

For the Film market &
networking
(Mumbai Shorts INT film Festival)

Masoud Motlagh

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Press Release

I am Masoud Motlagh , from Iran and I am the writer & director and producer of the short movie: **COLD ASHES**

It is a short film about religious and political conflicts between Zoroastrians and Christians near 1700 years ago in ancient Iran and some hints of contemporary era where a group of movie makers are arguing with themselves and also a mad old man who dreams all these bitter stories.

And so my statement: the distant echo of ancient memories about organized religious conflicts in the Middle East and its repetition to be heard in the contemporary era!

My movie is made in color and black & white and sepia tone (in color grading, I tried to come close the look of analogue movie era) and I have used the 1980 lens (cooke varotal 18-100) mixed with Red one MX body...

dramaturgy of this movie took me 7 months and lots of practices with actors on real location (more 4 months)...the language used in this movie rather than original Persian also is a very ancient language used around 1700 years ago called Sassanian Pahlavi.

My short movie has been made based on the essence of pure poetry and cinema as art in the content ... no one supported me from anywhere and totally financed all my movie by myself from the very first step up to the end. I know the importance of the subject of my film and how I made it uniquely and I wish it to be seen by as many audiences as possible and take part in valuable film festivals around the globe.

If I want to tell a story line out of my film, I could say:

There is 2 main events in the Sassanian Empire (Shahpur II), first: a trial of Simeon Bar Sabbae and his fellows and second: the suicide of Arshak II king of Armenia in ancient Iran...

In the contemporary era there is a group of movie makers to take shots about funeral ceremony in Sassanian era...

But there is a mad old man who dreams all these bitter stories.

The film is nonlinear because of its nature but in short about the story we could say: A mad old man rants about 1700 year old conflicts between Zoroastrians and Christians while a film crew is setting up a shoot.

My Brief Biography:

Born in 1980 and started writing for film and theater at age 17...

I have a bachelor degree of theater and I also write poems, plays and also my long movie script is ready and I have worked on it near 9 years non continues ...I also take analog photography which helped me a lot to making my film...(I made the storyboard of my film by the help of pictures I had already taken and also in the post production in color grading I knew how to achieve an analog look of my footages)

At the end I want to Thank **Mumbai Shorts INT Film Festival_20** which chose my film to be a part of this year film festival, in this challengeable hard time pandemic.

Masoud Motlagh

Director& Writer of the short film: **COLD ASHES**



A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature is stylized and cursive, reading "Masoud Motlagh". Below the signature is a horizontal line.