



Cutting Through Rocks (*Ozakh Yollar*)

2025 | 94 Minutes | Azeri Turkish, Farsi | Iran, Germany, United States, Qatar, Netherlands, Chile, Canada

As the first elected councilwoman of her Iranian village, Sara Shahverdi aims to break long-held patriarchal traditions by training teenage girls to ride motorcycles and stopping child marriages. When accusations arise questioning Sara's intentions to empower the girls, her identity is put in turmoil.

Director: Mohammadreza Eyni & Sara Khaki

Producer: Mohammadreza Eyni, Sara Khaki

Cast: Sarah Shahverdi

Cinematographer: Mohammadreza Eyni

Editor: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni

Sound Designer: Miguel Hormazabal

Music Composer: Karim Sebastian Elias

Production Company: Gandom Films

World Sales: Autlook Filmsales GmbH

Festivals: Sundance FF 2025 | Hotdocs 2025 | Visions du Reel 2025



Sara Khaki and Mohammadreza Eyni are award-winning documentary filmmakers whose work foregrounds underrepresented voices and social equity. Together, they won the 2025 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Award for *Cutting Through Rocks*, acclaimed at festivals including Sydney, Hot Docs, and Visions du Réel. Their cinematic approach has been praised as precise, propulsive, and poetic. Their short *Our Iranian Lockdown* earned an IDA nomination, and their co-directed Netflix Original *Convergence: Courage in a Crisis* received an Emmy nomination. Supported by Sundance and other major foundations, they continue to create intimate, impactful vérité-driven work.



No Mercy

2025 | 105 Minutes | English, French, German, Russian, Persian, Dutch | Germany, Austria

"The truth is, women make the harsher films", cult director Kira Muratova once told young filmmaker Isa Willinger at the start of her career. Since then, Isa has wondered whether this could really be true, given that women tend to be associated with "empathetic" or "sensitive". Isa Willinger meets some of the great women and nonbinary directors who indeed often tell stories of harsh realities, of humiliation and revenge. What do they have to say about violent characters, the depiction of rape, about trauma, power issues and ultimately the so-called female gaze?

Director: Isa Willinger

Producer: Alex Tondowski, Ira Tondowski, Sabine Gruber, Peter Drössler

Cast: Ana Lily Amirpour, Catherine Breillat, Céline Sciamma, Jackie Buet, Margit Czenki

Screenplay: Isa Willinger

Cinematographer: Bernadette Paaßen, Siri Klug, Doro Götz

Editor: Lena Hatebur, Nikki Mossböck

Sound Designer: Andreas Hamza, Annastasya Maharani, Barnaby Hall, Hannes Margret, Ines Vorreiter, Nora Czamlar, Simone Pischl

Music Composer: Brii Bauer, Jeschka Oszilat

Production Company: Tondowski Films, FlairFilm, ZDF/Arte, ORF

World Sales: Cinephil



Isa Willinger is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose feature *Hi, AI – Love Stories from the Future* was nominated for the German Film Award and won the Max Ophüls Award. She received the 2020 Sistar Prize for outstanding female directors. Her follow-up film *Plastic Fantastic*, on the global plastic crisis, won multiple awards, including the German Documentary Film Audience Award and the Graine d'Or at FIFES. Willinger studied documentary directing at HFF Munich and holds an MA in Slavic studies, American studies, and sociology. She authored a book on filmmaker Kira Muratova.



Oslo - A Tail of Promise

2025 | 86 Minutes | Marathi & English | India

When Oslo, a wise Siberian Husky finds Pooja, a woman in search of belonging, an extraordinary journey of love, courage, and surrender begins. Set in India, against a breathtaking journey from Pune to the Himalayas, this Tail of Promise spans lifetimes. Oslo, traumatised, nameless, and homeless, changed six homes before finding his pack among cats, goats, peacocks, and people at The Farm. A sacred space itself, The Farm is a reminder that animals and nature are sentient. They bring magic into our lives if we are willing to open our hearts. Oslo and Pooja's annual trip of 5000 kms is a journey of promise, courage and companionship. Animals experience loss and grief as well but they show us how to surrender to love without attachment. Through blizzards, grief, and joy, Oslo remains a guardian and master, reminding us to choose love over fear. The film celebrates the gift animals and nature offer humanity.

