Directed and Written by: Babak Anvari
Starring: Narges Rashidi, Avin Manshadi, Bobby Naderi, Ray Haratian, Hamidreza Djavdan and Soussan Farrokhnia
Produced by: Lucan Toh, Oliver Roskill and Emily Leo
Running Time: 84 minutes
MPAA Rating: Not yet rated

Facebook: Under The Shadow
Instagram: @UnderTheShadowFilm
Twitter: @UTSFilm

Logline: As a mother and daughter struggle to cope with the terrors of the post-revolution, war torn Tehran of the 80s, a mysterious evil begins to haunt their home.

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TO DOWNLOAD MATERIALS:
ftp://corp.prodigypublicrelations.com/publicftp (username – prodigyftp / password – pressaccess1)
UNDER THE SHADOW
PRESS KIT
Shideh and her family live amid the chaos of the Iran-Iraq war (known colloquially as The War of the Cities). Accused of subversion by the post-Revolution government and blacklisted from medical college, she falls into a state of malaise. Conscripted to the army, her husband is sent to the frontlines leaving Shideh all alone to protect their young daughter Dorsa, all the while Tehran is under the constant threat of aerial bombardment. Not long after, a missile hits their apartment building and while failing to explode, a neighbour dies in mysterious circumstances. Following this Dorsa’s behaviour becomes increasingly disturbed and Shideh is slowly drawn into a mania, in which she struggles to cling onto what is real and what is not.

Searching for answers, Shideh learns from a superstitious neighbour that the cursed, unexploded missile might have brought with it Djinn – malevolent Middle-Eastern spirits that travel on the wind. Convinced that a supernatural force within the building is attempting to possess Dorsa, Shideh finds she has no choice but to confront these forces if she is to save her daughter and herself.

**THE STORY**

**LOGLINE**
As a mother and daughter struggle to cope with the terrors of the post-revolution, war torn Tehran of the 80s, a mysterious evil begins to haunt their home.

**ONE LINE**
Tehran, 1988: the Iran-Iraq war rumbles into its eighth year. The bombing campaigns focused on the city, coupled with the country’s bloody revolution, slowly tear a mother and daughter apart. As they struggle to stay together in the midst of these modern terrors, a mysterious evil stalks through their apartment, threatening their grip on reality.

**FULL SYNOPSIS**

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times, despite efforts to keep herself together. Nowadays she blames herself for how timorous my brother and I were, believing that she unconsciously passed her fears on to us during that time. Conversations with my mother reminded me of my childhood fears and anxieties and ultimately sparked the idea behind Under the Shadow. Although Under the Shadow is a work of fiction in the genre of horror, many key elements of its plot have been taken from my own experiences, stories I’ve heard and people I knew.

Under the Shadow can be viewed as a tense horror film with a unique approach. Unlike vampires and werewolves, zombies and witches, the mythology of the film is refreshing, especially for a western audience, as it has been rarely seen before. But the story can also be considered as an allegory, portraying the perverse effect of war and political turmoil not only on individuals, but on society as a whole – and the dominating power of fear.

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT
Babak Anvari

As a child, growing up in the Middle East, I used to hear many stories and urban myths about djinn from other kids, and how they harm humans. These stories used to terrify me, and led to some serious night fears throughout my childhood. As a film buff and fan of fantasy I always wanted to believe my fears arose from having an extra-sensory perception or gift, like the character Cole Sears in ‘The Sixth Sense’. My mother had a more realistic theory...

I was born and raised in Tehran in the early years of the revolution and during the Iran-Iraq war it was mandatory for my father to serve as a doctor for a month each year in the war. The months when he was away were like hell for my mother. She recalled how truly afraid she was during those
In 2002 Anvari relocated to London at the age of 19, where he studied film and television production at the University of Westminster, and has worked largely in London ever since.

In 2012, Babak was selected as one of the eight rising stars in the world of film and media out of 517 entries at the Cristal Festival, Europe’s Young Directors Forum. His last short film Two & Two was nominated for a BAFTA in 201 - after being screened at some major international film festivals. The film then toured the world as part of BAFTA’s international programme and has also proved a hit on YouTube with Iranian viewers, as well as international audiences.

BABAK ANVARI (Director & Writer)
Babak Anvari is an award-winning British filmmaker based in London. From a young age he has been involved in the production of many short films and video art pieces that have been screened in different venues and festivals around the world.

Anvari began his filmmaking career in Iran at the turn of the century, completing his first animated short as a 16-year-old. It took him a year to complete because he was only allowed to use the computer after 9pm. His animation went to a short-film festival in Tehran and received praise and attention, he hasn’t looked back since.

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MEET THE PRODUCERS

We are a dynamic UK production company, driven to create outstanding content for film, television and emerging formats. With experience in financing, production and creative development, we seek to develop and produce original and entertaining content for a global market. Recently recognised as Screen International ‘Future Leaders,’ we work with and champion the finest home-grown and international talent.

OLIVER ROSKILL (Producer)
Oliver began his production career with Centrifugal Films in New York, where he worked on a number of independent feature films, including CONFESS and DIGGERS. In 2005, Oliver returned to London, working with leading production companies such as RSA, Blink and Pulse films. Oliver joined Filmworks Dubai in 2008, producing commercials for clients such as Pepsi, General Motors and Emirates. Oliver co-founded Wigwam Films in 2012 and produced his first feature, HAVING YOU. Oliver was an executive producer on BEFORE I DISAPPEAR, which won the 2014 SXSW Audience Award. In 2015, Screen International also named Oliver as a ‘Future Leader’.

