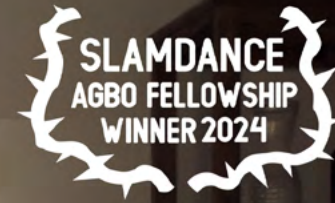


# S+EAK

A FILM BY KIARASH DADGAR



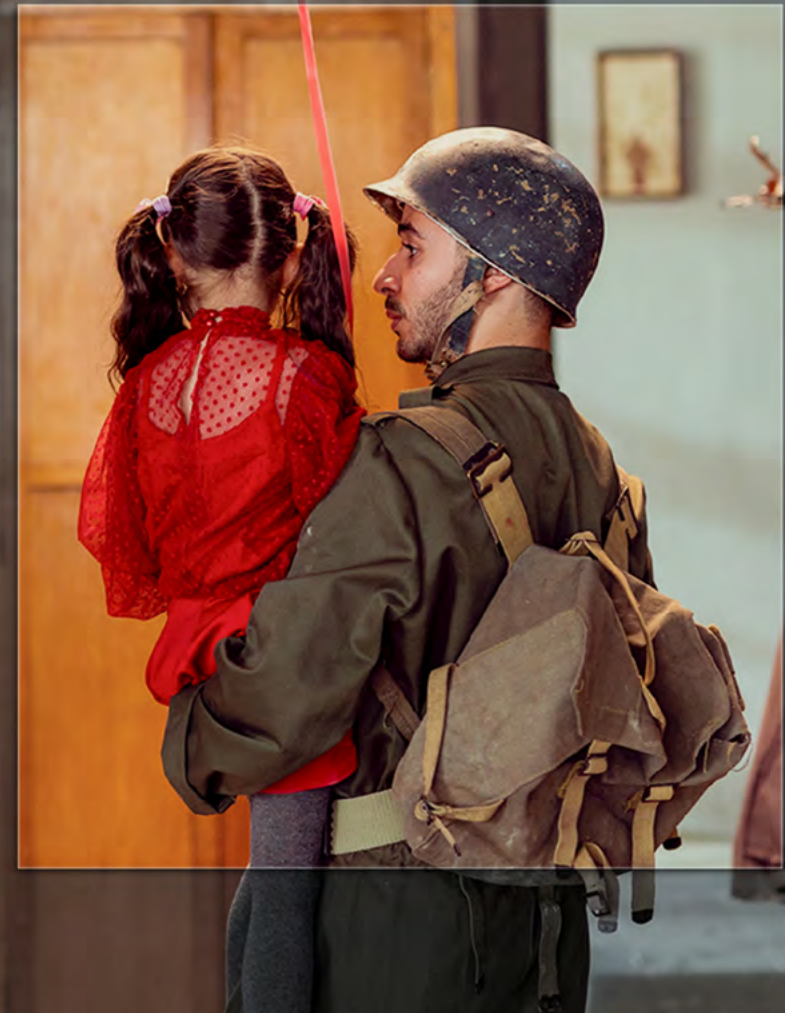


### **Logline:**

A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by an awful event.

### **Synopsis:**

As the mother prepares a cake for her daughter's birthday, the enemy's Army suddenly launches a surprise attack on their town. There is no time to escape, but to protect her daughter, the mother hides the kid in a closet. The Soldiers invade the house and kill the mother with no mercy. The medic soldier discovers he can't help the mother but finds the girl and tries to bring joy by celebrating her birthday. However, the birthday changed to a funeral.



## **Director's bio:**

Kiarash Dadgar is an award-winning film and theatre artist from Iran based in Toronto, Canada. He received his MA in Dramatic Literature from Soore Art University of Tehran. Since 2012, he has contributed to various Iranian short films, series, and theatre productions as an actor, writer, director, and producer.

Kiarash first work as a producer, "Jouissance" (2022), premiered at the 27th Busan International Film Festival. His debut directorial short film, "The Steak" (2023), premiered at the 30th Slamdance Film Festival and has been showcased at prestigious Film Festivals, such as Tirana, Short Shorts, St. Louis, São Paulo, and Norwegian Short Film Festival.

The Steak achieved more than 65 titles globally, including the AGBO Award from the 30th Slamdance, the Best Producer Award from the 18th Canadian Film Fest, the Best Film Award from the 47th Elche IFF, the Sesc-TV Award and Audience Award from the 35th São Paulo ISFF, and the Gold Screen Award from the Cannes Young Director Award.

