

The Female Voice of Iran

A feature documentary about female singers of different ethnic roots living inside Iran, their daily life and deepest wish.



Synopsis

An anonymous woman introduces her talisman, a small golden camel called "Negar", as the storyteller of her deepest wish: "I want my voice to be heard". She creates an Instagram account to get in contact with female singers inside Iran. Her plans seem impossible – she seeks to organise a gathering of many female voices from all over Iran, who have been isolated until now. They are supposed to meet in a garden in Esfahan, in the middle of this vast country. To make this vision come true, she enlists the help of two travellers, who she invites to just listen – and learn more about the real stories behind all these different women. The two travellers, one from Berlin, one from Esfahan, follow the path of Negar, starting their journey at the Persian Gulf. Along the way they meet surprisingly strong women and come to understand the different aspects of the oriental way to celebrate the love for life. Most of these female singers don't know each other yet, but all of them are encouraged to join the dream of Negar. But will the seemingly impossible happen? Nobody has ever done it before.

Short introductory video on our YouTube-channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6son5dhW54k

Cast and Crew

Director	Andreas Rochholl
Producer	Zeitgenössische Oper Berlin
Associate Producer	Yalda Yazdani, Sebastian Leitner
Editor	Sebastian Leitner
Sound Mixer	Alexander Semrow, Volker Wendisch
Sound Recordist	Lorenz Brehm, Daniel Weingarten
Camera	Sebastian Leitner, Andreas Rochholl, Christoph Wieland
Production Manager	Yalda Yazdani
Production Company	KADMOS Produktion & SLFILM media
World Sales	EuroArts Music International

Running Time	76 min.
Language	Persian (Farsi) / English – with English subtitles
Release	2020 - Shot on location in Iran 2015-2019
Format	DCP 2K Flat, 5.1 Surround

Main characters

Baran Mozafari	Folk Singer from the Persian Gulf
Mina Deris	Arabic folk singer from Abadan
Samin Ghorbani	Azari folk singer from Ardabil
Maliheh Moradi	Classical Iranian singer from Tehran
Jamileh Amaniyan	Turkmen folk singer from Gonbad-e-Kavus
Mahya Hamedei	Jazz singer from Teheran
Maedeh Tabatabaei	Classical Iranian singer from Esfahan
Sahar Zibaei	Kurdish folk singer from Kermanshah
Haleh Seyfizadeh	Classical Iranian singer from Tehran
Masoomeh Gorginpour	97 years old clan chief, Qashqai tribe from Abadeh
Shadi Behyar	Pop Singer from Mahabad
Zohre Gholipour	Classical Iranian singer from Tehran

Atefeh Moghimi Mazandarani folk singer from the Caspian Sea
Jivar Sheikholeslami Kurdish folk singer from Sanandaj
Voice of Negar Mina Deris
and the travellers **Yalda Yazdani** (Esfahan) and **Andreas Rochholl** (Berlin)

Additional characters: **Hemat Agh** Musician from Gonbad-e-Kavus, **Ava Armanfar** Classical Iranian singer from Esfahan, **Nazila Babaei** 15 years old girl from Qashqai tribe from Shiraz, **Yara Daneshvar** Iranian classical Singer from Shiraz, **Reza Deris** former Loading Master oil ship from Adaban, **Yousef Dibaei** Musician from Gonbad-e-Kavus, **Mehran Ghaedipour** Musician from Bushehr, **Sarina Gonbadi** Musician from Gonbad-e-Kavus, **Gozal Gonbadi** Musician from Gonbad-e-Kavus, **Parichehr Gorginpour** Daughter of Masoomeh from Abadeh, **Gholamali Gorginpour** Santur-Player from Abadeh, **Nazi Hamzehloo** Classical Iranian singer from Tehran, **Monireh Khodabandeh** Mother of Shafagh from Zahedan, **Sahar Lotfi** Lor folkloric singer from Tehran, **Behnaz Memar** Iranian Classical singer from Esfahan, **Bahareh Mirzaagha** Pop Singer from Tehran, **Mohamoud Moradi** Ney player from Teheran, **Wahid Opera** Musician from Zahedan, **Nahid Orouji** Mother of Maliheh from Tehran, **Majid Pakdel** Musician from Bushehr, **Shafagh Rahmani** Daughter of Monireh from Sistan-Balochistan, **Zoleikha Sardari** Grandmother from Gonbad-e-Kavus, **Roxana Sarrafi** Iranian classical Singer from Tehran, **Kavosh Sohrabian** Musician from Tehran, **Naser Tabatabaei** Father of Maedeh from Esfahan, **Peyman Tabatabaei** Brother of Maedeh from Esfahan, **Latif Tabibifar** Husband of Jamileh from Gonbad-e-Kavus

Music

Iranian folk music (Arabic, Azari, Baluchi, Kurdish, Mazanderani, Turkmen, Qashqai, South), Classical Iranian music, Iranian Jazz- and Pop music. Compositions/Arrangements by Mina Deris, Mahia Hamed, Mahan Mirarab, Maliheh Moradi, Kavosh Sohrabian.

Live recordings from the festival "Female Voice of Iran" (Berlin 2017-2018)

Origin story

Since 1979 solo singing in public is forbidden for women in Iran. For several years, starting in 2015, the Iranian ethnomusicologist Yalda Yazdani and the German filmmaker and artistic director of Zeitgenössische Oper Berlin Andreas Rochholl have been travelling through Iran to meet and film female singers in all parts of this multi-ethnic, diverse country. During this time they created a network between those women, other musicians and their friends. They further realised a music festival twice in Berlin to present those voices. In 2019 the producer and filmmaker Sebastian Leitner joined the team to start work on a very different feature documentary.



Cast & Crew - Esfahan, October 2019 Photo © by Andreas Rochholl



Locations of the film.

Contact



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