

Empty Nets

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FILM

“ Amir loves Narges and Narges loves Amir. But their hopes and dreams for a life together collide head on with the web of tradition, corruption, and social hierarchy that continues to rule over the lives of a new generation in Iran. ”



Synopsis

Twenty somethings Amir and Narges have found what feels like true love in their hometown by the coast of the Caspian sea. But in today's Iran that's far from enough to build a life together, and they are forced to keep the relationship secret. To win over Narges' upper class family and pay an appropriate dowry, Amir needs money, and he needs it fast. With his back against the wall, Amir finds work at a local fishery, where he is drawn into the dangerous but lucrative business of black market caviar smuggling. As Amir's values are compromised by the illegal underworld, Narges stalls for time and tries to delay the arranged marriage her parents are planning for her. Can their love, hopes and dreams survive the tightly knit web of tradition, corruption, and social hierarchy that continues to rule over the lives of a new generation in Iran?

Credits

Director: Behrooz Karamizade / **Genre:** Drama / **Original title:** Toorhayeh khali / Leere Netze / **English title:** Empty Nets / **Country of production:** Germany, Iran / **Year of production:** 2023 / **Length:** 101 / **Color:** Color / **Shooting format:** 3,2K Anamorph / **Screening format:** 2k CinemaScope / **Original language:** Farsi / **Subtitles:** English, German / **Cast:** Hamid Reza Abbasi, Sadaf Asgari, Keyvan Mohamadi, Pantea Panahiha / **Scriptwriter:** Behrooz Karamizade / **Director of photography:** Ashkan Ashkani / **Production designer:** Sharam Karimi / **Editor:** Anne Jünemann / **Sound design:** Sebastian Tesch / **Sound mixing:** Bahman Ardan / **Music:** John Gürtler & Jan Misere featuring Saba Alizadeh / **Producers:** Eva Kemme, Ansgar Frerich, Uschi Feldges / **Co-producers:** Jörn Möllenkamp, Majid Barzegar / **Production company:** BASIS BERLIN Filmproduktion / **Co-production company:** Living Pictures Production, Rainy Pictures, ZDF / Kleines Fernsehspiel, ARTE / **Supported by:** Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media Hessen Film & Medien Kuratorium junger deutscher Film German Federal Film Fund (DFFF)

Festivals / Awards

Karlovy Vary IFF, Czech Republic - **Crystal Globe Competition - Special Jury Prize**; Filmfest München, Germany - **Best Production Award**; Fünf Seen Film Festival, Germany - **Horizonte Filmpreis**; Filmfestival Münster, Germany; International Human Rights Film Festival Nürnberg, Germany; Zurich Film Festival, Switzerland - **Focus Competition**; Visions of Iran Köln, Germany; Adelaide Film Festival, Australia - **Feature Fiction Award**; Pingyao International Film Festival, China - **Crouching Tiger Competition - Roberto Rossellini Awards Special Mention**; International Film Festival Kinenova, North Macedonia - **International Competition**; B3 Biennale, Germany; Hessischer Film und Kinopreis, Germany - **Newcomer Prize (Behrooz Karamizade)**; Biberacher Filmfestspiele, Germany - **Competition**; Ahrenshooper Filmnächte, Germany - **Best Film, Audience Award**; Exground Wiesbaden, Germany; Kinofest Lünen, Germany - **Competition - Special Mention for Performance (Hamid Reza Abbasi, Sadaf Asgari)**; Bosphorus Film Festival, Turkey - **Best Actor Prize (Hamid Reza Abbasi)**; Chennai International Film Festival, India; Iranian Film Festival Australia, Australia; El Gouna Film Festival, Egypt; Iranian Film Festival New York, USA - **Best Film**; Festival of Films from Iran (Chicago), USA; Bengaluru International Film Festival, India; San Francisco International Film Festival, USA - **Global Visions Honorable Mention**

More information online: <http://www.plutofilm.de/films/empty-nets/0080>

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