NEDA

The Interpreter

Original title: NEDA – Die Übersetzerin · International title: NEDA – The Interpreter

Technical Data

Original title: NEDA – Die Übersetzerin

Category / Genre: Feature film, drama / thriller

Running time: 107 min

Format: 2K DCP, colour

Aspect ratio: 2.39:1 (scope)

Sound: 5.1

Languages: German, Farsi

Subtitles: German (Hof screening version); English-subtitled version available

Accessible version: Audio description and subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing (SDH)

Year of production: 2026

Country of production: Germany

World premiere: 60th Hof International Film Festival, Thursday, 22 October 2026, 8:30 pm, Central 3

Section: Feature films (Spielfilme)

Nomination: Förderpreis Neues Deutsches Kino 2026 (German Cinema New Talent Award)

Further screenings in Hof: Fri 23 Oct 2026, 3:45 pm, Central 6 · Sat 24 Oct 2026, 1:00 pm, Central 2 · Sun 25 Oct 2026, 6:00 pm, Central 1 (all at Central Kino, Altstadt 8, 95028 Hof)

Trailer: https://vimeo.com/1236863787/0132afde79

Teaser “Anhörung” (The Hearing): https://vimeo.com/1237106511/5a441e59ec

Teaser “Anschlag” (The Attack): https://vimeo.com/1237107863/f6496424fb

Teaser “Mme Zari”: https://vimeo.com/1237109424/62bce7590a

Teaser “Rave”: https://vimeo.com/1237110110/89616370b9

Teaser “Sprache meiner Peiniger” (The Language of My Tormentors): https://vimeo.com/1237110641/11f4089cbd

Teaser “USB”: https://vimeo.com/1237113492/c00de01ac5

Teaser “Verfolgung” (Persecution): https://vimeo.com/1237114028/1a8936f853

Teaser “Wo waren Sie stationiert” (Where Were You Stationed?): https://vimeo.com/1237115482/7b685c25b6

Teaser “Eine Demokratie muss sowas aushalten” (A Democracy Has to Endure This): https://vimeo.com/1237116246/9d587c4775

Screener DE: https://vimeo.com/1168401161 (pw: Neda2025)

Screener EN: https://vimeo.com/1233691883 (pw: Neda2025)

Accessible version: https://vimeo.com/1234023153 (pw: Neda2025)

Crew

Director: Ashkan Najafi

Screenplay: Ashkan Najafi, Stefan Gieren
Co-writer: Mina Farzaneh
Producer: Stefan Gieren
Director of photography: Clemens Majunke
Editors: Hoda Muini, Mehrdad Muini
Music: Florian Tessloff
Production design: Kay Kulke, Violetta Willie Hamburg
Costume design: Petra Kilian
Make-up & hair: Pia Karlotta Paprzik
Casting: Sarah Lee
Sound: Tim Stephan
Sound design: Kai Storck
Re-recording mixer: Lasse Kröger
Colorist: Ronney Afortu, BVK
Assistant director: Ires Jung
Production managers: Dariush Ebadi, Dirk Eickhoff
Commissioning editor (NDR): Dr. Ira Neukirchen
Production company: The StoryBay (Story Bay Media UG), Hamburg
In co-production with: NDR
In association with: MOIN Film Fund Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein and nordmedia
Funded by: MOIN Film Fund Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein, nordmedia, German Federal Film Fund (DFFF)
Programme: NDR Nordlichter talent programme
Distribution (Germany): Barnsteiner Film

Cast

Pegah Ferydoni: Neda Karimi
Navid Negahban: Hamid Rassouli
Lara Wolf: Assu
Anne-Kathrin Gummich: Eva
Jan Georg Schütte: Wrede
Jasmin Shakeri: Katayoun
Roxana Samadi: Narges
Negah Amiri: Mina
Manuel Thielen: Noah
Farhad Payar: Agent S
Mohammad-Ali Behboudi: Saedi
Nila H.: Maryam Rassouli
Babak Radmehr: Agent P
Véronique Coubard: Dr. Krüger
Jean-Philippe Adabra: Prof. Karaschek
Pippa Fee Rupperti: Nurse

Logline

Iranian-born Neda is trying to build a new life in Hamburg and leave behind her past in an Iranian women's prison. Working as an interpreter for the immigration office, she unexpectedly comes face to face with one of her former tormentors. Suddenly, the victim holds the power over the perpetrator – and must confront the question: What is the true price of justice?

