

Sahraa Karimi ArtD.

Sahraa Karimi is an Afghan film director who lived and studied in Iran until she was 16 years old. For the first time at the age of fourteen, she starred in a movie *Daughters of the Sun* by Maryam Shahriar as one of the leading roles. With this movie she entered the world of Iranian professional cinema. She was the first Afghan immigrant girl to play a leading role in Iranian cinema.

With her second acting experience in Hamid Jebeli's *White Sleep* - (Jebeli is a prominent Iranian film director) - she became more interested in the art of cinema. Sahraa Karimi immigrated to the Slovak Republic for the continuing of her study at the age of 17. She studied there for more than ten years in the cinema field. (Documentary and fiction filmmaking)

As the first woman in Afghanistan history, she holds an academic degree (PhD) in cinema from Academy of Music and Performing Arts- Film and TV Faculty in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Sahraa Karimi has made more than 30 short fiction and documentary films during her study, some of which have won numerous awards at international film festivals.

In addition to receiving numerous awards from various international festivals, the film also wins the **Slovak Film and Television Academy Award**, which is known as the Slovak Oscars; Her next film, **Afghan Women behind the wheel**, was her first feature film experience in documentary cinema in Afghanistan. The film participated in 22 film festivals and won more than 5 international awards at major festivals around the world, including being nominated for Best Documentary of the Year in the Republic of Slovakia, it has also aired on major European television networks including Arte France and the BBC. Sahraa Karimi's next film **Parlika- A Woman in the Land of Men**, inspired by the life of Mrs. Soraya Parlika, a women's rights activist in Afghanistan, takes a deep look at the history of four decades of violence against women in Afghanistan. Parlika won the best documentary film in Women filmmakers' category at Dhaka-Bangladesh International Film Festival.

Sahraa Karimi, has become the first female filmmaker from Afghanistan to become an official member of the Slovak Academy of Film and Television, after winning the Slovak Film and Television Academy Award for the film *Light Breez, a diary of an immigrant girl*.

Sahraa Karimi made her first feature film **Hava, Maryam, Ayesha**, on a fully self-funded, inside of Afghanistan, which is one of the first films from Afghanistan's independent cinema. It made its world premiere at the **76th Venice International Film Festival** and was nominated for Best Film in the Official Competition Horizons. The film received the Best Actor Award for all three actresses of the movie from the Los Angeles Asian Film Festival and the Dhaka International Film Festival Bangladesh. *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* has participated in more than 38 international film festivals on behalf of Afghanistan and was Afghanistan's entry in Oscar 2020. *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* is the only film from Afghanistan cinema that has been in theatres in Iran for five months.

Sahraa Karimi is also the first woman in the history of Afghanistan who became The General Director of Afghan film, stated owned film organization through merit process in 2019.

She is currently working on her next fiction film " flight from Kabul"

Filmography

- Hava, Maryam, Ayesha (Fiction feature film), Kabul, Afghanistan, 2019
- Parluka: A woman in the land of Men“ (Feature documentary), Kabul, Afghanistan 2016
- Six short documentary films for UNFPA, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2015
- Angels (36 min. Documentary film), Daikundy Province, Afghanistan, 2014
- My beloved Afghanistan - Bamyan, (30 min. Documentary),Kabul, Afghanistan 2013
- Afghan Women Behind the Wheel (56 min. documentary film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010
- 5 short documentary films for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic PRT- Logar Province, Afghanistan 2010
- With Pigeons (30min. Documentary), Kabul, Afghanistan 2010
- Light Breeze - Memoirs from the diary of an emigrant (50 min., fiction), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2009
- Look Back In Anger (10 min. fiction), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2008
- Raining...(4 min., fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2008
- Zboristka (15 min. fiction , adaptation), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2008
- Silence (15min. fiction film, adaptation), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2008
- Steal or Not to Steal (10 min. fiction), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- The Hill of White Elephants (adaptation of Hemingway’s tale – 10 min. adaptation), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- The Ballerina (03 min. fiction), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- Chris: Paulina (26 min. documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- Derrière (10min. Fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- Simona (20.min fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007
- A simple question (26 min., documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Borqe, My Prison (10 min. documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- One World (10 min. documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Darovanému koňovi na zuby nepozerať (3 min. Fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Kto druhému jamu kope, sám do spadne (3 min. Fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Čo oči neviadia, to srdce nebolí (3 min.fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Čierna ovca (6 min. Fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Tabloid – Woman – Society (26 min. Documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Happiness (20min. fiction film), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2006
- Light and Dark (5 min., fiction film),Bratislava, Slovakia, 2005
- Behold Alone Woman at the Beginning of a Cold Season (11 min., fiction-documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2005
- Searching for a Dream (26 min., documentary), Bratislava, Slovakia, 2004

Festivals & Awards

Film “Hava, Maryam, Ayesha”

- World Premier; Venice Int’l Film Festival (28 Aug.- 7 Sept. 2019/Italy) - Orizzonti
- Adana Golden Boll Int’l F.F. (23-29 September.2019/ Turkey)
- Mill Valley Film Festival (3-13 Oct. 2019/USA)
- Busan Int’l Film Festival (4-13 Oct.2019/ South Korea)
- Valladolid F.F. (19-26 Oct.2019/ Spain)
- Winner Best Actress Award; Asian World Film Festival (6-14 Nov.2019/ USA)
- Kolkata International Film Festival (8-15 Nov.2019/ India)
- International Film Festival India “Goa” (20-28 Nov.2019/ India)
- Cairo International Film Festival (20-29 Nov.2019/ Egypt)
- Musee Mohamed VI de Rabat (22-23 Nov.2019/Morocco)
- Int’l Crime & Punishment F.F. (22-28 Nov.2019/ Turkey)
- UN Women (25Nov.-6 Dec.2019/ Afghanistan)
- Hainan Island International Film Festival (1-8 Dec, 2019/ China)
- Asian Int’l Film Festival Arizona (6-8 Dec.,2019/ USA)
- International Film Festival of Kerala (6-12 Dec,2019/ India)
- Winner Best Actress Award; Dhaka International Film Festival (11-19 Jan.2020/Bangladesh)
- Festival Int’l des Cinemas d’Asie de Vesoul (5-12 Feb.2020/ France)

