

With: Maydegol, Mohadesseh, Farzaneh  
Director of Photography: Mehdi Azadi Sound Recording: Shahin Pourdadashi Sound Design & Mix: Ensieh (Leyla) Maleki  
Editor: Hamid Najafirad Color Grading: Dirk Meier Assistant Director: Maryam Yaghoubi Production Manager: Vahid Hajilouei  
Producers: Katayoon Shahabi, Sarvnaz Alambeigi Production Companies: Rabison Art, Noori Pictures

# Maydegol

A film by

SARVNAZ ALAMBEIGI



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**Producers:** Katayoon Shahabi, Sarvnaz Alambeigi

**Production Companies:** Rabison Art, Noori Pictures

**Characters:** Maydegol, Mohadeseh, Farzaneh

**Genre:** Documentary

**Shooting format:** 4K, Color

**Aspect ratio:** 2:1, 16:9

**Audio format:** 5.1, stereo

**Length:** 74 min

**The original language of the film:** Persian, Dari

**Release year:** 2024

**Country of shooting:** Iran

**Production Countries:** Iran - France - Germany

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## Short Synopsis

A Generation Z in the Middle East, an Afghan teenage girl, immigrant in Iran, strives to pursue her dream of becoming a professional Muay Thai boxer while fighting social injustice and violence beyond the ring.

## Long synopsis

An Afghan teen girl, with immigrant parents in Iran, strives to pursue her dream of becoming a professional Muay Thai boxer despite her family's conservative mindset, enduring physical abuse, and anti-immigrant surroundings. Working day and night, she finances her Thai Boxing classes without her family's knowledge. Through this sport, she aspires not only to succeed in the ring but also to overcome life's obstacles. "Maydegol" portrays the perseverance of Generation Z to escape their seemingly bleak destiny, asserting their rights, especially as women, seeking freedom in life despite the risk of losing it. It also serves as a mirror for them to recognize their strength, find inspiration, and gain confidence.

## Director's Biography



Sarvnaz Alambeigi is an Iranian multidisciplinary artist best known for documentary filmmaking and painting. She graduated from Graphic Art School and studied painting at the University of Art and Architecture in Tehran. She received film training from 2013 to 2018 at Documentary Campus Masterschool and Danish Film School. In 2013, she founded her own film company, Rabison Art. In June 2017, her short documentary film "Cypher and Lion", was released at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. In October 2021, the project for her upcoming feature film "Maydegol" (Broken

Flower) won Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director at the 64th edition of DOK Leipzig. In 2021, Alambeigi was awarded the prize for best pitch at the Sunny Side of the Doc Global Pitch. She was later selected as a jury member for the 2022 season of prizes. Alambeigi's most notable work is "1001 Nights Apart", a documentary released in 2022 in Germany that won the VFF Documentary Film Production Award at DOK.fest Munich. It was shown in cinemas across Germany in 2022, as well as on TV channels such as Arte, SVT ,TVO and Avrotros. She is currently a member of Film Fatales, The European Women's Audiovisual Network and the Association of Iranian Documentary Cinema Directors.

## Filmography

2024 - **Maydegol** / 73 min / Documentary / Director & Producer

2020 - **1001 Nights Apart** / 80 min & 52 min / Documentary / Director & Producer

2017 - **Cypher and Lion** / 28 min / Documentary / Animation / Director

2017 - **Tomorrowland** / 70 min / Documentary / Director & Producer

2014 - **The Second Room** / 13 min / Experimental Documentary / Director & Producer

## Director's note

I always eagerly return home to find pieces of my complex Middle Eastern identity by reconnecting with my roots. Home is the safest place to understand the first things. It was at home that the first questions about the authenticity of existence, identity and relationship to the outside world, role and social position were formed for me. When I saw *Maydegol*, the concept of home came to my mind again. Because despite having three homes, she didn't feel like she belonged to any of them, and in fact, she avoided all three. I thought about how she makes sense of herself in this world when she was born in a country where her existence as a woman is not valued and respected, either by the Taliban or by regressive ideologies. Will she have an opportunity to develop her values, understand and receive about her true self and enough opportunities for growth in the new house she has moved to? And finally, in her own home, the only safe zone in this world, who is she and how does she feel? At the same time, as I got closer to the life of her, along with the concept of having and not having these three houses, I came to a greater discovery that was with me all the way through this movie, and remains with me: the search for the meaning of life in the constant struggle between fate and free will.

## Producer's Biography



Katayoon Shahabi started her career in the film industry in 1985 at the “Farabi Cinema Foundation”, as an international promoter of Iranian films. During this period, she collaborated with renowned directors such as Abbas Kiarostami and Mohsen Makhmalbaf. In 1994, she played a pivotal role in founding “Cima Media International (CMI),” a semi-private company specializing in producing and marketing Iranian films and television productions. Her involvement with CMI allowed her to gain extensive experience in co-producing successful documentaries and feature films, along with international distribution of Iranian cinema. In 2001, she established “Sheherazad Media International”, the first Iranian private sales and co-production company. It rapidly gained recognition for discovering emerging talented directors like Asghar Farhadi and Mohammad Rasoulof, and for its collaborations with established filmmakers such as Rakhshan Banietemad. In 2012, she founded “Noori Pictures” in

France, enabling her to efficiently expand her work on an international scale while continuing to support promising young directors who have received awards at film festivals such as Cannes and Venice. Throughout her career, she has served on the juries of various prestigious international festivals, including the main competition of the Cannes Film Festival in 2016. Her accomplishments have earned her recognition, including being listed among the 50 most influential Iranian women and receiving the title of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters from the Ministry of Culture of France in 2017. Shahabi currently holds membership in the Documentary and Fiction Producers Guild in Iran.