



presents

LAND OF DREAMS



©Ghasem Ebrahimian, Bon Voyage Films and Palodeon Pictures

LAND OF DREAMS

a Bon Voyage Films GmbH, Palodeon Pictures LLC & Land of Dreams LLC production

in co-production with Fondazione in between Art Film

Directed by

Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari

Starring

Sheila Vand, Matt Dillon, William Moseley and Isabella Rossellini

Screenplay by

Jean-Claude Carrière & Shoja Azari

Produced by

Amir Hamz, Sol Tryon, Christian Springer

With backing from

BR/ARTE, Doha Film Institute, Arri, New Mexico Film Office

LAND OF DREAMS

CAST

Simin	Sheila Vand
Alan	Matt Dillon
Mark	William Moseley
Jane	Isabella Rossellini
Blair	Christopher McDonald
Nancy	Anna Gunn
Jackie	Robin Bartlett
David	Gaius Charles
Julian	Joaquim de Almeida
Mother & Mexican Maid	Nicole Ansari
Hirsute Man	Mohammad B. Ghaffari

CREW

Directed by	Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari
Screenplay by	Jean-Claude Carrière & Shoja Azari
Produced by	Amir Hamz, Sol Tryon, Christian Springer
Executive Producers	Amir Neshat, Shirin Neshat, Fahri Yardim, Mark Amin
Line Producers	Javier Gonzalez, Johannes Jancke, Letizia Lange
Director of photography	Ghasem Ebrahimian
Set Design	Rick Gilbert
Casting	Lina Todd
Edited by	Mike Selemon
Special Effects	Dara Hamidi
Music	Michael Brook
Sound	Scott Hirsch, Craig Parker, Stefan Chakerian
Original Songs	Rebecca Comerford
Costumes	Negar Ali-Kline
Hair & Make Up Artists	Mina Ghoraishi & Siobhan Carmody
Production credits	Bon Voyage Films GmbH, Palodeon Pictures LLC & Land of Dreams LLC
Co-Produced by	Fondazione in between Art Film
With backing from	BR/ARTE, Doha Film Institute, Arri, New Mexico Film Office

LAND OF DREAMS

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Location	New Mexico, USA
Shooting time	14.10. - 16.11.2020
Running time	113 minutes
Screen Ratio	Cinemascope 1:2,35
Frames/Second	24 fps
Format	2D DCP
Shooting format	ProRes4444
Sound format	5.1
Language	English, Farsi



LAND OF DREAMS

LOGLINE

The story of **LAND OF DREAMS** takes place in the near future in a small town in America. Simin is an Iranian immigrant who works for United States Census Bureau which has begun a program to record citizens' dreams. Unaware of the American government's devious plot, Simin's personal obsession is to try to capture her interviewees' dreams by photographing and later secretly impersonating them in Farsi, then publishing them on social media. Playful and poignant, **LAND OF DREAMS** acknowledges in a surreal and satirical way, the greatness of the American experiment while offering a warning beacon for what could come.

SYNOPSIS

Simin is an Iranian woman on a journey to discover what it means to be a free American. She works for the Census Bureau which, in an effort to control its citizens, has begun a program to record their dreams. Unaware of this devious plot, Simin is torn between her compassion for those whose dreams she is recording and a truth she must find within.

Haunted by the fact that her father was executed by the Islamic regime in Iran, Simin has developed a coping mechanism through a world of fantasy and playacting. She captures her interviewees' dreams, secretly impersonates them in Farsi and publishes them on social media where she finds a growing Iranian audience.

Soon Simin meets Mark; a drifter, a free soul, and a poet who declares his love for her at first sight; and Alan, a cynical cowboy turned detective, full of machismo and the American spirit of adventure. As Simin enters the triad, she finds the two men's competition and conflicts amusing and silently enjoys the ride.

Playful and poignant, **LAND OF DREAMS** acknowledges in a surreal and satirical way, the greatness of the American experiment while offering a warning beacon for what could come.

DIRECTORS NOTE

Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari

LAND OF DREAMS was developed out of a collaboration with Jean-Claude Carrière, a journey that began back in 2018 in Paris until his death in January 2021.

The film was inspired by our personal journeys as two Iranian immigrants living in America since the 1970's, and Jean-Claude's grasp of the American culture as a French citizen. The narrative is therefore, an expression of our sensibilities and point of views as three foreigners about a country that we all love and yet dare to criticize.

Stylistically the film has become a convergence of a deeply personal, visual and conceptual language with Jean-Claude Carrière's legendary signature as a scriptwriter with his sense of wit, humor and humanity.

