

Produced by Mehrdad Oskouei - Executive Producers Siavash Jamali, Tony Tabatznik - Executive Producers Chandra Jassee and Rebecca Lichtenfeld for InMaat - Camerawoman and Sound Recordist Soraya - Written by Mehrdad Oskouei, Amir Adibparvar Editor Amir Adibparvar - Director of Animation Mohammad Lotfali - Music by Afshin Azizi - Sound Designer and Mix Hossein Ghoorchian Color Grading Hamidreza Fatourechian - Production Manager Masoud Shokri

A FOX Under A Pink Moon

Directed by Mehrdad Oskouei
Co-director Soraya



Designed by Ali Bagheri

World Sales: www.catndocs.com Film's Website: www.afoxunderapinkmoon.com

Oskouei Films



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The jury statement: “This film opens a window onto the power of art and hope during the difficult times through which we’re living. Through masterful cinematography often filmed in dangerous conditions, and the protagonist’s radiant energy, this empowering collaboration between an established filmmaker and a young new artist enables her to reclaim identity amid exile and domestic violence, to bloom despite repression, and to find solace through creation. A self-portrait that witnesses the growth of an Afghan artist whose work will continue to resonate.”

LOGLINE

Subtly textured self-portrait of Soraya, an Afghan free-spirited 16-year-old artist in Iran who has been trying for five years to make her way to Europe—chillingly capturing everything on her phone while pouring all her fears and worries into extraordinary works of art.

SYNOPSIS

At just 16, Soraya is already creating stunning drawings and sculptures that are as beautiful as they are dark. This strong-willed Afghan sculptor and illustrator has been trying for five years to find a way out of Iran and join her mother in Austria.

This subtly textured self-portrait interweaves chilling scenes of her escape attempts with political news from Afghanistan and videos in which she sings and dances—or shows her bruises. Soraya is married to a violent man, and she is determined to shape her own future. Mehrdad Oskouei directed this film entirely remotely, with Soraya filming all the footage herself over five years using her phone. This material is interspersed with shots of her drawings and surreal animations. Making art is no idle pastime for Soraya:

She puts all her worries, joys, and fears into her drawings and the sculptures she makes from soaked egg cartons or clay that she finds along her escape routes. Many of her drawings feature recurring figures: a loyal fox who is her traveling companion, a pink moon that always watches over her, and a clown who ever laughs—a character Soraya identifies with.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In the past 19 years, working with the center for rehabilitation, I have made four films about young delinquents and murderers. In my first film, *It's Always Late for Freedom*, I felt that my characters wanted a larger part in forming the narration of the film, and this thought stayed with me until my last film *Sunless Shadows* where I succeeded in obtaining this result in parts of the film when I separated the character and a camera in a room by themselves and used this footage in my film, even though neither I nor my crew was present during the filming. Later, when I looked through the footage in the editing room, I was amazed by the atmosphere I felt through this material. When I decided to make this happen in my newest film, I did away with my entire filming crew on set. After Soraya's first trip to Turkey, when the filming continued upon her return to Tehran, she increased her knowledge of filmmaking by enrolling in classes on how to use a cell phone for making films. I spoke to her each night about the scenes she had taken and planned to take, and in this way, we coordinated a joint directorship. In those days, Soraya was a 16-year-old artist who was in the middle of much destruction and was dreaming of a better future for herself. When I was her age and I attempted suicide. I had a mother and father, and I lived in a country that was mine, but Soraya had no support, and even her beauty caused her difficulty. She had no country, identity, or a stable job and no support. The only thing she could hold on to was her art, and we believed she had an important story for the world. Each day in the news, we see thousands of asylum seekers who are headed toward Europe by land and sea where many of them drown. Our story is about one of the millions of people displaced by war over the last few decades. The world as a whole feels sorry for them from a distance and see them as powerless to better their lives and therefore weigh on our resources. But each one of them, in their own world, has a story to tell, full of strength. We want one of them to tell their story by themselves. The narrative, on the surface, is a normal story of emigration, but deep down, we enter the world of an artist. One of them, on her own, records the adventure of leaving.

PRODUCER'S NOTE (written by Siavash Jamali)

We call them "illegal immigrants," but what should really be considered illegal?

In our eyes, war, injustice, and the act of forcing people to abandon their homeland should be illegal. *A Fox Under a Pink Moon* explores what happens to people once we label them as trespassers — as if their search for safety were a crime.

Through the eyes of Soraya, a free-spirited 16-year-old Afghan artist living in Iran, the film offers an intimate, self-portrait-like reflection on displacement, belonging, and the human cost of borders. Her drawings and sculptures become silent witnesses to her fears, dreams, and resilience.

