

MOTAMEDIA Productions

FOR THE BIRDS

Electronic Press Kit

A Tara Atashgah Film
A Motamedia Productions Release

Winner - Directors Guild of America 2013

Competition Selection Montreal World Film Festival 2013

Competition Selection Bend Film Festival 2013

Official Selection Vancouver International Film Festival 2013

14.00 minutes.

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SYNOPSIS

Log Line:

Inspired by a true story, *For The Birds* follows a young Iranian girl as she is taken to the gallows to be hanged. It is in her last moments that she finds hope in the hands of the surrounding townspeople.

Short Synopsis:

A crowd of people in Iran gather to watch the execution of a young girl. She cries and begs everyone for help. Horrified people look away as the girl is about to get hanged, but one particular bystander cannot remain silent.

About The Film:

For The Birds is entirely shot through the point of view of the young woman who's destined to be hanged, and the newspaper boy who stands as a witness in the crowd. The director wanted her audience to experience both sides of the story and victims of an execution, as well as witnesses to one. *For The Birds* takes its audience to a place where no person should be, and yet many people are. It's an eye-opening, exciting and heroic film about ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

***For The Birds* was completed in June 2013 and has been accepted into:**

Montreal World Film Festival – World Competition Category (Aug 2013)

Vancouver International Film Festival (Sep 2013)

Bend Film Festival (Oct 2013)

*Directors Guild of America – **Best Woman Director Award Winner** (Nov 2013)*

Spokane International Film Festival (Jan 2014)

*Black Mariah Film Festival & tour – **Jury Citation Award Winner** (Feb 2014)*

Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival (Feb 2014)

Sedona International Film Festival (Feb 2014)

New Filmmakers Los Angeles (Feb 2014)

Cinequest Film Festival – Competition Category (March 2014)

WOW (World of Women) International Film Festival & tour in Sydney (March 2014)

Award winning Iranian director Bahman Ghobadi (*Turtles Can fly*, *No One Knows About Persian Cats*) says: "For a first time director this is an amazing movie and I predict a successful career for this young filmmaker. *For The Birds* has good direction, production design, and great performances."

For The Birds Trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uhiKtzctWE>

For The Birds website:

<http://atefehproject.wordpress.com>

For The Birds Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/forthebirdsfilm?ref=hl>

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



TARA ATASHGAH

(Writer/Director/Executive Producer/Producer/Editor)

Tara grew up in Tehran, Iran where true life-stories and everyday heroes inspired her to want to make movies. She left Iran in December of 2006 and moved to the States to pursue her goal of becoming a filmmaker. She attended Brooks Institute where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Film and Video Production, and her Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting. *For The Birds* was Tara's Masters thesis film. Tara couldn't make this film in Iran because of its subject, so her and her team shot the film entirely in her school's backlot that had to be transformed into an Iranian village.

The inspiration to make *For The Birds* came from a BBC documentary about the execution of 16-year-old Atefeh Sahaleh in 2004. Tara felt immensely responsible to share Atefeh's story with the world, especially after finding out that her and Atefeh were almost the same age. With this film she wanted to keep Atefeh's memory alive, and bring awareness about juvenile-executions. Tara is going to use this film to fight against child-executions in Iran and around the world.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



NAZLI K. LOU

(Young woman/ Atefeh)

Nazli K Lou was born in Tehran, Iran. At the age of six, Nazli and her family moved to Vienna, Austria. After several academic achievements, Nazli was offered a place at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. where she was 1 of 170 actors to be accepted to the prestigious school despite the fact that 8, 000 applicants from around the world audition annually. For the next 2 years, Nazli starred in many top shows including “Odd Couple”, “Jump the Train at Riverpoint”, “Bedroom farce”, along with a Musical Theatre performance. Fresh out of school, she was immediately offered to host/produce a popular TV show on the Persian TV station GEM TV.

Selected film credits include:

Parts of Disease , director: Solomon Tubbs- Foster

For the Birds, director: Tara Atashgah



CHERVINE NAMANI

(Newspaper boy / Ali)

A native of Paris, France, and of Iranian descent, Chervine grew up speaking English, French & Farsi. He began his career at the Stella Adler Conservatory in Los Angeles where he performed in productions that included *Our Town*, *Three Sisters* and *All My Sons*. Chervine can be seen in James Franco's new movie *Interior. Leather Bar.* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He has also performed in various independent films including *Red Poppies*, which he produced and starred in.

Selected Film Credits:

INTERIOR. LEATHER BAR. (2013) dir. James Franco & Travis Matthews

FOR THE BIRDS (2013) dir. Tara Atashgah

RED POPPIES (2013) dir. Yaitza Rivera

Web <http://chervinenamani.com>



KAMRAN MALAK MOTIEI

(The Judge)

Kamran is a well-known actor from Iran with 30 years of experience in radio, television, theatre and cinema. Kamran has also written and directed his own shows in Iran. He moved to the U.S a few years ago and currently has his own radio station Bisim.

American Film Credits:

Virginity (2013) dir. Saeed Khoze

For The Birds (2013) dir. Tara Atashgah