

CINEMIEN Film & Video Distribution
Entrepotdok 66
1018 AD Amsterdam
T. 020 – 627 9501
www.cinemien.nl
info@cinemien.nl

presenteert



Een film van REZA PARSA

Silver Shell voor beste regie - San Sebastian Film Festival 2000
Speciale Jury Prijs - Brasilia Film Festival
Speciale Jury Prijs - Seattle Film Festival

BEFORE THE STORM - Synopsis

In **Before the Storm** smeedt regisseur **Reza Parsa** twee verhalen samen in een uiterst actuele, buitengewoon aangrijpende thriller. Kern van beide verhalen is het conflict tussen geweld en geweten. Het leidt tot tragedie en bevrijding.

Ali El-Rashid, een man van Arabische afkomst, leeft als taxichauffeur in Zweden samen met zijn Zweedse vrouw en twee tienerdochters, Sara en Jenny. Hij leeft een redelijk gelukkig leven en heeft met de jaren afstand gedaan van zijn land van herkomst en zijn politieke verleden.

Leo (12) zit bij Ali's dochter Sara in de klas; hij is in stilte verliefd op haar. Maar zijn dagelijks leven op school wordt bepaald door Danne, een oudere jongen die hem verschrikkelijk treitert.

Tijdens een toevallige ontmoeting tussen Ali en Leo adviseert de goedmoedige taxichauffeur de jonge puper beter voor zichzelf op te komen. "Als je van iemand houdt, moet je een daad stellen, om je liefde daarmee te bewijzen."

Leo stelt een daad. Alleen zijn de dramatische gevolgen voor hem niet te overzien. Tegelijkertijd begint voor de taxichauffeur een nachtmerrie als een schaduw uit zijn verleden zich aan hem opdringt: Ali wordt gedwongen tot het plegen van een terroristische aanslag.



"Before the Storm works as precisely calibrated, well-acted political melodrama that pushes suspense buttons. And in its culminating hospital sequence, the movie boldly takes a surprising and satisfying tangent." - The New York Times

"The film has an unerring feel for the textures of family interactions, from incidental caprice to stricken confrontation." - The Village Voice

BEFORE THE STORM (FÖRE STORMEN)

104 min / 35 mm (1:1,66) / Kleur / Dolby Digital / Zweeds gesproken / Kijkwijzer: 12 jaar
Zweden-Denemarken-Noorwegen 2000 / distributie: Cinemien

BEFORE THE STORM - Crew

Regie	Reza Parsa
Scenario	Mikael Bengtsson, Reza Parsa
Camera	Eigil Bryld
Geluid	Wille Peterson-Berger
Muziek	Peter Lundbäck
Montage	Louise Brattberg, Reza Parsa
Producenten	Johan Fälemark, Peter Hiltunen



BEFORE THE STORM - Cast

Ali	Per Graffman
Ali's vrouw	Maria Lundqvist
Sara	Sasha Becker
Jenny	Anni Ege Egecioglu
Leo	Emil Odepark
Leo's moeder	Tintin Anderzon
Leo's vader	Christer Fant
Leraar	Troels Lyby
Oudere vrouw uit Midden Oosten	Nasrin Phaku
Ali's ex-vrouw	Mina Azarian
Ali's zoon	Ashkan Ghods
Danne	Martin Wallström
Johan Sander	Claes Ljungmark
Sander's vader	Wilfred Breistrand

BEFORE THE STORM - Over de regisseur

Reza Parsa (1968, Teheran, Iran) leeft sinds 1980 in Zweden. Hij studeerde filmregie aan de Filmacademie van Denemarken en regisseerde diverse korte films, experimentele films en commercials. Hij won verschillende nationale en internationale filmprijzen, waaronder de Student Oscar for the best Foreign Film met zijn afstudeerproject ***Never*** (1995). ***Before the Storm*** is zijn eerste lange speelfilm en winnaar van een reeks nationale en internationale awards.

Reza Parsa werkt in Zweden als regisseur, scenarist en regiedocent aan de filmacademie.



