

SYNOPSIS



Ayse (**Meryem Uzerli**) returns from Berlin, where she had been living, to her family home in the eastern wilderness of Turkey's Black Sea region to see her ailing mother, Cemile (**Sennur Nogaylar**). It is Cemile's dying

wish that Ayse stays to take care of the family business – beekeeping. This is not something Ayse wants to do. She prefers her city life, knows nothing about beekeeping and is actually terrified of bees.

However, she agrees to stay on – for a while. She has a problem with her sister Mine (**Burcu Salihoglu**) who is jealous of her. The two sisters barely speak.

Under the guidance of the family beekeeper Ahmet (**Hakan Karsak**) she overcomes her fears and gradually learns the craft. The Caucasian species that is predominant in the area is also fragile, so she introduces a more robust English queen bee, to the vehement disagreement of Ahmet. One night a bear attacks the colony, destroying many of the hives. The bear returns a second night, destroying more hives. When the bear comes back for a third time Ayse is ready for it and shoots it. But bears are a protected species and her act is illegal. When Ilker (**Feyyaz Duman**), who works for the local government learns of this he is terribly upset. He has followed this bear for years and considers this his life's work.

But things get worse. As Ahmet had warned, the two species cannot co-exist. Ayse returns to the bee farm to find there has been a war. Half of the bees are dead. The rest have flown away. They have left empty hives and generations of the family business with no honey to sell – honey that had long been considered the best in the region.



Realizing that she has messed everything up, Ayse visits Ilker in his office. This is a man with whom she has developed a friendship, perhaps something more. She confesses that she killed the bear.

Knowing there is nothing more for her in this remote village she packs her bag and drives off for the airport. But something makes her turn around and finds, to everyone's astonishment, bees have returned. As Ilke later says, "Beekeepers do not choose the bees. It is the bees who choose the beekeeper."

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Ayse returns to her hometown in northeastern Turkey to nurse her gravely ill mother. Before she dies, Ayse's mother leaves Ayse her much loved beehives to manage. There are soon problems as she starts to work with the local beekeeper. Furthermore, a bear becomes a real threat to her hives and her life. Can Ayse overcome her fear of bees and even greater fear of the marauding bear? And will she save the remaining hives?



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Hive (Kovan) is inspired by a woman I met in a documentary series I was directing about "urban farmers." Increasing numbers of people are leaving big cities to live



in nature. Urban farmers believe they can somehow find a utopia in nature. Locals who live with nature for generations know that the modern individual doesn't know the essence of nature. In fact, the individual often becomes an outcast in the countryside. She can only survive if she listens to what nature has to tell. With increasing urbanization, as bears start to lose their natural food resources, they often approach

human settlements. The critter cam technology enabled me to explore the point of view of the bear. Through critter cam I had the opportunity to look at our main character in the role of a modern killer and explore our own nature through the eyes of our "other."

Working with bears and bees was dangerous and we always had to be careful when around them. We worked in a bear sanctuary in the middle of a forest. There were about 100 wild bears and they could attack at any time. They did know their keepers but as for the rest of us... The bees were even more dangerous. Many of our crew members were stung, sometimes several times in one scene. Filming in the rain, fog and then



bright sunshine, presented us with lighting difficulties, but ultimately the changing weather brought great visual depth, so it was all worth it.

Hive

(Kovan)

CAST

Meryem Uzerli	Ayse
Feyyaz Duman	Ilker
Burcu Salihoglu	Mine
Sennur Nogaylat	Cemile
Hakan Karsak	Ahmet

CREW

Eylem Kaftan	Writer/Director/Producer
Canol Balkaya	Producer
Mustafa Karadeniz	Producer
Meryem Uzerli	Executive Producer
Serdar Ünlütürk	Director of Photography
Erkan Erdem	Editor
Emir Ersoy	Soundtrack Composer



ABOUT THE FILM

Hive, Eylem Kaftan's first feature film, is about a female beekeeper's struggle with bees and a bear in the wild nature of the eastern black sea region of Turkey. It is a unique film with a strong auteur vision about our relationship with nature, based on the true story of a female beekeeper who had to kill a bear to protect her hives. Kaftan met the woman during her visit to the area to work on a documentary series about "urban farmers."



The film was shot on the foggy mountains of Artvin, the amazing and intriguing scenery which provided the perfect backdrop for this story to be told. The lead actress is Meryem Uzerli, who is one of the most well-known stars in Turkey and the Middle East, with her role in the television series *Magnificent Century*.



