

# سپید

DIRECTED BY ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR



# STORY

## LOGLINE:

A bald girl and a boy with long hair whose car has been confiscated due to the lack of proper hijab are trying to solve their problem with the Tehran Morality Police without having to pay a fine.

## SYNOPSIS:

A bald girl and a young boy with long hair whose car has been confiscated due to lack of proper hijab are trying to solve their problem with the Tehran Morality Police without having to pay a fine. Police surveillance cameras have mistaken the boy for a woman because of his long hair, and the young girl, despite her shaved head, has to pay the fine simply because she's a woman and that the hijab law only applies to females. The two of them are hence resisting the police. Being humiliated by a police officer, they decide to punish the officer in their own way.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



**Split Ends is about the confrontation of young Iranian boys and girls with the law of mandatory hijab and the Iranian Morality Police that is responsible for enforcing this law. In recent years, the Iranian women's movement has taken steps against the compulsory hijab, paying a high price for their protests under "The Girls of Enghelab Street" movement which has been met with a strong response from the Iran's government. Women who took off their headscarves in the streets to protest the forced hijab were punished with severe prison sentences and floggings.**

**This confrontation has brought about great political costs for the government. Therefore, the regime resorted to various ways to put pressure on women opposed to the hijab, including controlling the hijab through traffic cameras and sending tickets to the car owners' phones, and confiscating their vehicles. This act can easily set common people against each other. Now, taxi drivers and ordinary men think they should give hijab warnings respectively to their female passengers and their female companions. Hence men have involuntarily become a tool to enforce the rule.**

**As the father of a teenage girl, I am often asked by my daughter, "Why do girls have to cover their heads? Who passed the Hijab Law in the first place? Why did you not protest?" In my head, I have always been looking for convincing answers to those questions, and when I heard the story of a friend who, despite being a man, albeit with long hair, had received a ticket for not observing hijab in his car, the idea of making this film sparked in my head.**

**I wrote the script in collaboration with my wife, Solmaz Mortezaevand. We also did the production together. In the directing process, I tried to emulate a completely realistic setting and provide a realistic picture of the situation, and particularly of the Morality Police station. To depict the psychological pressure that the two main characters had to endure, I used telephoto lenses and versatile camera angles to shrink the space between people. There are almost no wide angles in the first two-thirds of the film. I only used the open view after the boy and the girl left the police station and decided to protest in an attempt to show their freedom despite all the control and repression.**

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY:

Alireza Kazemipour (1973, Iran), is a multi-awarded Iranian-Canadian screenwriter, director, and producer. He gained his master's degree in Film directing from the faculty of art at the University of Tehran in 2010 and directed his first short film "Slowness". He made his second film "The Blue Bed" in 2020 and it has been selected and screened for more than 60 Film festivals around the world, and has received 28 awards and nominations, including three the Best Director Award from the Vancouver Short Film Festival. Recently, he has directed a documentary feature film "Margin vs. Center" (2021), and two short movies "Split Ends" (2021), and "The Gold Teeth" (2022) that will be released soon. Social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues are his concerns.



