The two lives

A Film by Soha Niasti

PRESS KIT



LOGLINE

Can you punish someone if they already forgot everything?

SYNOPSIS

After learning about her estranged mother's severe Alzheimer's, Sepideh, a single mother, chooses to visit her after ten years despite their troubled past to see if her mother still recognizes her and remembers their conflicts.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What if someone you deeply hate because they did something terrible that changed your life for bad, develops Alzheimer's and forgets all the things they had done to you. Can you still blame them for your misery and be mad at them? what if that person is your mother?

It is about memory and its responsibility. At the center is the encounter between a mother and daughter who, after years as strangers, must come to terms with a possible rapprochement, resurfacing grudges and regrets.





APPROACH

Soha Niasti: "The concept for this movie began with a gaze. I couldn't process all the emotions my mother was feeling as she was looking at her own mother. Feelings of love, hate, and compassion with a shattered heart. That made me realize how reliant people are on their memory. Does our memory shapes our identity and defines who we are?"

The movie was shot in 6 days in a northern Iranian city to capture a more peaceful and lush environment compared to Tehran. Sepideh returns to her hometown, wanting to disconnect from her mother, or so she believes. However, her actions

suggest otherwise, as she often displays similar behaviors towards her own daughter that her mother did towards her.

"The Two Lives of Sepideh" indicates Sepideh's dual roles as a daughter and a mother, past and present. She decides to name her tailoring shop after her daughter, just as her mother had done. "Two lives of Sepideh" is another way to read "Sepideh's tailoring" in Farsi. This duality is also reflected in the mirror shots of Sepideh with her mother and daughter, as well as the symbolic presence of white and goldfish. The red cloths on the blue walls evokes thoughts of goldfish in the water. When the two goldfish come together in the end, there is a sense of reconciliation.



THE FILM MAKER WRITER/ DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER SOHA NIASTI

Soha Niasti was born in Ramsar, Iran, in 1994. She has completed studies in architecture in the fine arts department at the prestigious art university in Tehran. In the year 2019, her acting debute was in the movie "My Second Year in College," where she won the Best Actress prize at the 41st Moscow Film Festival. Later on, she portrayed a leading role in a series called "Actor" by Nima Javidi, which received the Series Mania award in France. Niasti's passion for filmmaking motivated independently educate herself and gain hands-on experience in the industry, whether she was acting in these important cinematic projects or not. An invaluable opportunity for her was working with renowned director Saeed Roustaei on the set of "Leila's brothers" (Cannes competition 2022).

"The Two Lives of Sepideh" is her debute as a director which was premiered at the 38th Fribourg in Switzerland in 2024, and has since won awards at the 31st Sguardi Altrove Milan and the 20th Akbank in Istanbul.





DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY ADIB SOBHANI

After 12 years of working with acclaimed cinematographers and filmmakers (Oscar-winning Asghar Farhadi-The Salesman, 2016), Adib made his first debut in 2018 as DOP in feature film "Amir" which was nominated at Karlovy Vary Film Festival. His following works were also in prestigious movies such as "Beyond the wall" by Vahid Jalilvand (Venice Film Festival 2022) and "Terrestrial Verses" by Ali Asgari (Un Certain Regard, 2023).



CAST NEDA JEBREILI

Neda Jebraeili is an iranian actress. She began acting when she was 19. She is graduated in dramatic literature from University of Tehran. She began her professional acting career by appearing in an iranian feature film "ghaedeye tasadof" (the rule of accident, 2013). She is also known for "Fish and Cat (2013), and "World War 3" (79th Venice 2022). She participated in Berlin Talent 2024.





KEY CAST

Neda Jebreili SEPIDEH Nasrin Babaei SIMIN Panisa Peyvakht HANA Shahin Madraki MOTHER Kimia Khoobani CUSTOMER

KEY PRODUCTION CREDIT

Soha Niasti PRODUCER
Adib Sobhani DOP
Emad Khodabakhsh EDITOR
Ava Rasti COMPOSER
Elham Moein
COSTUME DESIGNER
Zohreh Aliakbari
SOUND DESIGNER
Amirhossein Shojaei
STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

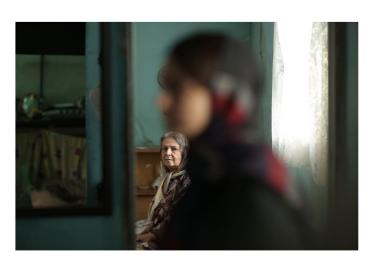
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

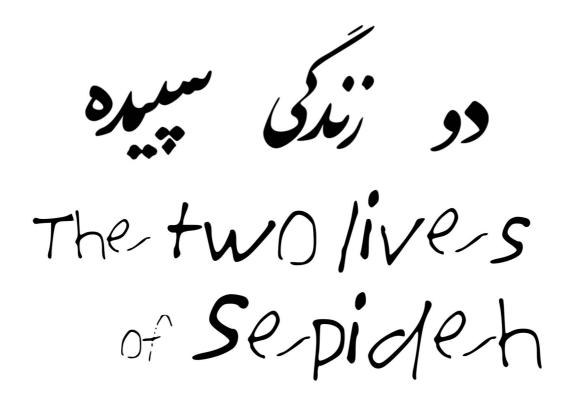
Iran
DATE of
COMPLETION
2023
FORMAT Digital
RATIO 1:85:1
DURATION
17 mins 10 secs
GENRE Drama
LANGUAGE Persian

DISTRIBUTION & SALES

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