



— FEMALE —
FILM CLUB

Resources

Film: When I'm Done Dying (2020)
Director: Nisan Dag



Image courtesy of Cineuropa (<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/395408/>)

Nisan Dag: "I think gender should not define the way a director is expected to choose their protagonists. The only lead I follow is my heart when it comes to which character and story I pick for my films. Being a woman in the film industry already puts a lot of weight on our shoulders and one thing we don't need on top of that is the pressure of a mission attributed to women to tell stories only about women. The female perspective will be naturally embedded in my films regardless, as I identify as female and that shapes how I perceive the world."

Trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U19_HMFV1s



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Fun facts:

- The film was initially inspired by Nisan Dag's exposure to the underground hip-hop movement in Istanbul while directing an MTV documentary titled "Rebel Musi—Turkey: Flowers of Gezi Park." There, she met Da Poet, one of the scene's most influential rappers and producers, who would eventually become her collaborator on *When I'm Done Dying*. His music provides the soundtrack to the film, as well as its pounding, pulsing heart.
- Nisan is very inspired by U.S. indie cinema and has American cinematographer, John Wakayama Carey, whom she met at Columbia University and also worked on her first feature film. "I think we bring that U.S. indie spirit also into the energy of the production."
- *When I'm Done Dying* was produced by Turkey's Solis Film and Germany's [Red Balloon](#). Its international sales have been entrusted to US outfit Magnolia Pictures International.
- Nisan explained that it was difficult to cast the lead acting role for Fehmi. She wanted to find someone who could both rap and act well. She searched for over a year and was becoming sad as a result of the little success she had. She eventually found the perfect person to portray Fehmi, who was discovered through an intern Nisar had. The intern had a friend named Oktay Cubuk, who was already an actor and perfectly fit the role, according to Nisar.
- Nisan has a background in animation. She used to make animated shorts, which is how she found her way into storytelling and how she developed a passion for it. She oversaw the animation done for *When I'm Done Dying*, but had a talented group of animators work on the animated sequences for the film itself.



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Festival Appearances and awards:

- **Adana Film Festival (2014)**
WON:
Best Director – Golden Boll in National Feature Film
NOMINATED:
Best Film – Golden Boll in National Feature Film
- **Seattle International Film Festival (2021)**
NOMINATED:
Best Feature Film – Grand Jury Prize
- **Slamdance Film Festival (2015)**
WON:
Narrative Feature – Honorable Mention
NOMINATED:
Best Narrative Feature – Grand Jury Prize
- **Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (2020)**
WON:
Best Director – Grand Prize
NOMINATED:
Best Film – Grand Prize
- **Milano International Film Festival (2015)**
WON:
Best Director – Leonardo’s Horse Award
NOMINATED:
Best Screenwriting – Leonardo’s Horse Award
Best Film – Leonardo’s Horse Award



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Video material:

Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF 2021 Q&A)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8iZNpXc_yY
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Interviews:

Fade to Her	https://www.fadetoher.com/2021/07/02/interview-with-nisan-dag/
EurImages: Council of Europe	https://rm.coe.int/interview-with-nisan-dag/16809c8239
Variety	https://variety.com/2020/film/news/director-nisan-dag-on-capturing-turkish-rap-scene-and-fighting-homophobic-censorship-with-when-im-done-dying-1234835574/
ScreenDaily	https://www.screendaily.com/features/turkish-filmmaker-nisan-dag-on-falling-for-istanbuls-hip-hop-scene-in-when-im-done-dying/5155228.article
AMP: Asian Movie Pulse	https://asianmoviepulse.com/2020/11/interview-with-nisan-dag-i-wanted-to-make-a-movie-to-inspire-people-to-hold-on-to-their-passion/
FRED Channel 1 Podcast	http://www.fred.fm/uk/nisan-dag-when-im-done-dying-poff24/

Reviews:

Rotten Tomatoes	https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/when_im_done_dying_2020/reviews
ScreenDaily	https://www.screendaily.com/reviews/when-im-done-dying-tallinn-review/5154710.article
AMP: Asian Movie Pulse	https://asianmoviepulse.com/2020/11/film-review-when-im-done-dying-2020-by-nisan-dag/
Eye for Film	https://www.eyeforfilm.co.uk/review/when-im-done-dying-2020-film-review-by-amber-wilkinson
CinEuropa	https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/395408/
Film is a Fine Affair	https://filmisafineaffair.com/index.php/reviews/when-i-m-done-dying-2020-film-review
Mettel Ray	https://mettelray.com/when-im-done-dying-2020/