

HAF 27 The Forgotten History



COUNTRY/REGION: Afghanistan, Spain

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Persian | 90mins

DIRECTOR:

Roya SADAT

PRODUCER:

Roya SADAT

Alba SOTORRA CLUA

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$1,404,143

SECURED BUDGET: US\$747,196

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *A Letter to the President*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

In pre-civil war Afghanistan, Soraya and Sima's friendship is disrupted by their opposing ideals. Through the years, they discover that friendship is stronger than any political ideal.

SYNOPSIS

Kabul, 2018. Two old women are holding hands.

We're transported to 1975, to a party attended by young Soraya and Sima. The former is a politically active woman from an intellectual background; the latter lives with her conservative family as servants on the grounds of Soraya's home. Despite being opposites, they're the best of friends.

Soraya becomes a prominent figure in the Democratic Party and becomes romantically involved with Alejandro. However, Sima's brother Wahab, who's also in love with her, angrily joins an anti-government Islamic group. When he's discovered, his entire family is blamed for his transgression. Despite Soraya's feeling of betrayal, she's able to spare Sima and her parents. However, Wahab is arrested and killed in jail. After the incident, Sima's family flees to Pakistan, where they join the Mujahideen Islamic militants.

Soraya loses all credibility after a political scandal and is later sent to prison when her party splinters. There, she reunites with Sima, who had been imprisoned for betraying the wills of a Mujahideen commander. They rekindle their friendship, and Soraya saves Sima from execution.

As the regime falls and the prison is stormed, all the political prisoners are finally released.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Forgotten History is very important to me as a filmmaker because of its historical significance. The two main characters represent the women who have been involved and sacrificed in Afghanistan's wars and policies. Their story is built around key concepts such as fighting for your ideals, the influence of political power and ideologies, the contestable idea of "enemy", and the power of friendship. The film covers timely and relevant themes that will resonate with audiences both at home and around the world.

We'll also capture the atmosphere of Kabul University circa the 1970's, when it was full of politically engaged students dressed in colorful clothing similar to the hippie style that was popular around the globe. We also want to eschew stereotypical representation and find new film techniques and visual languages to represent Afghanistan through lighting, cinematography, colours and locations.

Since its inception, *The Forgotten History* has been conceived as an international co-production. I strongly believe that having a network of international associates is key to both the financial and creative development of a film.

DIRECTOR

Roya SADAT

A renowned Afghan producer, director and screenwriter, Sadat is the first female director in post-Taliban era Afghan cinema. She is also the founder of Roya Film House and Herat International Women's Film Festival. Her feature directorial effort, *A Letter to the President* (2017), was Afghanistan's representative at the Academy Awards and screened at numerous film festivals, including in Busan and Locarno. She has 15 years of experience in producing, writing and directing acclaimed films on women's human rights in Afghanistan. With her production company and films, she has won more than 50 awards.

PRODUCER

Roya SADAT

(same as director)

Alba SOTORRA CLUA

An alumnae of European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE), Alba Sotorra has produced feature documentaries and fiction films for cinema and television since 2005. She graduated from the cinema school of Complutense University of Madrid and has an MA in Cultural Studies. She has participated in the Sources 2 script development workshop (2010), Berlinale Talent Campus (2011), the dok.incubator (2014) documentary workshop, IDFA Academy (2015) and EAVE Producers Workshop (2017). She is a member of Dones Visuals as well as the founder and director of Alba Sotorra Cinema Productions.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Roya Film House

The first film company run by women in Afghanistan, Roya Film House is an independent production company founded in 2003 that tells the world about the plight of the Afghan people, especially women and children, through films and television series. The company's works focus on human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, justice, and the promotion of civil society.

Alba Sotorra Cinema Productions

An independent production company based in Barcelona, Spain. Our films are independent, risk-taking, engaged with today's political, social and human conflicts, and have a women's point of view.