**Alireza Kazemipour**

Director, co-writer, producer

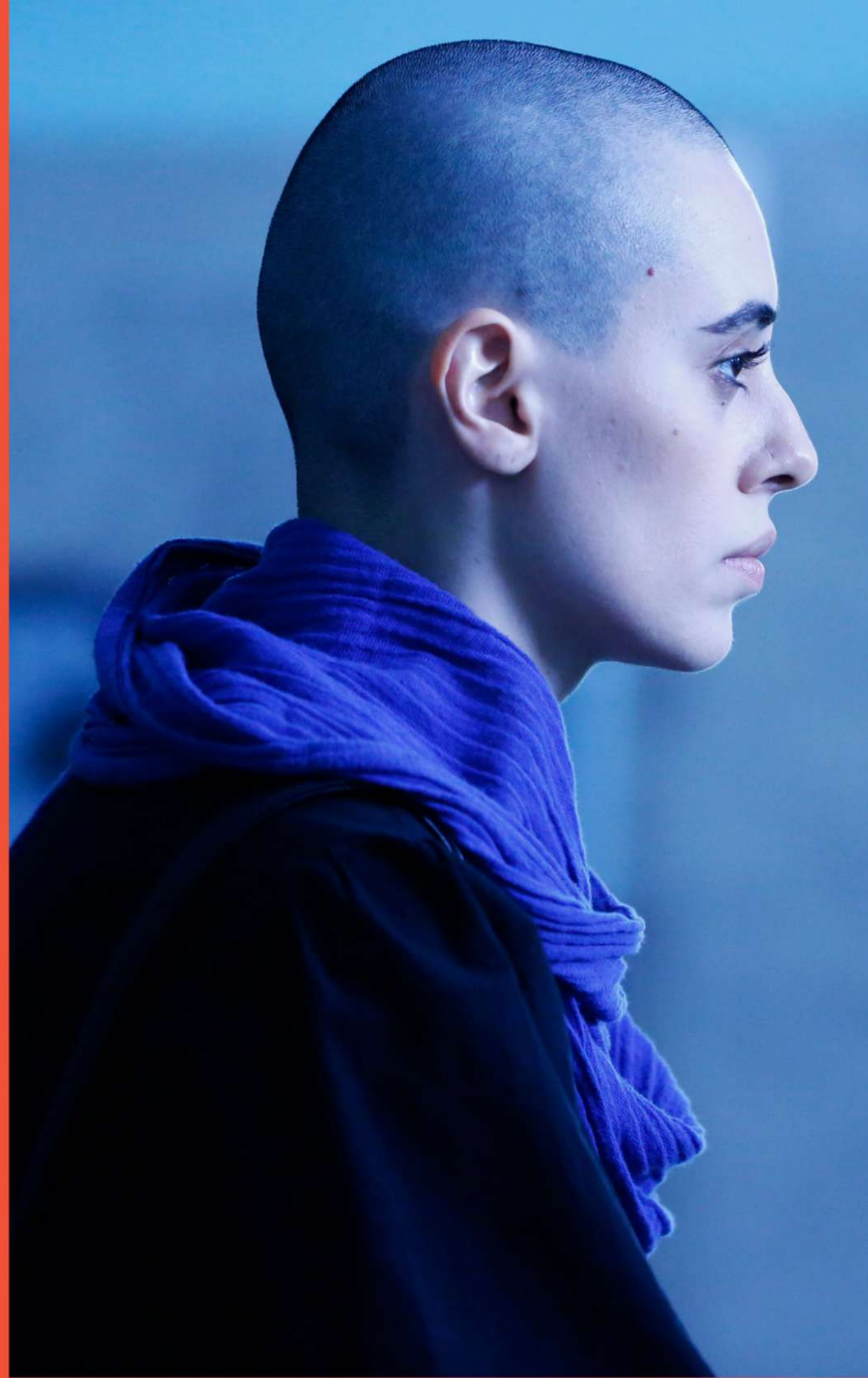
# FILMOGRAPHY

## **Split Ends (2022)**

Director, Co-writer, and producer  
Short film – 14 minutes, Iran  
Narrative Fiction

## **The Gold Teeth (2022)**

Writer, director, and producer  
Short film – 15 minutes, Canada  
Narrative Fiction



## **Margin vs. Center (2020) [Post-production]**

Writer, director, and producer  
Feature film – 40 minutes, Iran  
Documentary

## **The Blue Bed (2019)**

Writer, director, and producer  
Short film – 14 minutes, Iran  
Narrative Fiction

## **Slowness (2010)**

Writer, director, and producer  
Short film – 18 minutes, Iran  
Narrative Fiction



**Solmaz Mortezaavand**

Co-writer, producer

**PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY:**

Solmaz Mortezaavand is an Iranian-Canadian screenwriter and producer. She has been one of the writers of "The Notes of a Housewife" TV series that was broadcasted on IRIB in 2014 and has written and produced a feature documentary "Margin vs. Center" 2021, and a short film "Split Ends". Her interest area is women's rights and issues in the middle-east.

**Producer's Note**

Compulsory hijab, which violates women's right to their own bodies and their free will, has been one of the reasons I immigrated to Canada. Therefore, when Alireza came up with the idea of making a film on this subject, I welcomed it, and together we started researching and composing the script. We traveled to Iran and visited a branch of the Morality Police as clients in order to observe real locations, detention centers, and "hijab training classes" for women who had been obliged to pass these courses.

After finalizing the script, we started production in Iran. Naturally, we were required to get a license to start filming. However, due to the sensitivity of the issue, we had no chance of getting any kind of permit. So we looked for a location and found an old building in the suburbs of Tehran and began recreating the interior of a Morality Police station which ended up being very costly.

Casting also proved to be quite challenging. Finding a professional male actor with long hair and a female actress willing to shave her hair for an unlicensed film was not easy. We managed to film the internal scenes of the Morality Police station in two days and the street scenes in one day. Since our actress wore a wig and could not possibly wear a hijab in the street scenes, we were very anxious that the "guidance patrol" might stop the actors' car and ask for the nonexistent filming permit. Luckily, we were able to finish filming as scheduled. Producing the film was truly a risky and courageous endeavor for the cast and crew, and we are hoping that the result is a real reflection of the conflict between the new generation of Iranian boys and girls with the government.



**Marjan Alizadeh**



**The Girl**



**Mehran Mirmiri**

Marjan Alizadeh was born in 1990 in Tehran, Iran and started her career as a film editor at the age of 17. After accomplishing her success in editing of various movies, series and video clips, she decided to enter the world of acting which she always had her heart to it.

Acting in "Split ends" 2021 has been one of her biggest achievements that makes her feel privileged.

Mehran Mirmiri is an Iranian skilled music composer, actor, and theatre director with over a decade of experience in arranging and composing musical pieces.

He is an official member of the Composers of Iran Theater Forum and currently perusing his graduate studies in Music Therapy in Heidelberg, Germany.

He has International experiences of working in Cinema and TV in Germany, Austria, England, Poland, Serbia, France, Spain and etc. He participated in Berlin International Film Festival 2019 as the only Iranian composer as well as singing as the first Iranian singer in O'Fest 2020 festival in Kyiv, Ukraine.



# SPLIT ENDS

DIRECTED BY  
ALIREZA KAZEMIPOUR

**Director of Photography**

Dariussh Nastooh

**Editor**

Amir Adibparvar

**Music**

Mehrdad Jafari raad

**Sound Recorder**

Babak Niazi

**Sound Designer & Mix**

Omid Mohammadipour, Hossein Mashali

**Costume & Set Designer**

Amin Jahani, Zohre Soltani

**Screenwriters**

Alireza Kazemipour, Solmaz Mortezaavand

**Producers**

Solmaz Mortezaavand, Alireza Kazemipour

**Cast**

Marjan Alizadeh, Mehran Mirmiri, and Hadi Eftekharzadeh

**Production Manager**

Mehdi Rajabi

**Photographer**

Saba Ghasemi

**Makeup Designer**

Mehrnaz Mahvi

**Color Grading**

Saman Majd Vafaei

**Director's Assistant**

Majd Jalali

**Script Supervisor**

Parisa Taj

**Graphic Designer**

Rojan Iraj

**September 2022**