



# TRT humanitarian film festival

It's not just a film festival  
**It's an experience**

[trthumanitarianfilmfestival.com](http://trthumanitarianfilmfestival.com)



**13** December  
2025



**Atatürk Cultural Centre | AKM**  
Gümüşsuyu Neighbourhood Mete Street  
No: 2 Beyoğlu/Istanbul



# CONTENT

EVENT SCHEDULE .....	4
JURY MEMBERS .....	5
PANEL: HUMANITARIAN FILMMAKING .....	9
MASTERCLASS: FILM ANALYSIS.....	10
MATERCLASS: ACTING.....	11
FILMS .....	12
YA HANOUNI .....	12
THE DEER'S TOOTH .....	13
DISTRESS CALL .....	14
INUNDATION .....	15
AL WADIAA .....	16
FARFOUR: A WAR DIARY FROM GAZA .....	17
THE RAFFLE .....	18
CATS .....	19
IS ANYONE ALIVE? .....	20
LARGO .....	21
HATCH .....	22
MUSIC PERFORMANCE .....	23

# TRT Humanitarian Film Festival 2025

We are delighted to gather once again with film lovers as we celebrate the 7th TRT Humanitarian Film Festival.

From that first moment when a train pulling into a station appeared on screen, cinema has served as one of the most powerful tools for conveying the various conditions of human existence. By conveying to its audience issues that concern all humanity and feelings that transcend distances, cinema has made aesthetic contributions to humanity's search for self-understanding and meaning in the world. Through elements such as story, character, imagery, and dialogue, it has left a distinctive mark on our shared cultural heritage.

The world, currently reeling under the shadow of war, massacres, forced migration, and various disasters, is perhaps in its greatest hour of need for cinema's narrative power and impact. Yet the policies of dehumanization and standardization pursued by powerful interests, which seek to virtually enslave the entire world, are unfortunately leaving indelible stains on both consciences and screens. Millions of people condemned to live under oppression in various regions are unable to benefit from the blessings of developing communication technologies and struggle to find their place in the evergrowing cinema industry. While the cries of these righteous but powerless people go unheard and their suffering is ignored, cinema's visual and auditory power, which captivates masses, is instead allocated to the fabricated adventures of artificial heroes. We, as broadcasters, are committed to thwarting these malicious efforts and bringing the authentic stories of genuine heroes to centre stage. As Türkiye's public broadcaster, TRT, which selflessly fights to protect human dignity and build hopeful tomorrows, we recognize cinema's unique potential and work with all our strength to mobilize this potential according to the values we carry forward from our heritage. As a valuable expression of this commitment, the TRT Humanitarian Film Festival, which we have organized since 2018, expands the framework narrowed by the impositions of the mainstream and brings audiences together with films centred on authentic human problems. As the host of this profoundly meaningful event, I wholeheartedly congratulate all our filmmakers who view the world and humanity through the lens of truth, and I extend my gratitude to our valued guests.

**Prof. Mehmet Zahid Sobacı**  
**Director General, TRT**

# EVENT SCHEDULE

## Festival Schedule

10.30 - 11.30	Doors Open
11.30 - 12.30	Panel: Humanitarian Filmmaking
12.30 - 12.40	Break
12.40 - 13.20	Film Screening 1
13.20 - 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 - 14.40	Film Screening 2
14.40 - 14.50	Break
14.50 - 16.00	Masterclass: Film Analysis
16.00 - 16.10	Break
16.10 - 17.00	Film Screening 3
17.00 - 17.10	Break
17.10 - 18.10	Masterclass: Acting

## Award Ceremony

18.10 - 19.00	Cocktail
19.00 - 19.20	Opening Speech
19.20 - 19.35	Music Performance
19.35 - 20.00	Special Film Screening
20.00 - 20.20	Award Presentation
20.20 - 20.40	Closing

# JURY MEMBERS



## Elchin Musaoglu Guliyev

**Jury President**

**Director, Screenwriter**

Elchin Musaoglu is an Azerbaijani theater and film director, producer, and screenwriter. In 2016, he was bestowed the title of "Honored Art Worker of Azerbaijan" and is a member of the Azerbaijan Union of Filmmakers and the European Film Academy. He has created more than 80 documentary and fiction films and has won awards at international festivals.

