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ماگھ

MAAGH
(The Winter Within)

A film by Aamir Bashir

A SANGBAAZ FILMS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ACROBATES FILMS

ZOYA HUSSAIN

SHABIR AHMAD LONE

MANZOOR AHMAD

PRODUCED BY
CLAIRE LAJOURMARD

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
GEORGE SIMON, GURMEET SANGHA RAI

CO-PRODUCER
AVANI RAI, VINOD SUBRAMANIAN

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
RAJESH THANICKAN

MUSIC BY
NAREN CHANDAVARKAR, BENEDICT TAYLOR

EDITED BY
SHAN MD

SCREENPLAY BY
AAMIR BASHIR, SHANKER RAMAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
SHANKER RAMAN

SOUND DESIGN
ROMAN DYMNY, VINOD SUBRAMANIAN

PRODUCTION SOUND
VINEET VASHISHTH

ACROBATES FILMS

SANGBAAZ FILMS





Technical Specifications

Year of Completion: 2022

Running time: 99 minutes

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Countries: India / France / Qatar

Languages: Kashmiri and Urdu

World Sales

Diversion

220/4 Soi Ladprao 42, Lane 4-1, Bangkok Thailand

www.diversion-th.com

Sales: sales@diversion-th.com

Festivals: festivals@diversion-th.com



Synopsis

In the city of Srinagar, Nargis searches for her missing husband, Manzoor, until she is forced to hopelessly return to her village home. With a little help from a local man Yaseen, she silently toils away on an exquisite weave. But the quiet of the Kashmiri winter is like the silence of the graveyard, waiting to be shredded by what lies buried within.



Director's Note

In the last three decades, approximately eight to ten thousand cases of enforced disappearances have occurred in Kashmir. Mostly young men picked up by the Indian security forces, never to return home. Until now, more than six thousand unmarked graves have been discovered in Kashmir. The relatives of the disappeared persons believe that their loved ones may be buried in these graves, but the State refuses to conduct DNA tests to identify the bodies. These unmarked graves form the backdrop of the film which explores torture, both mental and physical and its horrific consequences.

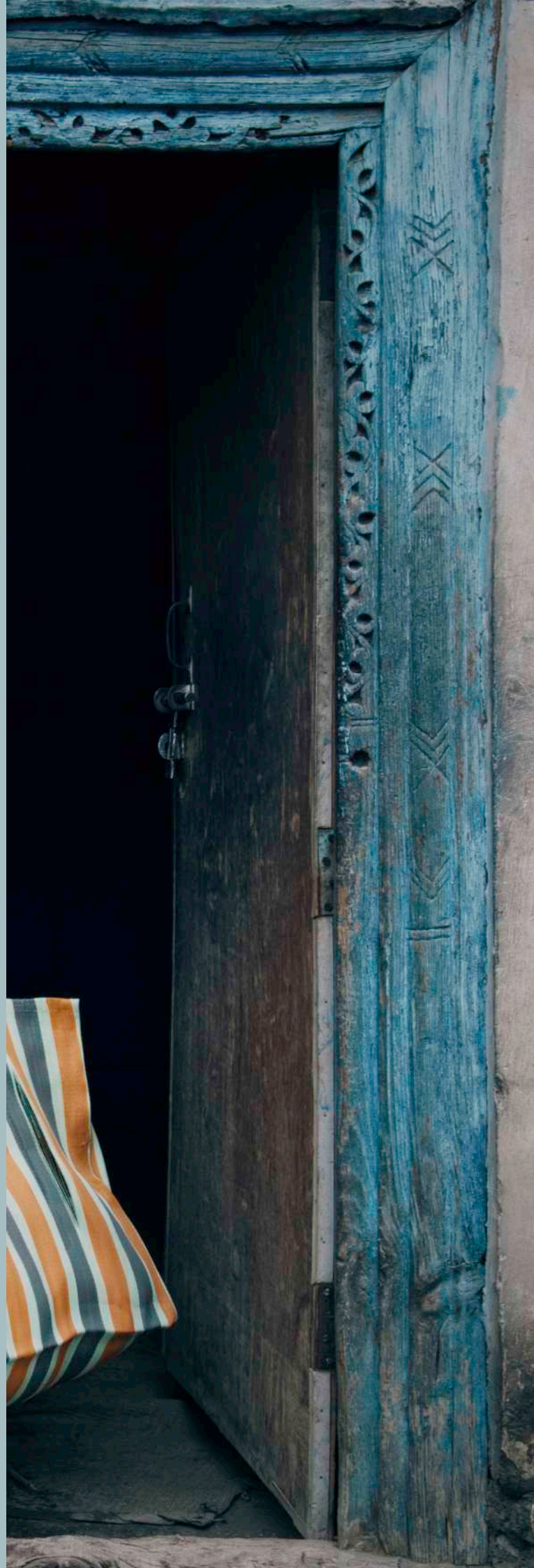
Nargis, the moral centre of the film, like Penelope in Homer's *Odyssey*, weaves for survival in the time of war, and in the hope of her militant husband, Manzoor's return.

Frantz Fanon in *The Wretched of The Earth* observes, "Colonialism/oppression forces the people it dominates to ask themselves the question constantly: 'In reality, who am I?'" *Maagh* (*The Winter Within*) visualizes this aspiration for self-realisation, freedom and dignity from the perspective of its three main protagonists (Nargis, Yaseen, and Manzoor), and their intertwined journeys of personal and political struggle.

