

BABA JOON

بابا جون



Actors

Yitzhak – Navid Negahban

Moti – Asher Avrahami

Sarah – Viss Elliot Safavi

Darius – Fariborz David Diaan

Baba – Rafael (Faraj) Eliasi

crew

Script by: Yuval Delshad

Directed by: Yuval Delshad

Producer; David Silber,
Moshe Edery, Leon Edery

Photographer: Ofer Inov

Editor: Yoni Tzruya

Original score: Eyal Saeed Mani

Synopsis

Yitzhak runs the turkey farm his father built with his own two hands after they emigrated from Iran to Israel. When his son Moti turns thirteen, Yitzhak teaches him the trade, hoping that he will continue the proud family tradition. But Moti doesn't like working in the turkey barn; his passion is fixing up junkyard cars and bringing them back to life.

Moti's mother Sarah tries to reconcile between the two, while his grandfather pushes Yitzhak to take a firm hand with his son.

Yitzhak takes Moti's refusal to work in the turkey barn as a personal rejection. Though he loves his son dearly, he makes it his mission to impose the family farm on Moti.

The arrival of Darius, the uncle from America, sets off a chain of events that will undermine the familial harmony. Soon enough Yitzhak will learn that his son is just as stubborn as he is. The conflict is inevitable.

91 minute. Color. Parsien/ Hebrew

Distribution: United King Films – Cinema City - Israel

Baba Joon as a Parable

The name of the film, Baba Joon, is a term of endearment similar to “papa,” and is an acceptable nickname among all men in a traditional Iranian family.

Baba Joon depicts the struggle of every man standing at the crossroads of heritage and individual freedom, and deals with the difficulty of bridging the generational gap; it’s a sober, honest look at a patriarchal microcosm attempting to preserve the “old world order,” in a world that is ever-changing; and most importantly, it a story of freedom and personal independence in a familial and social setting that leaves no room for either.

Baba Joon raises questions of upholding tradition as an immigrant, and the obstacle it poses for personal independence; of the pride of the father within his family and his “tribe”; and of the difficulty in honoring and loving in the midst of the inter-generational conflict.

Baba Joon – Director’s Statement

My family left the beautiful city of Shiraz in Iran and immigrated to Israel, leaving behind property, business and a glorious culture, and arriving in a remote village in southern Israel, where they tried to build a new life and a new identity.

We, the new generation, were born into a new identity, while our parents held onto their past.

The immigrant generation holds on to the familiar with all of their might, to their culture and Persian traditions, and naturally wishes to pass on this culture’s codes to the next generation. The younger generation, however, seeks out a new path, and is resistant to accept Persian tradition, which they see as outdated.

This resistance undermines the immigrant generation’s base, their origin, and is the source of many familial conflicts.

The film Baba Joon is about this conflict.

Conflicts between father and son take place in every country in the world, in any profession, whether in a city or a village or any patriarchal society where men hold all the authority and pass it down through the generations. Every parent’s desire to care for their children’s future and keep them close is natural, and yet it clashes with every young person’s will to forge a path of their own, sometimes far away from their parents. In the extreme cases where the parent insists on stopping his child’s will, he will often find himself falling short of his goal and alienating his children instead.

The Meaning of the Film’s Title:

Baba Joon is a term of endearment that a son might call his father, like “papa,” but it may also expresses respect for the father of the family.

I admire the duality in the meaning of the word, which is why I chose it.

Yuval Delshad

Yuval Delshad – Screenwriter and Director

Baba Joon is the feature-length directorial debut from Yuval Delshad (screenwriter and director), an Israeli and himself the son of Iranian immigrants. Yuval has been working in the Israeli film industry since 1994, as a director, screenwriter, editor and producer of documentary films, television shows and commercials. Among his films: Regards from the War (documentary); Lockup Family (documentary); The Battle Over the Soul (documentary, winner of the Best Documentary at the Chicago Jewish Film Festival).



Cast:

Navid Negahban (Yitzhak) – was born and raised in Mashhad, Iran. His passion for acting led him to Germany, where he spent eight years honing his theatrical skills prior to arriving in the US. Navid has been building a strong resume ever since, playing a broad range of intriguing characters for film, theatre, and television.

Navid has a powerful leading role in the stunning dramatic feature *The Stoning of Soraya M.*, and significant supporting roles in *Brothers with Tobey Maguire*, directed by Jim Sheridan, *Powder Blue* with Jessica Biel and Forest Whitaker, and *Charlie Wilson's War* opposite Tom Hanks, directed by Mike Nichols. On TV, Navid had a recurring role on the eighth and final season of *24*, and guest appearances include *Lost*, *CSI: Miami*, *Law & Order*, *Covert Affairs*, and *NCIS: Los Angeles*. Navid recently (2011) appeared as Dr. Robert Stadler in *Atlas Shrugged Part 1*. He also shot *The Power of Few* in New Orleans with Christopher Walken and Christian Slater. Navid is currently (2011/2012) playing the chilling Abu Nazir on Showtime's *Homeland*, with Damian Lewis and Claire Danes.



