

BEYOND HOPES AND DREAMS – Synopsis

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Azad (trans man) and Nora are two young lovers fighting between tradition and modernity in their society and family that create great problems for them, but despite all the hardships, they have dreams, hope and love for life.

Director's Biography and Filmography

Farnoosh Samadi is an Iranian Director & Scriptwriter. Her scripts include; "More Than Two Hours", nominated for a Palme d'Or at Cannes and a Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival (13), and "The baby", premiered in Venice Film Festival (14). She Co-Directed & Scripted her first short film, "The Silence" which was nominated for a Palme d'Or at Cannes (16). Her second short film, "Gaze", which had its world premiere in competition of Locarno Film Festival (17) and was qualified for Oscar & She became a member of the Oscar Academy in (18) and also she became a member of The Academy of Italian Cinema.

"180 ° Rule " is the name of her first feature film, which was premiered in Toronto Film Festival (20). her last short film called "Titanic, suitable version for Iranian families " which was premiered in Toronto Film Festival (23). "Between Dreams and Hope" is her second feature film.

Director's note

This film is an observation of Iran's very young generation, caught in a constant struggle between modernity and deeply rooted traditions—a battle that is inherently anti-feminist and anti-freedom. These young minds, aware of their rights, quietly resist outdated social norms and strive to live life on their own terms. I have many friends in Iran from the queer community, and I relate deeply to what they endure every day. Much of what I write and direct stems from real stories. This film, too, is inspired by true events and is partly built on the powerful interviews I conducted during its development. Azad and Noora, the protagonists, are vibrant souls—full of love, courage, and an irrepressible thirst for life. Iran is filled with Nooras and Azads: brilliant, brave, and determined young individuals, seeking dignity, visibility, and acceptance. Through my films, I try to bring fragments of their dramatic yet beautiful lives to the screen. I want to push the larger society to recognize and reconsider the systemic neglect and erasure of this community. I believe in cinema's transformative power—its ability to awaken courage, challenge ideologies, and spark change. That is my purpose as a filmmaker.