Hive was made by a female filmmaker, featuring a strong female character who learns harsh lessons from mother nature. It is one of the most comprehensive films made about the world of bees, a matriarchal

world and on which the ecosystem depends. It questions the role of human beings in our planet, the only species which destroys nature.

Hive has won awards in many international festivals in the pitching and development stage, such as Mojo Postproduction Awards in the Antalya film forum, Digiflame Post production award at the Bogazici film lab, Medianboard German-Turkish coproduction support and was finalist at Cinelink at the Sarajevo film festival. It was also in the trailer workshop of Meetings on the Bridge, Istanbul Film Festival. *Hive* won Best Editing at the Bosphorous International Film Festival and Best Director at the Malatya International Festival. Recently it won Best Cinematography at the Kayseri Film Festival. It is also in official competition in numerous international film festivals such as prestigious Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the Fribourg International Film Festival and the Zurich International Film Festival.

MERYEM UZERLI

(Ayse)

Executive Producer



Meryem was born in 1983, Kassel, Germany and moved to Hamburg to complete her education and acting training in The Acting Studio Frese, before she moved to Berlin to continue her theater career. She acted in plays by Shakespeare, Brecht, Goldoni and Büchner. She has starred in many successful projects in Turkey and Europe, especially gained international popularity with the TV show *Magnificent Century*, which has been shown in more than 80 countries, including the entire Middle East, Russia, South America, the Balkan countries, Iran and Pakistan.

Famous for the variety of looks and depth of her characters, most notably in movies like *The Other Side*, *My Mother's Wound* and now *Hive*, she has begun to build success in her additional role as an executive producer.

She has become the face of several commercial brands and has just opened up the first of hopefully many more shops about healthy snacking called NOSH NOSH in Berlin. Furthermore, she volunteers her time to support organizations in the battle against child abuse and those who fight for gender equality.

AWARDS:

2020

- Cana Dorada Film Festival
- Best Movie Actress International

2016

- 7th Annual Beirut International Awards Festival
- Best International Actress

2013

- Turkish Antalya Television Awards
- Best Drama Actress
- Star University Istanbul
- Most Popular Series Actress 2013

2012

- GQ Turkey Woman of the Year
- Star University Istanbul

- Most Popular Series Actress 2012

- Best of The Year
- Best Actress
- Golden MDG Award
- Best Drama Lead Turkey
- Istanbul Culture Award
- Best Series Actress - Category Drama
- Golden Butterfly Award
- Woman of the Year

2011

- Golden Butterfly Award
- Special Prize
- TV Stars Award
- Best Actress
- Tüketici Academy Award
- Best Female Lead
- Silver Horse Award
- Best Actress

2010

- International Golden Orange Film Festival
- Special Prize

FEYYAZ DUMAN

(Ilker)



Feyyaz Duman was born in Mardin in 1982. After completing his education at Istanbul Technical University State Conservatory Folk Dance Department, he studied acting in New York, where he remained for five years, before returning to Turkey. He received the best actor award at the 51st International Golden Orange Film Festival for his film *Song of My Mother*. Feyyaz, who appeared on television screens for the first time with the TV series *İçerde* in 2016, has now played the character of Arif for three seasons in the Women's series from Fox. Nowadays, he plays the character of Nazım in the leading role in the *Dam* from Fox TV.

TELEVISION SERIES AND MOTION PICTURES:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2020: <i>Dam</i> (TV Series) | 2014: <i>Song of my Mother</i> (Motion Picture) |
| 2017-2019: <i>Woman</i> (TV Series) | 2014: <i>Mardan</i> (Motion Picture) |
| 2017: <i>Inside</i> (TV Series) | 2013: <i>My Sweet Pepper Land</i> (Motion Picture) |
| 2016: <i>Zagros</i> (Motion Picture) | 2010: <i>If You Die, I Will Kill</i> (Motion Picture) |
| 2016: <i>A Difficult Decision</i> (Motion Picture) | 2001: <i>Big Man, Little Love</i> (Motion Picture) |
| 2015: <i>House Without Roof</i> (Motion Picture) | 2001: <i>Photography</i> (Motion Picture) |

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:

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|--|---|
| 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duhok International Film Festival Best Actor - <i>Zagros</i> | 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duhok International Film Festival Best Actor - <i>Song of My Mother</i>• Mons International love Film Festival Best Actor - <i>Song of My Mother</i> |
| 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dubai International Film Festival Best Actor (Nominee) - <i>Zagros</i> | 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarajevo Film Festival Best Actor - <i>Song of My Mother</i>• Golden Orange Film Festival Best Actor - <i>Song of My Mother</i> |

HAKAN KARSAK

(Ahmet)



Hakan Karsak was born on April 1, 1975 in Diyarbakir, Turkey. He is an award-winning actor, known for *Butterflies* (2018), (Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival), *Sardunya*, *Country Road* (2013) and *Eskiya Dünyaya Hükümdar Olmaz* (2015).

