

Pensée Sauvage Films and MSVP present

# Ziba

A film by Bani Khoshnoudi



IRAN / FRANCE - 2012

82 min. / COLOR / DCP / Farsi with English Subtitles

Produced by Pensée Sauvage Films and MSVP

In association with Homayoun Assadian

With the support of the Cinéfondation – Residency of the Cannes Film Festival

Fondation Groupama Gan pour le Cinéma and Fonds Sud Cinéma

More information: [www.ziba-film.com](http://www.ziba-film.com)

Contact: [info@penseesauvagefilms.com](mailto:info@penseesauvagefilms.com)

Tel. +52 1 - 55 48 27 29 78 (Mexico City)

+ 33 (0) 6 46 22 10 96 (Paris)



## Synopsis

Through the character of Ziba, an upper-class housewife in today's Tehran, we experience the asphyxiation lived on a daily basis by Iranians today. Unable to relate to her environment, Ziba leads an alienated life, caught in the repetitive motions of the everyday and unable to express to those around her what is wrong. One long summer day, Ziba finds herself in an unexpected situation in the company of people unknown to her, confronted with her own choices and indecisions. Not a character portrait per se, this film is a rather visceral metaphor of the general state of oppression and imposed silence in Iran today.

## Director's intentions

Far from being a portrait of Ziba herself, the film tries to put us into her skin, in order to make us feel her interiorized conflict and a general sense of paralysis. Through the other characters, the different locations and situations that come upon us, we find ourselves subtly placed within a metaphor about the general state of oppression, asphyxiation, and alienation within Iranian society today. This suffocation is political, social, but also personal. It is virtually impossible for communication between genders, across social classes and generations and amongst people with differing cultures within the same society. At the same time, people are victim to their own censorship and containment, mirroring that which the government and its religious restrictions impose on them. My goal with *Ziba* is to allow the spectator to viscerally live these sensations and the feeling of containment, through the characters, during a compressed and stretched time of the film.

## Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/51949820>

## Technical Information

### Cast:

Ziba	Neda Razavipour
Farhad	Mohamad Ali Zolfaghari
Hossein	Morteza Sokhangou
Fariba	Zahra Sadeghi

### Crew:

Written and Directed by	Bani Khoshnoudi
Produced by	Bani Khoshnoudi (Pensée Sauvage Films) and Christie Molia (MSVP) In association with Homayoun Assadian and George Hashemzadeh

Cinematography	Shahriar Assadi
Sound recording	Sassan Nakhai
Editing	Miguel Schverdfinger
Sound Design	Claire-Anne LARGERON
Sound Mix	Roman Dymny
Music	Andy Moor and Yannis Kyriakides

Laboratory	Éclair Group – FRANCE
Sound Studio	Polyson - FRANCE

Shot on location in Tehran, IRAN.

With the support of the Cinéfondation Residency of the Cannes Film Festival,  
Fondation Groupama Gan pour le Cinéma, Fonds Sud Cinéma (FRANCE)



## Director's Bio

Bani Khoshnoudi was born in Tehran. She immigrated to the United States with her family in 1979. After studying photography and film, she moved to Paris, France. In 2002 she participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus, and worked with short experimental formats. In 2004 Bani directed **TRANSIT**, a short fiction that received the Grand Jury Prize at the Premiers Plans Angers Film Festival, and which played in a number of international film festivals: Rotterdam, Angers, Sao Paulo Mostra, Goteburg, Larissa, Brooklyn, Côte Court, Tribeca, Villeurbanne, ARTE East NYC, Flying Broom Ankara, etc. The film was nominated for the Jean Vigo Prize and the Critic's Prix Novaïs-Terxeira in 2005. Also in 2004, she directed **SHIRIN EBADI : A simple lawyer**, feature documentary commissioned by the French channel ARTE and produced by Les Films d'Ici and Article Z. The film played in many international festivals and on television around the world, and is part of a number of university library collections. In 2006, Bani founded her production company, *Pensée Sauvage Films*. In 2007 she produced and directed a feature length documentary about Tehran, **A People in the Shadows**, which was winner of two grants from the Jan Vrijman Fund (IDFA). The film played at IDFA, Cinéma du Réel, Dokfest Munich, Muestra de Colombia, It's All True (Brazil), EDOC Festival, as well as many other festivals. It received the Jury's Special Mention at the Docs D.F. Film Festival in Mexico City. Her experimental fiction feature, **The Last Image ( "EKBATAN"**), was finalist for the Amiens Screenplay Development Fund and winner of the CECI Moulin d'Andé writing Residency in France. In 2008, Bani produced the short documentary essay film, **All Restrictions End**, by director, Reza Haeri. The film received a production grant from the Jan Vrijman Fund and premiered at IDFA in 2009, and played in the FORUM Expanded program at the Berlinale in 2010. In addition to filmmaking, Bani makes more experimental work and her video and sound installations and projections have been showed in galleries in New York, Berlin, Mexico City, Tehran, Paris... In 2008, Bani was invited as a Studio Artist to participate in the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. In the fall of 2009, Bani was selected for the Cinéfondation Writing Residency (Cannes Film Festival) where she wrote her first fiction feature, **ZIBA**. As a French-Iranian co-production, the film received the support of the Fondation Groupama Gan and the Fonds Sud, and was shot on location in Tehran. Bani is now writing her second feature, which will take place in Mexico. She divides her time between Paris, Mexico City and Tehran.

## Filmography

Transit (short film) – 2004

Shirin Ebadi: A simple lawyer (documentary) – 2005

A People in the Shadows (documentary) – 2008

Ziba (fiction feature) - 2012