

**ELEPHANT TRAIN** PRESENTS  
A FILM BY **LIAM LOPINTO**  
FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **ARIAN MOAYED**

امس كاس  
سلاخ پير جوان  
**THE OLD YOUNG GROW**

**NAOTO SHIBATA** · **HASSAN SHAHBAZI** · **KEIKO YAMASHITA** · **HITOSHI HINOMIZU**



今昔カラス  
カラス

کراسین جوانان

THE OLD YOUNG CROW



今昔カラス

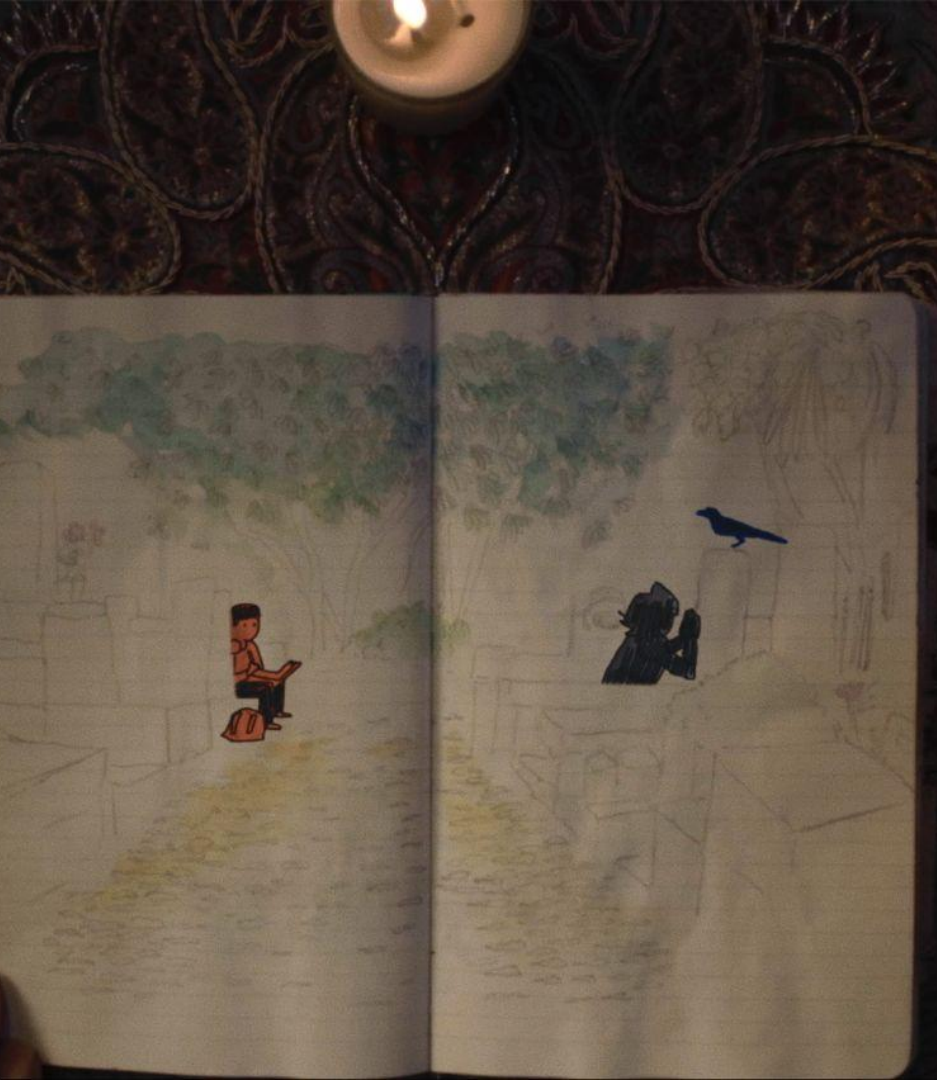
# THE OLD YOUNG CROW

*Running Time:* 12 minutes  
*Directed By:* Liam LoPinto  
*Written By:* Liam LoPinto  
*Produced By:* Liam LoPinto  
*Production Company:* ELEPHANT TRAIN

*Executive Producers:* Arian Moayed, Scott Aharoni, Mamak Shahbazi, Bill LoPinto

*Associate Producers:* Shohreh Golparian, Keisuke Sakuma, Keiko Yamashita, Byron Gould

*Publicist:* Catherine Lynn Scott, London Flair PR



# LOGLINE

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.