His best-known films are "The 40th Door" (2008, Houston Film Festival "Best Foreign Film" Award) and "Nabat" (2014, Venice Premiere, Oscar longlist). Musaoglu is also the founder of the Young Filmmakers Club and the production company Cinema House. One of his recent projects is "Maryam", a 2023 co-production with TRT. Having served on juries at international festivals, Musaoglu is currently the Director of the Arts and Documentary Films Studio at Azerbaijan Television.



## Mehmet Açar

**Jury Member**

**Writer, Film Critic**

Mehmet Açar (b. 1963) graduated from Boğaziçi University's Department of English Language and Literature, after which he completed his master's degree at Marmara University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Cinema-TV. In 1989, he began working in the press sector and writing film reviews. Açar has been one of Turkey's leading and most respected film writers for many years.

Açar served as the editor-in-chief of Sinema magazine for 12 years, during which he made significant contributions to film culture both as a critic and an editor. He also taught film theory, film analysis, and film history at various universities and institutions, guiding new generations of filmmakers. Today, he continues to write on film criticism and cinema.

# JURY MEMBERS



## Sinan Albayrak

**Jury Member**  
**Actor**

Sinan Taymin Albayrak was born in 1973 in Germany and moved to Turkey at the age of 9. Interested in theatre from a young age, he began his acting career at Ankara State Theatre, continued his studies at Hacettepe State Conservatory, and completed his education at Istanbul State Conservatory.

He gained stage experience at Bakırköy Municipal Theatre and Eskişehir City Theatres, while also starting his television career. His notable TV series include *"Kasaba Doktoru"*, *"Mehmet: Fetihler Sultanı"*, and *"Kanunsuz Topraklar"*. In cinema, he has played leading roles in *"Sis ve Gece"* and *"Bayrampaşa: Ben Fazla Kalmayacağım"*. Sinan Taymin Albayrak continues to act in major Turkish cinema and television productions.



## Andrea Taschler

**Jury Member**  
**Producer**

Andrea Taschler, a graduate of the Budapest Academy of Drama and Film, has been working in the film industry since 2000. With Andromeda Films, which she founded in 2010, she focused on innovative stories. She is a member of the European Film Academy, an EAVE graduate, and was selected for Producers on the Move in 2013. She has produced films such as *White Palms*, *Bibliothèque Pascal*, *Mirage*, *Genesis*, *Hier*, and *Catharsys*, which have been screened at international festivals. In 2019, she formed a partnership with Eclipse Films, creating a bridge between African and Eastern European cinemas through projects like *Alkebulan*.

# JURY MEMBERS



## Narges Abyar

Jury Member

Director, Writer

Narges Abyar is a respected Iranian director and writer with a background in literature. She began her writing career in 1997 and has published more than thirty books for children, young adults, and adults. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Abyar has directed internationally recognized feature films such as *Objects in Mirror* (2013), *Track 143* (2014), *Breath* (2016 – Iran's submission for the 90th Academy Awards), *When the Moon Was Full* (2019), and *Pinto* (2021).

She has also directed short and documentary films, as well as the two-season series *Savushun* and *Sarhoş Sabah*, and has served as a jury member at major film festivals in Iran, India, Belarus, and Estonia. Abyar's work continues to contribute to global cinema through storytelling centered on human experience and social justice.



## Sinan Sertel

Preliminary Jury

Director

Born in 1981, Sinan Sertel graduated from Istanbul Technical University and then studied filmmaking at the New York Film Academy. Having written and directed four short films and two feature films, Sertel began his filmmaking journey with *No Signal*, which premiered at the Busan Film Festival in 2010.

His first feature film as writer and director, *Bir Gün Bir Çocuk* (2018), received the Best Film, Best Director, and Best Screenplay awards at the Iran International FICTS Festival. His second feature, *Çimdeki Kahraman* (2021), competed at prestigious events such as the Adana, Malatya, and Boğaziçi International Film Festivals, winning several awards including Best Director, Best Music, and Best Editing.

Sertel continues his theoretical and practical work in cinema and is currently working on his new feature film, *Elisa*.