EMILY LEO (Producer)
Emily began her film career at the international sales company Capitol Films in 2006 where she began as an intern and was subsequently hired as a Development and Acquisitions Executive. She then moved to Shine Pictures to work for Paul Webster as a Creative Executive, where she worked on a slate that included SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN and BRIGHTON ROCK. Emily co-founded Wigwam Films with Oliver Roskill and Lucan Toh in 2012. In 2015, Screen International named Emily as a ‘Future Leader’.

LUCAN TOH (Producer)
Lucan has a background in technology and media venture capital, he co-founded Wigwam Films in 2012 and produced his first feature film, HAVING YOU, starring Anna Friel, Romola Garai and Andy Buchan. In 2013, Lucan produced Shawn Christensen’s directorial debut, BEFORE I DISAPPEAR, starring Emmy Rossum, Paul Wesley and Ron Perlman. The Film won the 2014 SXSW Audience Award and was distributed theatrically by IFC Films. In 2015, Lucan was named a ‘Future Leader’ by Screen International.

www.wigwamfilms.com
ABOUT THE CAST

NARGES RASHIDI ("Shideh")
Narges Rashidi was born in Iran, but later settled in 1987 with her family in Turkey then moved a year later to Germany. After graduation she moved to Berlin and studied acting. In 2005 she attended the Master Class with MK Lewis in Los Angeles. In 2007 she received the award for Best Young Actress at the New York International Independent Film Video Festival for her role as Lolita in “A2Z”.

Link to IMDb

RAY HARATIAN ("Mr Ebrahimi")
Ray Haratian is an Iranian actor who grew up Tehran through the Iran-Iraq war. Ray has featured in a multitude of feature films throughout his career. He is best known his role in “A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” as well as featuring in Ben Affleck’s Academy Award winning film “Argo”.

Link to IMDb

HAMIDREZA DJAVDAN ("Mr Fakur")
Hamid Reza Javdan began his career in the United States in 1976 in Iranian Theatre. He continued his training in Canada, studying other Comedia dell’Arte and theatre forms such as mask, Balinese martial arts, dance, makeup and singing. In France he worked at the Cartoucherie Vincennes and has staged many plays along with numerous outings on the silver screen.

Link to IMDb

SOUSSAN FARROKHNIA ("Mrs Fakur")
Soussan Farrokhnia, is an Iranian actress with more than forty years of experience in the world of Drama and is the co-founder and artistic director of Saam Theatre Company. She graduated from the University of Tehran with a B.A. in Theatre Studies and has appeared in West End productions throughout her career as well as touring internationally.

Link to IMDb

BOBBY NADERI ("Iraj")
Naderi was born in Tehran, and found his way into the Arts in his early 20s, which led him to study with Judith Weston before he began working on stage and in indie film. He gained notice for his lead role in Sundance Festival Hit, “The Taqwacores” receiving high praise for his performance. Naderi also had a Supporting role in Nina Menkes Sundance film “Phantom Love” and a part in Ben Affleck’s Oscar winning “Argo”.

Link to IMDb

AVIN MANSHADI ("Dorsa")
Avin is a 9 year old actress who is making her acting and feature film debut in Under The Shadow. She is a very bright and promising young talent who has been able to grasp a challenging and complex role, and make it her own. This young actress is a raw talent and one to watch out for in the years to come.

Link to IMDb

SOUSSAN FARROKHNIA ("Mrs Fakur")
Soussan Farrokhnia, is an Iranian actress with more than forty years of experience in the world of Drama and is the co-founder and artistic director of Saam Theatre Company. She graduated from the University of Tehran with a B.A. in Theatre Studies and has appeared in West End productions throughout her career as well as touring internationally.

Link to IMDb
Creativity Media has been involved with the financing of Under The Shadow and is a company that believes in people and building their company on the notion that great talent is the key to great films. They provide full service picture and sound post production and to date have post-produced over 40 films. Creativity provides a fully managed end to end post-production service for feature film, television and commercial clients in our custom made facility in St. Katharine Docks – in the heart of London.

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation, that organically supports the growth of the local film community, by enhancing industry knowledge and cultivating film appreciation. Previously, DFI hosted four editions of the Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF) with support from then cultural partner Tribeca Enterprises. With culture, community, education and entertainment at its foundation, DFI serves as an all-encompassing film hub in Doha, as well as a resource for the region and the rest of the world.

XYZ Films is handling the domestic sales for Under The Shadow and is an integrated content company, whose mission is to empower visionary storytellers from every corner of the planet. As an independent production company and worldwide sales agency, the company is uniquely suited to identify talented filmmakers and bring their stories to life. XYZ was founded in 2008 by Nate Bolotin, Nick Spicer, and Aram Tertzakian.

OutpostVFX is a team of experienced digital artists and animators, known for delivering outstanding, intelligent visual effects work. They have a core team built from London based companies such as Framestore, MPC and DNeg; all of whom bring a huge amount of talent, experience and confidence to the studio. Comprised of world class artists, all experts in their field, the studio has completed work across three features, multiple commercials, several award winning TV series and ground breaking VR projects.

Doha Film Institute

Creativity Media

XYZ Films

OutpostVFX
CREDITS

Writer and Director    Babak Anvari
Producers      Lucan Toh
Emily Leo
Oliver Roskill
Executive Producers    Sanjay Shah
Nick Harbinson
Patrick Fisher
Sanjay Shah
Duncan McWilliam
Khaled Hadad
Co-Producer     Donal McCusker
First Assistant Director    Yanal Kassay
Director of Photography    Kit Fraser
Editor      Chris Barwell
Production Manager    Nour Kawaja
Costume Designer    Phaedra Dahdaleh
Production Designer    Nasser Zoubi
Art Director     Karim Kheir
Farsi / 2015 / 83mins
Aspect Ratio: 1:2,39 / Delivery format: 2D DCP
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