Film “Parlika: A woman in the land of Men”

- Award for Best Documentary Film, 16Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh, 2018
- Roma Cinema DOC Film Fest, Italy, 2018
- Barcelona Planet Film Festival, Spain, 2017
- The 13th International Exile Film Festival, Gothenburg, Sweden,2017
- The Afghan International Films Festival, Stockholm, Sweden,2017
- 46. Lubuskiego Lata Filmowego – Łagów 2017, Poland,2017
- Bratislava International film Festival, Slovakia,2016
- One World Documentary Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia,2016

Film “Afghan Women behind the Wheel “

- Award for Best Documentary Film – in Woman Filmmaker Section, 13th Dhaka International Film Festival, Dhaka- Bangladesh, 2014
- Exile Film Festival, Malmo, Sweden, 2013
- Award for Best Research, Kish International Film Festival Kish Island, 2011
- Exile Film Festival, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2011
- 3rd Festival of Afghan Films, Stockholm, Sweden, 2011
- Best Director, Best film in Islam Section, Sole Luna Festival, Italy, 2010
- Portello River Festival, Padova, Italy, 2010
- Monterrey International Film Festival, Monterrey, Mexico, 2010
- Cinefest International Festival of Young Filmmakers, Miskolc, Hungary, 2010
- Award For The Best Documentary, Ekofilm Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic, 2010
- Award For The Best Slovak Documentary One World. Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010

- Diploma for best documentary film Festival of documentary films on human rights, Kyrgyzstan, 2010
- Jury Prize for Best Documentary Film, International Youth Film Festival It's Me, Armenia, Yerevan, 2010
- Award of Public in the Dialektus European Documentary and Anthropological Film Festival, Budapest, Hungary, 2010
- Tranzit House - Cluj (Ro), 2010
- Award for Special Mention of the Jury Miradas Doc- Guía De Isora, Tenerife, International Documentary Film Festival, Terenife, Spain, 2010
- Ihrffa Film Festival, Tirana, Albania, 2010
- El Ojo Cojo Film Festival, Madrid, Spain, 2010

Film “Light Breeze”

- Award for Best Film in Category “Immigration”, 1th International Afghan Film Festival, London, 2015
- Award for Best Short Fiction Film & the Winner of the National Film and TV Awards in Slovakia “slnko v Sieti”, 2012
- Winner of Best Film- Audience Award, Internarial Film Festival - Didor - Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2012
- Free Iranian Film Festival, Berkeley, University of California, 2012
- International Student Film Festival Early Melons, 2011
- 3rd Afghan Films Festival (Stockholm, Sweden), 2011
- Grand Prix, ACKO, 13. International Student Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010
- Award for the Best Direction, Acko, 13. International Student Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010
- Award for Best Film, ACKO, 13. International Student Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010
- Kodak Award for best direction, ACKO, 13. International Student Film Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2010
- International Film Festival Bratislava, 2009

Film “Who is that woman?”

- Au Festival International des Programmers Audiovisuals, FIPA, 2006
- International Film Festival Bratislava, Slovakia, 2004
- 2nd Iranian.com Film Festival 2004, San Francisco, 2003

Film “Searching for a Dream”

- Best documentary film & Best cinematography- International Film Festiva of Kabul, 2008
- Nominated for the best documentary film in National Film Awards in Slovakia (Slnko v sieti) , 2006
- 3rd Independent International Student Festival, Arbroath, Great Britain, 2006
- AČKO, 10. International Student Film Festivalročník , Slovakia, 2006
- 41st International Film Festival AFO, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 2006
- 1thDocumentary Film Festival In Alicante – Mostrari , Spain, 2006

- Kuba journey against the Current, Constanta – Vienna, Austria, 2006
- EAST SilverDocs MARKET at the Jihlava Int. Documentary Film Festival, Jihlava, Czech Republic, 2005
- MedFilm Festival, Roma, Italy, 2005
- International Doc Film Festival ONE WORLD, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2005
- Rencontres Internationals Paris/Berlin, Paris, France, 2005
- 2nd Student Film Event Zlinsky Czech Republic, 2005
- Film Festival for Children and Youth, Zlin, Czech Republic Cinema 2005
- International Short & Independent Film Festival in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2005
- 48th International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, Leipzig Germany, 2005
- 2nd prize for Student Documentary - 22nd FEMINA FILM, Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic, 2005
- Gold Mikeldi for Documentary Film - 47th Bilbao International Festival of Documentary and Short films, Bilbao, Spain, 2005

Film “behold alone women at the beginning of a cold season”

- Rencontres Internationals Paris/Berlin, Paris, France, 2008
- International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, 2008
- 3rd Student Film Event Zlinsky Pes independent part of 45th International Film, 2006
- European Short Film Festival of Reus - FEC Reus, Spain, 2006
- AČKO, 10. International Student Film Festival ročník , Slovakia, 2006
- East Silver 2006, Czech Republic, 2006
- 41st International Film festival AFO – Olomouc, Czech Republic, 2006
- CINEMA 2006, Slovakia, 2006