Festival short text

An Iranian interpreter at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees encounters her former torturer, now seeking asylum himself. Caught between her professional duty and the pursuit of justice, she needs to decide how far she is willing to go.

Synopsis

Full version

Neda has come to Hamburg as a political refugee from Iran. In the women's prison of Qarchak, she endured horrific abuse that continues to haunt her, even as she tries to build a normal life and pursue her passion for photography.

Working as an interpreter for the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), she assists asylum seekers in their hearings. One day, she is confronted with a face from her past: Hamid, one of her former interrogators from Qarchak. He has fled to Germany with his daughter, hiding his crimes behind a fabricated life story. Neda cannot prove what she knows — until she realizes that, as his interpreter, she holds power over him. She can give him a second chance… or take it away. For the first time since her release, she must confront her most painful memories.

Neda meets Assu, a Kurdish activist who was also tortured in an Iranian prison, and finds herself drawn to the young woman's fierce determination. Persuaded by Assu, Neda joins other former inmates in a plan to abduct Hamid and put him on trial in a clandestine tribunal. But when Hamid's daughter lies dying in the hospital, Neda can no longer accept the path of violence — and convinces the others to find another way forward.

Short version, max. 300 characters

Neda has come to Hamburg as a political refugee from Iran. Working as an interpreter for the BAMF, she is confronted with one of her former interrogators from Qarchak prison – and realizes that, as his interpreter, she holds power over him.

Version, max. 1,000 characters

Neda has come to Hamburg as a political refugee from Iran. In the women's prison of Qarchak, she endured horrific abuse that continues to haunt her, even as she tries to build a normal life. Working as an interpreter for the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), she assists asylum seekers in their hearings. One day, she is confronted with a face from her past: Hamid, one of her former interrogators from Qarchak, who has fled to Germany with his daughter, hiding his crimes behind a fabricated life story. Neda cannot prove what she knows — until she realizes that, as his interpreter, she holds power over him. She can give him a second chance… or take it away. Neda meets Assu, a Kurdish activist who was also tortured in an

Iranian prison, and is persuaded to join other former inmates in a plan to put Hamid on trial in a clandestine tribunal.

Director’s Statement – Ashkan Najafi

Since 2009, people in Iran have been fighting for freedom, human dignity and democratic self-determination. The “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement and the bloody crackdown on the protests in January 2026 show the price they pay for it. Many people have been killed, thousands arrested. Many prisoners still face torture and execution.

Against this backdrop, the central question of our film NEDA takes on a particular urgency: What happens when a victim of state violence encounters their former tormentor again in a democratic country?

After her imprisonment and the experience of sexualised violence in Iran, Neda fled to Germany. Today she works as an interpreter in asylum proceedings. When she finds herself face to face with her former tormentor during a hearing, the life she has so painstakingly rebuilt begins to falter.

Neda fled a country in which the law was abused to oppress her. Now she lives in a state governed by the rule of law, which must also protect the rights of her tormentor. Can she be expected to remain neutral? And how can a personal sense of justice be reconciled with the principles of the rule of law?

We wanted neither to reduce Neda to the role of victim nor to portray the perpetrator as an inhuman monster. Wanting to understand a person does not mean justifying what he has done. We are interested in the contradictions of human behaviour, the consequences of personal decisions and the limits of forgiveness and justice.

NEDA is not a classic revenge thriller but a multi-layered psychological portrait of a woman who has to find her own way between her past, responsibility and the wish for a self-determined life.

At a time when people in Iran are still being persecuted for seeking their freedom, the film asks a fundamental question: Can we hold on to the principles of human dignity and the rule of law even when they protect those who once did violence to us?

Contacts

Production and press contact

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Distribution (Germany)

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