



# Echoes of Pomegranate

پژواک انار

A SHORT FILM BY  
ALEX BIJAN ZANDI

STARRING  
AWNI ABDI-BAHRI  
RAMIN DOOSTDAR

PLENIPOTENTIA PICTURES  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE  
RATHAUS FILMS

WITH SUPPORT FROM  
THE JEROME FOUNDATION  
PANAVISION

LOGLINE

**An Iranian-American family's country road trip transforms into a pulsating journey of revolutionary and archival wonder.**



## SYNOPSIS

Furious about the tragic death of an Iranian woman who did not "properly" wear her hijab, Shirin takes to social media to show her support. Afterwards on a country road trip with her father, Shirin must confront her father's fears as he remembers the bloodshed of the 1979 Iranian Revolution.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After the tragic death of Mahsa Amini for not "correctly" wearing her enforced hijab, protestors stormed the streets of Iran demanding basic human rights. This revolutionary hope spread through the Iranian diaspora. My sister and I felt this energy, sharing news on social media and attending protests in New York. Upon seeing our protest videos, our father, who lived through the harrowing 1979 Iranian Revolution and fled due to political persecution, was furious. He believed that our protests would do nothing but endanger our family still living in Iran.

I believe that a space exists between my sister's and my youthful optimism and our father's stark realism. As we savor sweet pomegranates, this space flickers. Grainy photos of our grandmother in the 60s Iranian countryside illuminate as Dad wipes a tear and smiles at us. Unpacking this archive, ECHOES OF POMEGRANATE destabilizes genre conventions to evoke the intergenerational trauma of the Iranian community while also redeeming homeland in the fantastical film grain.

This film is for Mahsa Amini and all the brave ones. Women, Life, Freedom.