# JURY MEMBERS



## Tülay Gökçimen

Preliminary Jury  
Director

Tülay Gökçimen was born in Istanbul in 1981. She began her television career in 2001 at Kanal 7 and entered the field of documentary filmmaking with *"The Dance of Glass and Fire"*. She has filmed in crisis regions such as Syria, Palestine, Myanmar, and East Turkestan. Her notable documentaries include *"Exile"*, *"The Scream"*, *"Children of War"*, *"Good Night Rohingya"*, *"We Are Here"*, and *"Named Genocide"*. She has also directed biographical and investigative films such as *"The Secret Hero of a Generation"* (about M. Celaleddin Ökten), *"24 Hours in Syrian Prisons"*, *"Women of the Resistance: Bangladesh"*, and *"Survive"*.

With Human Movie Team, which she founded, she continues to produce multimedia content focused on global justice. Gökçimen is also the author of two books: *"The Scream"* and *"If I Had Filmed It, It Would Have Been a Documentary"*.



## Halil Kardaş

Preliminary Jury  
Producer

Producer Halil Kardaş graduated from Yıldız Technical University and has been working as a film producer since 2010. In 2018, he founded Film Code, a production company that creates feature films, documentaries, and digital content.

His notable works include *"The Announcement"* (2018, Jury Special Prize in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival), *"A Whisper of Carnation"* (2022, Tokyo International Film Festival), *"The Hero Inside"*, *"The Hoop"*, *"Yozgat Blues"*, and the short film *"Elephant Graveyard"*. As a producer, he has contributed to projects such as *"The Mute"*, *"The Pigeon Thieves"*, and *"One Day a Boy"*.

Since 2021, he has served as a jury member on the Foreign Film Production Support Committee of the Directorate General of Cinema under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In 2022, he successfully completed EAVE (European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs), one of Europe's leading producer training programs.

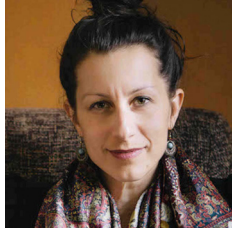
# PANEL: HUMANITARIAN FILMMAKING

In this panel, conducted by our main jury members, the discussion will focus on how stories centered on humanitarian issues can be conveyed and on the fundamental dynamics of advancing within the film industry. Throughout the session, you will discover how to find your own inspiration, gain valuable insights into filmmaking processes, and obtain important tips on how fiction production techniques can be used to express humanitarian values.

## SPEAKERS



**Elchin Musaoğlu**  
Director, Writer



**Andrea Taschler**  
Producer



**Mehmet Açar**  
Writer, Film Critic



**Narges Abyar**  
Director, Writer



**Sinan Albayrak**  
Actor

# MASTERCLASS: FILM ANALYSIS

In this workshop, conducted with experts in the field, you will be offered a comprehensive journey into the rich world of film analysis. A wide range of elements will be examined — from story structures to themes, from visual storytelling to the director's creative choices.

You will become familiar with the analytical methods needed not only to watch films but to interpret the meanings behind each scene. In this way, you will gain a broader perspective on the art of cinema and discover how structures and details add depth to a film.

## SPEAKERS



**Tülay Gökçimen**  
Director



**Sinan Sertel**  
Director



**Halil Kardeş**  
Producer

# MASTERCLASS: ACTING

This workshop will introduce you to the various dimensions of being part of a film while delving into the fundamental building blocks of acting and the process of constructing a performance. You will have the opportunity to work on developing your own unique acting style by experiencing topics such as preparing for a role, creating a character in depth, and applying various acting techniques.

## SPEAKERS



### **Ahmet Kural** - Actor

Ahmet Kural was born in 1982, in Kütahya. He graduated from the Radio, Television and Cinema Department of Selçuk University. He received acting training at the Müjdat Gezen Art Center and completed his master's degree in Cinema and Television at Beykent University.

Kural began his theatre career with the play *Ateşin Düştüğü Yer* and made his television debut in 2007 with the series *Fikrimin İnce Gülü*. He reached a wide audience with his performances in the series *İşler Güçler*, *Kardeş Payı*, *Bir Zamanlar Kıbrıs*, and *Gassal*.