1995	GRÄNSEN (Never) Afstudeerfilm
1997	TIGERHJÄRTET (Tigerheart) Korte film
1998	DEN 8:E SÅNGEN (The eighth song) Aflevering uit een tv-serie
2000	FÖRE STORMEN (Before the Storm)

BEFORE THE STORM - gesprek met regisseur Reza Parsa

Bron: Objectif-Cinema.com

Objectif-Cinema: What's your history before this film?

Reza Parsa: In the last year of high school, I started to get interested in cinema. I did several one year training courses in theatre and production in various schools. Then I went to the Danish school of Cinema for four years. Thereafter, I made eight short films. I started to write the script of Before the Storm in 1995 and began shooting it in 1999.

Which were your motivations to come to Sweden?

In my case, my parents had friends in Sweden who had asked us to come for several times. After the revolution, it seemed a good idea. Five days after our arrival in Sweden the war between Iran and Iraq started.

Do you consider that the cinema helped you find your way in society?

No, I arrived to Sweden at the age of twelve, so that process had started already for a long time. Film can be a way of opening eyes, of seeing the differences in society a little better. In the Swedish media there was far more of a focus on the terrorist in my film, than on the history of the boy, who still accounts for half of the story. For me, that shows that one sees what one wants to see.

The camera in your film moves a lot. Your style seems very different from most Scandinavian directors.

I do not feel influences of Iran, I did not see much of it. My influences are more to be found in the poetry of Kieslowski and the realism of Bo Widberg. But the realism of the Iranian cinema, specifically working with amateur actors, is a challenge which I like to take up.



The New York Times

Parallel Predicaments On a Collision Course

By *STEPHEN HOLDEN/The New York Times*

"A high-minded what-if movie that sternly trumpets its moral gravity, Reza Parsa's "Before the Storm" is a timely meditation on the gloomier implications of the notion that indeed we're all connected. While that's hardly news these days, the film, torn from current headlines about the exporting of terrorism and about gun-toting teenagers who open fire in public schools, would still like to disabuse us of any lingering illusions of insularity.

An Iranian who has lived in Sweden since 1980, Mr. Parsa brings to the film an acute sense of the outsider trying to fit in. Although set in Sweden, one of the most socially homogeneous of Western nations, that country is never identified. Nor is the place from which Ali (Per Graffman), one of the film's two main characters, has fled an ethnic rebellion against an implacably oppressive regime.

At first Ali seems to be a happily married family man comfortably adjusted to his new life in a middle-class European society, his past all but forgotten. One of the few signs of his lingering sense of difference is his identification with Leo (Emil Odepark), a persecuted 12-year-old boy who attends the same school as his daughter Sara (Sasha Becker) and who fancies himself in love with her.

Leo's life at school is a living hell at the hands of the class bully, Danne (Martin Wallstrom), who in an early scene engineers Leo's excruciating humiliation in the girls' locker room. Almost at the same time, Ali's past opens up nightmarishly when an old woman boards his cab and issues a grim enigmatic warning before leaving him with a gift-wrapped package he fears might be a bomb.

Swiftly these two parallel dramas build to a climax. Leo, unable to bear any more torment, takes drastic action by stealing a gun belonging to his mother, a police officer (Tintin Anderzon), and lures Danne into the woods to threaten him with it. Ali's gift turns out to be not a bomb but an anguished videotaped message begging for his help from a woman he left behind 18 years earlier.

"Before the Storm" works as precisely calibrated, well-acted political melodrama that pushes suspense buttons. And in its culminating hospital sequence, the movie boldly departs from any predictable scenario to take a surprising (and satisfying) tangent.

By the end, when Ali and Leo find themselves riding the same bus toward uncertain fates, Ali's strand of the story has assumed far more weight than Leo's. The movie's final, pointedly ambiguous view of violence (and resistance to violence) in a desperately unstable world is uncompromising in its bleakness.

Violence may beget violence, the film suggests, but it is also the most efficient way of discharging specific dirty tasks. And maybe when all is said and done, it's even necessary. In any case, those who imagine they're immune from these forces are fooling themselves. There is no sure escape."