David Fariborz Diann (Darius) – has built an impressive career as an acclaimed Iranian American Actor, Writer, and Producer. David came to the United States as a teenager and completed high school in the Midwest. He then studied Radio, Television, & Journalism at the University of Missouri Columbia. David's first endeavor in the entertainment world began when he founded Liquid Productions together with other talents such as popular stand-up comedian Maz Jobrani. Since then, David has continued to write, produce and star in an array of successful theatrical productions. In the year 2000, despite the strict laws and censorship in Iran, David returned to direct and produce the heartfelt documentary "Iran is My Home". In 2004, David's screenplay for the biopic entitled "The Apology" won first place at the Slamdance Screenplay Competition. In 2007 David founded Sublime Entertainment and produced "Convict" in which he starred alongside Kevin Durand and Peter Stormare. In 2008, David's dramatic performance alongside Emmy Award Winner, Shohreh Aghdashloo in "The Stoning of Soraya M.", earned him much praise and excellent reviews. David has appeared as a guest-star in popular TV shows including *Homeland*, *NCIS*, *The Unit*, *Parks and Recreation*, and *Weeds*. David is a prolific artist, entrepreneur and humanitarian.



Asher Avrahami (Moti) – This is the cinematic debut for the 14-year-old boy, who has never studied acting. Asher was discovered after extensive auditions around Israel, in the village of Zrahia in the south, the same village where director and screenwriter Yuval Delshad grew up.



Viss Elliot Safavi (Sarah) – A British theater and film actor of Iranian descent. Her work includes Mike Leigh’s Happy-Go-Lucky and the television shows EastEnders and Doctors.



Rafael (Faraj) Eliasi (Baba) – Rafael is not a professional actor. This is the first role for Eliasi, who emigrated from Iran to Israel as a young man. He, too, lives in the village of Zrahia in southern Israel.



Crew and Producers

Director of Photography – Ofer Inov

Ofer Inov was born in Kibbutz Revivim. A graduate of Beit Zvi’s film department, he has shot numerous features, documentaries and television shows.

He has collaborated with several of Israel’s finest directors, such as: Joseph Cedar – Time of Favor, Campfire and Beaufort; Assi Dayan – An Electric Blanket Named Moshe, The Gospel According to God; and Ron Ninio – Those Were the Nights. In addition, he has worked with Amos Gitai, Shay Kanot and others. Inov is a two-time winner of the “Ofir” – the Israeli Academy Award – for shooting Time of Favor and Beaufort, and two-time winner of the Golden Lens award for Duel and The Word Maker. He directed and shot a documentary called Fluchkes

Original Music – Eyal Saeed Mani

Eyal Said Mani was born in Tehran as a Sufi, and learned traditional Persian music from his father, “Ahmed Ali Mani”, and master musician Jalal Zolfonun, alongside classical western music from different teachers.

Mani is upholding a thousand-year-old musical tradition, passed on from father to son and teacher to student. His pieces combine ancient traditional Persian music and modern compositions. This combination is expressed in his instrumentation, and in the musical ensemble he performs with, “Mehilta”, talented musicians who have joined him to incorporate ancient Persian instruments in their music: the tar, the santur, the zarb, the ney and the kamancheh, alongside surprising harmonies of guitars, bass, keyboards and drums.



Mani opens a window into traditional music, through his own private journey from Islam and Sufism to discovering his Judaism at a late age. He tells the story of an important civilization, and allows the listener to open up and rediscover old tunes within original pieces, a combination of ancient traditional Persian music and modern compositions, of Sufi-Persian poetry and the world of Jewish poetry and prayer.

Production Company

Metro communications:

Metro Communications is an Israeli film production company since 1999 based in Tel Aviv, specializing in international co-productions of feature films. In partnership with United King Films, Metro Communications became one of the leading production companies in Israel.

David Silber, Metro's director, together with his partners Moshe Edery and Leon Edery (United King Films) have managing an energetic, broad based production organization

During the year Metro Communication produced 25 feature length films among them "The Last Verse" by Udi Aloni, 2015, (in post production), "Ewa" by Haim Tabakman, 2015, (in post production), "Baba Joon" by Yuval Delshad, 2015, "Hannah Arendt", by Margarethe von Trotta, 2012 , "The Matchmaker" by Avi Nesher, 2010, "Lebanon" by Samuel Maoz, 2009(Golden Lion Best Film, Venice, 2009) , "Beaufort" by Joseph Cedar, 2007,(Oscar nominated 2007 + Silver Bear in Berlinale)."Forgiveness" by Udi Aloni, 2006.



United king films:

United King Films, owned by Moshe Edery and Leon Edery, is the leading entertainment content enterprise in Israel today, In recent years, the company has established itself as the leading producer in the Israeli film industry, producing approximately 10 new films annually such as BEAUFORT, TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD, WALK ON WATER, AVIVA MY LOVE, THE SECRETS, PLAY OFF and FOOT NOTE. The company takes a particular interest in new projects investing enormous amounts of time and energy in developing Israeli talent and the local film industry.

United King Films' business properties cross the field of entertainment from Cinema City movie megaplex, to being the owner of rights to the biggest catalog of Israeli movies as well as foreign independent titles.

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