BURCU SALIHOGLU

(Mine)

Burcu Salihoğlu received her BA in Psychology at Karadeniz Technical University in 1997 and a BA in Acting at Ankara University in 2001. Since 2008, Burcu has been working as an instructor at İstanbul Aydın University, at the Drama and Acting Program. Also, since 2012, she has been a director in a variety of theatre groups including İART and her directing credits include plays by Anton Chechov, William Shakespeare, Maxim Gorki, and Arthur Miller. Between 2001 and 2010, she also worked as an actress at the National Theatre of İstanbul and Kocaeli.

Her television and motion picture roles include *Wild Heart*, *Hayat Bağları*, *Hayat Yolunda*, *Keşanlı Ali Destanı*. Her first movie appearance as an actress was in *The Fall of Abdulhamit* in 2002, where she played a singer in Greek and Anatolian music. Since then, she acted in popular movies including *72*, *Koğuş*, *İlkbahar Sonbahar*, *Kötü Çocuk* and *İncir Çekirdeği*. Her role as a criminal in *72. Koğuş* was particularly challenging, the process inspiring her to also train to become an acting coach. Since 2009, she has also been working as a coach in some of the movie projects, including *Hive*.



EYLEM KAFTAN

Writer/Director/Producer



Born in Turkey, Kaftan completed a B.A. in Philosophy at Bosphorous University in Istanbul. She completed her M.A in film and video at York University (Canada) in 2002. Her first documentary, *Faultlines*, investigates the aftermath of the earthquake which hit Turkey in 1999. Kaftan then wrote and directed *Vendetta Song* (2005) produced in co-production with the National Film Board of Canada. This gripping hour-long documentary about her personal journey into the honor-killing of her aunt in a small village in Turkey has received several awards including CIDA Prize for Best Canadian Documentary on International Development at Hot Docs; the Quebec Film Critics Association Award for Best Medium Length Documentary; Best Documentary, Calgary International festival and Best Documentary, Female Eye Film Festival. Kaftan produced and directed several documentaries for Al Jazeera English. They include *The Passion and Penalty*, a film about the match fixing scandal in Turkish football and *Sarajevo, My Love*, a film about a Serbian general who defended Sarajevo during the siege of the city.

EYLEM KAFTAN

(Continued)

FILMOGRAPHY:

2019

- *Hive* (93 min) Director, Writer (TRT, Minister of Culture)

2016

- *Rabia hospital massacre* (44 min) Director/Writer (Al Jazeera English)

2015

- *The Emptiness in Me* (60 min) Director, Writer (TRT Documentary)

2015

- *A Farm* (documentary series, 26 min) Director/Presenter (TRT Documentary)

2013

- *Seeing isn't Everything* (44 min) Director/Writer/Producer (Al Jazeera English)

2013

- *Sarajevo, My Love* (44 min) Director/Writer/Producer (Al Jazeera English)

2012

- *The Passion and the Penalty*, (44 min) Director/Writer/Producer (Al Jazeera English)

2010

- *Dreamcatchers*, (22 min X4) Director/Writer (Al Jazeera documentary)

2006

- *Bledi, This is Our Home*, (52 min), Co-director, Co-writer, Productions Multi-Monde (Tele Quebec)

2005

- *Vendetta Song* (52 min), Director/Writer/Researcher, National Film Board of Canada

2002

- *Faultlines* (52 min) Director/Producer/Writer

AWARDS

Hive

- Best Director, Malatya International Film Festival
- Best Editing, Bosphorous Film Festival
- Best Cinematography, Kayseri International Film Festival
- Medianboard Turkish German Coproduction Development Fund
- Digiflame Post Production Award-Bosphorous Film Lab
- Mojo Award-Antalya Film Forum

Vendetta Song

- Canada-Quebec Critics' Association (AQCC) 2005 Best Documentary
- Canada International Development (CIDA) 2005 Best Documentary
- Canada-Female Eye Film Festival 2005 Best Documentary
- Canada-Calgary International Film Festival 2005 Best Documentary
- Canada-Hot Docs International Documentary Festival Audience pick
- Italy-Torino International Film Festival, Italy-Silver Award
- USA-Columbus International Film Festival, Bronze

CANOL BALKAYA

Producer

After graduating from Marmara University Fine Art-Sculptor department he continued his education at the Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature and completed Masters in Communication and Cinema department at NYT (New York Institute Technology).



