

Persmap



BEKAS

Een Film van Karzan Kader

BEKAS speelt begin jaren '90 in, wanneer Saddam Hoesseins regime veel druk legt op het Koerdische deel van Irak. Twee dakloze broertjes, Dana en Zana, verloren hun ouders in de eerste Golfoorlog en proberen zichzelf in levensonderhoud te voorzien met schoenen poetsen. Wanneer ze de Hollywoodfilm Superman zien in het lokale bioscoopje, besluiten ze hun held op te zoeken en vertrekken naar Amerika. Ze gaan op pad met hun ezel Michael Jackson en zijn onderweg overgeleverd aan geluk en de vrijgevigheid van anderen. Een hartverwarmende roadmovie over moed, kracht en het tomeloze optimisme van twee kinderen in een setting van geweld en onderdrukking.

The feature film BEKAS won the pitch contest Nordic Talent, arranged by Nordic Film & TV fund in September 2010.



Land: Zweden, Finland, Irak – Jaar: 2012 – Genre: drama – Speelduur: 93 min.

Releasedatum: 11 juli 2013

Distributie: Cinéart

Meer informatie over de film:

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*Persmap en foto's staan op: www.cinéart.nl
Persrubriek - inlog: [cinéart](http://cinéart.nl) / wachtwoord: *film**

Welcome to BEKAS

This is a story about two homeless brothers (Zana ,7, and Dana, 10) who live on the edge of survival. In the beginning of the story they catch a glimpse of Superman through a hole in the wall at the local cinema. A dream starts to grow in Zana and Dana; they want to go to America and live with Superman. Once they get there he can solve all their problems, make their lives easy and punish everyone that has been mean to them.

Zana, the younger brother, starts to make a list of all people he is going to tell Superman to punish. On top of the list is Saddam Hussein. Dana on the other hand makes a concrete plan for what they need to get there; money, passports, transportation and a way to get across the border. Unfortunately they have neither of those. But in spite of everything they decide to follow the dream. They put together every dinar they have and buy a fine donkey from a kind old man. Zana calls the donkey Michael Jackson. With Michael fully loaded with bread and water and 30 kids behind like a tail, Zana and Dana begins their journey to get to America, and to Superman.

On the busiest poor and damaged dust highway they get out of town with no money and valuables except for a necklace from their dead mother. Everyone knows America is not happening. But faith is in the hearts of the two brothers and that's all they need to keep on going.

On the road a new adventure begins; they lose each other, finds back, meets a lot of new faces and eventually they have no other choice but to put their destiny in the hands of greedy and ruthless smugglers to get across the border without passports...

BEKAS is a story that crosses heavy realism with a very warm and entertaining storytelling. It's a story about chasing your dreams, told from a child's point of view and about the most important thing to have on a journey like this; a friend that is close to you; someone like your brother.

CAST

Zana ZAMAND TAHA

Dana SARWAR FAZIL

CREW

Writer and director KARZAN KADER

Director of photography JOHAN HOLMQUIST

Production design FATEN KHEYMEGAHI

LINNÉA PETTERSSON

Make-up design and wardrobe MIMMI HARMS OREDSSON

Still photographer SAMAN JALAL

Editor SEBASTIAN RINGLER

Additional and supervising editor MICHAL LESZCZYLOWSKI

Sound design MICKE NYSTRÖM

Music JUHANA LEHTINIEMI

Postproduction supervisor MARCUS VASQUES OSORIO

Production manager BAKHTYAR FATAH

Line producer EIFFEL MATTSSON

Assistant producer TERESA ALLDÉN

Associate producer GLENN LUND

Co-producers ANNIKA SUCKSDORFF

ALAN ALI

JESSICA ASK

GUNNAR CARLSSON

DAROON NAWZAD MAJEED

Executive producer PETER POSSNE

Producer SANDRA HARMS

Produced by Sonet Film in co-production with Helsinki Filmi Oy, FS Film Oy, Film i Väst, Sveriges Television, Ava Media. In collaboration with YLE, Kurdsat, Suli Film and with support from The Swedish Filminstitute / Lars G Lindström, Nordisk Film & TV fond / Hanne Palmquist, Eurimages, The Finnish Film Foundation / Kaisu Isto. International sales by TrustNordisk

Karzan Kader – Writer & Director

Biografie

Karzan Kader is in 1982 geboren in Sulaymania, Koerdistan. Tijdens de oorlog in Irak verlieten Kader, toen zes jaar oud, en zijn familie Koerdistan en belandden uiteindelijk in Zweden.