LAND OF DREAMS

PRODUCERS' NOTE

Amir Hamz, Sol Tryon & Christian Springer

LAND OF DREAMS is not only Shirin Neshat's first English-language project, it is also an artistic and critical look at the United States. It speaks to the disturbing current social situation in America, where a deep rift threatens the very fabric of society.

Full of ingenious and artfully refined ideas – like the dream-interviews reminiscent of “Le Charme discret de la Bourgeoisie” (Buñuel, 1972) and the surrealistic moments, told from the perspective of the female protagonist, that sees the landscape and topography suddenly shift – **LAND OF DREAMS** had already deeply impressed us when it was still in treatment-form.

LAND OF DREAMS eloquently invokes popular American themes like “The American Dream” or “The Dreamers”, but at the same time is practically brimming with visual and narrative references to the silver-screen's master of surrealism, Luis Buñuel. His 1970s movie creations in particular provided ample inspiration for Shirin's story, and as such it's no coincidence that **LAND OF DREAMS** also marks her first collaboration with Buñuel's longtime screenwriter, the late Academy Award winner Jean- Claude Carrière, who provided the scripts to six of Buñuel's films. In **LAND OF DREAMS**, Shirin shines the cinematic spotlight on a particularly fascinating social strata that, in our opinion, more than deserves having its story told. It's a part of the American population that perceives itself as having been forgotten by the coastal elite, but has now (re-)gained a purpose through and in America's populist politics of today.

Similarly fascinating is how Shirin's storytelling first props up common stereotypes and then tears them down. It's a well-known fact that there are no deserts in the American Mid-West, where **LAND OF DREAMS'** story takes place. Nevertheless, Shirin chooses to employ those same iconic pictures that have become synonymous with America by virtue of its own media. It's an homage to John Ford's “The Searchers” (and many other movies of the Old West), in which a 30-square mile area of Monument Valley often appears representative of the whole country **LAND OF DREAMS** unites our need to continue and enrich our commitment to artistically important film for the big screen. We are truly honored to have been a part of this magical journey.

LAND OF DREAMS



©Ghasem Ebrahimian, Bon Voyage Films and Palodeon Pictures

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Simin is a young Iranian woman who was raised under a theocratic, authoritarian regime. She escaped Iran after her father, an ex-revolutionary was executed by the Iranian government. Simin feels alienated in America but enjoys her freedom and solitude. She accepts a job as a census worker at the United States Census Bureau, which is collecting citizens' dreams, a newly added question to their questionnaire. As Simin begins to interview her subjects, she becomes captivated by their dreams. She photographs her interviewees, then secretly impersonates them in Farsi, and later posts the recorded clips on social media where she gathers a large Iranian following. Odd, mysterious, obsessive, a misfit both within the Iranian and American communities, ultimately, it's Simin's artistic journey that saves her from madness and gives her a sense of human connection, peace and resignation.

In his early thirties, **Mark** is a dreamy, handsome, and naïve American man. He is a self-assured, liberal with a politically correct worldview who has decided to live openly and freely as a poet. Mark has never held a real job and still lives with his parents. He is a drifter, an explorer who walks from place to place aimlessly. He often feels inadequate and covers his frustration under the veneer of romanticism, love of humanity. Mark lives inside his head and has an answer for every question and every situation, yet he is vulnerable and fragile, emasculated, and perhaps still a virgin. Mark craves the outside world while living in a small American town.

LAND OF DREAMS

Alan is an all-American man in his 50's. He is a muscular, somewhat imposing and macho, but pragmatic and matter of fact. Alan is witty, quick with a cynical and ironic sense of humor. He is well rounded and resolved with a clear point of view and a well-formed philosophy of life. In contrast with his indifference and sarcastic attitude, he is empathetic and caring when in a specific situation. Alan is a modern cowboy, his relationship to his motorcycle is similar to that of a cowboy to his horse. He loves women, alcohol, gambling, living his life a day at a time, hence poking at those who take themselves too seriously.

Nancy is a high-strung boss at the futuristic and privatized US Census Bureau. She is a career-driven, calculative, and highly ambitious woman entangled with the perception of mission and power. She is quick to read people and an effective manager. Her character and style embody what the US Census Bureau represents, a fusion between utopic technological corporate vision and dated government bureaucratic systems. When faced with a human moral dilemma and internalized corporate vision, Nancy faces no difficulty in siding with the latter.

