

# 40 DAYS OF SILENCE

a film by **Saodat Ismailova**

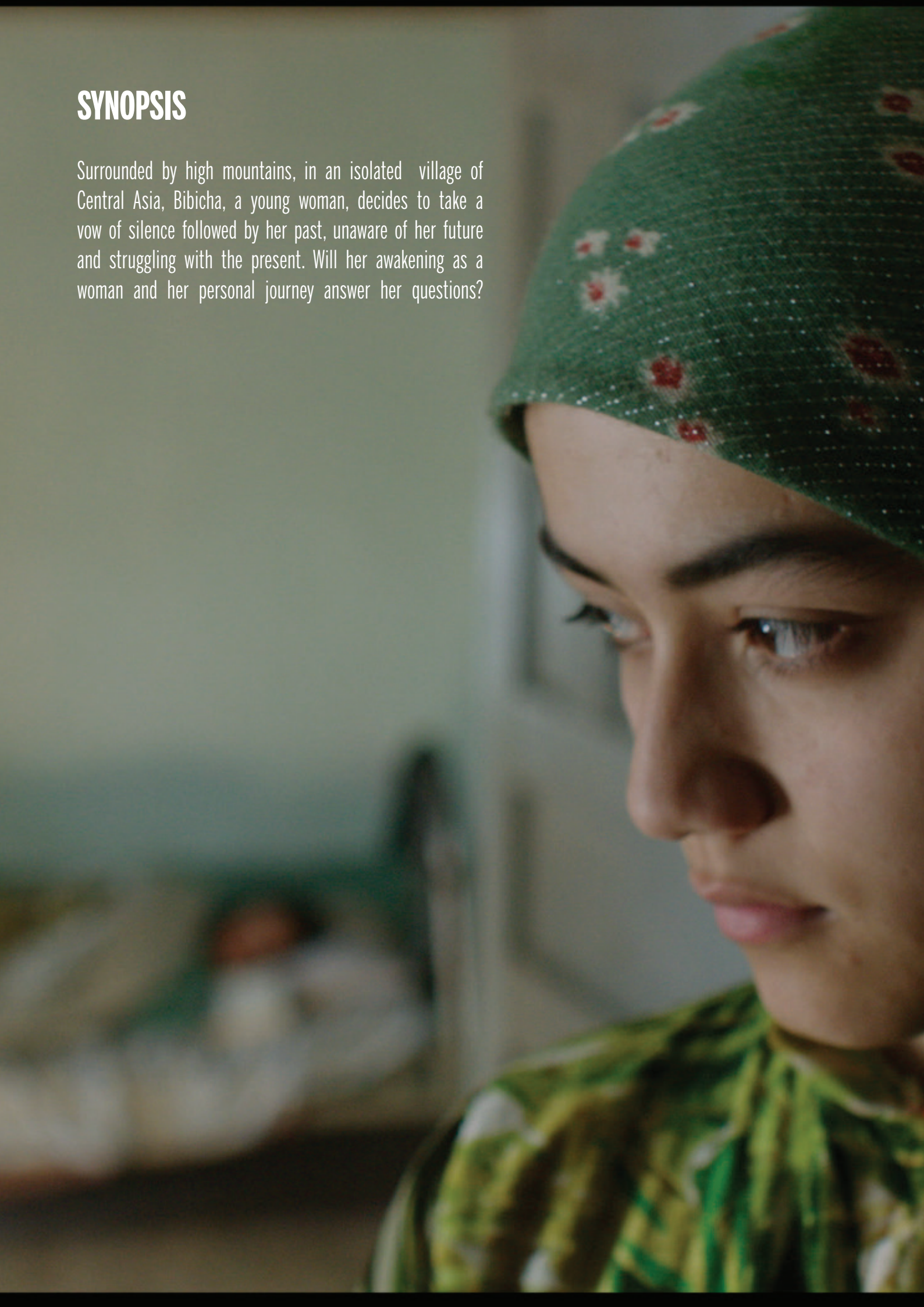
VOLYA FILMS PETIT FILM AND ROHFILM PRESENT "40 DAYS OF SILENCE" WITH RUSHANA SADIKOVA SAODAT RAHIMOVA FARIDA OLIMOVA BAROHAD SHUKUROVA  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BENITO STRANGIO EDITORS BENJAMIN MIRGUET NATHALIE ALONSO-CASALE MUSIC BY JACOB KIRKEGAARD SOUND DESIGNER DIEGO VAN UDEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER RANKO PAUKOVIC PRODUCTION DESIGNER AZAMAT TURAJEV CINEMATOGRAPHY CARLOS CASAS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JET CHRISTIAANSE PRODUCERS JEAN DES FORÊTS BENNY DRECHSEL FLEUR KNOPPERS MARIE DUBAS KARSTEN STÖTER PRODUCER DENIS VASLIN SCREENPLAY SAODAT ISMAILOVA & ULUGHBEK SADIKOV DIRECTOR SAODAT ISMAILOVA

WITH THE SUPPORT OF                        



## SYNOPSIS

Surrounded by high mountains, in an isolated village of Central Asia, Bibicha, a young woman, decides to take a vow of silence followed by her past, unaware of her future and struggling with the present. Will her awakening as a woman and her personal journey answer her questions?





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The genesis of the story is the rite of **Chilla**, a vow of silence that lasts for forty days, practiced at crossover moments in one's life in Central Asia.

**40 DAYS OF SILENCE** is about the painful experience of becoming a woman and the reminiscent sensations of shedding our skin to step into a next stage of our lives.

