

2000, Digital, Colour, 75 mins, Iranian

Director

Bahman Ghobadi

Cast

Ayyub Ahmadi

Roujin Younesi

Amaneh Ekhtiar-Dini

Mehdi Ekhtiar-Dini

Kolssom Ekhtiar-Dini

Twelve year old Ayyub, the eldest boy in a family of six orphans, has become head of his household. Living in extreme poverty in the mountains of Iranian Kurdistan, Ayyub and his siblings must find whatever work they can to afford enough food to survive. But when Ayyub's hadicapped brother Madi falls ill, the family must come up with the money for an operation. Ayyub takes a dangerous job, smuggling truck tyres to iraq through the mountains to earn some of the money and his sister agrees to marry into a family into a family that will help pay for the operation. But when Ayyub is given a mule instead of money as payment, he must struggle to sell the animal in Iraq.



HIFF - 2008

Iran

Day Of The Result

Digital, Colour, Iranian

Since the mother is away for a week and his physician father is too busy, eight year old Arad receives his own school report. Knowing that he has not passed his Dictation exam, Arad leaves a note and goes away to embark on a dangerous task. Wandering in the streets, he comes across 40 year old Amir, a man who is just released from prison, Cherishing the thought of vengeance from his former partner...

Director

Masoud Karamati

Cinematography

Dariush Ayyari

Music

Mohammad Reza Aligholi

Cast

Mehdi Hashemi

Matin Azizpour

Abdolreza Akbari

Farhad Sharifi

Producer

Iraj Taghipour

2000, Digital, Colour, 80 mins, Iranian

Some teachers of bombarded schools are going village to village, but every time conforming people without any special interest in learning anything. There are kid smugglers in borderline heights and old refugees trying to return to their countries, and then there comes one who wants to learn a word...

Director

Samira Makhmalbaf

Writer

Mohsen Makhmalbaf

Samira Makhmalbaf

Cast

Saeed Mohammadi

Behnaz Jafari

Bahman Ghobadi

Mohammad Karim Rahmati

The stark, relentless images of exhausted travelers dragging themselves on foot through a treacherous mountain landscape in Samira Makhmalbaf's film evoke an indelible and ultimately moving vision of humanity buffeted by the elements and by international political tides. Ms. Makhmalbaf's film, which won the grand jury prize at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival, offers as bare and stripped down a picture of life at the subsistence level as Iranian cinema, known for its austerity, has ever presented. All the more remarkable is that the film maker, the daughter of the widely acclaimed Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf with whom she wrote the screenplay, was only 20 years when she made "Black Board". It is her second film, following "The Apple" and it made her the youngest director ever to have an official selection at Cannes when it was screened four years ago.

SAMIRA MAKHMALBAF

DIRECTOR

Iran
The Song Of Birth



HIFF - 2008

2005, Digital, Colour, 75 mins, Iranian

The film narrates the life of a young boy from a middle class family, who has completed his studies and is looking out for a job. He gets acquainted to an industrialist lady and his whole life takes a turn.

Director

Ali Qawitan

Music

Hameed Reza Sadri

Cast

Ameen Hayaei

Yakta Naser

Husam Nawab Safawi

Behman Mufeed

Suraiya Qasemi

Producer

Minucheher Zabardast

2005, 35mm, Colour, 80 mins

Sara resolves to avenge the rape of her sisters and travels south of Iran in search of the rapist. She experiences various hardships which give a new meaning to her life.

Director

Ghasem Jafari

Cinematography

Mahmood Kelari

Cast

Runak Younesi

Khatereh Hatimi

Ram Nuraei

Qasem Jafari, graduated from the centre of Film Making. He produced his first film The Kind Moon (1994) and after centralised his activities on television. During last few years he has directed serials for television. He is in the process of making his fifth film "Beautiful Girls".

