

NBC FILM, MEMENTO PRODUCTION, KOMPLIZEN FILM
present



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
COMPETITION
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

A B O U T
D R Y G R A S S E S
(K U R U O T L A R Ü S T Ü N E)

A FILM BY
NURİ BİLGE CEYLAN

DURATION : 3H17
TURKEY, FRANCE, GERMANY
4K - SCOPE - 5.1

INTERNATIONAL SALES

PLAYTIME

13, SQUARE MÉRIMÉE - CANNES
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SYNOPSIS

Samet, a young art teacher, is finishing his fourth year of compulsory service in a remote village in Anatolia. After a turn of events he can hardly make sense of, he loses his hopes of escaping the grim life he seems to be stuck in. Will his encounter with Nuray, herself a teacher, help him overcome his angst?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What has driven me to form a narrative through the experiences of an art teacher in the midst of his compulsory service in Turkey's Eastern Anatolian region was mainly the idea that such a subject could present a rich motley of situations and events that could provide room for discussions on basic concepts that, in our country, continuously confront us as the principal dichotomies, like good versus evil, and individualism versus collectivism.

Through this art teacher, who is under the impression that he is nearing the end of his compulsory service in a remote district in Eastern Anatolia and has been consoling himself for years with dreams of being transferred to Istanbul, we have tried not only to take a look at the differences between the roles of the host and the guest, the inner effects of feelings of alienation, of removal from the center and of existence on the fringes, but also to brush upon and interpret the struggles of the region's residents and the dynamics of the geographic, ethnic or social fabric around them.

Although the possibility to love one another is ever-present, prejudices, putting up walls, past political traumas and the urge to make those closest to pay for one's mistakes push wilted souls ever further into isolation. In geographies where there is a despondency in every face, a weariness in every gait, and a bitter note in every voice echoing in the cold, the imprints of 'fate' become prominent.

We wanted to impart the gradual decline of the personal volitions of civil servants and teachers sent at an early age to the East, where they often start their assignments with an idealist vitality, the discrepancies between harangues and reality, how ideals can in time turn into disappointments, the burden of occupying a point in time, as well as the feeling of nothingness impossible to shake, despite the innate dynamism of drifting.

As one senses the anguish seated within a land and the nature, one feels the need to re-evaluate the concepts of right, wrong, failure and innocence from scratch. In the setting of a remote region rendered mute by historical imperatives, we have tried to convey the dry and bland flavor of the affairs developed in the course of compulsory services, the immutable insistence of the fate of the teaching profession on only barely getting by, and the relationship between high and pure ideals and the brutal ruthlessness of harsh reality.

- Nuri Bilge Ceylan

N U R İ B İ L G E C E Y L A N

Nuri Bilge Ceylan was born in Istanbul on January 26, 1959. In 1976, he started studying chemical engineering at the Istanbul Technical University, in a context of strong student, social and political unrest.

In 1978, he continued with a degree in electrical engineering at the University of the Bosphorus. There he developed a strong interest in photography and joined the university's photography club. It is also there that he nourishes his taste for visual arts and classical music, thanks to the vast library resources of the faculty. He began taking film classes and attending film club screenings, which reinforced his love of cinema, born years earlier in the darkened halls of the Istanbul Cinematheque.

After graduating in 1985, he travels to London and Kathmandu, and takes the opportunity to reflect on his future. He returned to Turkey to do his military service for 18 months. It is at this time that he decides to dedicate his life to cinema.

After his service, he studied cinema at Mimar Sinan University, while becoming a professional photographer to earn a living. After 2 years, he abandons his university studies to go into practice. He started acting in a short film directed by his friend Mehmet Eryilmaz, while participating in the technical process of making it.

At the end of 1993, he started shooting his first short film, **KOZA**. The film was screened in Cannes in May 1995 and became the first Turkish short film selected for the Cannes Film Festival.

On his first three feature films, **KASABA** (1997), **CLOUDS OF MAY** (1999) and **UZAK** (2003), Ceylan takes care of several technical jobs himself: image, sound design, editing, writing, directing, producing...

UZAK won the Grand Prix and the Best Actor Award for the two leads at Cannes in 2003, making Ceylan an internationally recognized director. Continuing his festival tour after Cannes, **UZAK** won no less than 47 awards, including 23 international ones, and thus became the most awarded film in the history of Turkish cinema.

His next films all won awards at Cannes. In 2006, **CLIMATES** won the FIPRESCI International Critics' Award, in 2008 **THREE MONKEYS** won the Best Director Award and in 2011 **ONCE UPON A TIME IN ANATOLIA** won the Grand Prix again.

In 2014, his seventh feature film **WINTER SLEEP** won the Palme d'Or and the FIPRESCI International Press Award.

With **THE WILD PEAR TREE**, in 2018, he returned to the Official Selection in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

C A S T

Samet	DENİZ CELİLOĞLU
Nuray	MERVE DİZDAR
Kenan	MUSAB EKİCİ
Sevim	ECE BAĞCI
Tolga	ERDEM ŞENOCAK
Vahit	YÜKSEL AKSU
Feyyaz	MÜNİR CAN CİNDORUK
Principal Bekir Director of Education	ONUR BERK ARSLANOĞLU
Nail	YILDIRIM GÜCÜK
Sergeant	CENGİZ BOZKURT
Assistant Principal Saime	S.EMRAH ÖZDEMİR
Firdevs	ELİF ÜRSE
Kevser	ELİT ANDAÇ ÇAM
Guidance Counselor Atakan	NALAN KURUÇİM
Halime	FERHAT AKGÜN
	EYLEM CANPOLAT

C R E W

Director	NURİ BİLGE CEYLAN
Script writers	AKIN AKSU, EBRU CEYLAN, NURİ BİLGE CEYLAN
Co-producers	ALEXANDRE MALLET-GUY, JANINE JACKOWSKI, JONAS DORNBACH, MAREN ADE, NADİR ÖPERLİ, KRISTINA BÖRJESON, ANTHONY MUIR, SÉBASTIEN BEFFA
National Co-producers	OLIVIER PÈRE, RÉMI BURAH, MEHMET ZAHİD, SOBACI CARLOS, GERSTENHAUER BETTINA RICKLEFS
Directors of photography	CEVAHİR ŞAHİN, KÜRŞAT ÜRESİN
Art Director	MERAL AKTAN
Music	PHILIP TIMOFEYEV, GIUSEPPE VERDI
Editors	OĞUZ ATABAŞ, NURİ BİLGE CEYLAN
Casting	PINAR GÖK
Executive producer	MEDİHA DİDEM TÜREMEN
Sound engineer	FATİH AYDOĞDU
Sound Editor	CLÉMENT LAFORCE
Re-recording mixer	JEAN-PIERRE LAFORCE
1 st Assistant Director	BEGÜM AYDIN
Costumes	GÜLŞAH YÜKSEL
Hair	FATİH YÜCEL, FAZLI BALCI
Makeup	NUR MORKOÇ, NURİYE GÜNDOĞDU
VFX Artist	MELİSA BODUR

Produced by
NBC FILM, MEMENTO PRODUCTION, KOMPLIZEN FILM

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