While Manzoor fights state oppression by “picking up a gun” and turning to violence himself, Yaseen and Nargis are the custodians of Kashmir’s cultural identity. Yaseen, runs a handicrafts workshop to keep the art and craft alive cognizant of the reality that without it Kashmiris, if not lost, might be an incomplete people while Nargis, as a weaver and embroider nurtures the craft, giving it life.

Nargis’s identity as the wife of a militant on the one hand, and as the custodian of the cultural identity with Yaseen on the other, embodies the fragility of the larger Kashmiri identity under Indian occupation and military violence. The shawl she weaves, is a metaphor for this cultural identity and the social fabric at large.

Maagh (The Winter Within) is a tragic tale of Kashmiris’ struggle for self-determination, and freedom from state oppression. An oppression, ripping apart the social fabric, under which, it is Nargis, a woman, who shows greater commitment to the ideas of justice and freedom.



ZOYA HUSSAIN

as NARGIS



Zoya Hussain is an actor, writer and director from New Delhi. She started her career with Yatrik Theatre, making her proscenium debut with Achala Moulik's "Pushkin's Last Poem" for The Indian Council For Cultural Relations and has worked with the stalwarts in the capital. She went onto perform in shows which have travelled across the world.

In the year 2009 she adapted and directed her first play called the "The Secret World Of" for Yatrik Theatre and then dramatised readings of "The Lover" by Harold Pinter and "Six Characters In Search Of An Author" by Luigi Pirandello, for the production company, apart from her acting credits.

She then moved to Mumbai and started to peruse her film career she made her debut in Anurag Kashyap's "Mukkabaaz" / "The Brawler", that opened at the 2018 Toronto Film Festival, and then proceeded to run at festivals across the world. Zoya also won the Best Actress award for Mukkabaaz (At Jagran Film Festival 2018).

Some of her other films and shows include: 'Teen Aur Adha' (2017), 'Namdev Bhau In The Search For Silence' (2018), 'Laal Kaptan' (2019) and 'Graham' (2021).



AAMIR BASHIR

Director/Writer

Born in Srinagar, Kashmir, Aamir Bashir is a professional actor based in Mumbai, India. After his schooling in Kashmir, Aamir graduated in History from St. Stephen's College in Delhi and went on to study Law at the University of Delhi.

After working in television as a news correspondent and a travel show host, Aamir moved to Mumbai in 1998 to pursue a career in acting.

Aamir's commitment to acting has seen him excel in many films such as 'Frozen', 'Haider', 'Gurgaon' and 'Laal Kaptan', as well as well as acclaimed webseries like 'Sacred Games' and 'Inside Edge'.

'Maagh (The Winter Within)' is his second film after his directorial debut 'Harud (Autumn)' (2010) which premiered at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival and went on to win the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Urdu in 2012.

SHANKER RAMAN

Director of Photography/Writer

Shanker Raman is an award winning cinematographer, having worked on several documentaries, shorts, feature films and commercials. Shanker is a writer and director as well, widely recognized for directing the neo-noir thriller, 'Gurgaon' (2017).

He most recently wrote and directed the feature film 'Love Hostel' (2022). He also directed several episodes for 'Leila', a dystopian drama original series for Netflix.

Shanker was the co-writer, co-producer and cinematographer on Aamir's debut film 'Harud' as well.

'Frozen' shot entirely in black and white won him the prestigious Indian National Award for Cinematography.

Some of his notable works as a cinematographer include movies like 'Peepli Live', 'Fireflies', 'Mukkabaaz' and 'Laal Kaptan'.

ACROBATES FILMS

Acrobates Films is a French independent production company founded in 2002. It is primarily involved in Art House films, international co-productions and creative documentaries.

Its aim is to develop and produce films whose authors bring a contemporary and singular vision of the world, despite their subject or origins and which can reach international audiences.

The company has produced several feature films and more than thirty documentaries, amongst them :

La Barbarie by Andrew Sala (2022)

The Siamese Dreams by Iv C. Ching (2019)

The Day I Lost My Shadow by Soudade Kaadan - *Lion of the Future Venice 2018*

A Yellow Bird by K. Rajagopal - *Official Selection Cannes Critic's Week 2016*

Mekong Stories (Big Father, Small Father and Other Stories) by Phan Dang Di
- *International Competition Berlinale 2015*

Don't Be Afraid Bi! by Phan Dang Di - *Awarded in Cannes Critic's Week 2010*

Adrift by Bui Thac Chuyen - *Awarded in Orizzonti Official Competition Venice 2009*

Blood Appears / La Sangre Brota by Pablo Fendrik - *Awarded in Cannes Critic's Week 2008*





MAIN CAST

Nargis ZOYA HUSSAIN

Yaseen SHABIR AHMAD LONE

Manzoor MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT

Arif AROOJ AYOUB ALLAHI



KEY CREW

Director	AAMIR BASHIR
Screenplay	AAMIR BASHIR SHANKER RAMAN
Producer	CLAIRE LAJOURMARD
Co-Producers	AVANI RAI VINOD SUBRAMANIAN
Associate Producers	RAJESH THANICKAN CHRISTIAN LAJOURMARD
Executive Producers	GEORGE SIMON GURMEET SANGHA RAI
Director of Photography	SHANKER RAMAN
Editor	SHAN MOHAMMED
Colorist	YOV MOOR
Sound Design	VINOD SUBRAMANIAN ROMAN DYMNY
Production Sound	VINEET VASHISHTHA
Music	NAREN CHANDAVARKAR BENEDICT TAYLOR



Filmed on Location in Kashmir.

This Project has received the support of Paris Region
and Doha Film Institute.

Maagh (The Winter Within)

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