



PRODUIRE AU SUD
FESTIVAL DES COURT-MÉTRAGES
NANTES

YASHAR

Azerbaijan

Produire au Sud Nantes 2017

MAIN DATA

Category: Drama

Length : 100'

Language : Azerbaijani

Shooting format : 4K

Shooting location : Azerbaijan

Shooting dates : September 2018

Expected dates of completion : September.2019

Stage of production : development stage

PRODUCTION

Budget : 340000 €

Financing in place : 85 000 €

Production company: Fil Production

Coproducer attached: Caractères Productions (France)

Workshops and platforms attended : Meetings on the bridge (April 2017), Hubert Bals Development (Fund)

Current situation : Development stage, seeking for partners

TEYMUR HAJIYEV, PRODUCER

Teymur was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1982. Before entering the cinematic world, he worked as a marketing director for various companies in Azerbaijan. In 2013, he established FIL PRODUCTION, which has so far produced more than a dozen short films, four of which have been screened at international festivals, including *TORN*, which was premiered at the Quinzaine des Réalistes of Cannes Film Festival (2014). In August 2014, he was admitted to the Locarno Summer Academy. In 2013, he finished his first short film *The Wound*, which was premiered at Palm Springs ShortFest, USA. In 2016, he finished his second short feature film *Shanghai, Baku*, screened at 18 film festivals worldwide and received 3 awards. In 2017, he coproduced a second feature film by Elvin Adigozel, *Reporting from Darkness*. He is currently in post-production for his third short, *Salt/Pepper to Taste* (2018) and involved in developing *Yashar* (2018) by Elvin Adigozel. *Yashar* was awarded with Digiflame Award at the Meetings on the Bridge Co-production platform within the scope of the 36th Istanbul Film Festival.



ELVIN ADIGOZEL, DIRECTOR

Elvin Adigozel was born in 1989, in western rural Goranboy region of Azerbaijan. Today Elvin still lives in a village in the district. While working for a television channel, he saved money to shoot two short films. He later went on to co-direct *Chameleon*, which premiered at Locarno Film Festival in 2013. He also directed a short documentary, *Beyond the Hills*, which premiered at Cinéma Vérité (Iran International Documentary Film Festival). In 2015, Elvin participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus. His second feature film, *Reporting from Darkness*, is currently in postproduction.



SYNOPSIS

Yashar is a 55-years-old roofer living in one of the remote villages of Azerbaijan. His wife Nisa is a caretaker in a hospital, working night shifts every second day. Those nights, Yashar stays alone at home. Summer has already gone and he is still unemployed. He spends his days at home but occasionally goes fishing with a neighbour. One day Nisa finds a job for Yashar and asks him to travel to town to meet with the client – a middle-aged woman. Yashar agrees to start the job and hires his dead brother's son Valeh, whom he had not seen in years, as his assistant. But one day Yashar loses control of himself and beats Valeh. The following day, Valeh disappears. At first, Yashar seems indifferent, but then suddenly changes his mind and sets out in a search of Valeh. This journey leads him to encounter a diversity of fellow countrymen living their daily lives and to discover other places where he has never been before.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« I want to show the lives of forgotten people, their neither romantic nor nostalgic realities through the eyes of the protagonist. [...] He is someone with low education, someone who has spent all his life in the same district and who has left the country only once to serve in the Soviet army long ago. He cannot analyze his life as some "deep thinker". We will slowly discover that this seemingly difficult person is in fact a lonely child. I want to approach this realistically and slowly unfold the character. Having to hire Valeh as cheap labor, then working hard together, fishing together and waiting for paycheck are the first forms of this realistic approach. [...]

The movements of Yashar from one town to the other, his sleepless nights on bus stations and continuous search for Valeh in rural bazars and remote mountain farms will help me depict Azerbaijan's unknown laconic geography. At the same time, we witness how introverted Yashar must communicate with the different people in order to reach his ultimate goal and find Valeh. [...]

With this film I aim to create an outer and an inner travel to the unknown parts of my country using Yashar as some *human probe* which reflects and registers hopes, fears and pain of inhabitants of my beloved and doomed homeland. I want this film to take the viewers into a story with no end. »

CONTACTS

Producer

Teymur Hajiyev
(Fil Production)

teymur@filproduction.com

Director

Elvin Adigozel

elvin_adigozel@hotmail.com