

Yusuf Trilogy

CANNES 2007
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des Réalisateurs
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT

Egg

DIRECTOR
SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU



NEJAT İŞLER, SAADET İŞİL AKSOY, UFUK BAYRAKTAR, KAAN KARABACAK, CENGİZ BOZKURT, TULİN ÖZEN, GÜLÇİN SANTIRICIOĞLU, SEMRA KAPLANOĞLU

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER ÖZKAN YILMAZ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ÖZGÜR EKEN SOUND İSMAİL KARADAŞ ART DIRECTOR NAZ ERAYDA MIX YORGOS MIKROGIANNAKIS

SCREENPLAY SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU, ORÇUN KÖKSAL EDITING AYHAN ERGÜRSEL, SEMİH KAPLANOĞLU, SUZAN HANDE GÜNERİ

CO-PRODUCERS PANAYIOTIS PAPAZOĞLU (PPV S.A.), ANGELOS ARGIROULIS (SKLAVIS FILMLAB CO) CO-PRODUCER LILETTE BOTASSI (INKAS FILM PRODUCTION)

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EGG / YUMURTA

Director Semih Kaplanoglu	Unit Production Manager Ozkan Yilmaz
Screenplay Semih Kaplanoglu – Orcun Koksal	Editing Ayhan Ergursel, Semih Kaplanoglu, Suzan Hande Guneri
Director of Photography Ozgur Eken	Assistant Director Iraz Uzun
Art Director Naz Erayda	Co-producer Lilette Botassi – Inkas Film Production
Sound Ismail Karadas	Producer Kaplan Film Production
Sound Mix Yorgos Mikrobiannakis	

Cast

Nejat Isler **Yusuf**
 Saadet Isil Aksoy **Ayla**
 Ufuk Bayraktar **Haluk**
 Tulin Özen **Woman at Bookstore**
 Gulcin Santircioglu **Gul**
 Kaan Karabacak **Little Boy**
 Semra Kaplanoglu **Zehra**

TECHNICAL INFO

Film Title: Egg	Original Film Language: Turkish
Type of film: Feature	Subtitles: English / French
Format: 35 mm	Screening ratio: 1.85
Runnig Time: 97 min.	FPS: 24
Length: 2661 m	Sound: Dolby Digital Surround
Number of Reels: 5	Countries of Production: Turkey – Greece
Color: Color	Date of Production: 2007



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SYNOPSIS

Upon his mother Zehra's death, poet Yusuf returns to his childhood hometown, which he hasn't visited for years. A young girl, Ayla awaits him in a delapidated house. Yusuf is unaware of the existence of this distant relation who has been living with his mother for five years... Ayla has something to ask of Yusuf. Yusuf is obliged to perform the sacrifice his mother Zehra had been prevented by death from fulfilling. Yusuf agrees, as he finds himself unable to withstand the passive rhythm of rural life, the spaces imbued with the ghosts of old lovers and friends, nor against the overriding feeling of guilt. Yusuf and Ayla set off for the Saint's tomb, some three or four hours away, for the traditional sacrificial ceremony. Unable to locate the herd from which the sacrificial animal was to be selected, they have to spend the night in a hotel by the volcanic lake. Yusuf and Ayla are drawn closer together by the atmosphere of the wedding party at the hotel.

While the falling snow blankets guilt, will the sacrifice of the ram change Yusuf's fate?



SYNOPSIS

A la mort de sa mère, le poète Yusuf retourne dans son village natal. Dans la vieille maison mal entretenue, l'attend Ayla, une jeune fille qui vivait avec sa mère depuis cinq ans et qu'il ne connaît pas.

Ayla demande à Yusuf d'accomplir un rite sacrificiel que sa mère n'a pas eu le temps de faire avant de mourir. Yusuf tente d'y échapper mais, gagné par la culpabilité, il finit par accepter et part avec Ayla en quête d'un bélier à sacrifier.

Sur la route, ils doivent s'arrêter pour la nuit dans un hôtel et se retrouvent au coeur d'une fête de mariage.

Yusuf et Ayla découvrent qu'ils sont attirés l'un par l'autre, et que peut-être leur destin en sera changé à jamais.

