

PRESS KIT

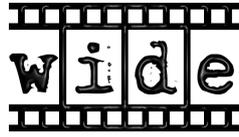
MOURNING

By Morteza Farshbaf



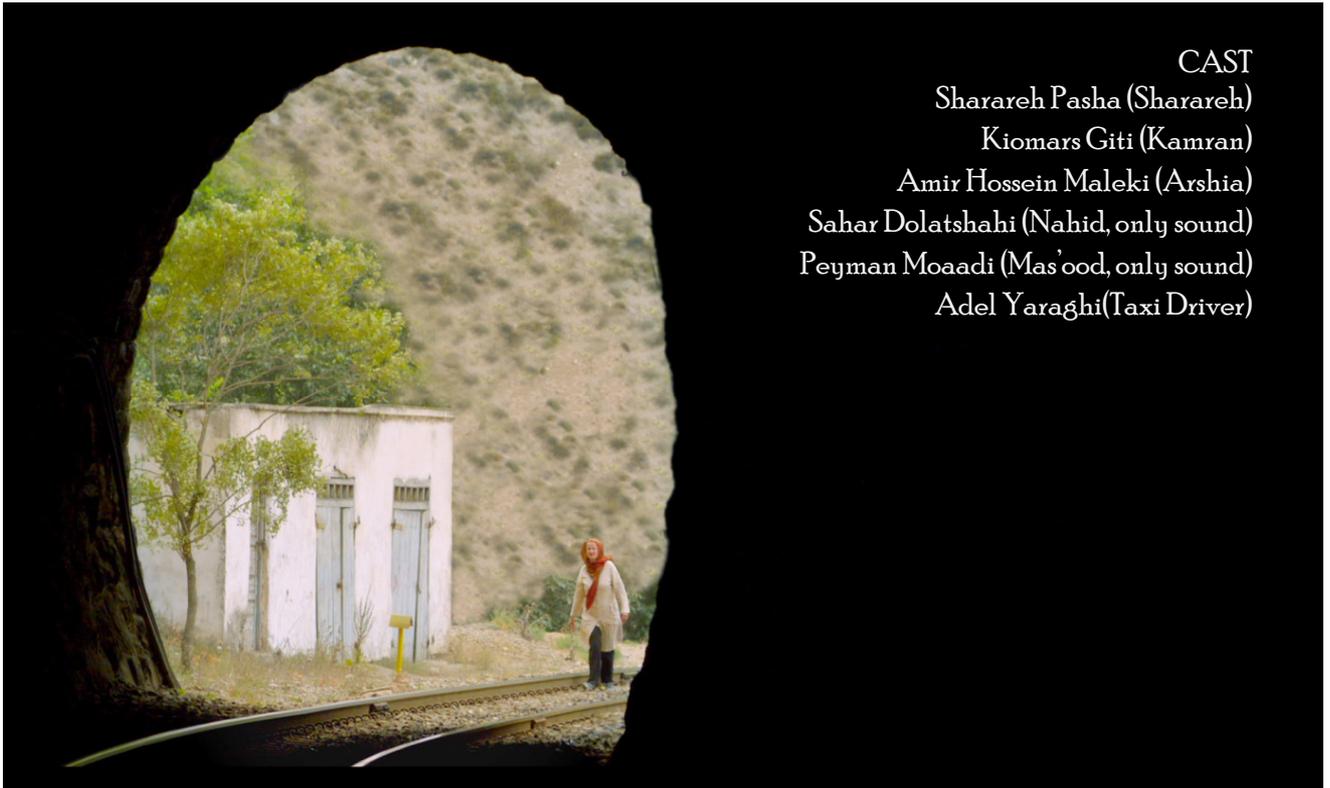
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CREW

Directed by: Morteza Farshbaf
Screenplay: Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, Morteza Farshbaf
Executive Producer: Behnaz Beski
Supervising Producer: Javad Noruzbeigi
Director of Cinematography: Hamid Reza Ahmadi Ara
Editor: Hesam Eslami
Production Designer: Shadmehr Rastin
Costume Designer: Siamak Karinejad
Production Leader: Hadi Saeedi
First Assistant Director: Foad Mahjoob
Special effects: Abbas Shoghi
Digital Compositor: Mohammad Hamedani
First Assistant Camera: Mehrdad Hamidian
Assistant Camera: Saeed Khezrian
Special Thanks: Abbas Kiarostami, Jafar Panahi

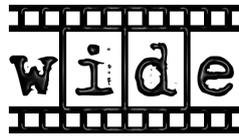


CAST

Sharareh Pasha (Sharareh)
Kiomars Giti (Kamran)
Amir Hossein Maleki (Arshia)
Sahar Dolatshahi (Nahid, only sound)
Peyman Moaadi (Mas'ood, only sound)
Adel Yaraghi (Taxi Driver)