As producers, we were drawn to Soraya's strength and her poetic way of documenting life through her phone. Her art became not just an act of resistance but a form of survival — a reminder that identity can not be confined by walls or legal definitions.

This film is both a portrait and a protest — a journey through one young woman's imagination as she dares to create beauty in a world that denies her freedom.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Original title: Roobah va Mah soorati

روباه و ماه صورتی

English title: A fox under A pink moon

Country of production: Iran

Film length: 77

Frame rate: 24fps

Aspect ratio: 1:2

Resolution: 2K

Color: Color / Digital

Sound: 5.1 Surround / Stereo mix available

Camera : Galaxy S21 Samsung

KEY MEMBERS BIO

Mehrdad Oskouei Director & producer

Mehrdad Oskouei (b. 1969, Tehran) is a celebrated Iranian independent documentary filmmaker, producer, and photographer known for his deeply humanistic and critically acclaimed work. His films often explore sensitive and challenging social issues within Iranian society, particularly focusing on marginalized groups, youth, and women.

Oskouei has directed, produced, and written over 25 documentaries and short films, many of which have been screened at prestigious international festivals, garnering over 180 awards. He gained significant recognition for his tetralogy focusing on the lives of incarcerated youth, including *It's Always Late for Freedom* (2007), *The Last Days of Winter* (2011), multi-award-winning *Starless Dreams* (2016), which captured the lives of teenage girls in a correctional facility, and *Sunless Shadows* (2019), Opening Film of IDFA, Winner of the Best Directing Award,

continued this exploration, offering intimate portraits of women in a youth detention center who were imprisoned for the murder of a male family member.

His achievements have been recognized globally; he is a recipient of the 2010 Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands for his commitment to accurately representing the concerns of his subjects and generating social justice. He also received the True Vision Award at the True/False Film Fest in 2016.

Oskouei is a founding member of the Institute of Anthropology and Culture in Iran and serves as a film educator, actively shaping the next generation of Iranian documentary filmmakers.

His new film, *A Fox Under a Pink Moon*, will have its World Premiere in the International Competition at IDFA 2025. This powerful and unique film was directed entirely remotely, with its 16-year-old subject, Soraya, an Afghan artist in Iran, filming her own footage over five years on her mobile phone.

Soraya co-director

Soraya Akhlaghi is a multidisciplinary artist working in the fields of sculpture, painting, and film. She began sculpting in 2016 and, by 2025, had created over 200 papier-mâché sculptures. In 2017, she expanded her practice to painting. From 2018 to 2025, she worked as a cinematographer, sound engineer, and co-director of the film "*A Fox Under A Pink Moon*," directed and produced by Mehrdad Oskouei, in which she is the protagonist and main character of the film.

Siavash Jamali Executive producer

Siavash Jamali was born in 1984 and is an independent filmmaker and producer specializing in documentary and fiction. His credits include five films, with two directed by him. Notable works include *Sunless Shadows* (Executive Producer), which was the opening film of IDFA 2019 and won Directing Award, and *Shouting at the Wind* (Director/Producer), the opening film of the Kassel Documentary Film Festival in 2019. Jamali is also the executive producer of Mehrdad Oskouei's ongoing project, *A Fox Under a Pink Moon*, which will premiere at IDFA 2025.

Amir Adibparvar Editor

Amir Adibparvar is an exceptionally accomplished film editor, born in 1981, who holds a BS degree in Cinema.

He has built an extensive and internationally recognized career, having edited more than 13 feature films, 10 documentaries, 10 TV series, and numerous short films. The majority of these works have been screened at prestigious international film festivals and have received numerous awards.

Adibparvar is particularly noted for his editing on major award-winning documentaries, which now include:

Starless Dreams (2016), directed by Mehrdad Oskouei (Berlinale Generation 2016).

Sunless Shadows (2019), also by Mehrdad Oskouei (Opening Film of IDFA 2019).

As I lay dying (2025), directed by Mohammad Reza Farzad & Pegah Ahangarani (Opening Film of IDFA 2025).

Paikar (2025), directed by Dawood Hilmandi (Premier Luminous at IDFA 2025).

Through his prolific work across both documentary and fiction, Amir Adibparvar has established himself as one of the leading editors in contemporary Iranian cinema, consistently working on critically acclaimed films showcased on the world stage.

Afshin Azizi Music Composer

Afshin Azizi was born in 1986 in Iran, he started learning music by playing Setar (Iranian traditional instrument) at the age of 7, then he changed his instrument to Tar (Iranian traditional instrument) and , he was a trainee in master Farhad Fakhreddini's classes in harmony, counterpoint and orchestration for a duration of 3 years, after a period of time he became interested in playing guitar so he started to learn Flamenco Guitar in 2007 he was chosen as one of the winners of flamenco guitar festival that was organized by Spanish embassy in Iran, when he was 19 he started composing music for movies and at the same time he established his own recording studio, He is also the only composer who has participated in three editions of the IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) with two different documentary films.

