

RISE AND SHINE
CINEMA



HOLY COW

ein Film von Imam Hasanov

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Free Art
AZERBAIJANI FILM PRODUCTION

Conset
FILMS

Kloos & Co.
Medien GmbH

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KURZSYNOPSIS

Der Traum eines Mannes, eine europäische Kuh in sein pittoreskes Dorf in den Bergen von Aserbaidschan zu bringen, versetzt die konservative Dorfgemeinschaft, die versucht ihre alten Traditionen zu bewahren, in Aufruhr.

SYNOPSIS

Tapdiq hat einen großen Traum. Er will eine europäische Milchkuh in sein pittoreskes Dorf in den Bergen von Aserbaidschan bringen und so die Lebensbedingungen seiner Familie verbessern. Er beschließt die Kuh Madonna zu nennen. Aber seine Leidenschaft bringt die traditionelle Dorfgemeinschaft durcheinander. Die Alten sehen eine Bedrohung in der ausländischen Kuh die Milch müsse verseucht sein und sie bringe nur Krankheiten ins Dorf. Sogar seine Frau möchte sich eigentlich nicht um so eine seltsame Rasse kümmern. Aber Tapdiq ist bereit alles aufs Spiel zu setzen. Er versucht, sich gegen die konservative Haltung im Dorf durchzusetzen und seine Kuh zu kaufen.

TRAILER DEUTSCH: <https://vimeo.com/148609068>

AUSGEWÄHLTE PRESSESTIMMEN

"Ganz klar ein kommendes Talent."

"Charmanter Kommentar zur Migrationsdebatte"

Filmuforia, <http://www.filmuforia.co.uk/holy-cow-2015-1-idfa/>

"Diese märchen-gleiche, erhebende Erzählung ist nicht nur ein Tribut an die Sturheit, sondern auch ein feel-good Film darüber, wie man Träume wahr macht. Er zeigt wie sich Menschen verändern, wenn die Globalisierung sie direkt in ihrer Existenz betrifft – sogar im kleinsten Dorf im Kaukasus."

Sweet Movies, <http://sweetmovies.nl/idfa-18-29-november/>

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CREW

Drehbuch und Regie: Imam Hasanov
Kamera: Sarvar Javadov
Ton: Jalil Mamadov
Ton Mischung: Martin Blauber (Beep)
Ton Design: Thomas Wallmann, Niklas Kammertöns (Neuton)
Colorgrading & Mastering: Jan Ali Moravec (Spoon)
Editor: Philipp Gromov

Produziert von: Veronika Janatková, Andra Popescu, Stefan Kloos

Mit: Xanali Tapdiq Huseynov, Vafa Huseynova
Jalil Huseynov, Atamai Huseynov, Emil Huseynov
and Madona & Alyonka

Eine Produktion von Kloos & Co. Medien (DEU), FreeArt (AZE) und Conset (RUM)
in Koproduktion mit ZDF in Zusammenarbeit mit ARTE unterstützt vom Doha Film Institute,
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg und Sundance Documentary Film Program

Entwickelt bei CAUCADOC 2012 und DOKIncubator 2015

TECHNISCHE DATEN

Format: 1 :1.85 color
Screening Format: DCP, File
Länge: ca. 75min.
Original Sprache: Azeri, Farsi mit Untertiteln

DER REGISSEUR: IMAM HASANOV



Imam Hasanov ist ein aufstrebender Filmemacher aus Quba, Aserbaidschan. Nach seinem Abschluss in "Film- und Theaterregie" von der staatlichen Universität der Künste und Kultur in Baku 2002, gab Hasanov sein Debüt als Regisseur mehrerer Theaterstücke und gründete die kreative Jugendorganisation *Aserbaidschanische Union der Theaterfiguren*.

Nach einem Kurs zum Thema Dokumentarfilm im Studio Ateliers Varan 2006, begann er als Regisseur für das nationale Fernsehen zu arbeiten. HOLY COW ist sein erster eigenständiger Dokumentarfilm. Er erhielt den CAUCADOC BEST PITCH AWARD in 2012 und einen Preis bei

DOKINCUBATOR 2015. Imam ist ein Alumnus des BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS.

