

Press Kit

## **Avo**

### **Crew.**

**Writer/Director/Producer/Editor:** Golnaz Jamsheed

**Director of Photography:** Yiannis Manolopoulos

**Camera Operator:** Yiannis Manolopoulos

**Camera Assistant:** Saeed Barati

**Music Composed, Produced and Mixed:** Arshia Samsaminia

**Gaffer:** Bahador Mafi

**Assistant Director:** Rahmaneh Rabani

**Make up and Hair:** Navid Mirkiani

### **Cast.**

**The Boy:** Mohammad Nourmohamadi

**The Grandfather:** Hooshang Salek

**The Mother:** Marita Andriassian

**The Father:** Anooshavan Zarian

### **Special Thanks.**

Abbas Kiarostami, Bahman Farmanara, Shahen Bazil, Manfred Esmaeli, Eima Estemrari, Mehdi Aslani, The Saedloo Family, Mohammad Bahrami, Pouria Bahrami, Maryam Farjam, Samira Hodaei, Marziyeh Vafamehr, Fereshteh Mostofi, Laleh Mostofi, Koohyar Kalari, Hooman Behmanesh, Eli Ahmet, Argineh Khanian, Mohammad Hossein Ghavami Shirazi, Mostafa Sadeghi, Massoud Bakhshi, Loris Navasartian, Artin Moradian, Toma Golestanian, Touraj Mansouri, Majid Ghafari, Angineh Galestanian, Seto Gojamaniam, The LFS Staff, Magic of Persia Foundation

**Genre.** Drama/Black Comedy

**Country.** Iran

**London Film School (2015) Copyright**

**Imdb.** [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4772482/?ref\\_=nm\\_flmg\\_dr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4772482/?ref_=nm_flmg_dr_1)

**Facebook.** <https://www.facebook.com/Avoshortfilm/?ref=bookmarks>

**Short Description.** Avo tells the story of an Iranian Armenian boy who experiences the concept of death for the first time through his grandfather's passing. Being ignored by his mourning mother and surrounded by adults who have come to pay their respect at the funeral service, Avo in his fantasy world finds a way to stay connected with his grandfather from beyond the grave.



**Director's Statement.**

All my works are inspired by my observations of the world. Every day I am startled by learning something new about the people and the different societies I live in. I am inspired by the historical paths and cultural elements of the countries I belong to, Iran as an Iranian, the US as a citizen and the UK as a temporary visitor, a clash and meddle of cultures.

Although I take my inspiration from people and their surrounding elements and behaviors, I ultimately wish to distill the essence and emotional content within me, working through a process of projection and reacquisition of the elements, through my art.

Visual perception operates on many levels. While you're looking at something, you're aware of something else, perhaps in a physical sensation that seems to have nothing to do with vision at all, but with belonging. Standing in nature, you can't look at the leaf without being aware of the mountain, even if the mountain is behind you. I feel the

cultural roots of my upbringing have this type of presence in my artwork.

I am interested in creating new meaning and beauty by comparing our past and present, making a journey through the history of our country and exploring how things are evolving around us with technology, while we're using the spiritual essence of our culture.

My art merges imagination and memory, drawing on the people, style and myths of my childhood. The Iranian society has been my primary source of inspiration for years, from filming family gatherings on a camcorder to capturing photos of human lives wherever I travel to.

I have always been interested in the face and the figure, colors and patterns. I love the use of humor that resists taking the work too seriously. As I don't believe one medium alone is sufficient to express myself, I work in a range of media such as drawing, painting, graphic design, photography and film.



### **Director's Biography.**

Born in San Francisco in 1984, Golnaz receives a Bachelor of Arts in Film, Television and Media from The University of California, Los Angeles (2006).

She was given a Scholarship to receive her Master of Arts degree in Filmmaking at The London Film School (2015).

Recently David Lynch picked Golnaz as the winner of the David Lynch Master of Fine Arts in Film 2016 short film competition, where she was granted Joanna Plafsky DLMFA Academic Tuition Scholarship for her film "Avo". Currently at the David Lynch Graduate School of Cinematic Arts, Golnaz is collaborating with other students in creating a unique web-series, teaming up to write and direct individual episodes.



### **List of Festivals.**

Newport Beach Film Festival . Tallgrass International Film Festival . Maryland International Film Festival, Hagerstown . Lakeshorts International Short Film Festival . Female Eye Film Festival . East End Film Festival . Santa Fe Independent Film Festival . Tacoma Film Festival . Iowa Motion Picture Association Awards . Bath Film Festival . The Goddess of the Throne . A Celebration of Iranian Cinema . Reel Health International Film Festival

### **Awards.**

Winner of Golden Strands for Outstanding Narrative Short Film (at 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tallgrass Film Festival)