Blair is a charismatic evangelical cult leader. He claims God speaks directly to him. Convinced that his message is that of Jesus himself, Blair has built a church with an elaborate design combining pagan and Christian symbolism with powerful effect. He uses music, dance, and rituals to elevate his followers to an emotional pitch. Blair's Moral stance is highly political, and his world views a constant battle between good and evil.



LAND OF DREAMS

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR SHIRIN NESHAT

How has your personal background influenced the film 'Land of Dreams' and what does the film mean to you?

LAND OF DREAMS is one of my most personal work. As you know, the story revolves around the journey of an Iranian woman immigrant living in the United States with unresolved relationships to both her native and host country. In addition, Simin, like myself, is an artist, a photographer, a performer whose only channel to cope with reality is to lose herself in a fantasy world, to her creative imagination.

Also, similar to Simin, although I have lived longer in the USA than in my own country, I have never fully integrated in the American culture, yet I have also always felt a great distance between me and Iran since I have been living in self-exile for so long. So, I identify with Simin's emotional, psychological, moral and political dilemma as she finds herself conflicted between two very opposing cultures and always an outcast.

Therefore, while **LAND OF DREAMS** primarily appears as a social critique of American society, it is really an expression of my experience in America.

In the film, you show some American stereotypes, for example the life in the suburbs of the stereotypical housewife/working man family. As your film plays in the future, do you think that established stereotypes of the past will stay for a long time, or has America changed over the last decades that you have lived there?

We were not so much focused on showing American stereotypes rather emphasizing diversity in America; by having the main character visiting different households, we tried to give a glimpse into the lives of Americans from distinct racial, socio-economic, and religious backgrounds.

However, one has to keep in mind that the narrative is from the perspective of a French citizen (Jean-Claude Carrière) and two Iranian immigrants with specific relationships and history to America. Speaking for Shoja and myself, America is a country that has given us a home, a second chance away from a totalitarian regime. Like many other immigrants, I have personally considered America as a place of democracy, compassion, a nation that welcomes the displaced, a country that has been built by the blood of immigrants.

But these days, as many other Americans, we have become disillusioned with the new shift in the country. To my eyes, America has never been more divided ideologically and economically. We see a growing culture of racism, bigotry, and conservatism that was never so present in the past.

Sadly, the future doesn't look very promising as there is an increasing mistrust in the government for deepening the divide among its citizens and a very problematic foreign policy; planting chaos and civil war in countries they intervene in and later abandon with little compassion and respect for human rights. This is not the America I knew.

Ultimately Land of Dream is an artistic and satirical way of showing how deceptive and dangerous power structures are; and how it may not be too far fetched to imagine that

LAND OF DREAMS

one day in the near future US government agencies, such as the Census Bureau, could be incorporated into super power corporations such as Facebook, Twitter and Amazon.

You show social media as a tool, that connects people all over the world and Simin uses it to show the life and stories of others as her own. How do you perceive social media? Do you see it as a way to portray yourself as someone different?

Social media as a virtual community has become an inevitable part of our lives. It has been particularly potent and meaningful for me who has no direct access to my country, but through the internet I have gained a large following mostly Iranians living in Iran which really pleases me. Our communication is about sharing our stories, ideas, political news and mostly about art and culture.

Generally, for those living under surveillance and censorship, social media is the only and most powerful channel to communicate with the outside world, so their voices could be heard, and they may feel included in the international community.

Without a doubt social media also helps to create personas. We construct an image about ourselves which appeals to our followers but equally also helps us to escape the banality of everyday life.

**Please explain the connection between the film 'Land of Dreams' and the other parts of the 'Land of Dreams' project (Film, Photos and Video Art Installation)?
What role does the film play in the whole picture of the project?**

From the start **LAND OF DREAMS** developed as a project comprised of still photography, video installation and a feature film. In the past I have intentionally kept these three mediums separate, but this time I felt it would be an interesting experiment to find a concept that may collapse into three separate art forms.

The photographic series, created as a salon like installation, includes 111 portraits of diverse faces of Americans all shot in New Mexico in 2019. In my point of view this collection of photos represents a 'portrait of America', as we photographed people from diverse ethnic, economic backgrounds, including Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic immigrants and Anglos.

The video installation, also shot in New Mexico in 2019, is a black and white, double-channel composite video installation around 23 minutes in length, mainly designed for gallery and museum settings. The narrative is far more enigmatic and surrealistic than in the feature film with little use of language. However, similar to the movie, the story remains focused on a young Iranian woman who travels daily to a small American town, visiting different households to take their portraits and collect their dreams. The only difference with the film is that, the protagonist (also performed by Sheila Vand), then returns with the portraits and the dreams to a dubious Iranian colony tucked away inside a mountain where many Iranian men and women are secretly receiving, selecting and interpreting American people's dreams. Therefore, in the video the female protagonist is not an agent for the American but for the Iranian government.