Yusuf Trilogy
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DIRECTOR – SEMIH KAPLANOGLU

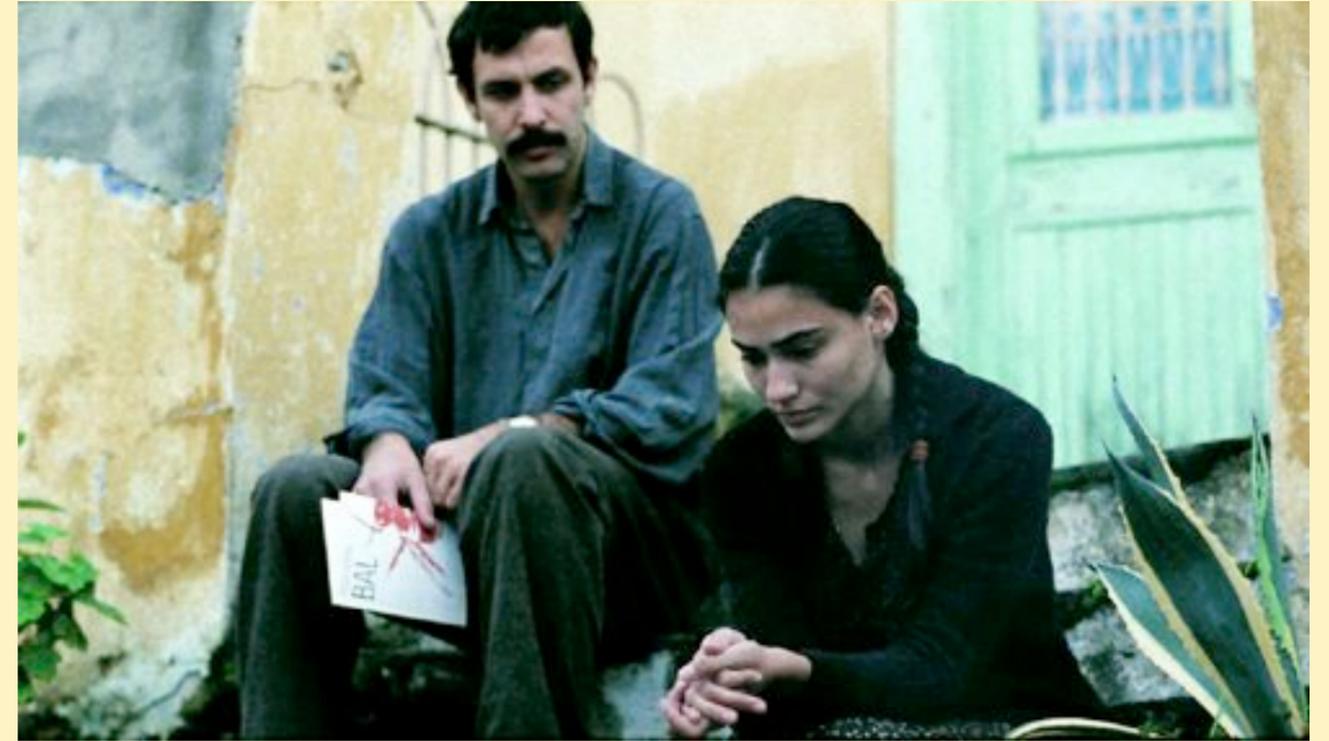
My intention was to begin the shooting with Egg, the third chronological story in the trilogy entitled Honey, Milk and Egg. The films will be shown in reverse order, i.e. as Egg, Milk and Honey.

What I'm looking at here is a longish cinematographic flash-back. All three films take place in the present. I hope in this way to narrate the burden and pain of passing time and invite everyone to remember and think about his own life. We all have mothers and it is highly possible that much is hidden during the time we spend with our mothers, and the time we are no longer able to spend with them.

I am of the view that time is the raw material of cinema. The time, space, and therefore the persona itself of Yusuf – the protagonist of Egg – probably belongs within the cinematographic boundaries as delineated by Bresson, Tarkovski, Satyajit Ray and Ozu.

For me, film-making is an entirely metaphysical and philosophical endeavor.

Semih Kaplanoglu



LA NOTE DU RÉALISATEUR

J'ai commencé cette trilogie, Bal (Le miel), Süt (Le lait), Yumurta (L'œuf), en tournant d'abord le dernier volet; les films seront ainsi découverts dans le sens inverse de la chronologie.