He co-founded Lucid Horizon Films with Sadeq Es-haqi, a film company based in Tehran and Toronto, focusing on production and distribution.

He is currently studying for an MFA in Film at York University, Toronto, and developing his feature film "Graveyard" with the Russo Brothers at AGBO studio in LA, Hollywood.



## Director's Statement:

Introducing a formalistic approach, *The Steak* delves into the dramatic transformation that can occur within 8 minutes. Through continuous 360-degree tilt, the narrative employs a metaphorical technique juxtaposing the beginning and the ending, creating a disparity of outcomes.

This *Steak* transcends cultural and geographic boundaries by eliminating dialogue and, through its universal language, inviting the audience to interpret the story through visual symbolism, characters' actions and sound design.

Sound plays a crucial role in this narrative approach, as it is more important than dialogue. The sounds of war are universally recognizable and evoke immediate emotional responses, emphasizing how close and fast war happens these days.

As a filmmaker, I am immensely fascinated by stories centred around the concept of war. War issues hold a universal quality, allowing viewers to comprehend the inherent bitterness they entail. Additionally, this film serves as the inaugural installment of a compelling trilogy exploring war narratives through a formalistic lens.





Photo: Mohsen Asdaghpour

## Key Creatives:

### **Sadeq Es-haqi:** (Art Director)



Sadeq Es-haqi, b. 1998, is an emerging filmmaker from Iran. With a Bachelor of Arts in Drama from Soore Art University, Sadeq has gained extensive experience as a writer, director, editor, dramaturge, and translator in cinema and theatre. His first short film, "Collage," was released in 2019, and His second short film, "Jouissance," premiered at the 27th Busan International Film Festival. He's an alumnus of Busan Asian Film Academy 2023. His first feature film project won the Special Mention for the final pitching of the Munich Film Up! 2022-23, and he participated in the Basel Filmmakers House Residency. He co-founded Lucid Horizon Films with Kiarash Dadgar, a film company based in Tehran and Toronto, focusing on production and distribution.

an alumnus of Busan Asian Film Academy 2023. His first feature film project won the Special Mention for the final pitching of the Munich Film Up! program 2022-23, and he participated in the fall program of Basel Filmmakers House Residency. Sadeq has also written several short screenplays that have been shortlisted or won prizes at national festivals. Recently, he co-founded a distribution company based in Tehran and Toronto, which focuses on film distribution. He is currently working on his forth short film, showcasing his continuing passion for cinema and dedication to the art form.

### **Farzad Shahab:** (Director of Photography)

Farzad Shahab, b.1999, is an Iranian filmmaker and cinematographer who began his film journey in high school while studying for a diploma in Film and Theater. He then pursued a bachelor's degree in Film Directing at Pars University of Arts in Tehran. He is also an alumnus of the Iranian Youth Cinema Society's Film Program and the Busan Asian Film Academy(BAFA). He is currently pursuing his master's degree in Film at the University of Paris. He won the Best Cinematography Award at the 21st Wegiel Film Festival for the short film Steak (2023).





**Abdolreza Heidari:** (Sound Designer)

Abdol Reza Heydari, born in 1983, entered the Iranian cinema industry in 2000 as an assistant sound recorder. Over the years, he worked on numerous film and television projects, including "Bitter Dream" by Mohsen Amiryoussefi (Cannes Directors' Fortnight) and "Bitter Tea" by Nasser Taghvai. In 2007, he started working independently as a sound recorder and sound designer. Heydari collaborated with renowned directors such as Jafar Panahi ("3 Faces", "No Bears"), Behtash Sanaeiha ("Risk of Acid Rain"), Ali Asgari ("Until Tomorrow", "Terrestrial Verses"), and Panah Panahi ("Hit the Road"). His work has been showcased at prestigious festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, and Venice.

**Amin Simiar:** (Lead Actor)


Amin Simiar, born in 1996, began his acting career in theatre in 2015. He later pursued a degree in Puppet Theater at the University of Tehran in 2016, where his focus shifted to experimental and alternative theatre and dance performances. Alongside his theatre work, he acted in "Hit the Road (2021), a critically acclaimed film screened at Cannes. In 2023, Amin began his master's degree in Acting at the Tehran University of Art, continuing to develop his craft both on stage and in film.





