77
Locarno Film Festival
CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE
OFFICIAL SELECTION



A FILM BY GÜRCAN KELTEK

NEW DAWN FADES

NEW DAWN FADES

A film by Gürcan Keltek

Starring

Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu, Erol Babaoğlu, Suzan Kardeş, Ayla Algan

Turkey, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway
2h10 / 1.85:1 / Colour
2024 / Turkish, Bosnian with English subtitles

More information and material at heretic.gr

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SYNOPSIS

For years, Akın has been in and out of hospital. Restless, angry and scarred by the time he spent stuck in the system, he knows since his release that his old life is lost forever. He hardly leaves his family's house any more – only for occasional visits to Istanbul's religious monuments. There, seeking refuge in God, he falls into a state of ecstasy. These sacred buildings trigger something in him. As he loses touch with his true self, his mind slips into another reality.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2015 I met Akın Altın and wanted to make a documentary about him. I recorded hours of conversations, and at every meeting a sudden change came over him. When I realised that I was recording a psychotic episode, it felt too intimate for a film – I abandoned the project. Around the same time I was researching a group of doctors who had founded an occultist and spiritualist movement in Turkey in the late 1940s. There was a scientific book, supposedly written through remote perception (Rushelman's "The Divine Order and the Universe"); clairvoyants and spirits were involved. It was all fascinating. "New Dawn Fades" grew out of these two separate ideas.

The film tells episodes of a psychosis in chapters that span 72 hours in total. Yet I do not want to explain the diagnosis or its causes. Instead, the film shows his last days before everything falls apart. His mind clings to random thoughts, and the narrative in his head barely holds together. In the film, the real and the imagined exist side by side, often in the simplest and most banal way.

The places of Istanbul mirror the inner landscape of the character. The camera moves with him; the audience follows close behind and witnesses his shattered future. He does not understand why he feels this way or why all this is happening to him. I work with long takes, sometimes up to 30 minutes, and improvise with the actors. I allow for chance and deliberately leave out parts of the plot.

I made "New Dawn Fades" because I believe insanity is just another social construct. Early in the film there is a scene in which Akın secretly listens to his mother's phone call from behind the door. For a moment he looks at us through the gap in the door. It is such an important moment, because this film is about how we slip through that gap, how we escape – and I believe this is what cinema is all about.

Gürcan Keltek



DIRECTOR

Gürcan Keltek, born in İzmir, studied film at Dokuz Eylül University and first made several short films, among them Overtime (2012), which screened at Visions du Réel. His mid-length film Colony (2015) was shown at FIDMarseille. His first feature, Meteorlar (2017), won more than twenty awards, including the award for best first feature and the Boccalino d'Oro critics' award at the Locarno Film Festival. It screened at numerous international festivals, among them Rotterdam, BAFICI, the Viennale, Bordeaux, Fajr, Hong Kong and the Art of the Real series of the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Gulyabani (2018) premiered in the Signs of Life section in Locarno and was shown at Tate Modern, in Reykjavík, in Rotterdam and at the Viennale. New Dawn Fades, which premiered in the International Competition in Locarno, is his first fiction feature.



FILMOGRAPHY

GULYABANİ
2018 – Turkey & Netherlands – 34′

METEORLAR
2017 – Turkey & Netherlands – 81′

KOLONİ
2016 – Turkey – 52′

FAZLAMESAİ
2012 – Turkey – 11′







CINEMATOGRAPHY

Peter Zeitlinger has been Werner Herzog's regular cinematographer since 1995. Born in Czechoslovakia, he is a naturalised Austrian filmmaker with a background in photography and a distinguished career in film and television.

He has shot 13 films with the legendary director Werner Herzog, six features with Götz Spielmann, three with Ulrich Seidl and two with James Franco. He has won five awards for best cinematography, among them two Romys and the German Camera Award. "Encounters at the End of the World" was nominated for the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2009. Since 2014 he has been a member of the German Film Academy and of the BVK (German Society of Cinematographers). Peter Zeitlinger speaks five languages. His work has taken him to almost every country in the world. He lives with his family in Italy, where he founded the production and service company Film Srl.





MUSIC

Tom Smith aka Son of Philip is a Nottingham-born music producer, composer and sound engineer with more than ten years of experience in the music industry. His versatile musical palette has already been championed by tastemakers such as Mary Anne Hobbs, Tom Ravenscroft, Overmono, Ben UFO, James Holden, Mixmag and many more. His debut solo album “Plastic Borough”, released earlier this year on Running Circle Records, shows his distinctive, many-layered and soulful approach to making music. Almost inevitably, his path led him to working with sound for visual media, including collaborations with fashion labels such as MITHRIDATE for their show at London Fashion Week 2022 and with the online fashion retailer MR PORTER for its collaboration with the sportswear and lifestyle brand ON. New Dawn Fades is his first score for a feature film.





CAST

Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu

Erol Babaoğlu

Suzan Kardeş

Ayla Algan

&

Dilan Düzgüner

Gürkan Gedikli

Dilan Düzgüner

Neriman Kardeş

Damla Alibeşe

Ezgi Yaren Karademir

Lilay Gürbüz

Birce Bircan

Şahin Hayri Üren

Miraç Sevsay

Görkem Kasal

Sevi Algan Babaoğlu

Ergülcan Akıncıoğlu

CREW

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY Gürcan Keltek

PRODUCER Arda Çiltepe (Vigo Film)

CO-PRODUCERS Manuela Buono (Slingshot Films),
Marc Van Goethem (29P Films),
Stefan Gieren (The Storybay),
Fernanda Renno (Fidalgo Film Production)

CINEMATOGRAPHY Peter Zeitlinger (ASC, BVK)

MUSIC Son Of Philip

EDITING Murat Gültekin & Semih Gülen

PRODUCTION DESIGN Yunus Emre Yurtseven &
Meral Efe Yurtseven

SOUND Massimiliano Borghesi

FIELD RECORDINGS Attila Faravelli

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Sunay Terzioğlu

COSTUME DESIGN Meltem Balakan

MAKE-UP Neriman Kardeş

COLOUR GRADING Felix Hüsken