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SYNOPSIS:

A quarrel breaks out between a couple at midnight. They are on a trip, visiting the woman's sister, Sharareh and her husband, Kamran who live in a northern city. Their old quarrel gets so serious that the woman decides to leave there for their home in Tehran in that late hour of the night. Unable to stop her, the man also gets into the car. They do not bring along their son, Arshia who has been with them in this journey, and drive madly into the dark road without informing anyone... In the morning, Sharareh and Kamran get the bad news; something terrible has happened on the way last night. In a state of shock, Sharareh and Kamran depart for Tehran where they should face the disaster, with Arshia. On their road trip that takes a day from morning to dawn, they should get Arshia aware of the bad news in a way he does not get horrified. This complicated situation, along with the happenings waiting for them in their way, put these three characters in strange relationships with each other...

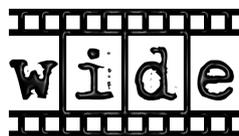


DIRECTOR'S INTENTION:

Morteza says about his intentions in making "Mourning": "The film is full of beautiful scenery, the pure country nature surrounding the roads. This helped us to give a rich visual context to the film. However, picturing the human relations was the core of the film, the core of all these images for me; these three characters, experiencing a special situation in their life, going on a road trip together. They go through so much change and switch in their attitudes and feelings toward each other, that at the end you can hardly say they are the same people who began this journey. The key for making these relationships believable was to utilize the reality of non actor's presence. The characters were close to their real natures, and they always felt comfortable in front of the camera... "Mourning" was a road movie, with non actor players, and this put us in difficult production conditions. What helped us confront the problems was the profound insight of the producer and the investor of the artistic aspect of the work. They let us get the best possible quality in our work with their support and patience."

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THE MAKING OF THE FILM

Apart from studying cinema academically, Morteza Farshbaf has also learnt filmmaking by attending Abbas Kiarostami's workshops. Mourning is mainly one of the consequences of working under Mr. Kiarostami's supervision. Morteza made the short film "The Wind Blows Wherever it Wants" (co written and directed with Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, 2008) for the workshop. The film got praised by the viewers as one of the best short pictures of the year, and Mr. Kiarostami who was very much interested in its original idea, suggested that "The Wind..." can be adapted for a feature film. Morteza Farshbaf and Anahita Ghazvinizadeh began to work on the screenplay, and it took them more than a year to complete it. The film was first named "Sound of Silence", a title that was later changed to "Mourning". For making his first feature film, the 24 year old director decided to find his crew among young professionals. "Mourning" was made by a team with an average age of less than 30. The main members of the crew such as the director of the cinematography and the sound designer were involved in the project from the very early stages of screenwriting. Indeed, "Mourning" was made under the standards that qualified it as an international feature film and at the same time with a strong experimental spirit of a student work. Non actors were chosen for playing the main roles. With the precious knowledge he has achieved from Mr. Kiarostami's unique method of working with non actors, Morteza had a great experience in leading them throughout the film.



Morteza believes that in making of the "Mourning", the mysterious nature of the country roads was very much inspiring for him. "While making a road movie, you get subconsciously affected by the inner rhythm and life of the "way". When you have a long-shot of roads, you almost get to a formal or abstract composition of stable lines and surfaces. At the same time, ways are the mere carriers of the

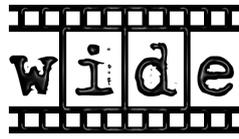
philosophy of passing, of going through time and changes. This contrast, that is more powerful in country roads, gives you a very personal and inner attitude, and puts a magic spell on your work!"

Morteza mentions "the young filmmaking crew" as one of the most important aspects in making of "Mourning". "All the team members were professionals in their field of work, but they were also very much motivated to experience new cinematic forms. To narrate the story of the film was the first priority for all of us, but we never neglected having new experiments in the formal structure of images and sound; that is why I find an experimental nature in "mourning".



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DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY:

Morteza Farshbaf (1986), young Iranian director, went to the University of Art in Tehran for studying Cinema, and received his BFA in film. He has been active working in cinema as director, writer, editor and cinematographer since very early age of 18. He has directed his own short films since 2004, and made 5 short films since then: Halloween(2004), The Carpet(2005), Taxi(2006), Flakey(2007) and The Wind Blows Wherever it Wants(2008). Morteza has also attended Abbas Kiarostami's filmmaking workshops and has cooperated with him in film projects. He directed his first feature film, Morning in 2010.



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