We witness four women of four different generations living under one roof, bound to each other by the protagonist, Bibicha. The four women seem to be repeating each other's lives, while Bibicha is struggling against her persistent fears and doubts, which are embodied in visions and sounds based on local beliefs and traditions. Bibicha, exorcises the fears of the others and changes their destinies by awakening the forgotten, by facing the present and by her longing for a relief to come.





## CAST & CREW LIST

### CAST

Bibicha - Rukhshona Sattarova

Khamida - Barohat Shukurova

Bibi Saodat - Saodat Rahimova

Sharifa - Farida Olimova

### DIRECTOR

Saodat Ismailova

### PRODUCERS

Denis Vaslin, Volya Films,  
Netherlands

Jean des Forêts, Petit Film, France

Benny Drechsel,  
Rohfilm, Germany

Saodat Ismailova, Map Production,  
Uzbekistan

### WRITERS

Saodat Ismailova

Ulugbek Sadikov

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Benito Strangio

### PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Azamat Turajev

### EDITORS

Benjamin Mirguet

Nathalie Alonso-Casale

### COMPOSER

Jacob Kierkegaard

### SOUND DESIGN

Ranko Paukovic



## DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Born in Uzbekistan (29 March 1981, Tashkent), Saodat Ismailova studied filmmaking at Tashkent State Art Institute, and then, joined the cinema department of Fabrica in Italy where she directed **Aral, Fishing in an Invisible Sea**.

**40 Days of Silence** is her first feature film and she is developing her next film project **Barzagh**. Saodat presented her video installations in various art spaces, among them **Zukhra** - participant of Venice Biennale of Arts. She also has her own company Map Production, in Tashkent.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2013 – **Navruz** - documentary film, 20 min

2013 – **40 Days of Silence** - fiction, 86 min

2009 – **In the Shrine of Heart** - documentary, 24 min

2008 – **Avalanche** - documentary, project in development about an isolated community in Pamir Mountains - producer

2004 – **Aral fishing in an invisible sea** - documentary, 52 min

Turin Film Festival, Winner Best documentary 2004

IFFR, Rotterdam 2005

Vision du reel, competition, Nyon, Switzerland 2005

One World Prague, competition 2005

Documenta, Special Mention from Jury, Madrid 2005

Dokfest, Leipzig 2005

Fabrica Cinema Festival, Centre Pompidou, Paris 2006

Screening in Cinema Arsenal, Berlin 2005

2002 – **Zulfiya** - short film, 15 min

Alpeadria, International Trieste Film Festival

Archipelago International Roma Film Festival

Fabrica Cinema Festival, Centre Pompidou, Paris 2006





# CREW PROFILE

## Ulughbek Sadykov / Writer

Ulughbek Sadykov, is a scriptwriter and a film director, born in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in 1967. Since his graduation from VGIK -All Union Institute of Cinematography- in Moscow, he has been working as a scriptwriter and director of several films and TV-shows. He is currently working on TV, radio and film projects in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

## Benito Strangio / Director of Photography

Benito Strangio graduated from NFTVA Dutch Filmschool in 1989. Since then he has been working as a camera operator on various Dutch and international feature films, commercials and television films and as a cinematographer on art projects, documentaries and feature films working with Epic, Alexa or Red cameras.

## Benjamin Mirguet / Editor

Benjamin Mirguet directed **The Dead Hear Not The Bells**, a short film in 35mm, produced by Mômérade a company he co-founded in 2005. Benjamin was on the Directors Fortnight programming committee in 2010 and 2011. His first experience as an editor was for Carlos Reygadas on **Batalla en el cielo**. He edited **Chilla** last year in Paris and since then he started to work with Ilya Khrzhanovsky on the DAU project.

## Jacob Kirkegaard / Composer

Based in Berlin (Germany), Jacob Kirkegaard is a graduate of the Academy for Media Arts in Cologne. Since 1995, he has presented his works at galleries, museums, venues & conferences throughout the world. His sound works are primarily released by the British record label Touch and he is a member of the sound art collective freq\_out.





## COMPANY PROFILES

### VOLYA FILMS

Volya Films produces author films, fiction and documentary, mainly as international co-productions. Our recent films include: **40 DAYS OF SILENCE** (2014, Netherlands, France, Germany, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) by Saodat Ismailova (Berlinale 2014 – Forum); and **SNACKBAR** by Meral Uslu (Berlinale 2012 - Generation Competition). **KURAI, KURAI – TALES WITH THE WIND** first fiction film by renowned documentary filmmaker Marjoleine Boonstra, is currently in post-production and will be completed in 2014.

### PETIT FILM

Initiated in 2010, Petit Film is based in Paris, and produce and co-produce films from a small but various selection of directors: cineastes or visual artists, formalists or storytellers, French or foreign. At all times Petit Film works in close cooperation with distributors, sales agents and festivals.

### ROH FILM

Rohfilm is a German independent production company with offices in Berlin and Leipzig. Founded in 2005 by Karsten Stöter and Benny Drechsel, we develop and finance feature films and documentaries for the international crossover arthouse sector. Our focus is on stories with strong cinematic conviction as well as finding and fostering filmmakers with distinctive talent.





Format -	Digital
Duration -	88 minutes
Genre -	Fiction
Language -	Tadjik
Subtitles -	English & French
Year of production -	2014

Première on the 7th of February at the Berlinale Forum

CNC & Ministère des affaires étrangères - Fond Sud  
World Cinema Fund  
Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film  
Festival Rotterdam  
Netherlands Film Fund  
Goteborg International Film Festival Fund  
Media - Creative Europe  
Global Film Initiative  
Rotterdam Media Fund  
Fondation Groupama Gan pour le Cinéma  
Sundance - Screenwriters and Directors Lab





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