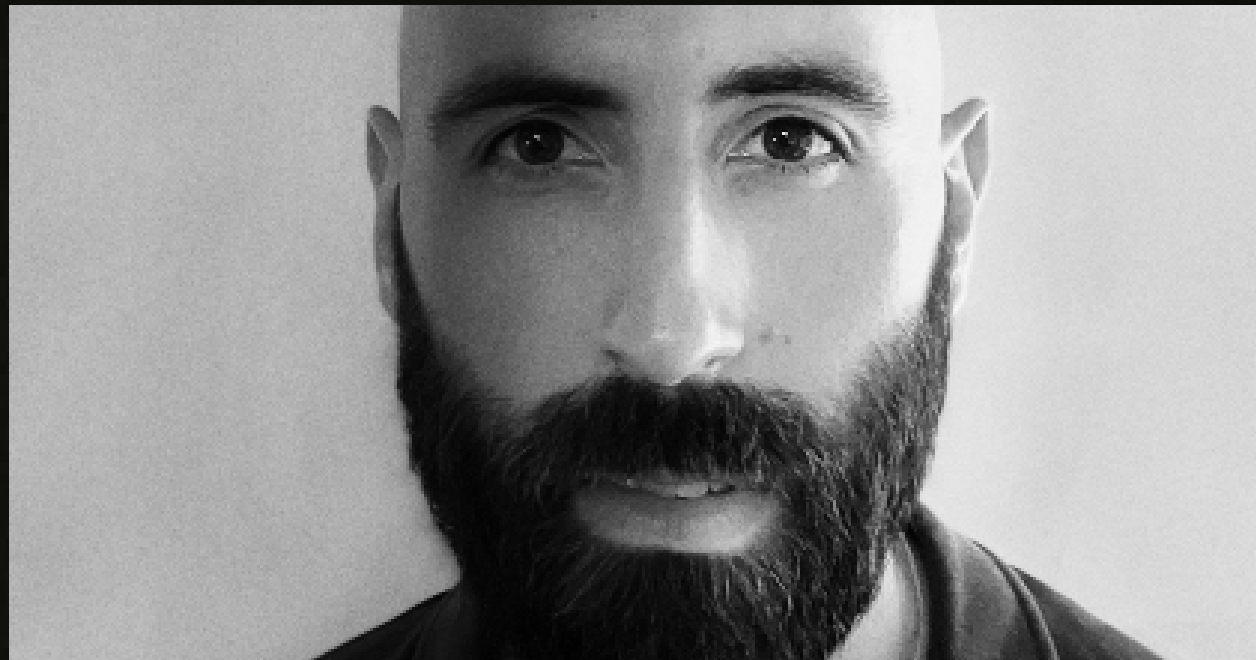
## STARRING

## AWNI ABDI-BAHRI

Awni Abdi-Bahri is an Iranian-American actor and writer. Recent television and film credits include: GIRLS ON THE BUS (Max), EVIL (CBS/Paramount+), AHAMED'S RAMADAN DIARY (Comedy Central), ERADI-CATION (Tubi). Theater: Broadway: POTUS (Shubert Theatre); Off-Broadway: WISH YOU WERE HERE (Yale Rep), PERSIAN POD (Ars Nova), BISMILLAH (Wild Project), THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE (The Lark).

## RAMIN DOOSTDAR

Ramin Doostdar is an Iranian-Austrian actor. Recent television and film credits include: GIRLS ON THE BUS (Max), GREEN CARD (Short), THE SOULMATE (Short). Theater: ON YOUR FEET (German Premiere), MAMMA MIA! (Stage Entertainment Germany), EVITA (Theater Klagenfurt, Austria), PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Ronacher Theater Vienna), MOZART! (Theater an der Wien), WEST SIDE STORY (Volksoper Wien).

**WRITER + DIRECTOR****ALEX BIJAN ZANDI** PLENIPOTENTIA

Alex Bijan Zandi is an Iranian-American filmmaker and artist based in Brooklyn. His work explores the social challenges and enchantments of the Middle Eastern diaspora. Zandi's films have screened at film festivals globally including Amsterdam (Best Experimental Film), Montclair, Maryland, and Brooklyn. He is a 2024 Bendfilm: Basecamp fellow, 2023-2025 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, and was a 2022 Reykjavík Film Festival Talent Lab Fellow.

Zandi received an MFA in Film/Video at Bard College and a BA at the Washington University in St. Louis where he was awarded the Howard Nemerov Prize for Poetry. His work has also been exhibited at Abrons Art Center, Knockdown Center, and art galleries internationally.

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**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER****ALEXANDRA BYER** RATHAUS

Alexandra Byer is a Brooklyn-based producer and co-founder of RATHAUS FILMS. She recently produced Noah Pritzker's MEN OF DIVORCE (San Sebastián 2023) and Kevin Steen's DARON, DARON COLBERT (Locarno 2022). Byer was nominated for the John Cassavetes Award at the 2020 Independent Spirit Awards.

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER****MADELEINE ASKWITH** RATHAUS

Madeleine Askwith is a creative Producer from Aotearoa New Zealand. Maddy produced Cedric Cheung-Lau's THE MOUNTAINS ARE A DREAM THAT CALL TO ME (Sundance 2020) and Tim Sutton's FUNNY FACE (Berlinale 2020). She has also produced documentaries such as EARTH WORKS (ViceLand 2017).

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY****SHANNON PALMER**

Shannon Palmer is an award-winning director of photography from Baltimore. She recently shot Abby Harri's SIDE HUSTLE (Palm Springs ShortFest 2023), ABBY'S PLACE (ESPN+ 2022), ALWAYS JANE (Amazon 2021), and contributed to XY Chelsea (Showtime 2019).

**PRODUCER****TAYLOR ERVIN** THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

Taylor Ervin is a creative producer and filmmaker born and raised in rural Ohio. He produces award winning short form content for television networks and streamers including USA, Peacock, SYFY, Paramount+, and others.



## Key Crew

### PRODUCTION DESIGNER

ADRI SUAREZ

### COSTUME DESIGNER

NIX LOPINTO

### EDITOR

TAYLOR BROPHY

ALEX BIJAN ZANDI

## Specifics

### COUNTRY & DATE OF PRODUCTION

USA, 2024

### GENRES

DRAMA, SUSPENSE

### DURATION

15 MINUTES

### FESTIVALS

MARYLAND

MONTCLAIR

URBANWORLD

## Trailer

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/881711509/2853DAD633](https://vimeo.com/881711509/2853DAD633)

[VIEW LINK](https://vimeo.com/881711509/2853DAD633)

## Sales & Inquiries

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