LAND OF DREAMS

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHIES

Shirin Neshat

Born in Qazvin, Iran in 1957, Shirin Neshat is an Iranian artist and filmmaker living in New York. She works in the mediums of photography, video installation and film. Neshat has held numerous exhibitions internationally, most recently at the Tate Modern in London. She has been the recipient of the Golden Lion Award at the 48th Venice Biennale (1999), and the Silver Lion Award at the 66th Venice Film Festival (2009), for her first feature film "Women Without Men." Shirin Neshat's second feature film "Looking for Oum Kulthum" (2017), was based on the life of the legendary Egyptian singer Oum Kulthum. Shirin Neshat directed her first opera, AIDA, at the Salzburg Music Festival, Austria in 2017 & 2022.

Shirin is also world-renowned for her video art installations, the latest being **LAND OF DREAMS** shown at Photo London from September 1- 12, which she developed together with the same name film. She was featured in many solo exhibitions all around the globe with her work including "Roja" and "Sarah" (both 2016), "Illusions & Mirrors" (2013), "Games of Desire" (2009), "Munis", "Faezeh" and "Farokh Legha" (all 2008), "Zarin" (2005), "Makdokht" (2004) amongst others. With her video art installations "Rapture" (1999) and "Turbulent" (1998) she won the International Award of the 48. Venice Biennale in spring 1999.

Shoja Azari

Shoja Azari was born in Shiraz, Iran in 1957. Azari is a visual artist and filmmaker living in New York. He has directed several feature films including "K," based on three short stories by Franz Kafka (2000); "Windows" (2006); "Simple Little Lives" (2015); and "Badria" (2017). Azari has been a long-time collaborator with visual artist Shirin Neshat. They co-directed "Women Without Men" (2009), which won the Silver Lion Award at the 66th Venice Film Festival and "Looking for Oum Kulthum" based on the life of the legendary Egyptian singer, Oum Kulthum. Azari's art works have been widely exhibited internationally and are in major museum collections. Among them are "King of Black" (2013), "Idyllic Life" (2012), "Iconic Portraits" (2010) and "The Days of the Last Judgement" (2009). In Collaboration with Shirin he was also part of "Rapture" (1999) and "Turbulent" (1998), winning the International Award of the 48. Venice Biennale in spring 1999, and "Roja" and "Sarah" (both 2016), amongst others.

LAND OF DREAMS



©Chasem Ebrahimian, Bon Voyage Films and Palodeon Pictures

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Sheila Vand

Sheila Vand is an actress and artist who appears in numerous award-winning films such as “The Rental” (2021 Critics Choice Super Award nominee - Best Actress, Best film), “We The Animals” (2019 Independent Spirit Award nominee, 2018 Sundance NEXT Innovator Prize), “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” (Gotham award winner, Independent Spirit award nominee), “ARGO” (Academy Award winner), and many more. Her stage work includes a Broadway debut alongside Robin Williams in the Pulitzer Prize finalist “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo”, as well as the world premiere of Frank Zappa’s “200 Motels” at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with the LA Philharmonic. Sheila can currently be seen as the lead of internationally-acclaimed artist Shirin Neshat’s feature film **LAND OF DREAMS**, premiering at the 2021 Venice Film Festival, and in the upcoming third season of Netflix/TNT’s Snowpiercer alongside Daveed Diggs and Jennifer Connelly. Sheila has served on juries of the Sundance Film Festival and the Vimeo Film Festival. Her own original works include “Sneaky Nietzsche” (a theatrical experience mounted at LACMA) and “MILK: What Will You Make of Me?” (a visual art collaboration with TED-fellow Alexa Meade).