# SYNOPSIS

Mehrdad, now an old man, recalls his encounter with an elderly Japanese woman named Chiyo at a graveyard in Tokyo near his elementary school. Through his childhood sketchbook, he reflects on the mystery of her disappearance.

# CAST

*Liz Summers*

*John Sumo*

*Hot Dog Man*

*Voice of the Horse*

**Naoto Shibata**

**Hassan Shahbazi**

**Keiko Yamashita**

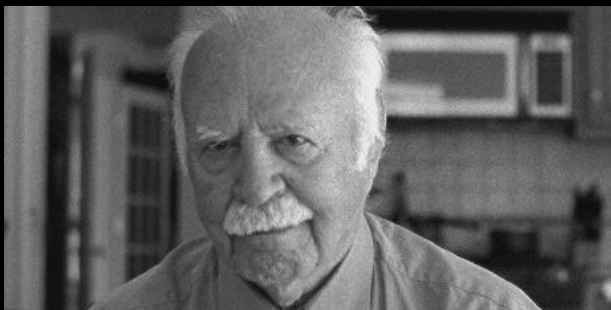
**Hitoshi Hinomizu**





## Naoto Shibata as *Young Mehrdad*

**Naoto Shibata** is a non-professional actor from Tokyo, Japan. The Old Young Crow is his first film. His father is Iranian while his mother is Japanese. His favorite manga is Demon Slayer and he was 8 years old at the time of filming and is now in high school.



## Hassan Shahbazi as *Old Mehrdad*

**Hassan Shahbazi** is a non-professional actor from Mashhad, Iran. He's a physician, surgeon, and nutritionist with a career that spans almost 70 years. The Old Young Crow is the second film he's made with his grandson, Liam LoPinto.



## Keiko Yamashita as *Chiyo Tashiro*

**Keiko Yamashita** was born on July 1st, 1943 in Tokyo, Japan. After graduating Meijiza Academy, she joined R-Jeux Actor's Agency and since then she has been playing in different T.V. dramas, short films, and feature films as a supporting actor, such as "Hotel New Moon" (2019), "Plan 75" (2022), the TV Asahi drama Aibou (2020) and appeared in many CM and remake dramas in Japanese TV.

# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

This film was born out of a major personal health and identity crisis while I was studying in Tokyo. I met Shohreh Golparian, who was Abbas Kiarostami's translator and assistant while he was making *Like Someone in Love*, his last narrative feature, in Japan. She's also the liaison and contact for many great Iranian directors who come to Japan like Mohsen Makhmalbaf and Amir Naderi. She introduced me to the retrospective that galvanized me to make the film. Those films are "The Runner," "Where is The Friend's House?," "Willow and Wind," and "The Mirror." I decided then to make a film about my time living and studying and working in Japan, as well as focusing on the Iranian diaspora in Japan. There was a really amazing experience of reconnecting with my own culture and diaspora through being in Japan. To see all these Japanese filmmakers appreciate the work of Iranian filmmakers made me feel really proud of my own heritage as a first-generation Iranian American with a mom from Mashhad. I originally wanted to study and make a film in Japan purely based off of my love for Japanese cinema. I felt like another Eastern culture was the only way to reunite myself with my own Eastern culture. By the time I started editing, I felt like I couldn't finish it. There was something that just completely disconnected when I went to animate and edit the footage. I didn't feel like I was the filmmaker and animator I needed to be in order to make the film. Nearly 6 years later after graduating CalArts for Character Animation, I went through another personal health crisis and in the act of just working as a means of therapy, I finished the film. In doing so, I confronted a lot of the issues of grief and memory and death and mental health that had existed on the road leading up to its completion. The film is a combination of animation and live action, both my trades, and an intersection of my family and journey involving grief. It's a mission statement of the kind of films I want to make, crossing mediums and cultures and languages in order to reconnect with my own.