Director: Isha Pungaliya

Producer: John Abraham, Amey Gosavi, Minnakshi Das

Cast: Oslo Khanwalkar, Pooja Bhale

Cinematographer: Shamin Kulkarni

Editor: Satyajeet Kelkar

Sound Designer: Piyush Shah

Music Composer: Hriday Gattani

Production Company: Vaanar Nirmat, JA Entertainment, Protecterra Ecological Foundation

Festivals: Goa IFFI 2025 | Third Eye Asian FF



Filmmaker, writer, and actor, **Isha** holds a Master's degree in Media and Cultural Studies from TISS, Mumbai, and a Diploma in Film Direction from LV Prasad Film and TV Academy, Chennai. She is interested in exploring formal and narrative approaches that challenge conventional and formulaic practices in cinema and theatre. Her short and documentary films engage with themes of self and the other, identity, gender, and power. The feature-length documentary *Oslo: A Tail of Promise* is her most recent work.



Pappa Sanga Kunache

2025 | 79 Minutes | Marathi | India

Arun Sarnaik, the iconic Marathi and Hindi film actor, has left an indelible mark in the field of cinema in Maharashtra. Born to the famous classical singer and performer, Shankarrao Sarnaik and his wife Parvati, on October 4, 1935 in Kolhapur, he carried forward his father's legacy in both music and acting. Arun is justifiably credited with raising the bar in both theatre and films and singing by his exemplary performances. This documentary is his daughter Dr. Savita's heartfelt tribute to the creative genius of her father.

Director: Dr. Santosh Pathare

Producer: Dr. Savita Sarnaik – Naiknavare

Cinematographer: Pratap Joshi, Parag Sawant

Editor: Saurabh Naik

Sound Designer: Mandar Kamalapurkar



Dr. Santosh Pathare is an Indian film scholar, critic, and filmmaker with a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry and postgraduate degrees in Marathi, Journalism, and Mass Communication from the University of Mumbai. He is Director of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival and a member of the Maharashtra Government's Marathi Cinema Grant Committee. A film critic and editor of Vaastaw Roopwani, he is also Secretary of Prabhat Chitra Mandal and Coordinator of the Cinema Division of Marathi Vishwakosh Mandal. Pathare has served on international juries and directed several acclaimed documentaries and short films.



Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk *(Za'a Rouhak Ala Yadak Wa Emshi)*

2025 | 112 Minutes | English, Arabic | France, Palestine, Iran

Fatma Hassouna, a Palestinian photographer killed by an Israeli airstrike, developed a friendship by video call with filmmaker Sepideh Farsi for a dialogue that transcended current events to create a compelling work of art.

Director: Sepideh Farsi

Producer: Javad Djavahery, Sepideh Farsi

Cast: Fatma Hassona

Cinematographer: Sepideh Farsi

Editor: Sepideh Farsi, Farahnaz Sharifi

Sound Designer: Pierre Carrasco

Music Composer: Cinna Peyghamy

Production Company: TRêves d'Eau Productions

World Sales: Cercamon

Festivals: Cannes FF 2025 | Toronto IFF 2025 | Busan IFF 2025



Sepideh Farsi is an Iranian filmmaker who experienced the Iranian Revolution at the age of 13 and was imprisoned as a dissident at 16. At 18, she went into exile in France, where she has since built an active career as a director. Moving fluidly between documentary, fiction, and animation, she has directed more than 15 films, including *Tehran Without Permission* (2009), *Red Rose* (2014), *I Will Cross Tomorrow* (2019), and *The Siren* (2023), which have been presented at major international festivals such as Berlin and Toronto.



Skin on Skin

2025 | 30 Minutes | German | Germany

Brutal yet perfectly impersonal, almost sterile. That is the slaughterhouse where the lives of two men – security guard Jakob and employee Boris – come together. In this place where animals are turned into meat, a different kind of evil is growing, the kind that plays out between people. Exploitation, the abuse of foreign labor, unpaid wages. But even in such an inhospitable environment, there is a place for tenderness and love. The German social drama *Skin on Skin* is as raw as the meat that comes off the slaughterhouse's assembly line.

