

A FILM BY ALI ZARNEGAR

CAUSE OF DEATH UNKNOWN



SIFF / 2023
亚洲新人单元参赛影片
ASIAN NEW TALENT
COMPETITION



Someone died, we are seven and there is also a body here.

**RAFT FILMS
PRESENT**



SIFF / 2023

亚洲新人单元参赛影片

**ASIAN NEW TALENT
COMPETITION**

CAUSE OF DEATH UNKNOWN

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1H44 - IRAN - FORMAT: 1.85- SON: DIGITAL 5.1

Storyline

Seven passengers are on a side road, traveling from Shahdad to Kerman before sunrise. They're not that far when one of the passengers is found dead by the others. The emergency refuses to send them an ambulance since the death hasn't been verified by a doctor. The sun hasn't risen and finding a doctor seems almost impossible. They decide to drive to the police and explain what has happened, like one of the passengers suggested. Before getting there, they search the dead man's body for an ID, an address or a cellphone, instead they find a lot of money, hiding under his vest. Along the way, the passengers are convinced one by one, to split the money between themselves and bury his corpse.



LISTE ARTISTIQUE

Banipal Shoomoon	Ahmad
Alireza Sani Far	Naser
Neda Jebraeili	Bahar
Ali Mohammad Radmanesh	Majid
Zakieh Behbahani	Najveh
Reza Amouzad	Esmaeil
Soheil Bavi	Peyman
Saeed Rezaeikia	Body
Milad Moradi	Alireza
Ahmad Dehghanrahimi	Policeman
Mansour Ghanijahed	Nader
Mohammadreza Hosseinian	Saber
Ashkan Ashoori	Policeman
Mojtaba Mirhosseini	Driver
Sahar Babaei	The Baloch Woman





LISTE TECHNIQUE

Director and Screenwriter

Ali Zarnegar

Producers

Majid Barzegar

Director of Photography

Davood Malek Hosseini

Editor

Hamid Najafirad

Composer

Easa Habibzadeh

Set Decorator & Costume

Mohamadreza Mirzamohamadi

Designer

Makeup

Mohammadreza Ghomi

Sound Designer

Alireza Alavian

Sound

Saeed Bojnoordi

International sales

Raft Films

A photograph of Ali Zarnegar, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket. He is holding a smartphone in his right hand, looking at the screen. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

WRITER & DIRECTOR ALI ZARNEGAR

Iranian poet, writer, and director Ali Zarnegar was born in Tehran in 1983. He earned a Master's in Theatre as well as his degree in film directing from Tehran University of Art.

Zarnegar started his career in both literature and film at the same time, becoming well-known in each. He produced seven outstanding short films between 2002 and 2015, with "Becoming" winning the prestigious Best Film and Best Screenplay prizes at the 27th Tehran International Short Film Festival. His debut movie, "Living with the Presence of a Wall," however, encountered adverse circumstances and had to be stopped after only seventeen days of filming since it was refused a screening license.

For his work "Wednesday, May 9," Zarnegar was nominated for the Best Screenplay prize at the 33rd Fajr International Film Festival in 2014. With awards from the Special Jury Award at the Berkshire International Film Festival, the Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival, and the Special Jury Prize at the Bratislava International Film Festival, this movie went on to enjoy tremendous success.

Zarnegar was nominated for the Best Screenplay prize at the 35th Fajr International Film Festival two years later, in 2016, this time for his movie "No Date, No Signature. The movie earned the Best Writing prize at the 27th Stockholm International Film Festival in addition to the Cinema Cinema Academy award in Iran. More than 40 festivals have accepted "No Date, No Signature," and it has won more than 10 international honors.

Zarnegar's extraordinary creativity was once more acknowledged in 2018, when his film "Bone Marrow" earned him a nomination for Best Writing at the Fajr International Film Festival.

Zarnegar undertook a new endeavor in 2021 when he wrote and directed his first movie. This indie production presents the tale of seven people who were stuck in the middle of a desert and must come to a decision as a group based on their unique personal circumstances.



PRODUCER
MAJID BARZEGAR

Majid Barzegar, born in 1973, is a prominent figure in Iranian independent short and feature films, known for his innovative storytelling and commitment to the craft. His films have won numerous awards and accolades, including the Jury Special Mention Award at the 34th So Paulo International Film Festival in Brazil, the Jury Special Mention Award at the San Sebastian International Film Festival, and the NETPAC Award at the Asiatica Film Mediale in Rome, Italy. His third film, "Parviz," won the Jury's Special Mention Award at the San Sebastian International Film Festival and the NETPAC Award at the Asiatica Film Mediale in Rome, Italy. His most recent film, "The Rain Falls Where It Will," premiered at the 50th Rotterdam International Film Festival in 2020. Barzegar has made numerous contributions to Iranian cinema as a writer, director, and producer, including his inclusion in the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival's official selection for "Leakage." He has also participated in the Cinefondation section of the Cannes Film Festival in 2018. Barzegar's dedication to promoting a thriving short film culture and developing young filmmakers has had a lasting effect on the Iranian film industry. His talent as a filmmaker and skilled photographer is evident in his ability to create arresting images beyond motion pictures, as demonstrated by his "Time-Lapse" exhibition at the KAMA gallery in London. As a visionary director in Iranian cinema, Barzegar continues to explore novel narratives and push the limits of cinematic storytelling, making audiences eagerly anticipate the next installment in his illustrious career.