GHASEM JAFARI
DIRECTOR

Italy A White Ballad

(Una Ballata Bianca)

2007, 35mm, Colour, 78 mins, Italian

HIFF - 2008



In an apartment, the life of an elderly couple, married for many years, evolves like an old record player: slow and repetitious. The woman suffers from an incurable disease and has little time left to live. They have always lived quietly, but now even more so. Words can no longer express meanings. The presence of death makes every single action between the elderly couple, both important and definite.

Director

Stefano Odoardi

Screenplay

Kees Roorda

Stefano Odoardi

Cinematography

Tarek

Editor

Tarek

Stefano Odoardi

Music

Carlo Crivelli

Cast

Nicola Lanci

Carmela Lanci

Simona Senzacqua

Cristina

Andrea

Festivals & Awards

Golden Reel for Best Film - 6 Tiburon Film Festival 2007

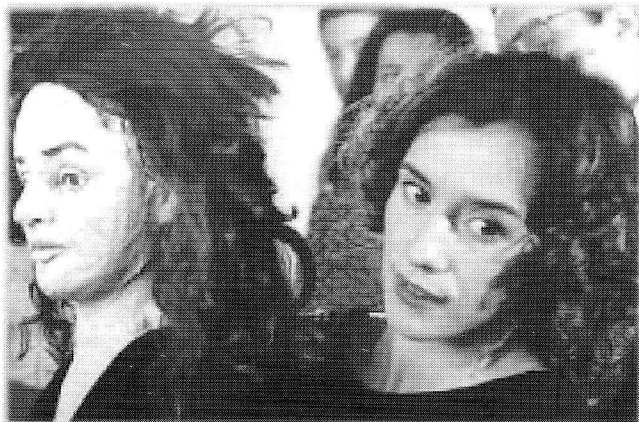
Stefano Odoardi lives between Holland and Italy. After making many short films in 2006 he shoots his debut film "A White Ballad". The film had its world premiere in the official selection of the Rotterdam Film Festival 2007 and was distributed in the Netherlands by Het Filmuseum.



STEFANO ODOARDI

DIRECTOR

2007, 35mm, Colour, 97 mins, Italian



Director

Silvana Maja

Screenplay

Silvana Maja

Rolando Stefanelli

Cinematography

Roberta Allegrini

Editor

Giorgio Franchini

Music

Davide Massropaw

Leandro Sorrentino

Cast

Teresa Saponangelo

Renato Carpentieri

Andrea Renzi

Vincenza Modica

Tina Femiano

Marco Manichisi

Stefania de Francesco

Production

Artimagiche / Thule Film

Naples 1957 – 1969. Maria is a young Neapolitan painter, caught up in the wave of experimentation of the 1960s arts scene. She is a woman who lives her life enthusiastically embracing the ideals of love and exploration, which for her are also the most important guiding principles for an artist. She marries Emilio Notte, director of the Naples Academy of Fine Arts and a leading light in the arts avantgarde. They have already had a son, Riccardo. During these years Maria tries to reconcile the demands of being a mother, wife and artist, attempting to transform her life in order to raise it beyond the crude facts of existence. However, the withering grip of prejudice, the pressure to conform to what she considers to be unacceptable mores eventually takes its toll, inflicting psychological anguish. What for others is anxiety, is for her the desire to pursue that tantalising Utopia of perfection, rigour and youth. During her brief time, Maria Palliggiano strived to be that person who deep inside herself yearned to flourish. She committed suicide in 1969.

Festivals & Awards

International Film Festival of India (Goa) - 2007

Silvana Maja studied law and sociology of communication and trained as a writer and journalist. She wrote her first novel by the age of 18 and worked as a photo reporter. She moved to Rome where she now lives and works. The screenplay of Ossidiana has been adapted from her eponymous novel, published at the end of 1999.



