

SHAHEN  
JAMAL

SORAN  
IBRAHIM

ALI  
AHMED

**"It's stunning. It's engaging."**

*Culture News, P2, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation*

**"... a movie for heart and brain."**

[www.oblad.no](http://www.oblad.no)



**"The result is admirable."**

*TV2 Good Morning Norway*

**"Red Heart is a beautiful but realistic movie,  
depicting a landscape we all too rarely  
encounter at the movies."**

*Spirit Magazine*



Filmhuset presents a Norwegian/Iraq co-production directed by Halkawt Mustafa

# RED HEART

Shahen Jamal | Soran Ibrahim | Ali Ahmed | Suhaila Hassan | Ahmed Qaladzei producers Egil Ødegård | Anders Graham | Halkawt Mustafa written and directed by Halkawt Mustafa

screenplay Jabar J. Garib director of photography Kjell Vassdal original music by Ørstein Boassen film editing by Inge-Lise Langfeldt | Arild Tryggestad sound design Merete Mongstad production consultant Aamund Johannessen

production leader Zana Tagiadeen post production The Factory Post Production AS produced by Filmhuset Produksjoner AS in association with Hene Film nordic distribution Europafilm AS

[www.rodthjerte.no](http://www.rodthjerte.no)



# RED HEART

By Halkawt Mustafa

Norwegian premiere 29.04.11

**Written and directed by: Halkawt Mustafa**

**Leading actors: Shahen Jamal, Soran Ibrahim, Ali Ahmed**

***Red Heart* is the young director Halkawt Mustafa first feature film, starring Shahen Jamal and Soran Ibrahim in leading roles the contemporary *Romeo and Juliet*.**

## STORYLINE

The movie is a stirring love drama about two teenagers battle to be together, in a land where your own choice of spouse cannot be taken for granted. Shirin and Soran are secretly sweethearts, waiting for the right occasion to ask for their parent's permission to get married. When Shirin's mother dies, her father seeks to find a new wife. His chosen one has one demand for this marriage: Shirin has to marry her son. To be together, Soran and Shirin has evidently no other choice but to escape. Life on the run is however anything but easy. Shirin must manage the city life alone when Soran is sent off to prison – not without risk, in a land where a young woman without a father or a husband by her side is virtually considered to be cold prey ...

Shirin is forced to trust random strangers to manage life without Soran, something that has fatal consequences. Is the love between Shirin and Soran strong enough to handle the brutal reality?

## CONTRIBUTING



**Shahen Jamal** (Shirin) was born in 1985 in Sulaimanya, and is a well-known actress. She has been acting in several large TV-series and 20 short films. *Red Heart* is her first leading role in a feature film.



**Soran Ibrahim** (Soran) was born in 1990 in Erbil. He had his first major role in *Turtles can fly*. He has also been working as a director's assistant on three movies, including *Red Heart*.



**Ali Ahmet** (Shirin's father) was born in 1949 in Erbil, and has been working as an actor for more than 40 years. He has acted in more than 50 dramaseries, 70 plays, and three feature films.



## DIRECTOR

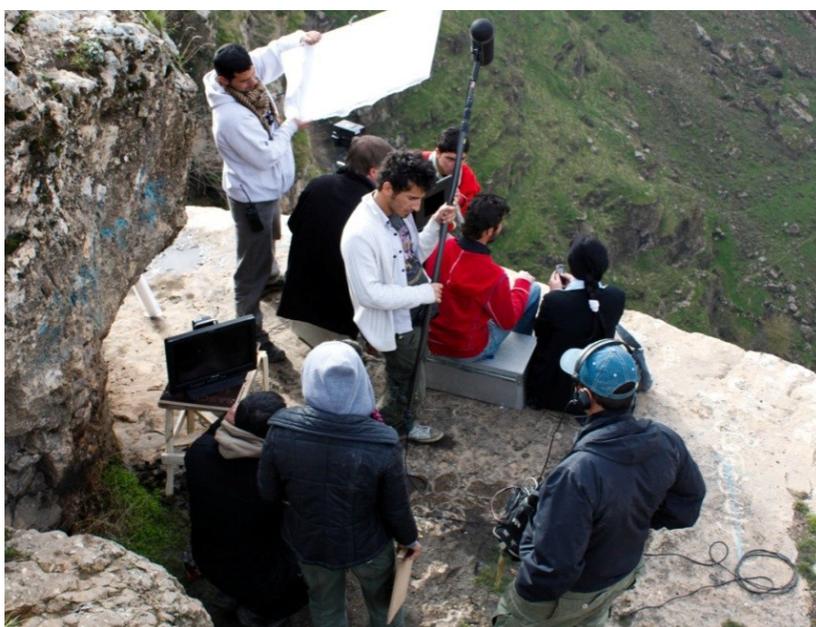
**Halkawt Mustafa** (26) is born where the film is shot - in Kurdistan in the north of Iraq. He and his family moved to Norway in the year 2000, and he is now a Norwegian citizen. *Red Heart* is his first feature film. The film is a Norwegian/Iraqi (Kurdish) co-production, with Filmhuset in Norway as the main producer. The film premiered all across Norway on the 29.th of April.

The Norwegian press loves the work of the young first-time director: Dagbladet wrote: "He has flair for short and powerful movie moments, as the strong end of the picture ..."

DN says; "And at such a young director with commitment, this is hopefully just the beginning of a career."

## CHALLENGES

The production *Red Heart* was shot in Iraq (Kurdistan) gathering three different crews from Norway, Iraq and Iran. The shooting started December 19th 2009 in the beautiful town Rawanduz, placed close to the largest mountain area in Kurdistan, on the border to Iran. During the production it arose several challenges due to cultural differences and language. According to the director a demanding situation occurred when Shahen Jamal (Shirin) refused to sit on the back of the motorbike and hold her arms around Soran Ibrahim (Soran). This lead to several stops in production – consequently the script was changed, so that Shahen would not get into trouble with her family. The shoot was still finished after 19 days in Rawanduz, and the recordings continued in the capital of Kurdistan; Erbil.



Erbil is one of the oldest cities in the Middle East. The city is built around a mountaintop, and is more than 4000 years old. The production was delayed due to problems with traffic, and the script had to be rewritten.

This is the first Norwegian film production shot in Iraq.

The script is written by the director himself, and is produced in cooperation with the producers Egil Ødegård and Anders Graham at Filmhuset Produksjoner AS. *Red Heart* is a Norwegian/Iraqi collaboration, and the recording was done in the north of Iraq in December 2009/January 2010.

Filmproduction has not been possible in Kurdistan under the former dictator Saddam Hussein. Filmhuset is the first foreign company to produce a feature film in Kurdistan/Iraq. This was a very challenging, but yet inspiring project in a different culture, states Norwegian producer Egil Ødegård.

Title	<b>Red Heart</b>	Produced by	<b>Egil Ødegård, Anders Graham,</b>
Genre	<b>Drama</b>		<b>Halkawt Mustafa</b>
Length	<b>78 min</b>	Distributed by	<b>Europafilm A/S</b>
Director	<b>Halkawt Mustafa</b>	Norwegian premiere	<b>29.04.2011, Nationwide</b>
Script	<b>Halkawt Mustafa</b>		