Même si les trois films se déroulent au présent, cela donnera une impression de long flash-back. J'espère ainsi transmettre le sentiment du temps qui passe afin d'inviter le spectateur à réfléchir sur son propre passé. Nous avons tous une mère; il est possible qu'une grande part de notre vie soit déterminée par le temps que l'on a passé ou non avec elle.

La matière première du cinéma est certainement le temps. Le temps, l'espace et la personnalité de Yusuf, appartiennent probablement aux horizons cinématographiques délimités par Robert Bresson, Andreï Tarkovsky, Satyajit Ray et Yasujiro Ozu.

Réaliser un film est pour moi un acte entièrement métaphysique et philosophique.

Semih Kaplanoglu

Yusuf Trilogy
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BIOGRAPHY

Semih Kaplanoglu was born in 1963, in Izmir. He received a BS in Cinema Television from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dokuz Eylul Universiy, Izmir in 1984.

He was the scriptwriter and director of the 52 Episodes of the TV serial "Sehnaz Tango" which was a prestigious work in TV at the time. Semih Kaplanoglu's debut "Away From Home" (Herkes Kendi Evinde), won numerous awards from many festivals around the world.

His second feature film "Angel's Fall" (Melegin Dususu) has received a wider interest among international film critics and audience. After having it's World Premiere at the 55th Berlin Film Festival, the film won The Best Film Award in Nantes 3 Continents, Kerala International and Barcelona Independent Film Festivals. And the FIPRESCI Award was given by the international jury in 24th International Istanbul Film Festival. The film still continues its journey among international festivals worldwide.

Semih Kaplanoglu has started the production of a trilogy called 'MILK - EGG - HONEY'. "EGG" has been selected by the 60th Cannes Film Festival 'Quinzaine des Realisateurs'. It has also participated in Cinemart Co-production Market and Paris Project where meetings were held with international professionals. "EGG" is a Turkish-Greek co-production supported by Eurimages, Greek Film Center and Turkish Ministry of Culture.

"MILK" the second part of the trilogy, received production support from the World Cinema Fund of Berlinale. The film has been selected by the 60th Cannes Film Festival Atelier Section and it is planned to be shot in the autumn, 2007.



Filmography

2007 YUMURTA / EGG

Director: Semih Kaplanoglu

Screenplay: Semih Kaplanoglu - Orcun Koksal

Cinematography: Ozgur Eken

Editing: Ayhan Ergursel, Semih Kaplanoglu, Suzan Hande Guneri

Sound: Ismail Karadas

Cast: Nejat Isler, Saadet Isil Aksoy, Ufuk Bayraktar, Gulcin Santircioglu

35mm/ Color / 97'

2004 MELEGIN DUSUSU / ANGEL'S FALL

Director - Screenplay: Semih Kaplanoglu

Music: Edward Grieg (Heart's Wounds)

Cinematography: Eyup Boz

Editing: Ayhan Ergursel, Semih Kaplanoglu, Suzan Hande Guneri

Sound: Ismail Karadas

Cast : Tulin Ozen, Budak Akalin, Musa Karagoz, Engin Dogan

35mm/ Color / 98'

2000 HERKES KENDI EVINDE / AWAY FROM HOME

Director - Screenplay: Semih Kaplanoglu

Music: Selim Atakan

Cinematography: Hayk Kirakosyan

Editing: Hakan Akol, Onur Tan

Sound: Ismail Karadas

Cast: Erol Keskin, Anna Bielska, Tolga Cevik

35mm/ Color/ 110'

1993 ASANSOR / ELEVATOR

Director - Screenplay: Semih Kaplanoglu

8mm/ Color/ 11'

1984 MOBAPP

Diploma Film

Director - Screenplay: Semih Kaplanoglu

16mm/ B&W / 14'

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CREW

SCRIPTWRITER – ORCUN KOKSAL

Since I have been working with him I haven't seen any of his scripts remain the same. I have been witness to his journey into the screenplay, and into his inner self, during the pre-shooting preparation phase, during the shooting, and then again during the editing. It is just like how Semih Kaplanoglu can capture a moment and film what he feels at that moment. His is a different interpretation of time. It is as though he has climbed up a hill overlooking a valley and is literally breathing in--assimilating--all the aromas, the smells, of that valley. While actually we are all in the same place.