SILVANA MAJA

DIRECTOR



Italy-Bulgaria-Spain-France
The Lark Farm

(La Messeria Delle Allodole)

2007, 35mm, Colour, 122 mins, Italian



hiff - 2008



The Avakians are a rich Armenian family. Two family members are Aram, a landowner living in a small town in Turkey, and Assadour, a successful doctor from Venice. The brothers have not seen each other for a long time and decide to meet in Armenia. While Assadour prepares himself for his trip to his native land, Aram began preparing the old family seat. Meanwhile, the political situation has grown more acute as the times are volatile. Since coming to power in 1913, the government of Young Turks has made it their goal to create one vast Turkish empire. In 1915, Italy and France enter into an alliance against Turkey and Austria. Assadour is hoping to be able to travel from Italy to his homeland when all hell breaks loose in Armenia. The Young Turks order the massacre of the Armenians. The two brothers never meet as they get caught in the genocide.

Director

Paolo

Vittorio Taviani

Screenplay

Paolo Taviani

Vittorio Taviani

Cinematography

Beppe Lanci

Editor

Roberto Perpignani

Music

Giuliano Taviani

Cast

Paz Vega

Moritz Bleibtreu

Angela Molina

Alessandro Preziosi

Mohamed Bakri

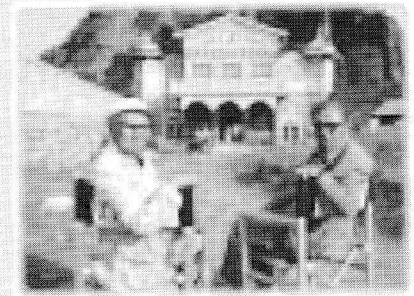
Production

Ager 3

Festivals & Awards

Berlin, Copenhagen, Jerusalem, Montreal & International Film Festival of India (Goa) - 2007

*Vittorio Taviani (1929) and his brother Paolo (1931) studied law and art. Developing an interest in film making, the brothers made their first short film, **San Miniato Lugilo '44**, about their own village. They have made international names with their films.*



PAOLO & VITTORIO TAVIANI

DIRECTORS

Italy-France-Switzerland The Missing Star

(La Stella Che Non C'E')

2006, 35mm, Colour, 103 mins, Italian



Director

Gianni Amelio

Screenplay

Gianni Amelio

Umberto Contarello

Cinematography

Luca Bigazzi

Editor

Simona Paggi

Music

Franco Piersanti

Cast

Sergio Castellitto

Tai Ling

Hui Sun Ha

Wang Biao

Production

Cattleya

Rai Cinema

Babe Films

CaracFilm

RTSI Swiss

Television

Vincenzo, the maintenance manager of a steel mill in Bagnoli, is charged with the responsibility of shutting down the plant and selling the molten metal to the Chinese. When things are just wrapping up, Vincenzo realises that the Chinese were sold a defective machine, which years earlier had caused the death of a worker. Having discovered a way to fix the machine, Vincenzo leaves for China where accompanied by an interpreter, Liu Hua, he will try to track down the plant and fix the machine. As Vincenzo's journey carries him deeper and deeper into the country, Amelio gently teases out the lessons of the tale's developing metaphorical dimension. It is a story that serves to illuminate the cultural difference between West and East. The movie is based on the novel *La Dismissione* by Ermanno Rea.

Festivals & Awards

Copenhagen, Vancouver, Istanbul, Palm Springs, Seattle, Rio, Stockholm, London, Toronto & International Film Festival of India (Goa) - 2007