He became one of the beloved figures of Turkish cinema with films such as *Çalgı Çengi*, *Düğün Dernek*, *Ailecek Şaşkınlık*, and *Baba Parası*. Throughout his career, he has received numerous awards, including GQ, Altın Kelebek, and Sadri Alışık awards.



### **Sümeyye Karaarslan** - Director, Scriptwriter

Sümeyye Karaarslan completed her primary and secondary education in İzmir. She studied Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy at Istanbul University and Film and Television at Mimar Sinan University. She completed her master's degree in the field of Psychology of Religion. She worked at various television channels and served as

Drama Director at ATV. She participated in various talks on script criticism, acting, and screenwriting. She is the screenwriter and director of the series *Gassal*, for which she also developed the project design.

# FILMS



## YA HANOUNI

While Mom and Dad try to put their baby to sleep, a competition arises between them: who will get the baby to say their first word?

**Director:** Lyna Tadount, Sofian Chouaib

**Producer:** Lyna Tadount, Sofian Chouaib

**Screenplay:** Lyna Tadount, Sofian Chouaib

**Cast:** Norlhoda Dali, Omar Salem

**Country:** France

**Screening Time:** 12.40

Originally from Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, and raised near Paris, Lyna Tadount is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist. A graduate of Sorbonne University, she co-wrote and co-directed “Ya Hanouni” for the Nikon Film Festival (2023–2024), marking her entry into socially engaged cinema. She is currently developing a series at Nouvelles Écritures.



Born in southern France, Sofian Chouaib began as a YouTube creator before studying cinema at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, graduating in 2021. He now works as a director and screenwriter based in Paris.

# FILMS



## THE DEER'S TOOTH

Wisam, a young Palestinian from Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, longs to escape his guilt and isolation after his brother's death. He spends his days in a state of numbness. When he finds his brother's last tooth, he remembers a promise to toss it into the sea, a place he is not allowed to go. He decides to honor his brother's wish, even if it means risking his life.

**Director:** Saif Hammash

**Producer:** Saed Andoni

**Screenplay:** Saif Hammash

**Cast:** Wisam Aljafari

**Country:** Palestine

**Screening Time:** 12.45

Saif Hammash is a Palestinian film making student based in Dheisha refugee camp in Bethlehem. During his education he directed short fiction experimental and documentary films, and participated in many films as a scriptwriter, Assistant Director, editor, Camera assistant. He also worked in the 3rd Edition Palestinian Refugees Film Festival (Sept-2022) as an Editor.



# FILMS

## DISTRESS CALL

Two volunteers working for the Alarm Phone receive an emergency phone call from a migrant who is on a rubber boat drifting in the Mediterranean Sea. Despite the strenuous attempt to save the one hundred migrants on board, the two volunteers listen helplessly to the shipwreck.

**Director:** Michele D'Anca

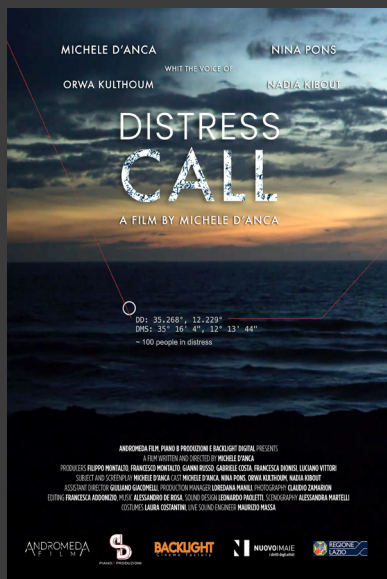
**Producer:** Gianni Russo, Gabriele Costa, Filippo Montalto

**Screenplay:** Michele D'Anca

**Cast:** Michele D'Anca, Nina Pons

**Country:** Italy

**Screening Time:** 13.00



Actor, screenwriter, and director. After graduating from the Accademia Nazionale d'Arte Drammatica "Silvio D'Amico" in 1985, he worked in leading Italian theaters with directors like Luca Ronconi and Peppino Patroni Griffi. Since 1998, he has acted in TV films and series directed by Giorgio Capitani, Michele Soavi, and others, alongside Giancarlo Giannini, Gigi Proietti, and Terence Hill. He appeared in "Li chiamarono briganti!" (1999) by Pasquale Squitieri. Later, he shifted to independent cinema and screenwriting. In 2023, he received an Honorship Mention for "Secchione!", won NUOVOIMAIE for "Distress Call", and Best Short Film Screenplay at RIFF for "L'ultimo Reporter", now in pre-production. "Distress Call" is his directorial debut.