What I have witnessed has led me to understand that cinema can surpass the physical, the visible. And that those who can take cinema to these realms bring us news of this other dimension. As far as I can see, Semih Kaplanoglu is one of those newscasters.

Biyography

Orcun Koksall was born in 1978 in Izmir. He graduated from Mimar Sinan University Faculty of Fine Arts, Traditional Turkish Handcrafts. Worked as Assistant Art Director in "Angel's Fall". He was in the production unit in "Egg". He is continuing his works as a screenwriter in Kaplan Film Production for the Trilogy of "Honey, Milk, Egg".



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – OZGUR EKEN

Biyography

He was born in 1976 in Istanbul. He graduated from Marmara University Fine Arts Faculty Film and Television Department. He has directed two short films. He has been working in film, commercial and television industry as Camera Assistant and Camera Operator since 1996. Ozgur Eken has worked as camera assistant with Semih Kaplanoglu in the serial "Sehnaz Tango" and the films "Away From Home" and "Angel's Fall". "Yumurta" was his first film as the director of photography.



ART DIRECTOR – NAZ ERAYDA

Interview

We had been talking about making the film for about one year. It was a project I wanted to work on and Semih was a director I wanted to work with. It took us ten days to set the main location up. It is a house that hadn't been lived in for a long time. We had to remove everything and then do it up again. We had to create this lifestyle. Some of the furniture was already here. Most of it we rented or borrowed here in Tire, or brought in from Istanbul. We were able to plan most of the situations. We were well prepared. We had problems with the sound and the weather from time to time, but there was very good teamwork. Everybody was working to the same rhythm. The team was very genuine and sincere. It was a lot of fun.

Biyography

She was born in 1961 in Istanbul. She graduated from Mimar Sinan University Dept. of Stage and Visual Arts in 1986. She also followed Basic Acting and Performing Arts courses in Bilsak. She founded Devran Theater in 1988 and Kumpanya Theater in 1991. She has worked as art director, set and costume designer for more that 70 projects. She was awarded as the Best Art Director in 2005 with the film " Neredesin Firuze/Where are you Firuze?" at Ankara Film Festival. She continues to lecture in Bilgi University and Mimar Sinan University on cinema and stage and visual arts.

Selected Filmography

- 2007 Egg
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu
- 2005 Why Were Karagöz And Hacivat Killed?
Dir: Ezel Akay
- 2003 Where Are You, Firuze?
Dir: Ezel Akay
- 1999 Cinema In The Middle Of Loneliness, Documentary about Okan Uysaler
Dir: Ismail Sancak



Yusuf Trilogy

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SOUND – ISMAIL KARADAS

Interview

This is my third project with Semih. Our first project was "Away From Home". We didn't know each other then. As this is our third project, we know each other really well and know what we can expect. So, I don't have any problems. We understand each other really well – whether it's the director or colleagues from the technical team. Since there is a lot of noise in our country, we have many problems on our natural environment sets – of a technical kind. Normally, with such a big project there is a big technical team but I'm working on my own here. But in a team sharing the tasks, you can manage your time better.

Biyography

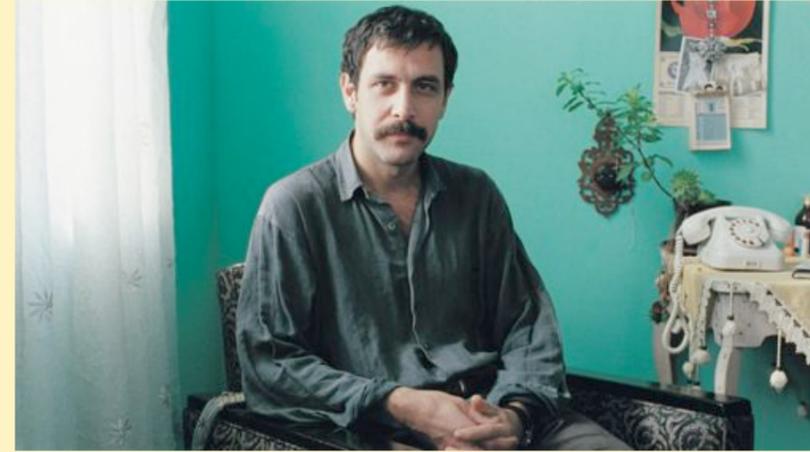
He started work in 1966 in Acar Film Studios as boom operator assistant and magnetic film recording operator. In 1970, he started to work as a boom operator. Between 1975– 1980 he worked as a sound recordist, technical director, positive–negative film editor for Turkish News Agency. In 1980, he worked as a sound recordist in THA WTN TV department. Until the end of 1992, worked as a sound recordist and cameraman for Independent Press Agency's international TV Productions (such as NOS, ARD,ZDF ,MTV ,CNN). After 1992, worked as a technical director, cameraman and sound recordist for Reuters.

