



present



A film by Kadir Balci

- release September 29th 2010 -

www.turquazedefilm.be
www.turquazethemovie.com

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KADIR ABOUT TURQUAZE

The story of ‘Turquaze’ has been playing around in my mind for the past ten years. This is my story, about my parents, my Turkish roots, my life in Ghent. In this film, I want to tell the story of a Turkish family which arrives in Ghent, integrates into its society and creates a life for itself.

I do not feel myself to be a migrant or an immigrant, nor do I feel a true Ghentenaar, despite Ghent being the place of my birth. Am I a Ghentish Turk or a Turkish Ghentenaar? The ambiguity regarding my identity and the fact that I don’t feel really at home anywhere is something that I have carried with me all my life. The sense of not belonging anywhere, yet being integrated, is something I wanted to reflect in ‘Turquaze’. The film is not a political statement, but a portrait of ordinary people, people looking for a home.

When directing ‘Turquaze’, I chose a suggesting style with many sensual elements. I wanted to create a certain intimacy which touches a nerve with the audience and which subtly affects the visitor, without being moralising.

The strong soundtrack by Bert Ostyn from Absynthe Minded certainly enhances the poetic element of the film.

Kadir Balcı | July 2010



SYNOPSIS

Having buried their father in Istanbul, Timur (28) and his two brothers, Ediz (36) and Bora (16), return to Ghent. Their mother remains in Istanbul. The three brothers resume their lives but need to find a new balance.

While Ediz plays the dominant father and Bora does silly things with the wrong friends, Timur tries to fulfil his father's dream: playing the trumpet in a brass band. Sarah, Timur's girlfriend, thinks it's cool, until she realises how little he seems to notice her now...

TURQUAZE presents a disarmingly honest chronicle of a Turkish family's life in Ghent ... *Turkish for beginners!*

MAIN CAST

BURAK BALCI | TIMUR TELHAN



TIMUR is the second of three sons. He is strong-willed, has a great thirst for knowledge and puts everything into question, even his own faith. He is loquacious and easy in dealing with people. His weakest point, however, is his impulsiveness.

As a child, he had a close relationship with his oldest brother, but since the latter got married, something seems to have changed between them. Timur is an amateur musician and would like to compose his own music. For a year now he has had a relationship with Sarah, a Flemish girl from a middle-class family.

BURAK BALCI (1982) is Kadir Balcı's brother. He's studying flamenco guitar. He took classes with Emre El Turco and Alexander Gavilán and attended summer workshops with Emre El Turco and Liesbeth Maes. Actually, he is taking improvisation workshops with Saïdjah Galo and Marquito Velez. Soon, Burak will accomplish his education in the famous Fundación Cristina Heeren in Seville (Andalusia).

CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH | SARAH PETERS



SARAH is a cheerful young woman from a middle-class family who stands on her own two feet. She has earned a degree in Communication Sciences and is working in a temporary employment agency, a job which doesn't entirely fulfil her. She is flexible, but does not allow anyone to push her around. Sarah is good-humoured by nature and loves life.

CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH (1983) graduated from Studio Herman Teirlinck in 2005. Over a short space of time, she compiled an impressive CV. She performed with SkaGeN ('Deurdedeurdeur', 'Laura Exterieur'), Abattoir Fermé (Tinseltown) and Wunderbaum (Kamp Jezus).

Her television credits include roles in the television series 'Witse', 'Kinderen van Dewindt', and more recently 'Dag & Nacht'.

Vandermeersch sang and performed in music theatre plays: 'De Noces' (Walpurgis/de Roovers/Spectra Ensemble), 'Zilke' (Walpurgis& Flat Earth Society) and 'Nina Nina' (Dimitri Leue, HETPALEIS). Recently, she performed in 'Oblomov' (Lazarus).

Vandermeersch has also had notable success on the big screen. Felix van Groeningen cast her in both 'With Friends Like These' and 'The Misfortunates'. She also appeared in Patrice Toye's '(N)iemand' and 'Loft' by Erik van Looy.

NIHAT ALPTUG ALTINKAYA | EDIZ TELHAN



EDIZ is the eldest of the three sons and the only one who was born in Istanbul. For three years now he has been married to Zehra, a girl from Turkey whom his parents chose for him. Ediz works in a garage. He is a man of few words and is often sunk in thought. Except for the most necessary subjects, he doesn't really communicate with Zehra. Before his marriage, Ediz had a relationship with Lieve. When he accidentally runs into her once again, their earlier passion reignites.