Matt Dillon

Matt Dillon was born 1964 in New York. At the age of 14 he had his feature film debut in “Over the Edge” (1979) and established himself as a teen idol. 1989 he achieved further success in Gus Van Sant’s crime drama “Drugstore Cowboy” (1989) and won an IFP Spirit Award for his gritty performance as a drug addict. Following several

LAND OF DREAMS

successful feature films such as "The Saint of Fort Washington" (1993), "Beautiful Girls" (1996), "In & Out" (1997), "There's Something About Mary" (1998), and "Wild Things" (1998). In the 2000s, he made his directing debut with "City of Ghosts" (2002), in which he also starred next to Gérard Depardieu, Stellan Skarsgård, and James Caan. He starred opposite Kate Hudson and Owen Wilson in Universal Pictures' comedy, "You", "Me and Dupree" (2006) and in "Factotum" (2005) for which he received glowing reviews for portraying Charles Bukowski's alter ego when the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. This was followed by productions as "Nothing but the Truth" (2008), "Sunlight Jr." (2013) and "The House That Jack Built" (2018). Dillon displayed his versatility with an arresting performance co-starring as a racist cop in the critically acclaimed Paul Haggis film "Crash" (2004). This role earned him nominations for an Academy award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild Award, Critics Choice Award, BAFTA Award and won him an Independent Spirit Award. In addition, the film earned him a Screen Actors Guild Award and a Critics Choice Award for Best Ensemble. His recent film credits include the comedy "Girl Most Likely" opposite Annette Bening and Kristen Wiig; the drama "Sunlight, Jr." opposite Naomi Watts, and the heist comedy "The Art Of The Steal" opposite Kurt Russell.

William Moseley

Nurturing an impressive body of work that encompasses film and television, William Moseley has positioned himself as one of Hollywood's most promising talents as his career continues to evolve with exciting and challenging projects.

William Moseley most recently wrapped production on Romuald Boulanger's feature film "On the Line" opposite Mel Gibson. He will next be seen in the independent film, "Saving Paradise," in which he stars as a ruthless corporate raider forced to reexamine his past, as well as Petr Ják's "Medieval" opposite Ben Foster and Michael Caine. He most recently starred in Zackary Adler's action drama "The Courier" opposite Gary Oldman, which chronicles the harrowing journey of a delivery woman who discovers a package she's transporting is actually a bomb.

William previously starred on the hit television series, "The Royals." The show was E! Entertainment Network's first scripted series and was one of the highest rated cable debuts of 2015, receiving critical acclaim and record social numbers.

He is best known for his role as Peter Pevensie in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe." He reprised his role of Peter in the 2008 sequel "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" and later in 2010 in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader." Other credits include feature films "In Like Flynn," "Carrie Pilby," opposite Bel Powley, "The Silent Mountain," and on television, the feature, "My Sweet Audrina."

Isabella Rossellini

Isabella Rossellini was one of the twin daughters born to actress Ingrid Bergman and director Roberto Rossellini in 1952. After growing up in Italy, she came to America

LAND OF DREAMS

when she was 19 and studied at Finch College and the New School for Social Research. Just for fun, Rossellini made her first movie appearance in 1976, playing a bit in her mother's film "A Matter of Time". She found acting to her liking, appearing in several European TV dramas before her first big-screen starring role in 1979's "The Meadow". In the early 1980s, Rossellini put her film activities on the back burner to concentrate on her modelling career on behalf of Lancome Cosmetics. After her first marriage (to Hollywood director Martin Scorsese) ended in 1983, she began a relationship with ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov, with whom she co-starred in "White Nights" (1985). She was later involved with filmmaker David Lynch, who cast her in her breakthrough role as a much-abused small-town nightclub singer in "Blue Velvet" (1986). Rossellini continued seeking out off-beat, challenging film roles into the '90s, including Anna Maria Ermody in the controversial Beethoven biopic "Immortal Beloved" and no-nonsense frontierswoman Big Nose Kate in "Wyatt Earp" (both 1994). She also starred in Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci's delicious drama "Big Night" in 1996. She has a major part in "Roger Dodger", and in 2003 she featured prominently in Guy Maddin's "The Saddest Music in the World", a working relationship they would continue on other projects such as "My Dad Is 100 Years Old".

Anna Gunn

Anna Gunn is a two-time Emmy, two-time Peabody and Screen Actor's Guild Award winning actress best known for her role as Skyler White on AMC's seminal television series "Breaking Bad". Additional accolades for Gunn's work on "Breaking Bad" include numerous SAG, Emmy, Critic's Choice and Golden Globe nominations and three American Film Institute Awards. Gunn created the role of 'Martha Bullock' in David Milch's groundbreaking HBO series "Deadwood", for which she received a SAG nomination, and reprised the role in 2019's Deadwood movie.

Highlights of Gunn's film work include co-starring roles in Clint Eastwood's "Sully" with Tom Hanks, Tony Scott's "Enemy of the State" opposite Jon Voight, "Nobody's Baby" with Gary Oldman, "Without Evidence" with Angelina Jolie, "Sassy Pants" (2012 Milan International Film Festival Nominee for Best Supporting Actress), and "Equity" with James Purefoy (2016 Women's Image Network Award Nominee for Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film).

