



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION
SPECIAL SCREENING

PLAYGROUND

A FILM BY AMIRHOSSEIN SHOJAEI
PRODUCED BY SAEED ROUSTAEI



THE FILM MAKER WRITER / DIRECTOR

Amirhossein Shojaei is a photographer and filmmaker based in Tehran, Iran. For over 17 years, he has worked as a still photographer in Iranian professional cinema, collaborating with renowned directors such as Asghar Farhadi, Saeed Roustaei, Vahid Jalilvand, Hamid Nematollah, and Hooman Seyedi. The films he has been involved in have been screened at major international film festivals, including Cannes Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival, Berlinale, and others.

His experience behind the scenes—observing rehearsals, directing processes, and film editing—shaped his cinematic understanding and inspired him to pursue directing.

In 2023, his directorial debut **The Guard** was selected for the Official Competition at the 76th Locarno Film Festival (Pardi di Domani) and received the Median Patent Verwaltung Award.

Shojaei's works explore the intersection of truth, image, and everyday life, often reflecting on social realities through subtle and intimate visual storytelling.

Playground is his second short film.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

When someone is abandoned in a relationship, and the person who left returns to restore things, they no longer find the same person. The one left behind has changed. In a broader sense, when a society is left on its own, it also transforms. It can never return to what it was before. After being abandoned, it takes on a new identity, new shape, and new coordinates.

SYNOPSIS

A father abandons his daughter at a playground and walks away. He heads to the bus terminal to leave the city, but just before boarding, he changes his mind and rushes back to the playground to find her. When he arrives, she's no longer there. He searches the entire park until he finally spots a girl standing at the top of a slide. She looks exactly like his daughter—but something is different. She doesn't recognize him. It's as if she is no longer the same child he left behind.



CAST

Javad Ghamati

Javad Ghamati (born 1974 in Marand, Iran) is an Iranian film and theatre actor who began his artistic career in theatre in 1984. Over the years, he has built a solid reputation for his performances on stage and screen. He is best known for his roles in the films *Skin*, *In the Arms of the Tree*, and *Dadresi*, which have been screened at various film festivals in Iran as well as internationally, including in Portugal, London, and Sweden.

Hana Dejagah

Hana Dejagah is an 8-years-old actress based in Iran, She began her journey in acting at a very early age, showing a strong passion and natural talent for performance. She started attending acting classes as a child, quickly developing her skills in front of the camera. Her first acting experience was the short film 'it turns blue' which went on to receive numerous awards at international film festivals. This early success marked an important milestone in her young career. Following this achievement, she continued her path in acting with her second short film, 'Zamin-e Bazi' (Playground), further demonstrating her growing ability and dedication to the craft.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Adib Sobhani

Adib Sobhani (born 1986, Sanandaj) is an Iranian cinematographer known for his refined visual style and work across independent and mainstream cinema. After studying filmmaking in Sanandaj, he began his career in short films and went on to assist leading Iranian cinematographers, working as a camera assistant and lighting supervisor on more than 30 feature films. He made his debut as Director of Photography in 2016 with *Amir*, directed by Nima Eghlima. Since then, he has shot nine feature films, one feature documentary, and over twenty short films. His work has been showcased at major international festivals including Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Locarno, and Karlovy Vary. In 2023, he participated in CAMERIMAGE with *Beyond the Wall* and served as DOP on *Terrestrial Verses*, selected for *Un Certain Regard* at Cannes. In 2025, he returned to the Cannes Official Competition with *Zan va Bacheh* (*Women and Children*), directed by Saeed Roustaei.

PRODUCER

Saeed Roustaei

Saeed Roustaei (born 1989 in Tehran) is an award-winning Iranian director and screenwriter known for his powerful and realistic stories about society and family struggles. He made a major impact with his debut feature, *Life and a Day* (2016), which won nine awards at the Fajr Film Festival. His next film, *Just 6.5* (*Law of Tehran*) (2019), became one of Iran's biggest box-office hits and earned a César Award nomination in France. Roustaei's international success continued with *Leila's Brothers* (2022), which competed in the Main Competition at the Cannes Film Festival and won the FIPRESCI Prize. Most recently, he returned to the Cannes Main Competition with his new film, *Woman and Child* (2025). Despite facing censorship and legal challenges in his home country, Roustaei remains a dedicated storyteller whose films deeply connect with audiences around the world.



KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

Written By

Amirhossein Shojaei - Mona ahmadi

Director of Photography

Adib Sobhani

Edited By

Mohammad Najariyan

Production Designer

Sajad Saeedi

Associate Producer

Soheil Larijani

Sound Designer

Zohreh Ali Akbari

Sound Recorder

Nima Khodadadi

Costume & Stage Designer

Mohammadreza Shojaei

Make Up

Mikad Behdad Far

Sound Recorder

Nima Khodadadi

Visual Effects

Tahmineh Azkari

Head Of The Director Of Group

Farhad Shantiaei

Still Photographer

Amirhossein Shojaei

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

Iran

Date of completion

2026

Format

Digital

Ratio

1.85:1

Duration

15 mins

Genre

Drama

A SHORT FILM BY AMIRHOSSEIN SHOJAEI

زمین بازی

PLAYGROUND

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