# FILMS



## INUNDATION

When young refugee Kinan is confronted with his trauma during his first swimming lesson, he realizes that he must overcome his fear to move forward in life.

**Director:** Illia Ten Böhmer

**Producer:** Feather Films-Charlotte Spronk

**Screenplay:** Illia Ten Böhmer

**Cast:** Ali Doghem, Issam Almiski, Maya Jaber, Zweminstructrice – Roos Bottinga, Noël Keulen, Moshe ter Riet

**Country:** Netherlands

**Screening Time:** 14.00

Illia graduated with honors from HKU in 2016 with his sci-fi film "The I in Me". His 2017 film "In Summer" premiered at the Netherlands Film Festival and won the Buma Award for Best Composition. "INUNDATION" (2025) premiered at Giffoni and was selected by major international festivals. He founded a creative video agency Waves in 2018 and Nami 2024, a film agency focused on positive societal impact.



# FILMS



## AL WADIAA

In the West Bank, a young girl embarks on a tender journey to save her grandparents' olive tree, a symbol of love, memory, and resistance, threatened by destruction.

**Director:** Hedy Krissane

**Producer:** Hedy Krissane, Giorgio Mari

**Screenplay:** Hedy Krissane, Hedi Nenni

**Cast:** Yosr Nenni, Mohsen Ghaffari, Aida Jaballi

**Country:** Italy, Tunisia

**Screening Time:** 14.15

Hedy Krissane is a Tunisian-Italian director and screenwriter with extensive experience in cinema and television. Based in Italy, he has worked across fiction, documentaries, and short films, focusing on themes of identity, memory, and cultural integration. His acclaimed works have screened at festivals like Turin, Cannes, and Venice, known for their emotional depth and poetic style. His latest short film, "Al Wadiaa", continues his exploration of roots, resilience, and connection to the past.



# FILMS



## FARFOUR: A WAR DIARY FROM GAZA

In the middle of the chaos of war in Gaza, in a region on the brink of collapse, a man and a cat find an unexpected connection and fight for their survival.

**Director:** Ahmed Deeb, Moaz Hosni

**Producer:** Ahmed Deeb

**Cast:** Ibrahim Salman (Abu Anas)

**Country:** Palestine

**Screening Time:** 14.25

Ahmed Deeb is a Palestinian filmmaker and award-winning photojournalist from Gaza, based in Istanbul. He studied Radio and Television at Al-Aqsa University and has spent over a decade covering conflicts and human rights issues across the Middle East and Europe. His work, blending journalistic urgency with cinematic depth, has earned international acclaim, including an Emmy nomination (2016), a UNCA Award (2013), and recognition from the Thomson Foundation (2011).

His films and reports have appeared on ARTE TV, Al Jazeera English, Euronews, RTL, WSJ, Washington Post, and AFP. His latest film, "Farfour: A War Diary from Gaza", co-directed from exile, is a deeply personal story of survival and resilience under siege.



# FILMS



## THE RAFFLE

A smart and ambitious boy who can't stand injustice; in the raffle game that comes to the neighborhood grocery store, he pursues big prizes and finds himself at odds with the grocer who runs the game

**Director:** Muhammet Emin Altunkaynak

**Producer:** Muhammet Emin Altunkaynak

**Screenplay:** Muhammet Emin Altunkaynak

**Cast:** Evren Eler, Arben Akiş, Aras Altunsoy

**Country:** Türkiye

**Screening Time:** 14.55

Born in Akhisar, Muhammet works in cinema and education. He studied filmmaking at the TRT-İMA Film Academy. His award-winning short films have been screened at national and international festivals. "Çekiliş", supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was selected for over 70 festivals—including Giffoni, Cinekid, LUCAS, Dokufest—and won 11 awards. While "Çekiliş" continues its festival run, he is developing his next short film, "Tavukkarası".