Photo: Mohsen Asdaghpour





**Technical Specs:**

**Year:** 2023

**Country:** Iran, Canada

**Running time:** 8 minutes

**Shooting Format:** Digital

**Sound:** Stereo, 5.1

**Aspect ratio:** 4:3

**Screening Format:** DCP, ProRes Digital

**Genre:** Drama, War

**Language:** No Dialogue

**Subtitle:** No Subtitle



### **Cast and Crew members:**

**Producer:** Kiarash Dadgar

**Director:** Kiarash Dadgar

**Writers:** Kiarash Dadgar, Ali Narimani

**Cast:** Faranak Khamis, Amin Simiar, Panisa Peyvaght, Mehran Nabi, Ali Narimani

**DOP:** Farzad Shahab

**Sound Recorder:** Amin Jafari

**Sound Designer:** Abdolreza Heydari


**Set & Costume Design:** Faraaz Modiri

**Art Director:** Sadeq Es-haqi

**VFX:** Amin Enteshari

**Colorist:** Mehran Dousti

**Make-up:** Parisa Gardeshi



### **Highlights of Awards :**

AGBO Fellowship Award (\$25,000 + 1-year mentorship by Russo Brothers) – Slamdance Film Festival

SESC-TV Award & Audience Award – São Paulo International Film Festival (2024, Brazil)

Best Short Film Producer - Canadian Film Fest (2024, Canada)

Best International Film – Elche International Independent Film Festival (2024, Spain)

Special Jury Mention – RiverRun International Film Festival (2024, USA)

Best Short Film Award – Santo Domingo Global Film Festival (2024, Dominican Republic)

Best Short Film Award – Kyoto International Film Festival (2024, Japan)

Gold Screen Award – Young Director Award Cannes (2024, France)

Best Student Film – Yorkton Film Festival (2024, Canada)

Best Short Film Award & Grand Prize - Mostra de Curtas Film Festival (2024, Spain)

Best Canadian Short Film – 8th Regina International Film Festival & Award (2024, Canada)

Best Foreign Film – 7th IBICINE Ibiza Film Festival (2024, Spain)

Best Narrative Short –13th Capital City Film Festival (2024, USA)

Best Film Award – 22nd MonFilmFest (2024, Italy)

Grand Prix for the Best Short Film – 6th Les Regards de L'ICART (2024, France)

Zahir Raihan Best Short Film – 15th International Inter-University IFF (2024, Bangladesh)

# Highlight of Presence at Film Festivals



## Bafta Qualifying Film Festivals

19th British Urban Film Festival (2024, Halifax, UK)  
14th Norwich Film Festival (2024, Norwich, UK)  
8th Bolton Film Festival (2024, Manchester, UK)

## Goya Award Qualifying Film Festivals

47th Elche International Independent Film Festival (2024, Elche, Spain)  
24th Mostra de Curtas Vila de Noia (2024, Noia, Spain)  
22nd FICAL Almeria International Film Festival (2024, Almeria, Spain)  
21st Alicante Film Festival (2024, Alicante, Spain)  
7th IBICINE, Ibiza Festival (2024, Ibiza, Spain)

## FIAPF Accredited Film Festival

16th Santo Domingo Global Film Festival (2024, Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic)

## Academy Award Qualifying Film Festivals

30th Slamdance International Film Festival (2024, Utah, USA)  
22nd Tirana International Film Festival (2024, Tirana, Albania)  
47th Norwegian Short Film Festival (2024, Grimstad, Norway)  
25th Short Shorts International Film Festival (2024, Tokyo, Japan)  
33rd St. Louis International Film Festival (2024, Utah, USA)

## Canadian Screen Award Qualifying Film Festivals

72nd Yorkton Film Festival (2024, Yorkton, Canada)  
18th Canadian Film Fest (2024, Toronto, Canada)  
24th Kingston Canadian Film Festival (2024, Kingston, Canada)  
9th Courts d'un Soir (2024, Montreal, Canada)  
8th Chilliwack Independent Film Festival (2024, BC, Canada)

## Other Well-Known Festivals

37th São Paulo International Short Film Festival (2024, São Paulo, Brazil)  
20th FEST New Filmmakers / New Film Festival (2024, Spinho, Portugal)  
47th Asian American International Film Festival (2024, New York, USA)

For a full list of +200 festival selections and +70 awards, please visit [\[kiarashdadgar.com\]](http://kiarashdadgar.com).



## Contact

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[Link for trailers:https://youtu.be/A5OBgWivhF4](https://youtu.be/A5OBgWivhF4)

Production company and distribution:Lucid Horizon Films