Thirty year old **NIHAT ALPTUG ALTINKAYA** (1979) was plucked from the street by a casting agent and rapidly became a popular member of the new wave of young Turkish actors. He played roles in the television series Menekşe and Halil, Yaprak Dökümü (Falling Leaves) and 1001 Nights. He also regularly appears in video clips and commercials. In 2010, he starred in the feature film 'En Mutlu Olduğum Yer' ('Where I Am Happiest') and TV series 'Kahramanlar' (Heroes).

TILBE SARAN | MERYEM TELHAN

MERYEM is a strong woman who fully supports her family. Once she makes a decision, she stands behind it completely.

She has a serene personality with a healthy sense of pride, thinks rationally and rarely displays her feelings.

When her husband dies, Meryem decides to return to Istanbul for a time in order to decide where she wants to live now. However, she misses her three sons too much to begin a new life in Turkey.



Originally from Istanbul, **TILBE SARAN** (1956) has received numerous awards for her work. Since the 1980s, Saran has been an integral part of Turkish theatre arts. For six years, she was a member of the Istanbul Conservatory Theater. She then went on to cofound the Akbank Production Theater. Between 1995 and 2004, this theatre company produced 9 plays in which Saran played the leading role. In 2006, she appeared in the film *TIMES AND WINDS* which won the prize for the best Turkish film at the Istanbul International Film Festival. Recently, the actress performed in ‘Un Grand Cri d’Amour’ (Josiane Balasko), ‘Mother Courage’ (Bertolt Brecht) and ‘Eşikte’ (Sedef Ecer).

SINAN VANDEN EYNDE | BORA TELHAN



As an afterthought child BORA is spoiled by the family, but as a result of this he has also missed out on a number of things. He is quite introverted and frequently feels lonely. He gets bored quickly when he doesn’t have a firm structure. Although good-natured, he allows himself to be easily dragged along by ‘friends’ who are not overly concerned about obeying the law. He looks up to Timur, but nevertheless often holds more traditional views.

Like Nihat, **SINAN VANDEN EYNDE** (1991) was also discovered on the street. After a casting, he proved to be the ideal ‘Bora’. This role is his very first acting experience. Vanden Eynde studies law at the University of Ghent.

SUPPORTING ROLES

HILAL SÖNMEZ | ZEHRA

Wife of Ediz. Friendly, composed - but a bit worried about the reactions of Ediz. Speaks only Turkish and leads a rather withdrawn life at home. She cannot stop Ediz from regularly going out and spending his evenings at the café with his Turkish friends.

MARK VERSTRAETE and KATELIJNE VERBEKE | GUIDO and MONIEK

Sarah's parents. Both of them are concerned parents who, even if they wanted to, know little about the lives of their daughters. When Sarah introduces Timur to them, it is the mother who has the greatest difficulties accepting his Turkish origins. The father primarily plays a mediating role within the family.

TINE EMBRECHTS | ANN

Sarah's sister. Ann is going through a divorce and is very cynical about relationships. She moves in temporarily with Sarah.

JOHAN DEHOLLANDER | PAUL

Conductor of the brass band Timur applies to become a member of.

TONGUC Y. OKSAL | MEHMET

A short, plump man and a helpful friend of the Telhan family.

MUSTAPHA BOUMOURRA and GILLES DE SCHRYVER | METIN and SVEN

'Friends' of Bora who are not averse to aggression and a bit of thievery now and again.

MAAIKE CAFMEYER | LIEVE

Old flame of Ediz. The two resume their relationship after an accidental encounter.

CHRISTINE VERHEYDEN | MIEKE

Sarah's colleague in the temp agency.

JOHAN HELDENBERGH | KOENRAAD

Colleague of Ediz in the garage.

CV KADIR BALCI

Scenplay & direction

Kadir Balcı (Ghent, 1970) graduated from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent with a Master's degree in Audiovisual Arts.

Kadir spent two years as a guest student in the film department at Bournemouth & Poole College for Art & Design in the UK where he also produced a short film. As a director, his credits include corporate films (Virgin Express, Microsoft Belux), video clips and an animation film (Par Terre) as well as films for museums and theatre companies.

In 2008, he co-directed the Flemish television series '180'.