# FILMS



## CATS

When eight-year-old Miša finds an abandoned kitten in the street, he tries to provoke the affection his parents are not providing.

**Director:** Danilo Stanimirović

**Producer:** Danilo Stanimirović, Ikonija Jeftić

**Screenplay:** Danilo Stanimirović, Irena Parezanović

**Cast:** Sergej Totić

**Country:** Serbia, Switzerland

**Screening Time:** 16.05

Danilo Stanimirović is a young filmmaker whose short films "Bambiland", "Prokop", and "5/3/0" have been screened at hundreds of international festivals and earned numerous awards. He is an alum of several workshops and programs, including FIDCampus Marseille, Sarajevo Talents Campus, Ateliers Varan, European Short Pitch, and Torino Short Film Market. He has a background in film education and TV series directing. Currently, he is working on three new films.





# FILMS



## LARGO

A young Syrian refugee, struggling to feel at home in the UK without his parents, resorts to building a boat and attempting to sail home to find them.

**Director:** Salvatore Scarpa, Max Burgoyne-Moore

**Producer:** Rachid Sabitri, Charles Meunier

**Screenplay:** Salvatore Scarpa, Max Burgoyne-Moore

**Cast:** Tamsin Greig, Zack Elsokari, Kevin McNally, Ammar Haj Ahmad

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Screening Time:** 16.25

Danilo Stanimirović is a young filmmaker whose short films “Bambiland”, “Prokop”, and “5/3/0” have been screened at hundreds of international festivals and earned numerous awards. He is an alum of several workshops and programs, including FIDCampus Marseille, Sarajevo Talents Campus, Ateliers Varan, European Short Pitch, and Torino Short Film Market. He has a background in film education and TV series directing. Currently, he is working on three new films.



# FILMS



## HATCH

Naaji, an Afghan refugee boy hides with his mother inside a moving water tanker trying to cross the border to safety. Losing his mother in the process, Naaji forever tries to find a way to relive his last memory of her.

**Director:** Alireza Kazemipour & Panta Mosleh

**Producer:** Sina Nazarian

**Screenplay:** Alireza Kazemipour

**Cast:** Ali Eldurssi, Aixa Kay, Helena Marie, Craig March, Araz Yaghoubi, Daniella Eldurssi, Thomas Cadrot, Hani Mefti, Ashley O'Connell, Victor Dolhai

**Country:** Canada

**Screening Time:** 16.45

Alireza Kazemipour is an Iranian-Canadian filmmaker with 20 years of screenwriting experience in Iran. He holds a master's in Cinema Studies and has directed award-winning shorts like "The Gold Teeth" and "Split Ends" (2022), featured in over 150 festivals. His work highlights social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues.

Panta Mosleh is a Middle Eastern-West Asian-Canadian director, writer, and producer based between Vancouver and LA. She has directed TV movies for major networks including A&E, Lifetime, and NBC Peacock. With multiple projects in development, she recently completed a documentary and is now directing her first \$3.5M TV movie.



# MUSIC PERFORMANCE



## Layth Sidiq

Musician

Layth Sidiq is a Grammy-nominated violinist, composer, and educator. He serves as the Artistic Director of the New York Arab Orchestra and as a Guest Artist at NYU Abu Dhabi. Blending jazz, classical, and Arab music in a unique way, Sidiq has performed at leading festivals worldwide and participated in numerous acclaimed recordings. He was a finalist in the Seifert International Jazz Violin Competition and the 2025 Aga Khan Music Awards, and was also named Best International Artist at the Boston Music Awards.

Sidiq leads youth orchestra programs, collaborates with Carnegie Hall, and contributes to the development of music education in the Arab world in partnership with organizations such as UNESCO. He served as the lead vocalist and violinist in the video game Assassin's Creed: Mirage and released his album Nawa in 2025.



**TRT**  
**humanitarian**  
**film**  **festival**

It's not just a film festival  
**It's an experience**

[trthumanitarianfilmfestival.com](http://trthumanitarianfilmfestival.com)

  trtworldcitizen

   TRTWorldCitizen