Ismail Karadas has received the Best Sound Design Award twice, in 41st National Antalya Film Festival with the film "Angel's Fall" and in 43rd National Antalya Film Festival with the film "Climates".



Selected Filmography

- 2007 Egg
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu
- 2005 Destiny
Dir: Zeki Demirkubuz
- 2004 Climates
Dir: Nuri Bilge Ceylan
- 2004 Angel's Fall
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu
- 2002 Distant
Dir: Nuri Bilge Ceylan
- 2001 Confession
Dir: Zeki Demirkubuz
- 2001 Fate
Dir: Zeki Demirkubuz
- 2000 Away From Home
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu
- 2000 Elephants and Grass
Dir: Dervis Zaim
- 1998 Clouds of May
Dir: Nuri Bilge Ceylan



NEJAT ISLER – ACTOR (YUSUF)

Interview

I play the character of Yusuf in this film. He is from a small town and moved to Istanbul years ago. He published a poetry book, but he is unsuccessful as a poet. After the death of his mother, he comes back to his hometown. He realizes then that he feels detached from the land and he tries to face up to this. That's the story. Semih is more of an artist than a filmmaker. I know a lot of filmmakers, so this is a very different experience for me. There is a new generation of Turkish directors, such as Nuri Bilge (Ceylan), Zeki (Demirkubuz) and Semih (Kaplanoglu) who choose not to work with professional actors. I think as a professional actor that we can do away with this concept of trying to get close to normality. At least this was my goal when accepting this job and I hope I achieved it.

Biography

Nejat Isler was born in 1972 in Istanbul. He graduated from Mimar Sinan University State Conservatory, Theater Department in 1995. In the same year he founded "Kahramanlar ve Soytarlar Tiyatrosu" (Heroes and Clowns Theater) with his two friends. His feature film is "After the Fall" by Atif Yilmaz. In 2004 Nejat Isler was nominated for Best Actor Award in 41st Antalya National Film Festival with his role in the feature film called "Mustafa Hakkında Hersey / Everything About Mustafa".

Filmography

- 2007 Egg
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu
- 2006 The Edge of Heaven
Dir: Fatih Akin
- 2006 In Bar
Dir: Serdar Akar
- 2006 Gravity Zero
Dir: Murat Seker
- 2005 Stolen Eyes
Dir: Radoslav Spassov
- 2004 Istanbul Tales
Dir: Umit Unal
- 2004 Everything About Mustafa
Dir: Cagan Irmak
- 1999 After the Fall
Dir: Atif Yilmaz

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SAADET ISIL AKSOY – ACTRESS (AYLA)

Interview

I play Ayla in the film. Ayla bears a lot of resemblance to me. It's like there is this side of her which I have too. She doesn't talk a lot. She is not a very expressive woman. She doesn't reveal a lot of her feelings. She is withdrawn and calm most of the time. This is my first feature film. There are a lot of first times and unknown things for me. I am learning a lot how to do or how not to do things. I learn a lot from watching Nejat. Semih told me the whole time to be myself and to relax. I thought many times that I couldn't do it and I lost my confidence but everybody supported me. I am very happy about that. This was a very different experience for me – to come from Istanbul and to stay here all the time. I became a local. I got used to this house and will miss it. This house became my home.

Biography

She was born in 1983 in Istanbul. She graduated from Bosphorus University Faculty of English Literature. After some commercials she shot "Egg" her first feature film that. She continues her acting education and works as an actress in New York.

Filmography

2007 Egg
Dir: Semih Kaplanoglu

TV Serial
2005 Guz Yangini

Short Film
2005 The Function of
Cinematographic Orgasm

Yumurta

Kaplan Film & Inkas Film co-production

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