

# **NO BEARS (KHERS NIST)**

**A film by JAFAR PANAHI**

## **SYNOPSIS**

NO BEARS portrays two parallel love stories.

In both, the lovers are troubled by hidden, inevitable obstacles, the force of superstition and the mechanics of power.

## **Director's Biography**

Jafar Panahi (Born 11 July 1960) is an Iranian film director, screenwriter, and film editor, commonly identified with the Iranian New Wave film movement.

After several years of making short films and working as an assistant director for fellow Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami, Panahi achieved international recognition with his feature film debut, *The White Balloon* (1995). The film won the *Caméra d'Or* at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival, the first major award won by an Iranian film at Cannes. Panahi was quickly recognized as one of the most influential film-makers in Iran. Although his films were often banned in his own country, he continued to receive international acclaim from film theorists and critics and won numerous awards, including the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival for *The Mirror* (1997), the Golden

Lion at the Venice Film Festival for *The Circle* (2000), and the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival for *Offside* (2006).

His films are known for their humanistic perspective on life in Iran, often focusing on the hardships of children, the impoverished, and women. After several years of conflict with the Iranian government over the content of his films (including several short-term arrests), Panahi was arrested in March 2010 along with his wife, daughter, and 15 friends and later charged with propaganda against the Iranian government.

Despite support from filmmakers, film organizations, and human rights organizations from around the world, in December 2010 Panahi was sentenced to a six-year jail sentence and a 20-year ban on directing any movies, writing screenplays, giving any form of interview with Iranian or foreign media. While awaiting the result of an appeal he made *This Is Not a Film* (2011), a documentary feature in the form of a video diary in spite of the legal ramifications of his arrest. It was smuggled out of Iran in a flash drive hidden inside a cake and shown at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival.

In February 2013 the 63rd Berlin International Film Festival showed *Closed Curtain* (*Pardé*) by Panahi and Kambuzia Partovi in competition; Panahi won the Silver Bear for Best Script. Panahi's new film *Taxi* (2015) premiered in competition at the 65th Berlin International Film Festival in February 2015 and won Golden Bear, the prize awarded for the best film in the festival. His last

film 3 faces (2018) was awarded as the Best screenplay on the International Film Festival in Cannes 2018.

## Director's Filmography

### **The Wounded Heads**

(*Yarali Bashlar*)

1988, 30'

### **Second Look**

(*Negaheh Dovom*)

1989, 29'

### **The Friend**

(*Doust*)

1992, 42'

### **The Last Exam**

(*Akharin emtahan*)

1992, 42'

### **The White Balloon**

(*Badkonake sefid*)

1995, 81'

Cannes Directors' Fortnight WINNER of Camera d'Or

### **The Mirror**

(*Ayneh*)

1997, 90'

Locarno Competition WINNER of Golden Leopard

### **The Circle**

(*The Dayereh*)

2000, 87'

Venice Competition WINNER of Golden Lion

### **Crimson Gold**

(*Tala-ye sorkh*)

2003, 92'

Cannes Un Certain Regard WINNER of Jury Award

### **Offside**

2006, 88'

Berlinale Competition WINNER of Silver Bear Jury Award

**Untying the Knot**

(*Ghereh Ghoshai*)

2007, 8'

**The Accordion**

(*Akordeon*)

2010, 8'

**This is Not a Film**

(*In Film Nist*)

From Jafar Panahi and Mojtaba Mirtahmasb

2011, 75'

Cannes Special Screenings

**Closed Curtain**

From Jafar Panahi and Kambozia Partovi

2013, 102

Berlinale Competition WINNER of Silver Bear Best Script

**Taxi Tehran**

(*Taxi*)

2015, 88'

Berlinale Competition WINNER of Golden Bear

**Where do you Stand Now Mr. Panahi?**

2016, 20'

**3 Faces**

2018, 100'

Cannes Competition WINNER of Best Screenplay

**Hidden (part of : Celles qui chantent)**

2020, 18'

**Life (part of : The Year of the Everlasting Storm)**

2021, 18'

Cannes Special Screenings

**No Bears**

(*Khers Nist*)

2022, 107'

Venice Competition

## Leading Cast

Jafar Panahi..... Jafar Panahi  
Naser Hashemi..... Village Chief  
Vahid Mobaseri..... Ghanbar  
Bakhtiar Panjei ..... Bakhtiar  
Mina Kavani ..... Zara  
Narjes Delaram..... Ghanbar's Mother  
Reza Heydari ..... Reza  
Javad Siyahi ..... Jacob  
Yousef Soleymani ..... Jacob's Uncle  
Amir Davari ..... Solduz  
Darya Alei.....Gozal  
Rahim Abbasi..... Villager  
Sinan Yusufoglu..... Sinan  
Ehsan Ahmad Khanpour ..... Kid  
Iman Bazyar..... Soldier