



## Synopsis

In rural Azerbaijan, a mother welcomes her adult son, who left home eight years earlier. In the calm rhythm of rural life, reflective silences punctuate their personal, philosophical conversations.





#### Director's statement

I am 32 years old. It is hard to write an opinion anymore. I am ashamed to express my opinion, and often I joke and laugh. I've already lost the difference between any of the spoken words or ideas. Nothing touches me, nor does it excite me. Maybe my heart died. I don't know.

This is what I am writing today. When I was shooting this movie, I was 26 years old. I was very excited, I was thinking, trying to do something, even though I was hopeless, deep inside me there was always a hope. I was comfortable in dirty places. At that time, my mother was the only one I loved. Still she is. Until the end of my life I wanted to make the same movies, mother and son movies. Making movies was another name of living for me. I was not ashamed of having a strange nature. Far from all the terms we know, I was trying to reach pure and innocent feelings. I was hopeful and very hopeful. I was young. I'm not a young anymore.





## Biography Hilal Baydarov

Hilal Baydarov was born in 1987 in Baku, Azerbaijan. During his high school years, he won the national championships of mathematics twice in 2004 and 2005. In 2011 he leads the Azeri team at the informatics olympiad in Thailand.

After a master in computer sciences, he left for Sarajevo to study film directing with Bela Tarr. His debut feature film "Hills without Names" was premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival in 2018, the same year he won the Docu Talent award at Sarajevo Film Festival for his film "Birthday".

"When the Persimmons Grew" is Baydarov's fourth feature film. It received the Interreligous Award and a Special Jury Mention when it premiered in competition at the 2019 Visions du réel film festival in Nyon and won the Heart of Sarajevo for Best Documentary at the Sarajevo Film Festival.

"Mother and Son" is his fifth feature film that will premiere in competition in IDFA.

#### Filmography:

- 2019 Mother and Son
- 2019 When the Persimmons Grew
- 2018 Hills Without Names
- 2018 Birthday
- 2018 One Day in Selimpasha



# Mother and Son (Azerbaijan, 2019)

**Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Writer & Editor** Hilal Baydarov

**Production** Ucqar Film

Technical Details Length: 119 min Format: 16:9 Letterboxed Language: Azerbaijani Subtitles: English

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