

SYNOPSIS

Two figures, lost in an ocean of sand. Ishtar, a lively little girl, and her grandfather Bab'Aziz, a blind dervish. Their goal is the great reunion of dervishes that takes place every thirty years. But to find out where it is held, one must have faith. One must listen to the infinite silence of the desert with one's heart. As they cross the endless expanse of burning-freezing sand, they encounter other people. Osman, aching for the beautiful young women he found at the bottom of a well ... Zaid, whose singing seduced a ravishing beauty he has lost ... There is also the Prince, who gives up his realm to become a dervish – an ancient tale that Bab'Aziz relates to Ishtar as they struggle onward. The desert is the dervish's friend, however, and in due time it unlocks its secret to Bab'Aziz: the gathering place. The elderly man kisses his granddaughter one last time before sending her off with Zaid into the wild colors and bewitching sounds of the gathering. Because for Bab'Aziz, the time has come to fuse with the sand, to become part of the many stories and legends that swirl through the desert like a dream within another dream and so on, as infinite as the grains of sand ...

Director Nacer Khemir has created a poem of longing and belonging set in the shifting sands of Iran and Tunisia. Enhancing its poignant lyricism is the evocative score of composer Armand Amar (Eyewitness). Among Khemir's past cinematic achievements are his award-winning features "Les baliseurs du désert" (Grand Prix of the Festival des Trois Continents, 1984) and "The Lost Necklace of the Dove" (Special Jury Prize at Locarno, 1991).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Running time:	98 min.
Film format:	35 mm
Screen ratio:	1:1,85
Sound:	DTS digital
Year of production:	2005

CAST

Parviz Shahinkhou, Maryam Hamid, Nessim Kahloul, Mohamed Grayaa, Golshifteh Farahani, Hossein Panahi

CREW

Director	Nacer Khemir
Screenplay	Nacer Khemir, Tonino Guerra
Director of Photography	Mahmoud Kalari
Editor	Isabelle Rathery
Composer	Armand Amar
Production Companies	Les Films du Requin, Behnegar, Hannibal Film, Pegasos Film
Co-production Companies	Inforg Studio, Zephyr Films
World Sales	Bavaria Film International Bavariafilmpfad 8 82031 Geiseltal Phone: +49 (0) 89 6499-2686 Fax: +49 (0) 89 6499-3720 Email: Bavaria.international@bavaria-film.de
Supported by	InvestitionsBank Hessen (IBH), Agence Nationale de Production Audiovisuelle (TUNISIE), Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication (CNC), Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Fonds Sud Cinéma & ADC-Sud (FRANCE), Fonds Francophone de Production Audiovisuelle du Sud, (Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie et CIRTEF), Fondation MonteCinemaVerità (SUISSE) Farabi Cinema Fondation Cultural Heritage Organization (IRAN)
Developed with the support of	The Hubert Bals Fund (Rotterdam IFF) and Progama MEDEA

Nacer Khemir (*Director*)

Filmography as Director

- 2004** “Bab’Aziz”
1991 “A la Recherche des Mille et une Nuits”
1990 “Le Collier Perdu de la Colombe”
Prix Spécial du Jury du Festival de Locarno (1991)
Grand Prix 1991 du Festival de Belfort.
Prix Spécial du Jury du Festival Francophone de Saint-Martin (1992)
1984 “Les Baliseurs du Désert”
Grand Prix du Festival des Trois Continents (1984)
Prix de la Première Œuvre du Festival de Carthage (1984)
Palme d'or et Premier Prix de la Critique de la Mostra de Valencia
1978 “Soma”
1977 “L'Ogresse”
1975 “Le Mulet” (Short Animation Feature)

Published Books

- 2002** in preparation: “Les Contes Soufis”
2000 “J’Avale le Bébé du Voisin”
“La Grand-Mère, le Juge et la Mouche”
“Le Chant des Génies”
“Le Livre des Djinns”
1998 “L’Alphabet des Sables”
1995 “Paroles d’Islam”
1988 Illustration of “Chant de l’Amour et de la Mort” (Rainer Maria Rilke)
1987 “Sheherazade”
1985 “Grand-Père est Né”
1984 “Le Conte des Conteurs”
1978 “Le Sommeil Emmure”
1975 “L’Ogresse”

Expositions

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|-------------|--|--|
| 2002 | Paintings & Sculptures | Museum of Tunis |
| 1991 | “Les 60 Noms de l’Amour”
“L’Île des 1001 Nuits” | Granada, Spain
Salon du Livre et de la Jeunesse,
Montreuil |
| 1989 | “Signes” | Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris |
| 1978 | “Un Conte des Mille et une Nuits à Korba” | Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris |
| 1976 | “Masques” | Musée d’Art Moderne, Paris |

Mahmoud Kalari (*Director of Photography*)

2004	“Bab’Aziz”	Directed by Nacer Khemir
2000	“Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmin”	Directed by Bahman Farmanara
1999	“Le Vent nous emportera” (Bâd Mara Khâhad Bord)	Directed by Abbas Kiarostami
	“The Cloud and the Rising Sun”	Directed by Mahmoud Kalari
1996	“Gabbeh” (Gabbe)	Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf
1993	“Sara”	Directed by Dariush Mehrjui
	“De Karkeh au Rhin” (Az Karkeh ta Rhein)	Directed by Ebrahim Hatamikia
1992	“L’amoureux” (Delshodegan)	Directed by Ali Hatami
1991	“Le Sergent” (Goruhban)	Directed by Masud Kimia’ie
1990	“Reyhaneh”	Directed by Ali Reza Raissian
	“O Iran”	Directed by Nasser Taqvai