Director: Simon Schneckenburger

Producer: Leon Döhner, Marc Colditz, Gerd Schermann

Screenplay: Simon Schneckenburger, Marie Wagner

Cinematographer: Nico Schrenk

Editor: Lukas Wengorz

Sound Designer: Julian Berg

Music Composer: Marc Grünhäuser, Christoph Erling

Production Designer: Bartholomäus M. Kleppek

Production Company: Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg GmbH

World Sales: Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Festivals: Karlovy Vary IFF 2025



Born in Germany's Black Forest, **Simon** is a fiction director with extensive teaching and jury experience. He graduated in Fiction Directing from the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. His early short *Borzaya* screened internationally and was shortlisted for the Student Academy Awards. His graduation film *Skin on Skin* won the Future Frames section at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and became the first film in First Steps Awards history to win three prizes. Simon is currently developing his debut feature film and a mini-series.



Timestamp (*Strichka Chasu*)

2025 | 125 Minutes | Ukrainian | France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ukraine

Keeping the schools open in Ukraine is an attempt to salvage at least some of the normal life people had before the war broke out on February 24, 2022 (or in some regions even earlier, in 2014). Without using any interviews, narration or re-enactments, *Timestamp* provides an insight into how the war is affecting the daily lives of students and teachers. The film employs a mosaic-like structure to explore how a school functions in-person and online in these terrible times, both on and behind the frontline, and how day-to-day life is intertwined with constant danger.

Director: Kateryna Gornostai

Producer: Olha Bregman, Natalia Libet

Cast: Olha Bryhynets, Boris Khovriak, Mykola Kolomiiets, Valeria Hukova, Mykola Shpak, Svitlana Popova, Yelyzaveta Loza

Screenplay: Kateryna Gornostai

Cinematographer: Oleksandr Roshchyn

Editor: Nikon Romanchenko

Sound Designer: Pavlo Melnyk, Mykhailo Zakutsky, Lode Woltersom, Artem Kosynskyi

Music Composer: Alexey Shmurak

Production Company: 2Brave Productions

World Sales: Best Friend Forever

Festivals: Berlin FF 2025 | SXSW FF 2025 | Karlovy Vary 2025



Kateryna Gornostai was born in Lutsk in 1989. She graduated with a degree in biology and later studied journalism at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Kateryna also studied documentary filmmaking at Marina Razbezhkina's School of Documentary Films and Theater. She returned to Kyiv during the Revolution of Dignity to film the events. Later, she started exploring narrative and hybrid forms of filmmaking. *Stop Zemlia*, director's narrative feature debut, premiered at the 71st Berlin International Film Festival and received the Crystal Bear Award from the Youth Jury. She lives and works in Kyiv, and teaches film directing.



Yalla Parkour

2024 | 89 Minutes | Arabic, Swedish | Sweden, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine

In her relentless pursuit of a memory that reinforces her sense of belonging, Areeb crosses paths with Ahmed, a parkour athlete in Gaza, sparking a journey where conflicting aspirations intersect. Nostalgia meets with ambition, and the weight of a confined past meets with an unpredictable future.

Director: Areeb Zuaiter

Producer: Basel Mawlawi

Cinematographer: Ibrahim Al-Otla, Marco Padoan, Umit Gulsen

Editor: Phil Jandaly

Sound Designer: Yehya Breshe

Music Composer: Diab Mekari

Production Company: Kinana Films

World Sales: ArtHood Entertainment

Festivals: Berlin IFF 2025 | Doc NYC 2025 | Visions du Reel 2025



The multinational filmmaker lives and works in Washington, D.C. Her first short film, *Stained*, won the Jury Prize at the European International Film Festival in Beirut while her short documentary *Colors of Resistance* was nominated for Sony's Outstanding Thesis Award and won several prizes at the Colorado Activism Film Festival and the Spotlight Documentary Film Awards. *Yalla Parkour* is her first feature-length documentary. It has already won the International Competition Grand Jury Prize at DOC NYC. Alongside her work as a director, she heads the programming department at the Amman International Film Festival.