. SE. Apt. K
Smyrna, GA, 30080, USA
E-mail: a.r.khatami@gmail.com
Skype: talktoalireza
Tel: + 1 912 484 3464 (USA)

**Résidence du Festival
Festival de Cannes**

3, rue Amélie, F-75007 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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cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

Technical Information

Title: Oblivion Verses
Director: Alireza Khatami
Screenplay by: Alireza Khatami
Nationality: Iranian
Genre: Drama
Length: 90 min.
Shooting location: Open

Director's Biography and Filmography


Alireza Khatami (1980, Iran) worked in the Iranian film Industry before going into exile in Malaysia where he then worked as a Visual Effects Supervisor. Currently he lives in the USA and studies Master of Fine Arts in Film Production. His debut film, *Oblivion Verses*, was selected for the *Script Station* of 62nd Berlinale and received the Hubert Bals Fund from the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Focal Point (13 min, Malaysia, 2009)

- Grand Festival Award, Vernon Int. Film Festival
- Best Short Film Award, San Gio Video Festival
- Best SEA Short Film Award, Cinemanila Int. Film Festival
- Spectrum Shorts, Int. Film Festival Rotterdam
- Official Selection, Int. Short Film Festival Clermont-Ferrand
- Official Selection, Off-Courts Trouville Film Festival
- Special Mention, Dokufest Int. Documentary & Short Film Festival



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SYNOPSIS

Iran, during 2009 Green Movement.

Morgue-Man, in his early 70s, has an exceptional ability to recall every single detail of his past three decades, except anyone's name. About to be retired, he's in charge of a nearly forgotten remote morgue by the border of a huge cemetery. One day, the militias raid his morgue to hide the corpses of the civilians shot dead during the public demonstrations. When the militias leave, the Morgue-Man finds the body of an unknown young girl. He wishes to give her a proper burial before the militias come back. Above the usual bureaucratic obstacles, he seeks the help of his friend, the Gravedigger, and an Old Woman who has been searching for her daughter, missing since the tragic summer of 1988.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As an Iranian filmmaker in exile, I carry the burden of a tragic past. During the massacre of the summer of 1988 in Iran, five to six thousand political prisoners were executed and buried in unknown mass graves. Out of fear of persecution, society repressed the memory of those days. This collective amnesia paved the way for the tragedy to repeat itself during the uprising of summer of 2009. With my 1st feature film, I want to emphasize the necessity of remembering the forgotten moments as a precondition for resistance to come. *Oblivion Verses* pays a poetical homage to those who fight to offer a justice to the unknown.

SYNOPSIS

Iran, 2009, le Mouvement Vert.

L'employé des pompes funèbres, bientôt 70 ans, se souvient de chaque détail des 30 dernières années, sauf du nom des gens. À l'aube de sa retraite, il est en charge d'une petite morgue, presque oubliée, aux confins d'un immense cimetière. Un jour, des miliciens y débarquent pour cacher les corps de civils tués durant les manifestations. Après leur départ, l'employé découvre le corps d'une jeune femme inconnue. Il veut lui offrir un vrai enterrement avant le retour de la milice. Après s'être affranchi des contraintes bureaucratiques, il va demander l'aide de son ami le Fossoyeur, et d'une vieille femme à la recherche de sa fille disparue depuis le tragique été 1988.

NOTE D'INTENTION

En tant que cinéaste iranien en exil, je subis le poids d'un passé tragique. Durant le massacre de l'été 1988 en Iran, entre 5.000 et 6.000 prisonniers politiques ont été exécutés et enterrés dans des fosses communes. La peur de la répression a occulté cet événement de la mémoire collective. Cette amnésie a permis à la tragédie de se répéter durant le soulèvement de l'été 2009. Avec mon premier long métrage, je veux souligner la nécessité de se souvenir de ces moments comme condition préalable d'une résistance à venir. *Les Versets Oubliés* est un hommage poétique à ceux qui luttent pour rendre justice aux anonymes.