

A man with dark hair and a serious expression is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark turtleneck and a grey blazer. He is holding a large bouquet of white flowers with green foliage. The background is a dark, vertically-paneled wall. In the top right corner, a small portion of a bookshelf with books is visible.

A FILM BY
KIARASH
ANVARI

THE
POT
AND
THE
OAK

THE STORY

LOGLINE

After finding out that he has no sperm and can't impregnate his wife, an Iranian man suffers an existential crisis.



SYNOPSIS

Borzoo, a failed playwright, is unable to find a proper ending to a play that he is writing based on his married life, which has almost reached the end of the line.

The problems between him and his one-time theatre-actress wife, Hilda, intensify when they become aware that they're not able to have a baby together.

Without Hilda being informed, Borzoo takes the necessary tests and discovers that he is suffering from male infertility.

If Hilda, who is tired of living with Borzoo, finds this out, it can be a good pretext for her to file for divorce, and if this happens, Borzoo feels that his exaggerated male pride will be undermined.

Things take a turn for the worse when Borzoo learns that an old flame of Hilda, Atabak, a theatre director, has returned to town from abroad and is casting her in his latest show.

Jealous, Borzoo is now determined on how to finish his play.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Kiarash Anvari

The Pot and The Oak is a depiction of my own personal doubts and fears, fear of mental, intellectual and spiritual sterility.

Our fears and doubts are created by our living conditions and they can have comic and tragic effects on a person's life, often both simultaneously. It is our doubts that form our fears and eventually dictate our actions.

In The Pot and The Oak, my main character tries to ignore his infertility and prolong his misery in any way that he can, just so that he does not have to face the "unknown", what he is most afraid of.



He knows the truth but is incapable of bringing about the changes that the truth requires.

We are free, as Blaise Pascal says, only in choosing our first choice. We can choose between choosing and not choosing, but if we choose choosing, we must act according to the logic of our choice till the end.

In that light, The Pot and The Oak is a tragicomedy in which a tragic character finds himself in a comical and absurd state of affairs that its conclusion depends on his choice.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

KIARASH ANVARI (Director & Writer)

Born in 1977 in Tehran, Iran, Kiarash Anvari began his career in late 90's, when he started to create and produce short films, documentaries and video art pieces.

His works have been exhibited in different film festivals and cultural venues around the world such as Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Arts in the Netherlands and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes in France.



In 2004, he was selected to be a Berlinale Talent Campus alumnus, also participated in the Berlin Academy of Arts (Akademie der Künste) Young Artist Residency Program where some of his short films were showcased and discussed.

He graduated with a BA in Film & Television Production from Soureh University of Tehran. He also holds an MA in Film Studies from University of Provence (Aix-Marseille I).

[Link to IMDB](#)

Cast

Banipal Shoomoon ("**Borzoo**")

Sadaf Foroughi ("**Hilda**")

Mehran Nael ("**Atabak**")

Mahvash Afsharpanah ("**Mother**")

Bahareh Riahi ("**Fereshteh**")

Mahan Khorshidi ("**Hamid**")

Director: Kiarash Anvari

Writer: Kiarash Anvari - Sadaf Foroughi

Director of Photography: Sina Kermanizadeh

Editor: Emad Khodabakhsh

Music: J. S. Bach - J. Haydn - Navid Afghah - A. Mehrpouya

Sound Recordist: Mohammad Sheyvandi

Sound Design & Mixing: Arash Ghasemi

Set & Costume designer: Leila Naghdi Pari

Production Manager: Mehdi Barzegar

Producer: Kiarash Anvari - Majid Barzegar

Production Company: Sweet Delight Pictures

Delivery Format: DCP 2K / **Aspect Ratio:** 1:2,39

Sound: Surround 5.1

Persian / 2016 / 72 min