'Turquaze' is his first full-length film.

CV DIRK IMPENS

Producer for Menuet

In 1989, Dirk Impens started his own production shop, named Favourite Films, later Menuet. Since that time he has been one of the most active independent producers in Flanders. After his first full-length movie, 'Blueberry Hill,' he produced 'Daens', a Belgian historical epic and it immediately hit bull's-eye. 'Daens' (Stijn Coninx) was nominated as Best Foreign Film at the Oscars© in 1993.

It wasn't just 'beginners luck', because the next film, 'Manneken Pis' (Frank Van Passel), was selected for the 'Semaine de la Critique' in 1995.

At the same time he produced some 20 full-length films and various TV series, such as LEFT LUGGAGE (Jeroen Krabbé), Kongo (Vincent Rouffaer), ALLES MOET WEG (Jan Verheyen), Terug naar Oosterdonk (Frank Van Passel), LICHT (Stijn Coninx), TEAM SPIRIT (Jan Verheyen), VILLA DES ROSES (Frank Van Passel), STEVE+SKY (Felix van Groeningen), Katarakt (Jan Matthys and Stef Desmyter), DAGEN ZONDER LIEF and DE HELAASHEID DER DINGEN (both by Felix van Groeningen).

SOUNDTRACK

The music for the film *Turquaze* was composed by Bert Ostyn, singer and writer/composer of the Belgian band Absynthe Minded.

This is Bert's first film score. For *Turquaze* he composed both classical music (played by the Spiegel String Quartet) and world music recorded by Osama Abdulrasol (qanun), Tim De Jonghe (trumpet) and Renaud Ghilbert (violin) as well as pop songs (*Little Rascal*).

The song '*Little Rascal*' will be released as a single in September, accompanied by a video clip composed in part of images from the film. This video clip is also directed by Kadir Balçı.

In the past year Absynthe Minded achieved its real breakthrough with the general public, thanks to the hit single '*Envoi*'. Their fourth CD, entitled '*Absynthe Minded*', went platinum. The CD was also recently released in France, where the single '*Envoi*' is a summer hit. Germany will also follow later.



CREDITS

title Turquaze
producer Dirk Impens for Menuet
coproducer Gülin Üstün for GU-Film, Istanbul
associate producers..... Rudy Verzyck and Alberte Gautot
shooting locations Gent (Belgium) and Istanbul (Turkey)
original language..... Dutch and Turkish
shooting period..... February 16th – March 21th 2009
support Redcam®, color, scope
print 35 mm
running time 95 minutes
sound..... Dolby-SRD
format 2:35
release..... September 29th 2010
distribution Belgium Kinopolis Film Distribution



CAST

Timur	BURAK BALCI
Sarah	CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH
Ediz	NIHAT ALPTUG ALTINKAYA
Meryem	TILBE SARAN
Bora	SINAN VANDEN EYNDE
Zehra	HILAL SÖNMEZ
Moniek	KATELIJNE VERBEKE
Guido	MARK VERSTRAETE
Ann	TINE EMBRECHTS
Paul	JOHAN DEHOLLANDER
Metin	MUSTAPHA BOUMOURRA
Sven	GILLES DE SCHRYVER
Lieve	MAAIKE CAFMEYER
Elif	NERGIS ÇORAKÇI
Reyhan	EVREN DUYAL
Zeynep	AZIZE TAN
Tom	STEFAN ZAJC
Koenraad	JOHAN HELDENBERGH
Ayse	ARZU KÖKENG
Mehmet	TONGUC Y. OKSAL
Mieke	CHRISTINE VERHEYDEN
Lucette	LIES PAUWELS
Ufuk	PASQUAL PRONESTI

CREW

director KADIR BALCI
screenplay..... KADIR BALCI
producer DIRK IMPENS voor MENUET
line producer Turkey..... GÜLIN ÜSTÜN
photography RUBEN IMPENS
editing..... NICO LEUNEN
sound JAN DECA
production design..... KURT RIGOLLE
costume TINE VERBEURGT
make-up DIANE DREESEN
music BERT OSTYN (ABSINTHE MINDED)
post-production image..... GRID
post-production sound..... A SOUND
press Belgium GUDRUN BURIE | MENUET
..... ISABELLE COUVREUR | KFD



PARTNERS

a MENUET-production

in co-production with
GU-Film

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