

TARANEH
ALIDOOSTI

NAVID
MOHAMMADZADEH

Official Selection
tiff
Toronto International
Film Festival 2022

SUBTRACTION

A FILM BY
MANI HAGHIGHI

FILMS BOUTIQUE PRESENTS A MAJID MOTALEBI AND JEAN-CHRISTOPHE SIMON PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIRAD DESIGN AND DARK PRECURSOR PRODUCTIONS
A FILM BY MANI HAGHIGHI "SUBTRACTION" TARANEH ALIDOOSTI NAVID MOHAMMADZADEH ESMAIL POOR REZA FARHAM AZIZI SOHEILA RAZAVI GILDA VISHKI ALI BAGHERI SAEEED CHANGIZIAN VAHID AGHAPOOR
PRODUCERS MAJID MOTALEBI AND JEAN-CHRISTOPHE SIMON MAKE UP IMAN OMI DVARI MUSIC BAHAM KOUSHA COSTUME DESIGNER ARASH AGHADEIG CASTING DIRECTOR MOHAMMAD BARADARAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RASHD DANESHMAND EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMIR HOSSEIN GHASEMI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MOHSEN MASROLLAHI
COSTUME DESIGNER NEDA NASR EDITOR MEYSAM MOJAEI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MORTEZA NAJAFI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMIR REZA KOHSESTANI AND MANI HAGHIGHI DIRECTED BY MANI HAGHIGHI

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2022 - Iran/France - Drama/Thriller - 2:1 - 107 min

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

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SYNOPSIS

When Farzaneh (Taraneh Alidoosti) spots a man on a city bus who looks an awful lot like her husband, Jalal (Navid Mohammadzadeh), she follows him to an unfamiliar building. There, she sees the residents greet him as if they know him and watches from the street as he enters an apartment to meet with another woman.

Three months pregnant and barely present in her job as a driving instructor, Farzaneh is convinced she's caught Jalal in an affair. When they discuss it, he's adamant about his alibi, reminding her that he was miles away at the time. Farzaneh begins to fall apart, but she swears she saw him, and, unable to let go, she continues to pull on the thread before making an unsettling discovery about the man on the bus.

CREW

Directed by	Mani Haghighi
Written by	Amir Reza Koohestani & Mani Haghighi
Produced by	Majid Motalebi
Co-Produced by	Jean-Christophe Simon
Cinematographer	Morteza Najafi
Set Design	Mohsen Nasrollahi
Costume Design	Neda Nasr
Editor	Meysam Molaei
Original Score	Ramin Kousha
Sound Design	Amir Hossein Ghasemi
Sound Recordist	Rashid Daneshmand
Make-Up	Iman Omidvari
Special Effects	Arash Aghabeig
Visual Effects	Mohammad Baradaran

CAST

Taraneh Alidoosti	Farzaneh, Bit
Navid Mohammadzadeh	Jalal, Mohsen
Esmail Poor-Reza	Jalal's Father
Farham Azizi	Bardia



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Living in a theocracy splits you in two. You must become two people to survive. A private life, and a public mask. The split seeps into the narrowest crevices of your life, and your every cell produces a simulacrum of itself: a copy that looks just like you. You produce this copy to protect yourself from the brutality around you, but it can turn against you and destroy you.

I always wanted to make a film about this doubling, and the catastrophes it creates around me. I wanted to make a film about the *atmosphere* of Tehran: Not the explicitly political film that tackles issues head-on, but a film about the *mood* of this city, how it feels for us to live here, all of us, together with our doubles...

Imagine you are a woman, married to a man you used to love. You remember the days when you started to fall in love with him. You remember how kind he was, how tender and loving. You miss that man, because today he is different. There is an ocean between who he is now, and who he was when you first met him and gave him your heart.

Now imagine if that man, the man of those early years of love, opened the door and walked into your house again, and sat next to *himself*, next to your husband as he is today. Imagine him looking you in the eye and telling you with that look that he still loves you. How would that make you feel? What kind of love would that be? How would your husband react to that love?

And what if it happened the other way around? What if the younger you walked into your house and touched your husband the way you used to touch him? What kind of pain would suddenly rip through your heart?

Subtraction tells that story, the story of the split between who your lover actually is, and who you imagined him to be, untouched by the passage of time and the terrible mutilations it can cause. It is a story of what life feels like in contemporary Tehran, a city that splits me in two, and forces me to attack myself.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mani Haghighi studied philosophy at McGill University in Montréal. His first feature, **Abadan** (2003) premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. **Men at Work** (Berlinale, Forum 2006), based on a story idea by Abbas Kiarostami, won the Best Screenplay Prize at the 2007 Asian Film Awards.



Haghighi has co-written two screenplays with the Oscar-winning Iranian director, Asghar Farhadi: **Fireworks Wednesday** (2006) and **Canaan** (2008), based on a short story by Alice Munro.

