



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
UN CERTAIN REGARD  
2021 OFFICIAL SELECTION

# Commitment Hasan

A Film by  
Semih Kaplanoğlu



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU Umut Karadağ Filiz Bozok Gökhan Azlağ Ayşe Günyüz Demirci and Mahir Günsiray Kürsat Karaman Hakan Atalay  
Devrim Özder Akin Yasemen Büyükağaoğlu Somer Karvan Mehmet Avdan Şahin Sancak Tuncay Kaynak Hasan Aslangiray Doğa Yaltrik Sinan Demirer  
Bedir Bedir Zeynep Kaçar and Hakan Altiner LINE PRODUCER KORAY KEFAL UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER CAN DEMİR CASTING SONGÜL KARAARSLAN SOUND SEÇKİN AKYILDIZ  
SOUND DESIGN CENKER KÖKTEN EDITING SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ÖZGÜR EKEN ART DIRECTOR MERAL AKTAN  
PRODUCERS SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU FURKAN YEŞİLNUR

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**Semih Kaplanoglu**

2021 - Turkey - Drama - 1.85 - 147 min

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

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## Cast

Umut Karadağ

**Hasan**

Filiz Bozok

**Emine**

Gökhan Azlağ

**Serdar**

Ayşe Günyüz Demirci

**Nisa**

Mahir Günşiray

**Muzaffer**

## Crew

Written and Directed by

**Semih Kaplanoğlu**

Cinematography

**Özgür Eken**

Editing

**Semih Kaplanoğlu**

Casting

**Songül Karaarslan**

Art Direction

**Meral Aktan**

Sound

**Seçkin Akyıldız**

Sound Design

**Cenker Kökten**

Production

**Semih Kaplanoğlu, Furkan Yeşilnur**



## Synopsis

Making his living from gardening and farming in the land he inherited from his father, Hasan tries to get rid of the electric power pole that is going to be installed in the midst of his land. In the meantime, his impending voyage to Mecca for pilgrimage leads to soul searching into his past.





## **Director & Producer Note**

'Commitment Hasan' focuses on the human conflicts that each and every one of us go through anywhere in the world. It centres around the metaphysical and conscientious soul searching of characters with different identities from different classes and walks of life; and tries to discover the unique 'meaning' to all of us, and one which our assumed roles and identities in everyday life cannot explain.

Hasan, who grows and sells crops in his field, tries to overcome the difficulties he faces by impacting the rights of others, even those closest to him, and is a result of his obsessional commitment to property. Even though the choices he makes are self-inflicted, he succumbs to his ego every time. Hasan and his wife Emine begin to face the mistakes of his past with the emergence of their journey to Hajj... But before going to Hajj, he goes on a journey to get halal with the people he has broken and deceived.



For me it is important to make my audience feel a human being's pain - the remorse and desperation that lives underneath, whilst depicting their discrepancies and contradictions on the surface. I believe the source of pain has something to do with the real bond that connects each and every one of us together - with an invisible thread.

We chose our leading actors from amongst some of the most unfamiliar actors. I believe our choice in casting the leads of Hasan and his wife Emine was particularly successful and convincing in connecting with the audience. In addition to our leading actors, there are many supporting characters in the movie. I believe that the long and detailed preliminary work we did in the selection of these supporting actors really adds a richness to the film. We shot 'Commitment Hasan' in 6K with the Sony Venice camera, giving us the highest quality visual result possible. We worked again with cinematographer Ozgur Eken, with whom we worked with in my 2007 movie "Egg". I think the advantage of knowing each other for many years contributes significantly to the film's aesthetic.

















## About the Director

Born in 1963, Semih Kaplanoğlu works as a writer, director and producer. Born and raised in Izmir, Turkey, he received BS in Cinema-Television from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dokuz Eylül University, in 1984. As a director he realised his debut



Photo: Jean-Marc Barr

feature, *Away From Home* in 2001, which received critical acclaim all over the world. He then set up his own production company Kaplan Film and started writing, directing and producing his own films and co-producing foreign directors. His second feature *Angel's Fall* had its world Premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in 2005. It received the Mongolfière d'Or in Nantes (3 continents). *Egg* premiered within the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes in 2007. In total, it received around thirty awards, including important national awards such as the Golden Orange (Antalya International Film Festival) and the Golden Tulip award (Istanbul International Film Festival). This film was the first part of the Yusuf Trilogy which brought international fame to Semih Kaplanoğlu.

In 2008 *Milk* (developed at L'Atelier de la Cinéfondation in 2008) premiered in competition at the Venice Film Festival. *Honey*, the last film of this trilogy, won the Golden Bear at the Berlinale in 2010. Semih Kaplanoğlu also served as a juror for the Cinéfondation & Short Film Jury member in 2013. Semih Kaplanoğlu's film *Grain* is a 35mm film shot in black and white, is an international co-production and the directors' first film in the English language and is a film about climate change issues. *Commitment Hasan* is the second part of a new trilogy called the Commitment Trilogy. It was shot at the very beginning of 2020, just before the Covid 19 pandemic hit the world.



It follows the first part, *Commitment Asli*, which was the official submission on behalf of Turkey for Best International Feature Film at the Academy Awards in 2019. It is Semih Kaplanoglu's first film shot in digital. Semih Kaplanoğlu is now working on the last part of the trilogy, already named *Commitment Fikret*, an adaptation of the well-known Turkish author Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar's novel called *A Mind at Peace*.

### **As a producer**

As a producer he co-produced *Djeca* with his fellow director Aida Begic, which earned a special mention in *Un Certain Regard* at Cannes in 2012.

### **As a writer**

As a writer in addition to his films, Semih Kaplanoğlu has also written many articles about Art and Cinema between 1987 and 2003.

He is the writer of the books *Yusuf'un Rüyası* (2010) and *Karşılaşmalar* (2011).







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