On stage, Gunn has originated the leading roles in Laura Eason's "Sex with Strangers" (Second Stage) directed by David Schwimmer (2015 Lucile Lortel Nominee for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play) and the world premiere productions of Donald Margulies' "Time Stands Still" and Alan Alda's "Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie", both directed by Daniel Sullivan at the Geffen Playhouse. Other notable stage credits include the Broadway revival of "The Rehearsal" (Roundabout) directed by Nicholas Martin; Isabella in "Measure for Measure" (Ahmanson) directed by Sir Peter Hall; the American premiere of Terry Johnson's "Hysteria" (Mark Taper Forum) directed by Phyllida Lloyd; and Lucy Lockit in "The Beggar's Opera" (Court Theatre, Chicago). Anna is currently attached to star in and produce two independent features.

LAND OF DREAMS

Christopher McDonald

Christopher McDonald was born and raised in New York City, New York, to Patricia, a real estate agent, and James R. McDonald, an educator. His breakout role was in Ridley Scott's "Thelma & Louise", followed shortly by playing Jack Barry in Robert Redford's "Quiz Show". Other notable performances include "Into Thin Air: Death on Everest" as John Krakauer and Tappy Timmons in "Requiem for a Dream" opposite Ellen Burstyn. Chris has co-starred in hit comedies "Happy Gilmore", "American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile" and "American Pie Presents: Beta House", "Flubber", and "Leave It to Beaver". "Harry's Law", "Boardwalk Empire", and "Family Law" highlight his television credits.

Trained by legendary acting teacher Stella Adler and also at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Chris has been singled out by the New York Times as one of the most prolific actors in Hollywood. He has performed in over 100 films spanning thirty-five years. His 40 stage credits include Billy Flynn in the Broadway production of "Chicago" and the 2013 hit, "Lucky Guy" opposite Tom Hanks.

Since the loss of two siblings and a parent to cancer, Chris has been an active supporter of the Make a Wish foundation along with charities which help cancer research. He participates in celebrity fund-raising events throughout the world. A graduate of Hobart and William Smith college in 1977, he is a principle donor for the building of their new performing arts center.

Joaquim de Almeida

Joaquim de Almeida will next be seen in the highly anticipated "Searching" sequel directed by Nick Johnson and Will Merrick opposite Storm Reid. He is currently in production on the second season of Netflix's series, "Warrior Nun" inspired by the Manga Novels and created by Simon Barry. In addition, he currently can be seen in the feature film "Fatima" opposite Harvey Keitel, Goran Visnjic, Alba Baptista and Sônia Braga directed by Marco Pontecorvo. Other film credits include: "The Hitman's Bodyguard" with Samuel L. Jackson and Ryan Reynolds, "Our Brand Is Crisis" with Sandra Bullock, "Fast Five", "Downsizing" directed by Alexander Payne, amongst many other films. He was a series regular on "Queen Of The South" for USA, recurred on FOX's "Training Day" reboot and NBC'S "Parenthood", and has guest starred on "24", "Revenge", "Once Upon A Time", "Elementary", "Bones" and many more. De Almeida starred in Guillermo Arriaga's "The Burning Plain" opposite Charlize Theron, Kim Basinger and Jennifer Lawrence which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2008.

LAND OF DREAMS



©Ghasem Ebrahimiyan, Bon Voyage Films and Palodeon Pictures

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHIES

Sol Tryon

Sol Tryon is an American filmmaker and storyteller. He began his career in New York City in the late 90's and produced his first feature film, "Bomb The System", in 2003, for which he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for best first feature.

Sol has since produced numerous award-winning films, including "Weapons", "Explicit Ills", "Starlet", "Here Comes The Night", "2012: Time for Change", "Being In The World", "Monogamish", "Weed The People" and "The Reunited States". His directorial debut, "The Living Wake" (Jesse Eisenberg, Mike O'Connell, Jim Gaffigan and Ann Dowd), received critical praise and numerous awards from top festivals as well as a theatrical release across the US and abroad.