Al vroeg merkte Karzan dat hij veel verhalen te vertellen had en deze wilde delen met de wereld. Hij begon korte films te maken, waardoor hij in 2007 toegelaten werd voor de Dramatiska Institutet als één van de vier studenten tot regisseur. Hier studeerde hij in 2010 af als filmregisseur en won hij in hetzelfde jaar een studenten award met zijn afstudeerfilm, de kortfilm BEKAS. In 2011 en 2012 heeft Karzan gewerkt aan de productie van de film BEKAS.

Naast zelf films maken heeft Kader verschillende reclames geregisseerd en werkte hij als casting director en first AD bij een aantal films, o.a. THE HOPE (HOPPET) van Petter Neass en SEBBE van Babak Najafi.

Filmografie

2012 BEKAS

2010 BEKAS (short)

2010 DE FYRA SISTA

2009 QUAN (short)



Director's statement

1991, I was six years old. I see myself and my brother getting ready for passing border in Iraq. Tired, hungry and scared. This is my story, how I left Kurdistan, Iraq.

When I started writing BEKAS, I wanted to tell this story because I fell in love with the dream of putting my own feet on the streets of America and live in peace far from the war of Saddam.

In many ways it is unique to tell this story from Kurdistan, Iraq. I can't see this kind of story be told from any other part of the world. This part of the world has been in war for so long that it has become the normal state there. I want this story to be a strong voice of the Kurdish people to the rest of the world. There are no other films showing this side of Kurdistan to the rest of the world, it has never been done before. That's why it's time to take action.

This is BEKAS and for me, both brothers represent the big S on Superman's chest. And I love the idea of two kids put them self on a dangerous road to get to their hero Superman, from the streets of Iraq to America, on a donkey.

Visual style and approach

I am thinking my approach of directing gives the film some intense reality. With cinematographer Johan Holmqvist, the film will be shown just as it is without any kind of visual effects or artificial lighting. The scenery in Kurdistan is very epic in its look.

I want to use the same aesthetics as in the short film and make it a real yet playful film. By shooting on location in Sulaimania and without any kind of traditional, studio style of storytelling or visual techniques this film will give its audience something most of them never have seen before. With such a visually engaging style making the film, it is very important to keep the genuine feeling that the story has. In production and costume design, in the music and of course in the acting style. We want to capture everything from the landscapes and deserts, to the big, lively towns and villages where all those poor people live. For me it's important to have a balance between humor and the drama in this heavy story.

This story is close to my heart and soul, parts of the storyline is from my own childhood. When my family left Kurdistan in 1991 for Europe, it was a trip that took 11 months to get to Sweden. We were smuggled from country to country, border to border. I want the feelings we experienced at that time in the film BEKAS.

THE CAST

To find Zana and Dana Karzan Kader searched through schools, orphanages and on the streets. He tried out hundreds of kids in the struggle to find his heroes. Until he was satisfied at last, the first kid he met was Zamand Taha (Zana) and the last kid he met was Sarwar Fazil (Dana) only that is a cool story to tell about.

ZANA and DANA

It is hard and difficult to cast the right face and voice. In Kurdistan there are no professional actors or acting schools. Even if there were any, that would not be his first option. Kader knew from the beginning, if he was going to make the best picture he had to find the kids on the streets. It is important to enjoy the casting.



Then we have the other characters.

The main characters are in place and work like a charm. In Kader's opinion, a great successful movie is 50% depending on the script, 30% is the cast, 10% is shooting, location. 10% is editing. Karzan Kader: "This works for me. This is how I think and what I believe. That doesn't mean that this is how it should be, just how I think and believe and DO."