# DIRECTOR, Liam LoPinto

Liam LoPinto is a filmmaker and animator from New York City. He graduated from NYU Tisch's UGFTV program in 2017. He also studied at Waseda University in Tokyo and attended CalArts' Character Animation program from 2017-2021. His film French Fly was selected for CAA Moebius' 5th Showcase. His documentary "Karam Camera" was made in partnership with Karam Foundation focusing on empowering young Syrian refugees. He's a first generation Iranian-American and his work focuses on diaspora, refugees, immigrants, and dissidents.

His time in Japan led to his collaboration with Shohreh Golparian, an established liaison of Iranian filmmakers and talents in Japan as well as Abbas Kiarostami's assistant and translator for his last film, "Like Someone in Love." He wrote and directed his short in Japanese after attending Shohreh Golparian's retrospective for Iranian New Wave Cinema. He speaks Japanese and Farsi in addition to English. His film The Old Young Crow won the Best of Festival award at Palm Springs.



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, Arian Moayed

**Arian Moayed** is an Iranian-American actor, screenwriter, and director. Moayed has received two Tony Award nominations for Best Featured Actor in a Play for his performances in *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (2011) and *A Doll's House* (2023). He earned two Primetime Emmy Award nominations for his role as Stewy Hosseini in HBO's *Succession*.



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, Scott Aharoni

**Scott Aharoni** is an American film producer and director. He is a co-Founder of The Curious Gremlin, an American independent entertainment company specializing in film and television development, production and financing. His film "Leylak" had its World Premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in 2021 where it won the Special Jury Prize. He was also an Executive Producer on the Oscar Shortlisted film, "Les Crimenels."

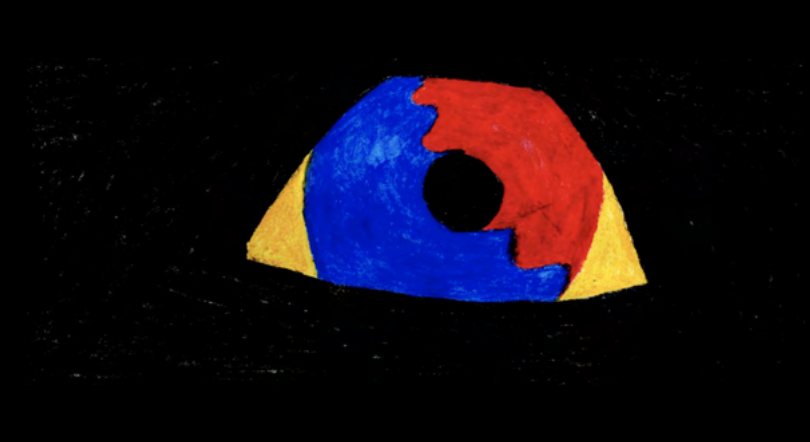


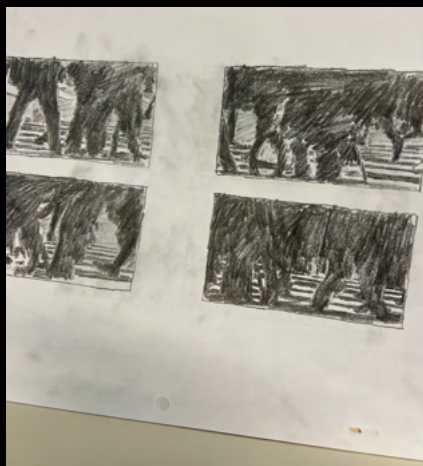
## ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, Shohreh Golparian

**Shohreh Golparian** established her company Small Talk Inc. in 1999 in Japan, and since then has been producing, distributing and promoting of Middle East cinema specifically Iranian Cinema in Asia and other countries including documentaries, short films, and more than 13 co-production feature films such as Amir Naderi's "*CUT*" (2010) and production coordinator and Assistant to Director Abbas Kiarostami, in his last film "*Like Someone in Love*" (2012).