In 2020, Sol formed Palodeon Pictures with his wife and creative collaborator, Rebecca Comerford. In addition to their first two projects Amerikatsi (Narrative film directed by and starring Michael Goorjian and featuring Hovik Keuchkerian) and **LAND OF DREAMS**, Palodeon currently has several projects in various stages of production, including: "Midnight Special" (Narrative film about the life and music of Lead Belly), "In the Eye of the Storm" (Unscripted Limited Series about the life and work of Yanis Varoufakis), "The End of Alzheimer's" (Feature Documentary), "Sulphur Mountain" (Narrative supernatural thriller) and "The Nightingale and the Tower" (Animated feature adaptation of the original opera).

LAND OF DREAMS

Amir Hamz

Amir Hamz studied documentary film directing, political science and journalism in London and Hamburg. Between 2004 and 2010, he worked as a director and producer on documentaries, music videos and short films, among others for the broadcasters NDR, ZDF and ARTE. At the same time, he worked as a development producer for various companies in London, Hamburg and Berlin and was producer and Head of Development for Milbrook Pictures in Berlin and Zurich between 2011 and 2014. During this time, he initiated the script-writing program "SCHOLARtreat" and the "Milbrook Writer Award" as part of the Hofer Filmtage. He has since produced "The Nightmare" (Toronto, 2015) together with Christian Springer, among others, and was also one of the lead producers of the Suter bestseller adaptation "The Dark Side Of The Moon" (Shanghai, 2015). Under his lead as producer for Bon Voyage Films, "Curveball" (Berlinale, 2020) by Johannes Naber, the docu-series "Fahri's Search For Happiness" for ProSieben and the series "Diary Of An Uber Driver" for the streaming platform Joyn, were created in 2019. Most recently, he produced the art-house feature film "Axiom", Shirin Neshat's US indie film **LAND OF DREAMS** (Venice, 2021) and the high-end docu-series "Safahri" for Sky.

Christian Springer

Christian Springer has worked on numerous successful cinema and TV films and mini-series since 1994, including Stefan Ruzowitzky's "The Counterfeiters" (2007), which won the Oscar® for Best Foreign Language Film in 2008, Sebastian Grobler's "Lessons Of A Dream" (with Daniel Brühl) or "Chiko" and "Blutzbrüdad" by Özgür Yildirim. He worked as a production manager and executive producer for several award-winning films at Fatih Akin's production companies Corazon International and Bombero International. This resulted in works such as "The Cut", "Soul Kitchen" or "The Edge Of The Heaven", each directed by Fatih Akin. In addition to his work as a producer on THE "The Dark Side Of The Moon" (Shanghai, 2015) and "The Nightmare" (Toronto, 2015), Christian Springer was also involved as head of production in the production of the Tatort feature film "Tschiller - Off Duty" by Christian Alvert with Til Schweiger and the mini-series "Bad Banks" by Christian Schwochow. With Bon Voyage Films he produced "Curveball" (Berlinale, 2020) by Johannes Naber, the docu-series "Fahri's Search For Happiness" (2019) for ProSieben and the series "Diary Of An Uber Driver" (2020) for the streaming platform Joyn. In 2020, he produced the art-house feature film "Axiom" and Shirin Neshat's US indie film **LAND OF DREAMS** (Venice, 2021). He is currently producing the high-end docu-series "Safahri" for Sky.

LAND OF DREAMS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BIOGRAPHY

Ghasem Ebrahimian is an award winning filmmaker who came to the US in 1974 to study cinema. He graduated from SUNY Purchase in 1979. His thesis film, "Willie" earned him a Student Academy Award and was shown in festivals around the world and on Public Television's Independent Focus.

He formed Ebrafilms with Coleen Higgins in 1980 and the company produced over forty documentaries for Italian and French televisions among other commercial productions. His feature film "The Suitors" (1988) which he wrote, directed and produced was an official selection for Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for Camera d'Or. "The Suitors" was theatrically released in the US and was shown on Germany's WDR and UK's Channel 4.

In 1997 he began his collaboration with Shirin Neshat on a number of filmed video Installations as director of photography and co-writer. Their first collaboration, "Turbulent", won the first international prize at 1999 Venice Biennale. The following installations: "Rapture", "Soliloquy", "Possessed", "Fervor", "Pulse", "Mahdokht", "Dreamers" and **LAND OF DREAMS** have been shown in Museums and galleries around the world. Ghasem wrote and directed the film portion of "Logic of the birds", a multi-disciplinary theatrical piece with Shirin Neshat and Sussan Deyhim. It premiered at Lincoln Center in New York and was presented at the Union Chapel by Artangel in London.