Tonino Guerra (*Screenplay*)

Selected Filmography

2004	“Bab’Aziz”	Directed by Nacer Khemir
2002	“Maimal” (Le Singe)	Directed by A. Abdykalyev
2000	“Bibo per sempre”	Directed by Enrico Coletti
1999	“Tierra del fuego”	Directed by Miguel Littin
	“Dark Illness”	Directed by Mario Monicelli
1998	“Eternity and a Day	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
1997	“Marcello’s Secret”	Directed by Vladimir Naumov
	“Porto Santo”	Directed by Vicente Jorge Silva
1996	“The Truce” (La tregua)	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1995	“The Gaze of Odysseus”	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
	“Beyond the Clouds”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1994	“Belyj prazdnik” (White Feast)	Directed by Vladimir Naumov
1993	“Golem, the Petrified Garden”	Directed by Amos Gitai
1991	“The Suspended Step of the Stork”	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
1990	“Everybody’s Fine”	Directed by G. Tornatore
	“Sunshine Even By Night”	Directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani
1989	“Burro”	Directed by José Maria Sánchez Silva
1988	“Landscape in the Mist”	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
1987	“Good Morning, Babylon”	Directed by P. and V. Taviani
	“Chronicle of a Death Foretold”	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1986	“The Beekeeper”	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
	“Ginger and Fred”	Directed by Federico Fellini
1984	“Henry IV”	Directed by Marco Bellochio
	“Chaos”	Directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani
	“Voyage to Cythera”	Directed by Theo Angelopoulos
	“Carmen”	Directed by Francesco Rosi

1983	“Nostalgia”	Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky
	“And the Ship Sails On”	Directed by Federico Fellini
1982	“The Night of San Lorenzo”	Directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani
	“Identification of a Woman”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1981	“Three Brothers” (Tre Fratelli)	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1980	“The Oberwald Mystery”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1979	“Christ Stopped at Eboli”	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1978	“Un papillon sur l'épaule”	Directed by Jacques Deray
1976	“Dear Michael”	Directed by Mario Monicelli
	“The Context” (Cadaveri eccellenti)	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1974	“Lucky Luciano”	Directed by Francesco Rosi
	“Amarcord”	Directed by Federico Fellini
1972	“The Mattei Affair”	Directed by Francesco Rosi
1970	“Many Wars Ago” (Uomini contro)	Directed by Francesco Rosi
	“Sunflower”	Directed by Vittorio de Sica
	“Zabriskie Point”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1969	“Dismissed on His Wedding Night”	Directed by Ugo Tognazzi
1966	“Blowup”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1965	“The 10 th Victim”	Directed by Elio Pietri
1964	“Woman is a Wonderful Thing”	Directed by Mauro Bolognini
	“The Red Desert” (Il deserto rosso)	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1963	“La noia”	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1962	“The Eclipse” (L'Eclisse)	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
1960	“The Night” (La Notte)	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
	“The Adventure” (L'Avventura)	Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni

Isabelle Rathery (*Editor*)

2004	“Bab'Aziz”	Directed by Nacer Khemir
2001	“At the Edge of the Earth”	Directed by Sérgio Machado
	“Behind the Sun”	Directed by Walter Salles
	“Possible Loves”	Directed by Sandra Werneck
2000	“Almost Nothing”	Directed by Sergio Rezende
1999	“O Dia da Caça”	Directed by Alberto Graça
	“Oriundi”	Directed by Ricardo Bravo
	“Mauá: O Imperador e O Rei”	Directed by Sergio Rezende
1998	“Central Station”	Directed by Walter Salles
1997	“The Battle of Canudos”	Directed by Sergio Rezende
	“Four Days in September”	Directed by Bruno Barreto
1996	“O Guarani”	Directed by Norma Bengell
	“How Angels Are Born”	Directed by Murilo Salles
1994	“Lamarca”	Directed by Sergio Rezende
1991	“High Art”	Directed by Walter Salles
1987	“The Story of Fausta”	Directed by Bruno Barreto
1986	“Peau d'ange”	Directed by Jean-Louis Daniel
1984	“Les Fauves”	Directed by Jean-Louis Daniel

1980	“Même les mômes ont du vague à l’âme”	Directed by Jean-Louis Daniel
1979	“The Crying Woman”	Directed by Jacques Doillon
1976	“Spermula”	Directed by Charles Matton
1973	“Kashima Paradise”	Directed by Bénie Deswarte, Yann Le Masson
1972	“Far From Dallas”	Directed by Philippe Toledano

Armand Amar (*Composer*)

Selected Filmography

2004	“Bab’Aziz”	Directed by Nacer Khemir
2001	“Tar Angel” (L’Ange de Goudron)	Directed by Denis Chouinard
2000	“Eyewitness” (Amen)	Directed by Constantin Costa-Gavras

Armand Amar encountered non-European music early on, approaching and practicing it as a self-taught musician, but during his college year he received teaching from several masters of traditional and classical music in India, Iran and Cuba. He has a particular interest in percussion instruments such as the tabla, the zarb, congas ... Later he gave this experience form in his own teaching at Patrice Chéreau's school at the Théâtre des Amandiers in Nanterre, and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris.

Since 1976 he has written more than 50 original compositions for contemporary choreographies by Peter Goss, Carolyn Carlson, Philippe Talard, Jean Gaudin, Serge Ricci, Bruce Taylor, Wayne Barbaste, Viola Farber. These have been performed at the Avignon Festival, the Paris Opera, the Montpellier Dance Festival, the Mannheim Opera and many other international festivals.