BANIPAL SHOMON

Born in Tehran in 1978, Banipal Shomon is a major force in the Iranian film and television industry. Shomon attended the Karnameh Cinema and Theater School and eventually earned a degree in acting. His first role was as the voice of Ruzbeh in the animated film *The Last Story*. He then made his screen debut in the TV series "Shahrazad," created by Hassan Fathi. Shomon's talents as an actor have been showcased in a number of stage performances. He also performs with the Iran Philharmonic Choir Orchestra and the Tehran Assyrian Philharmonic. As a result of his hard work and dedication to his craft, Shomon was nominated for the Best Actor Award at the 2018 Fajr Theater Festival. Shomon has left an indelible mark on Iranian film, TV, and theater, and he continues to captivate viewers.

ALIREZA SANI FAR

Alireza Sanifar is a talented actor, voice actor, and screenwriter from Iran. He began working in the film industry at the age of 13 and has since become well-known in Iranian cinema. In addition to his acting skills, Sanifar has written the scripts for numerous projects, including animated television series. He has received praise and awards for his excellent performances, including an honorary diploma for Best Male Actor at a prestigious film festival. Sanifar's work as a voice actor has brought to life a variety of animated characters, showcasing his adaptability and ability to strengthen narrative. Despite the fact that specific current or upcoming projects are not mentioned, Sanifar is still progressing in the entertainment industry as a result of his talent and dedication. He is well-liked by both his contemporaries and viewers because his contributions have left a lasting impression on Iranian cinema and television. Despite having an impressive body of work, Alireza Sanifar still manages to captivate audiences and leave his mark on the industry.





NEDA JEBRAEILI

Iranian actress Neda Jebraeili, born on October 7, 1990, is renowned for her outstanding screen work and has made a name for herself in the Iranian film industry. She has appeared in several notable movies, such as "Bending the Rules" (2013), "Fish & Cat" (2013), "Boarding Pass" (2017), "Drowning in Holy Water" (2020), and "World War III" (2022). Jebraeili has received numerous nominations for the prestigious Crystal Simorgh award in Iran, including Best Actress in a Leading Role and Best Actress in a Supporting Role. She has also received nominations and awards from numerous prestigious festivals and award ceremonies, showcasing her exceptional talent. Jebraeili has established herself in the short film subgenre, receiving an Honorary Diploma for Best Actress in 2018. Her dedication to her craft and ability to give characters depth and authenticity have earned her a reputation as one of the most talented actors of her generation. As she continues her acting career, audiences eagerly anticipate her upcoming roles and enthralling performances. Neda Jebraeili will have a lasting impact on the Iranian film industry due to her dedication to her work and talent for evoking emotions in her characters.

ALI MOHAMMAD RADMANESH

Ali Mohammad Radmanesh, born in 1358 in Jiroft, is an Iranian writer, director, and actor known for his exceptional abilities in theater and film. With a bachelor's degree in theater, Radmanesh has received numerous accolades for his acting, directing, and writing skills. He has also been recognized for his adaptability in radio and television shows, such as "Zohr-e Adineh" and "Radioha Roshan." Radmanesh's talent for character portrayals in short films like "Gol Nesa" has earned him the prestigious Best Actor Award at the "Kosovo" International Film Festival in 2020. His dedication to his craft and pursuit of artistic excellence have made him a renowned figure in Iranian culture and beyond.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

DAVOOD MALEK-HOSSEINI

Davood Malek-Hosseini, a renowned cinematographer known for his exceptional visual storytelling skills, has made a significant impact on the film industry. Born with a passion for the arts, Malek-Hosseini has demonstrated his extraordinary talent and artistic vision throughout his career, making a lasting impression on movies such as "Cause of Death: Unknown" (2023), "The Fear of Losing You" (2023), and "In Between" (2018). His use of lighting, framing, and composition has given these movies depth and beauty. For his outstanding work on "Cause of Death: Unknown," Malek-Hosseini received the prestigious Best Cinematography award at the Shanghai Film Festival, showcasing his commitment and talent. His attention to detail, original compositions, and ability to evoke emotion through visual storytelling make him a sought-after collaborator in the field. Audiences eagerly anticipate the next collaboration from Davood Malek-Hosseini, as his dedication to pushing boundaries and his devotion to his craft ensure that his future endeavors will continue to captivate audiences and make a lasting impression. His mastery of visual storytelling allows him to add his own distinctive style to movies and take storytelling to new heights. Audiences eagerly anticipate the next masterpiece illuminated by his extraordinary talent as he continues to push the boundaries of his craft.





SOUND DESIGNER

ALIREZA ALAVIAN

Iranian sound designer, sound mixer, and producer Alireza Alavian is well-known for his outstanding contributions to the film industry. Alireza, who was born in Tehran on December 12, 1979, began working in the film industry as a sound assistant in 2001, laying the groundwork for his illustrious career.

In 2003, he started working on one of his notable long-term partnerships when he was hired as the sound mixer for the program "Salade Fasl," which was produced by renowned director Fereydoun Jeyrani. Alireza had the chance to demonstrate his extraordinary abilities and meticulous attention to detail in producing captivating soundscapes. He has collaborated with a number of well-known Iranian directors over the years, further solidifying his standing as a pro.

Numerous awards have recognized and celebrated Alireza Alavian's talents. In particular, his outstanding sound design and sound editing work on the 2012 short film "An Sooy e Bonbast" earned him the prestigious first International Sound Prize in Iranian cinema. This honor, which recognizes his exceptional skills and devotion to his art, was given to him at the California Film Festival's Best Shorts Competition.

Alireza Alavian pushes the limits of sound design and mixing in Iranian cinema with his inventive approach and meticulous attention to sonic details. Every project he works on demonstrates his dedication to his craft, which enhances the overall cinematic experience and transports viewers to captivating aural settings.

As his career progresses, Alireza remains a well-known figure in the Iranian film community, respected for his exceptional talent and esteemed for his contributions. Alireza Alavian continues to cement his reputation as a visionary sound designer, sound mixer, and producer with each project he undertakes, making an enduring impression on the film industry.



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