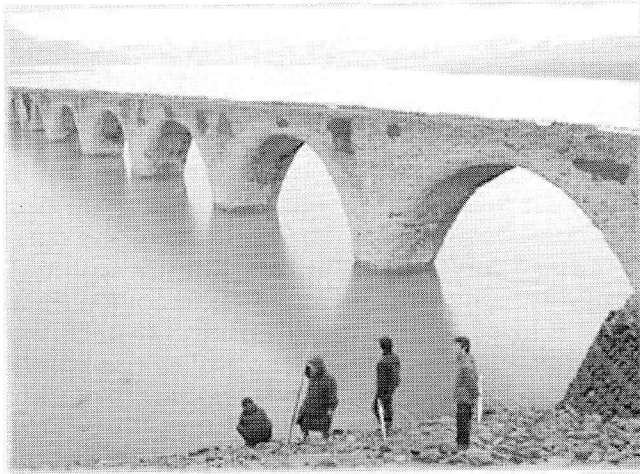
*Gianni Amelio has won many international awards, including the Grand Prix du Jury at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival for **Stolen Children**. Five of his features have screened at the Cannes Festival: **A Blow to the Heart** (1982), **Open Doors** (1990), **Lamerica** (1994), **The Way We Laughed** (1998) and **The House Keys** (2004).*



GIANNI AMELIO

DIRECTOR

2007, 35mm, Colour, 105 mins, Japanese



Director

Takushi Tsubokawa

Screenplay

Takushi Tsubokawa

Cinematography:

Yukihide Tagaki

Editing

Hirohide Abe

Music

Takero Sekijima

Cast

Masayuki Shionoya

Mariko Takahashi

Shotiro Kataoka

Production

Kimiko Ishi

Takushi Tsubokawa was born in Hokkaido in 1972. He entered the film world as an actor, before shifting his focus to directing. His first work was a short film called Tricycle of December (1996). His first feature film, Clouds of Yesterday, won both the Grand Prix and the Audience Award at the 2005 Torino International Film Festival. Aria is his second feature film.

Since his wife died, piano tuner Ota has maintained a stony taciturnity save for the rare cutting remark and threats to "tune" a bartender's head. Even before his wife's death, he avoided conversation—when she prophetically mentioned her impending death, he refused to look at the photo of the remote beach where she wanted him to scatter her ashes. One day an old puppeteer appears with an eerily realistic female mannequin named Aria. The ailing puppeteer asks Ota to find the piano on which his late wife used to accompany his performances. Despite the puppeteer's death, Ota continues the errand, if only to also find the beach that was so important to his wife. Just as he is about to set off, a mysterious young woman claiming to be the puppeteer's daughter joins him and the puppeteer's apprentice on the trip. Thus begins an eccentric and gently humorous road movie through picturesque seaside Hokkaido, a capacious landscape apparently abandoned by the younger generation in favor of the city. An old restaurateur provides a clue to the piano and a map to the beach, an old hitchhiker from a previous century sings a meaningful song about the sea, and a shrinekeeper lends sage advice. When the young woman is drawn to fox statues at the shrine, the story seemingly enters the supernatural. Is she a dangerous fox spirit, like beautiful, mysterious women often are in Japanese stories? Or is she the spirit of Ota's dead wife, "tuning" him back into life among the living and the musical?



TAKUSHI TSUBOKAWA

DIRECTOR

2006, 35mm, Colour, 96 mins, Japanese



Director

Koji Kawano

Screenplay

Hiroko Kanasugi

Cinematography

Jun Fukumoto

Editor

Hiroaki Morishita

Music

Noodles

Cast

Rei Yoshii

Asami Imajuku

Naomi Akimoto

Miyoko Asada

Kami Hiraiwa

Hiroyuki Ikeuchi

Production

Open Sesame Co Ltd

Ichiko Izumiya, 18, goes to language school and works at a CD shop. She lives with her translator father after her mother passed away. One day, she falls in love with someone who is very smart, and shows her various worlds. The person's name is Ellie. Yes, she is a girl. When Ichiko introduced Ellie to her father, he is surprised but he understood them at the same time. 'Thank you Dad! I knew you'd understand us', thinks Ichiko. However, she did not know that he would confess some secrets to her as well. 'Ichiko, I am gay. And your mother was lesbian'. She did not see this was coming. What is love? What is usual? What is myself? Those questions never stops coming to her head, but no one gives her answers. Is it so hard to live just as oneself? Adapted from the Yuri Manga comic of the same name by popular female writer Ebine Yamaji.