# SELECTIONS



Over 14 Academy® Award Qualifying Festivals

# AWARDS

SHOTS  
FILMSKI FESTIVAL  
BEST FILM



Written/Developed by  
Liam Lepinto

Executive Producer  
Mamak Shahbazi  
Bill Lepinto

Associate Producer  
Shahreh Galfarian  
BYRON GOULD  
KEISUKE SAKUMA  
Keiko Yamashita

Naoto Shibata

HASSAN SHAHBAZI

Keiko Yamashita

Hitoshi Himarizu

Featuring the Voices of  
Zohreh Salim  
SANAZ SHAHBAZI  
CHRISTOPHER LOMAXI PATRANA

Animated Director  
Iman Afshar Chasempou

Editor  
LIAM LEPINTO

Composers  
LIAM LEPINTO  
RYOYA CHIDA  
BaiXue

Book Design  
Liam Lepinto  
BaiXue

Animators by  
Liam Lepinto  
Catherine Ren  
Dax Wong  
Sungho Cho  
Cain Perkins  
Tyrann Williams  
ISA HANSEN

Executive Animators by  
Liam Lepinto

Art Director  
NIKEI LEPINTO

Storyboard  
Liam Lepinto  
ISA HANSEN

Storyboard Artists by  
Dren Shields

Original song by  
KAREN TANAKA

Executive Track  
Heaven by Goodnight  
Song by Goodnight

Music Illustrated by  
Nobuko Fukatsu  
Tracks by

Artistic Supervision by  
BYRON GOULD

Production Office by  
DAVID SAHAR

Production Office  
BEN HOFF

Advisor  
JOSEPH MASTALUONO

Production Assistants  
PARSA SHAHBAZI  
ANDRÉS VILLAFREAL  
MAYUKO NIWA

Storyboard Artists by  
SANAZ SHAHBAZI  
MAMAK SHAHBAZI  
SIAMAK SHAHBAZI

Storyboard Artists by  
KEISUKE SAKUMA  
BYRON GOULD

Special Thanks  
Babel Beans Restaurant  
Harold Fajal  
Jocelyn Shibata  
Jocelyn Shibata  
Hitoshi Himarizu  
Marta Gold  
Khalid Samir Ayoun  
Francis Casson  
Babak Shahbazi  
Max Nease  
Peter Lopez  
Ayala Kawata  
Zach Teichmally  
Peter Burkhardt  
Karin Gottlieb  
Denise Akinian  
Suzana Brindley  
Marta Gold  
RJA Brindley  
Dore Shapira  
Zoya Akhbar  
Zoya Akhbar  
Gabe F. Frazier  
云々

# THE OLD YOUNG CROW

ELEPHANT TRAIN PRESENTS

"THE OLD YOUNG CROW" A FILM BY LIAM LOPINTO

FEATURING NAOTO SHIBATA, HASSAN SHAHBAZI, KEIKO YAMASHITA, HITOSHI HINOMIZU

MUSIC BY GOOGOOSH, DAVID SAHAR, KAREN TANAKA, and NOBUKO FUKATSU EDITED BY LIAM LOPINTO

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LIAM LOPINTO, RYOTA CHIDA, BAI XUE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ARIAN MOAYED, MAMAK SHAHBAZI, BILL LOPINTO, SCOTT AHARONI

STORY BY, WRITTEN BY, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY LIAM LOPINTO