THE PRODUCERS

SANDRA HARMS – PRODUCER

Born in 1980. Sandra studied film and producing film at Stockholm University 2000, Stockholm Film school 2001, Dramatiska Institutet 2003-2006 and participated in the EAVE programme during 2008. She worked as assistant producer at Memphis Film 2006-2007 with the feature films NINA FRISK and LEO.

Between March 2007 and November 2009 she worked as producer at Breidablick Film. Sandra produced several short films including SPENDING THE NIGHT by Amanda Adolfsson, which was in competition at Berlinale 2008. In 2008 she also produced the feature STARRING MAJA (PRINSESSA), written and directed by acclaimed Teresa Fabik, who in 2004 made the box office hit THE KETCHUP EFFECT. STARRING MAJA was released in September 2009 and was nominated for Guldbagge (Swedish Oscars) in the categories Best Screenplay, Best Direction and Best Picture. In January 2010 Sandra started working as producer at Sonet Film.

PETER POSSNE – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Peter has worked in the industry since the early 80's. In 1984 he established the production and distribution company Sonet Film, which became a groundbreaking company, distributing European films in Sweden. Besides working as distributor, Peter has produced, co-produced or executively produced over 50 feature films the last 20 years.

ANNIKA SUCKSDORFF – CO - PRODUCER (FINLAND)

Annika Sucksdorff has been working in the Finnish film industry since 2003 and joined Helsinki-filmi in 2006, becoming a shareholder two years later. She has a master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and also studied Film Production in the US.

A participant in the EAVE producers programme in 2008, Annika has been particularly interested in developing the international activities at Helsinki-filmi with co-productions being undertaken recently with Sweden, Ireland, Germany, Estonia and the UK. During the past year, the company has been a service producers for Christophe Blanc's BLANC COMME NEIGE and Joe Wright's HANNA, starring Cate Blanchett and Eric Bana. LYDIA by Anna Maria Jóakimsdóttir Hutri and WHERE ONCE WE WALKED by Peter Lindholm are two of Annika's productions being shot in 2010.

Annika was selected as Finland's Producer on the move in Cannes 2010.

SONET FILM – PRODUCTION COMPANY

Sonet Film has been one of the leading production and distribution companies of Swedish feature films since its incorporation in 1984. The films produced have gained recognition both nationally and internationally.

Sonet has produced, co-produced or distributed feature films such as THE HUNTERS (JÄGARNA) Dir. Kjell Sundvall Show me love (Fucking Åmål), Together (Tillsammans), LILJA 4-EVER Dir: Lukas Moodysson DALECARLIANS (MASJÄVLAR), NINA FRISK Dir: Maria Blom EVERYONE LOVES ALICE (ALLA ÄLSKAR ALICE) Dir. Richard Hobert PATRIK 1,5 Dir: Ella Lemhagen AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (SÅ SOM I HIMLEN) Dir: Kay Pollak SUDDENLY (UNDERBARA ÄLSKADE) Dir: Johan Brisinger, HEAVENS HEART (HIMLENS HJÄRTA) Dir: Simon Staho STARRING MAJA (PRINCESSA) Dir: Teresa Fabik and SEBBE Dir: Babak Najafi.

Since 2008 Sonet Film is a company in the Bonnier Group and now focuses only on filmproducing (not distributing) high quality feature films. Within the Bonnier Group Sonet Film has a close collaboration with SF (Svensk Filmindustri), who is the national distributor and international sales agent on all films produced by Sonet Film.!

HELSINKI FILMI – CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY

Helsinki Film is an active and innovative company. Dedication to development a constant search of extraordinary stories defines the core of the company. The emphasis is on contemporary stories based on original ideas, with a low to mid-budget range. The company has produced 11 feature films and numerous TV productions since it was founded in 2002. Helsinki-filmi is a subsidiary to Yellow Film & TV, which is one of the biggest production houses in Finland –and the biggest independent one.

During the past few years, Helsinki-filmi has participated in several European co-productions -mainly with Sweden, Ireland, Estonia, Germany and the UK.