Festivals & Awards

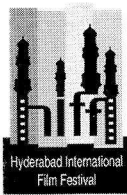
International Film Festival of India (Goa) - 2007

Koji Kawano after graduating from Visual Arts School, worked at a film production company where he was involved in the films of Toshiaki Toyoda, Naoto Takenaka and Edward Yang. This is his feature directorial debut.



KOJI KAWANO

DIRECTOR



Kyrgyzstan

Love As a Test

(Lubov'kak Ispytanie)

2006, Digital, Colour, 100 mins, Russian-Kyrgyz

HIFF - 2008

Love as a Test is the TV novel about true love that conquers all the borders and helps to believe in future despite vicissitudes of faith. Creators of the movie have raised actual issues about dangers and problems of the contemporary world that young people of Kyrgyzstan face today - HIV/AIDS epidemics, drug addiction and the problems of survival in the present-day society. This film is a reminder about human values - Love, Friendship, Courage and Solidarity that are strengthening the families and societies in the situation that seems extremely difficult and desperate.

Director

Ainagul Isakova

AINAGUL ISAKOVA

DIRECTOR



This Spanish-language teen film follows the adventures of 18-year-old Adela (Martha Higareda), a terminal misfit whose parents ship her off to Mexico's only remaining preparatory school for young ladies. They want to prevent her misbehavior from standing in the way of her father's election as governor of Mexico City. Upon enrollment, Adela experiences an endless series of comically outrageous clashes with the school's headmistress.

Director

Fernando Sarinana

Screenplay

Issa Lopez

Cinematography

Chava Cartas

Editing

Oscar Figueroa

Cast

Martha Higareda

Camila Sodi

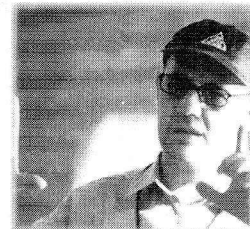
Blanca Guerra

Roberto D'Amico

Producer

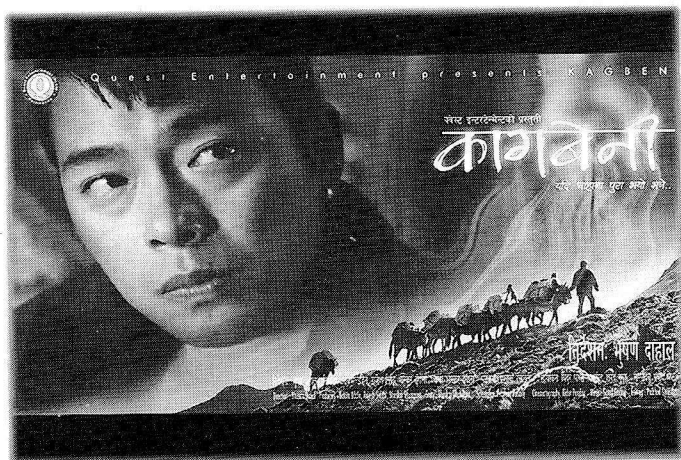
Fernando Sarinana

Fernando Sarinana is one of the most successful film makers of recent years with continuity in his film projects. His debut 'Hasta Morir' received acclamis at the film festival of Troronto (1994)



FERNANDO SARINANA
DIRECTOR

2007, Digital, Colour, 125 mins, Nepali



Krishna comes back to his village after a long spell in Malaysia. He visits his childhood friend Ramesh and they decide to travel together to the neighboring village. On their journey they come across a mystical hermit who hands Krishna an animal's paw that has powers to fulfill wishes but at the same time it has its own evil effects too. Unaware of the ominous powers of the paw Ramesh makes a wish. Thus begins the journey of betrayal and revenge.

Director

Bhusan Dahal

Cast

Saygat Malla

Diya Maskay

Nima Rumba

Hanif Md

Puja Gurung

Bhusan Dahal's Kagbeni is his first debut film.



BHUSAN DAHAL

DIRECTOR