He has been invited as a guest artist to various international festivals for his unique work in contemporary art. He has opened five solo exhibitions — two in Ankara, one in Istanbul, The Hague and New York. He curated several exhibitions such as *Contemporary Solutions Den Haag* in Holland. *Legal Lynch* in Istanbul. *Missing Code in Communications*, Istanbul and *Vitrin*, International Ankara Film Festival. He received development support for his feature film *Bearing* from the Turkish Ministry of Culture. He published his first book in 2013 titled *Bazen Sometimes*. His second book published in 2019 was *Kompartiman*.

Balkaya has also worked as director, producer and coordinator for various international films. He is the owner of Caba productions which made *Hive* as its first feature movie. Caba Productions is based on Ankara and Istanbul. The company is committed to making international films. It will work with well-known directors and emerging talents, defending a strong collaboration between art and cinema without borders.

FILMOGRAPHY: AS DIRECTOR

1999

- *Motionless in the Speed* (Video-art, Director)

2000

- *To Buy the World* (Video-art, Director)
- *Every Identity can Change* (Video-art, Director)

2003

- *Transvestiive Crowd* (Documentary, Director)

2005

- *1000 and 1 Nights Stories* (Docu-Drama, Director)

2010

- *Alliya* (Documentary, Director)

2007

- *Forbidden Letters* (Short, Director)

2014

- *Bearing* (Scriptwriter)

2015

- *Passenger* (Short, Director)

FILMOGRAPHY: AS PRODUCER

2012

- *Argo*, Directed by Ben Affleck (Coordinator)

2013

- *Crossroads*, Directed by Faysal Soysal (Producer)

2019

- *Hive*, Writer and Director Eylem Kaftan
- *Ali's Nature*, Director Levent Metin

MUSTAFA KARADENİZ

Producer



Mustafa Karadeniz has worked as a producer/director in many feature films, series, music videos and commercials. He has worked as a producer and director in over 180 music videos, over 80 commercials, and six feature films. He was the director and scriptwriter of *Planetree*, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture General Directorate of Cinema and TRT.

FILMOGRAPHY:

- 2017**
- *Planetree* (Screenwriter-Director)
- 2018**
- *Babamin Ceketini* (Producer)
- 2019**
- *Hive* (Producer)
- *Sigh* (Producer)
- 2020**
- *Bembeyaz* (Producer)
- *Like Cranes* (Producer)
- 2021**
- *Snow and The Bear*

AWARDS:

Antalya Film Festival
Behlül Dal Jury Special Award
Malatya Film Festival
Kemal Sunal Public Jury Best Film
Shaken Aymanov International Film Festival
Best Screenplay

SERDAR ÜNLÜTÜRK

Director of Photography

Serdar Ünlütürk, born in İstanbul, started his career as a gaffer in 1996, becoming a cinematographer in 2011. As a gaffer, he worked on many successful films and commercials. His first film, *A Holyday* brought him a Best Cinematography nomination at the Golden Orange Film Festival in 2013. Also the film



won the Best Film award. In *Groom's Block*, he tells the prison story with good framing and atmosphere because of his thoughtful technical choices, *Groom's Block* was the cover of British broadcast magazine *Dark Matter*. The film received awards from

the Harlem and Sofia Film Festivals. The short film (German,Türkish co-production) *And Me* brought him the Best Cinematography award at the Hollywood Film Festival. *And Me* won six more awards. For *Hive* he won the Golden Sycamore Award from the Kayseri Film Festival.

EMIR ERSOY

Original Soundtrack Composer



Emir Ersoy, the son of Metin Ersoy known as the Calypso King, was surrounded with piano music throughout his childhood. He started his professional musical career during his early school years with his father on stage and did various successful job as a pianist, producer and music arranger. He played on stage with Grammy Award winners such as Giovanni Hidalgo, Robby Ameen, Amik Guerra, Bob Franceschini, Nick Kadajski, Eylem Pelit, Volkan Oktem, Şenova Ülker, Aycan Teztel, Alain Perez and Isaac Delgado.

Emir toured the United States for his "Cuban Portrait" album with Robby Ameen, Bob Franceschini, Eylem Pelit and Nick Kadajski. On his return, he gave an unforgettable concert in the İstanbul CRR Concert Hall with the world number one percussionist, Grammy Award Winner Giovanni Hidalgo,

Currently, he continues to give concerts with his Emir Ersoy Orchestra and Quartera and to work on his new albums.