Modest Reception (Berlinale, Forum 2012) won the Free Spirit Award at the Warsaw Film Festival as well as a number of other international prizes.

After **A Dragon Arrives!** (Berlinale, Competition 2016), Haghighi made **50 Kilos of Sour Cherries** (2017), a romantic comedy that is one of Iranian cinema's highest grossing films of all time.

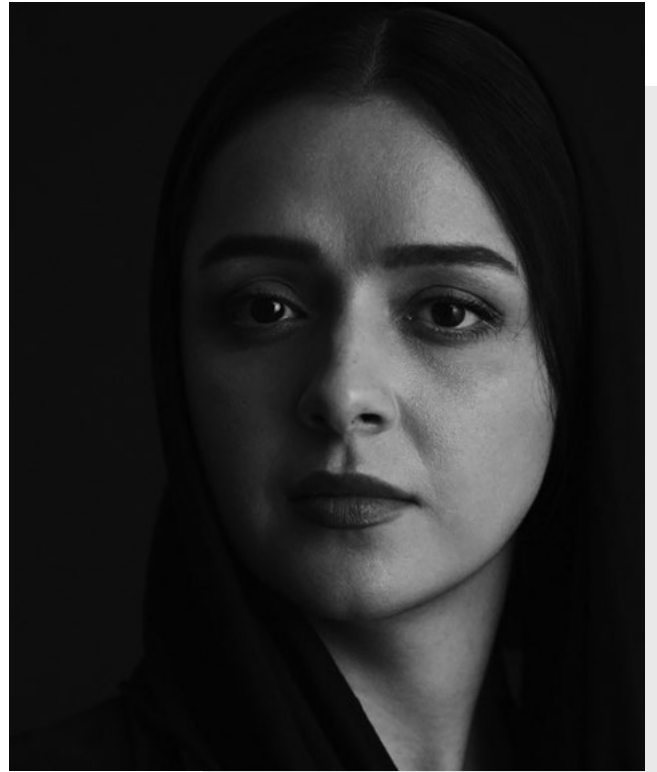
Pig (Berlinale, Competition 2018) won l'Amphore d'Or for Best Film at the Festival du film grolandais in Toulouse, and was named one of the best films of 2019 by the New Yorker magazine.

Haghighi's latest film, **Subtraction**, will celebrate its premiere in the Platform section at the TIFF.

TARANEH ALIDOOSTI

Taraneh Alidoosti is an internationally renowned Iranian actress, notably for her role in **The Salesman** (2016), which won the Best Foreign Language Film award at the 89th Academy Awards.

Alidoosti has won the Silver Leopard for Best Actress at the Locarno Film Festival and Best Actress in a Leading Role at the Fajr Film Festival for her performance in **I'm Taraneh, 15** (2002). She is also known for her starring roles in **Beautiful City** (2003), **Fireworks Wednesday** (2006), **About Elly** (2008).



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2022 **Subtraction** by Mani Haghighi
- 2022 **Leila's Brothers** by Saaed Roustaei
- 2016 **The Salesman** by Asghar Farhadi
- 2015 **Absolute Rest** by Abdolreza Kahani
- 2014 **The Wedlock** by Rouhollah Hejazi
- 2012 **Modest Reception** by Mani Haghighi
- 2009 **About Elly** by Asghar Farhadi
- 2008 **Canaan** by Mani Haghighi
- 2008 **Shirin** by Abbas Kiarostami
- 2006 **Fireworks Wednesday** by Asghar Farhadi
- 2004 **Beautiful City** by Asghar Farhadi
- 2002 **I'm Taraneh, 15** by Rasoul Sadr Ameli

NAVID MOHAMMADZADEH

Navid Mohammadzadeh was first introduced to international audiences in Mohammad Shirvani's **Fat Shaker** (Rotterdam Tiger Award, 2013).

He also appeared in Ida Panahandeh's **Nahid** (Un certain regard, 2015) and in Vahid Jalilvand's **No Signature, No Date** for which he won the Orizzonti Award for Best Actor at the Venice Film Festival (2017). He also appeared in three of Saeed Roustaei's films: **Life and a Day** (2016), **Just 6.5** (2019) and **Leila's Brothers**, which was presented in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2022 **Subtraction** by Mani Haghighi
- 2022 **Beyond the Wall** by Vahid Jalilvand
- 2022 **Leila's Brothers** by Saeed Roustaei
- 2019 **The Warden** by Nima Javidi
- 2019 **Just 6.5** by Saeed Roustaei
- 2017 **No Signature, No Date** by Vahid Jalilvand
- 2016 **Life and a Day** by Saeed Roustaei
- 2016 **Lantouri** by Reza Dormishian
- 2015 **Nahid** by Ida Panahandeh
- 2014 **I'm Not Angry!** by Reza Dormishian
- 2013 **Fat Shaker** by Mohammad Shirvani



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