Notably, Afshin Azizi is the composer of the short-animated film "In the Shadow of the Cypress", which won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film in 2025.

Mohammad Lotfali, Director of Animation

Mohammad Lotfali is an Iranian animator and visual effects artist known for his collaborations on acclaimed films such as There Is No Evil by Mohammad Rasoulof (Golden Bear, Berlinale) and the animated title sequence for the TV series Soovashoon (including over 50 minutes of original animation created for different parts of the series). His viral short animation Father gained wide recognition online. He has been nominated twice for the Crystal Simorgh Award for Best Visual Effects at the Fajr Film Festival and has received multiple international awards for his short animated films. Lotfali also explores immersive storytelling through animation in virtual and augmented reality environments. His recent

collaboration with filmmaker Mehrdad Oskouei marks his first experience directing animation for a documentary-animation film.

Hossein Ghorchian Sound designer and mix

Hossein Ghorchian is a renowned sound designer, mixer, and re-recording artist in Iranian cinema.

He has received fourteen international awards for sound design in both feature and short films from prestigious international film festivals, as well as numerous national awards within Iran. Among his recent honors is the Best Sound Design Award at the 43rd Fajr Film Festival for the feature film *The Deer*.

Over the years, Hossein Ghorchian has worked on hundreds of films, short films, animations, and TV series.

Some of his recent internationally acclaimed projects include:

In the Shadow of the Cypress, an animated film that won the Best Animated Short Award at the Academy Awards.

My Favorite Cake, which competed in the official selection of the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale).

Masoud Shokrnia (b.1984) is a multifaceted Iranian artist renowned for his unique fusion of fine art, graphic design, and cinema. His visually impactful work explores human narratives and emotion through captivating imagery.

Collaborating with acclaimed director Mehrdad Oskouei, Shokrnia contributed his talents as an assistant director, photographer, and title designer for the 2019 IDFA-featured film *"Sunless Shadows."* He also worked on the project *"Nosrat Karimi: Being an Artist in Iran"* as cinematographer and assistant director.

Continuing his creative partnership with Oskouei, Shokrnia serves as assistant director and production manager for the upcoming *"The Fox Under the Pink Moon,"* set to premiere at IDFA 2025.

Alongside his film achievements, Shokrnia's photography has garnered international acclaim and been showcased in numerous exhibitions around the world.

FULL CREDITS

Directed By
Mehrdad Oskouei

Co-Director
Soraya

Produced By
Mehrdad Oskouei

Executive Producers
Siavash Jamali,
Tony Tabatznik

Executive Producers
Chandra Jessee
and Rebecca Lichtenfeld For Inmaat

In Association With Catapult Film Fund

Camerawoman & Sound Recordist
Soraya

Written By
Mehrdad Oskouei,
Amir Adibparvar

Editor
Amir Adibparvar

Director Of Animation
Mohammad Lotfali

Music By
Afshin Azizi

Sound Designer & Mix
Hossein Ghoorchian

Color Grading
Hamidreza Fatourehchian(Rez)

Production Manager
Masoud Shokrnia

With the Support of
Inmaat foundation, Bertha film fund, Catapult film fund, IMS and Artunity

International Sales
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Hamraz Rahimi

Parisa Oskouei

Producer's Assistants

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Ata Mehrad

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Ali Bagheri

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Hamed Kiaan

Subtitled by

Reza Tariverdi

Project Consultants

Giles Gardner

Martijn Te Pas

Pamela Cohn

Animation Team

Storyboard

Mohammad Lotfali

Character Designer

Mehrnoosh Hashemi

3d Modeler

Omid Ameri

Rigger

Mahsa Haratizade

Animator

Mahan Khoshnavaz

Editor / Compositor / Rendering

Sina Pourjalal

Mahdi Khomarian

Texture / Shading Artist

Mohammad Lotfali

Music Department

Asistants /Mix & Master

Afra Azari & Arash Azizi

Cello
Mehrdad Alemi
Violin & Alto
Milad Alemi
Ney
Mohammad Yousefi
Flute
Ali Ghobadi
Rubab
Arash Azizi
Percussion
Mehrzaad Hoveyda
Synthesizer
Afra Azari
Setar & Guitar
Afshin Azizi
Technical Support
Technicav (Mojtaba Ghaemi)

Color Grading team
Color Grading Consultant
Mohamad Hadadi
Asistant
Keule Crew