As Director of Photography he has worked on a number of international feature films including: "Greater Things" (2015) in Japan. Dir: Vahid Hakimzadeh, "Icaros: A Vision" (2016) in the Amazon, Peru. Dir: Leonor Caraballo, Matteo Norzi. "Sins of My Father" (2017/18) TV Series: in Turkey. Dir: Apo Uguz "Amerikatsi" (2020) filmed in Armenia. Dir: Michael Goorgian **LAND OF DREAMS** (2020) filmed in New Mexico. Dir: Shirin Neshat/Shoja Azari

COMPANY DESCRIPTIONS

INTERNATIONAL SALES – BETA CINEMA

BETA CINEMA, a subsidiary of Jan Mojto's European media group Beta Film, is a world sales and co-financing company for quality feature films that combine great stories, commercial viability and artistic integrity. Beta Cinema's footprint ranges from Oscar® winners to worldwide B.O. and streaming hits, such as "The Lives of Others", "Il Divo", "Downfall" and two time Oscar®-nominee "Never Look Away", to Netflix hit "Calibre" and multiple award-winning B.O. successes like "Woman At War" and "System Crasher". Current highlights include Berlin 2021 Competition entries "I'm Your Man" by Maria Schrader (winner Silver Bear) and "Next Door" by Daniel Brühl, Venice entry "Nowhere Special" and the psychological thriller "Kindred" starring Fiona Shaw and Jack Lowden.

LAND OF DREAMS

PALODEON PICTURES

All creative expression is written in the stars.

Founded in 2020, Palodeon is the muse of husband and wife co-creatives, Sol Tryon and Rebecca Comerford.

A multi-award winning independent film and music production company headquartered in Ojai California and working worldwide, Palodeon combines the talents of filmmaker Tryon with the expertise of writer and musician, Comerford to usher original content that both inspires and explores the human condition through cinema and music.

Tryon holds multiple prizes from top festivals and Independent Spirit Awards for his narrative features and documentaries, which have garnered theatrical releases across the US and abroad. Such films include Bomb The System, Weapons, Explicit Ills, Starlet, Monogamish, Weed The People, The Reunited States and his directorial debut, The Living Wake, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Jim Gaffigan, Ann Dowd and Mike O'Connell. Tryon has produced many of Shirin Neshat's films, including her latest feature, **LAND OF DREAMS** in a collaboration that spans twenty years.

Comerford is best known for her work as a singer and composer. As a concert soloist she has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fischer Hall/Lincoln Center, The J. Paul Getty Museum Los Angeles, Symphony Space, Alhambra Theater Spain, Spoleto Music Festival Italy, Aspen Music Festival and Connect Beyond Festival in Asheville, North Carolina. Her electronic chamber Opera, Nightingale and the Tower received its world premiere in May of 2019 at Ojai's Libbey Bowl. She has appeared in multiple feature films as both a singer and actor and her original songs and orchestrations are featured in **LAND OF DREAMS**.

Current projects in production include "Amerikatsi", starring writer/director Michael Goorjian, the animated feature adaptation of the Opera "The Nightingale" and "The Tower", documentary "The End of Alzheimers" and the unscripted episodic series "In The Eye Of The Storm".

BON VOYAGE FILMS

Bon Voyage Films was founded in 2015 with offices in Hamburg and Berlin by producer and director Amir Hamz and producer and head of production Christian Springer. The company produced successful films such as "The Nightmare" (Toronto, 2015). Since spring 2017, Bon Voyage Films has been part of the All3Media Group's creative network and actor Fahri Yardim joined the team as a producer. In 2019, the company shot the feature film "Curveball" by Johannes Naber that premiered 2020 at the Berlinale in Berlin. At the same time, the six-part series "Diary Of An Uber Driver" was produced for the streaming platform Joyn and the docu-series "Fahri's Search For Hapiness" for ProSieben. In 2020, Bon Voyage Films also produced the feature film "Axiom" and was one of the main producers of Shirin Neshat's US indie film **LAND OF DREAMS**, which has been invited to Venice Int. Filmfestival in 2021. "Safahri", a high-end docu-series for Sky, is currently in post-production. Bon Voyage Films works with writers and filmmakers with whom it wants to inspire, challenge and move audiences in a lasting way. The

LAND OF DREAMS

production company also focuses on feature films and serial formats as well as major cinema documentaries.

BETA CINEMA PRESS

Dorothee Stoewahse/Xheva Rrezja/Konstantin Daum

Tel: + 49 89 63 84 627

press@betafilm.com; www.betacinema.com

CONTACT WORLD SALES

Beta Cinema

Tel: + 49 89 67 34 69 828

beta@betacinema.com; www.betacinema.com