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INTERVIEW MIT DEM REGISSEUR IMAM HASANOV

How did it all start? How did you get the idea for the film?

Some years ago, the national Azerbaijan television sent me to do a reportage in this very typical traditional village *Lahic*; a rural place where daily life hasn't changed for decades. The society there is based on traditions, routines and religion.

By chance, I was introduced to this man: TAPDIQ, a simple farmer, who is dreaming of changing the life and poor living conditions of his family by importing a cow. Not an ordinary cow, but a European cow, which can produce four times more milk than a local cow.

For me it was important to show the simple and real life of these people. Because most of the movies shot in our country, even documentaries, are showing the good and happy life. As if we didn't have any problems and all of us would live very happily. But this is not reality. Where there are people, there are also problems...

How did you work with Tapdiq? How was it to shoot the family's daily life?

I remember our first meeting with him. He was proud and brave. He believed that no matter what he will buy this cow. And I believed in him and in his dream.

The relationship with his wife had already been spoilt by his dream of a cow. His wife Vafa was initially against the idea of bringing the cow, she was also against the film and my crew. In the beginning, I could not even shoot with her. She always avoided the camera and did not want us to enter their family life.

As in each family they had their issues and disputes. Vafa being afraid of the old men and local residents, she did not want others to know about their conflicts. In an old village like this, it is the *Aqsaqal*, a group of well respected old men who give advice to everyone how they should live their lives. And if you don't obey and don't listen to them, you lose the respect of the community, you become an outsider, everyone ignores you.

I negotiated so many times with Vafa not to be against us. Her husband did as well. I promised to protect them from the attack of the old men and the local people. She started to like us and appreciated our presence only when the cow-dream began to work in reality, when it started changing their life and brought a little happiness to their family.

Who would imagine that a foreign cow can improve a family's income? Who would believe that a European cow can secure a family's future?

I am absolutely sure that this film and the cow has changed their life and really brought them a little happiness. And of course to me, too. Now they are happy together and I'm happy for them.

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Can you tell us more about the place the film was shot? Azerbaijan is not well known to us...

I've heard a lot about this ancient and strange place *Lahic*, but I had never been there before. I always wanted to go and see with my own eyes, but never succeeded. In times of the Soviet Union, this village was even more conservative. Gradually, however, the times changed and people began to move to the city and to other villages.

Then the Karabakh War began. Many died in this war, even our main protagonist Tapdiq was involved in this war, he was fighting for our homeland. These things slightly changed the situation in the village. But despite of all what was going on, the villagers, especially the old men, remained closed and conservative.

Initially, my protagonist had a dream to buy a cow, and my dream was to shoot a film. I saw how he collected the money for his dream. I was a witness how he was fighting for this dream. I saw how he followed this dream and never gave up.

What is the central theme of your film?

I think this is one of the central themes of the film: Never to give up. Follow your desires. And of course it is about the freedom of choice: Everyone has the right to choose how he wants to live and no one has the right to interfere in someone else's life.

I would like to convey this message through my protagonist to the audience: cherish tolerance, freedom, love and hope!

Tapdiq has it all inside of him. I think he is a very charismatic person. Everyone loves him.

This film is not about the cow; the presence of the cow is just an occasion to reveal the true face of the society. Our *Holy Cow* is just a metaphor. The metaphor of yesterday and tomorrow, the metaphor of the past and the future, the clash of East and West, these two great cultures and their trains of thoughts, non-perception of Islam by Christianity, or vice versa, and latent hatred towards each other within these big religions. The fact that such a traditional society is always ready to open up for innovation. Who would believe that a cow could create such a revolt?

WEITERE INFORMATIONEN:

www.holycow-film.de

facebook.com/film.holy.cow

PRESSMATERIAL ZUM DOWNLOADEN:

www.holycow-film.de

www.riseandshine-berlin.de/portfolio_page/holy-cow/

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