

**SEABURNERS**

**Original Title:** Kumun Tadı  
**English Title:** Seaburners  
**Year:** 2014  
**Duration:** 89 min.  
**Countries of Production:** Turkey  
**Language:** Turkish, English  
**Screening Format:** DCP (English subtitles) 1:1.85 in color

**Director:** Melisa Önel  
**Script:** Feride Çiçekođlu, Melisa Önel

**Cast:**

Mira Furlan (*Denise*)  
Timuçin Esen (*Hamit*)  
Ahmet Rifat Şungar (*Mehmet*)  
Mustafa Uzunyılmaz (*Ali*)  
Sanem Öge (*Basima*)  
Edanur Tekin (*Sonya*)  
Hakan Karsak (*Fehmi*)  
Selen Uçer (*Selda*)

**Producers:** Yamaç Okur, Aslı Erdem, Melisa Önel  
**Co-Producer:** M. Çağatay Tosun  
**Cinematographers:** Julian Atanassov, Meryem Yavuz  
**Art Director:** İsmail Durmaz  
**Editing:** Özcan Vardar  
**Music:** Erdem Helvaciođlu  
**Sound Design:** Umut Şenyol  
**Sound Recorder:** Petar Krlev, Fatih Aydođdu  
**Colorist:** Yiannis Zaharoyiannis  
**VFX:** Ippokratis Chales  
**Casting:** Ezgi Baltaş  
**Associate Producer:** İpek Kent

**Production Company:** Bulut Film, Yedi Film, Melisa Fatma Önel Tecimen

**World Premiere:** 64<sup>th</sup> Berlin Film Festival Forum (2014)  
**National Premiere:** 33<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Film Festival (2014)  
**World Sales:** Bulut Film  
**E-Mail:** info@bulutfilm.com

## SYNOPSIS

Between Istanbul's sordid neighbourhoods and a destitute border village, close to the city, Hamit, drives back and forth. He works for Ali, a charcoal dealer-cum-human trafficker, carrying charcoal one way and illegal immigrants the other way. Young and meek Mehmet helps the two in their dealings and is usually torn between them during their power struggles. Hamit feels stuck in this desolate village. Being subordinate to Ali and sharing a rundown room with Mehmet is not what he had expected from life. Once, he himself tried to escape, but failed to achieve the 'dream life', which intensifies his frustration. His only comfort is an older woman, Denise, a foreign botanist who works at the local research centre. They meet secretly in a cottage by the sea and make love to the crashing sound of the waves. Denise suspects Hamit but doesn't ask, and Hamit doesn't tell much anyway. But the sea is unforgiving and pressure builds up as a new group of refugees arrive and are unable to leave the village. Their relationship sways just like plants do in the harsh wind of the coast. And then, on a stormy night, Hamit decides to change his destiny.

## BIOGRAPHY of the DIRECTOR

Melisa Önel was born in Izmir in 1980. After studying International Relations at Tufts University, she completed her Master's degree in Film Studies at Istanbul Bilgi University. A filmmaker and a photographer, Önel is a member of the photographers' initiative RecCollective. In the past two years, her work has been exhibited in many international exhibitions including "Uncanny Encounters" (Istanbul Modern Art Museum 2011), Photomed (Sanary, France, 2011), "Not a Lens But a Prism" (Portugal, 2010), "Women Who Run with the Wolves" (Stimultania Gallery, Turkish artists in Strasbourg, 2009). Her first short film *Omega Fox* (2007) was selected to the Hisar Short Film Selection, a collection of the ten best short films of the year in Turkey. Her medium length documentary *Me and Nuri Bala* (2009) received Best First Documentary award at the 46th Antalya Film Festival. *Seaburners* is her first feature film.

## FILMOGRAPHY of the DIRECTOR

- \* Me and Nuri Bala (Ben ve Nuri Bala, 2009, 42 min.)
- \* Omega Fox (Omega Tilki, 2007, 14 min.)

## ABOUT THE DELEGATE PRODUCER BULUT FILM

Founded in 2007 by producers; Yamaç Okur, Nadir Öperli, Enis Köstepen and director Seyfi Teoman. Bulut Film aims to produce films loyal to the director's artistic vision, and is interested in fresh styles and experimental narratives. The company develops its own projects, is involved in co-productions, and also provides production services for international productions. Their films include Seyfi Teoman's *Summer Book* (Nomination for European Film Awards Discovery Section, 2008), *Dark Cloud* (Toronto 2010), Seyfi Teoman's *Our Grand Despair* (Berlinale Competition 2011), Emin Alper's award winning first feature *Beyond the Hill* (Berlinale Forum 2012, winner of Caligari Film Prize, and Best Film in Asia Pacific Screen Awards), Aslı Özge's *Lifelong* (Berlinale Panorama 2013), Zeynep Dadak and Merve Kayan's debut feature *The Blue Wave* (Berlinale Generation 2014) and Melisa Önel's debut feature *Seaburners* (Berlinale Forum 2014).

Bulut Film producers; Nadir Operli is an ACE producer, Enis Kostepen is an EAVE producer and Yamac Okur serves as the vice-president of Film Producers' Association of Turkey.

**IMDB:** <http://www.imdb.com/company/co0230818>

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**Web:** [www.bulutfilm.com](http://www.bulutfilm.com)

## FILMOGRAPHY

2014 Seaburners (Kumun Tadı) by Melisa Onel

2013 The Blue Wave (Mavi Dalga) by Zeynep Dadak and Merve Kayan

2013 Lifelong (Hayatboyu) by Aslı Özge

2012 Beyond the Hill (Tepenin Ardi) by Emin Alper

2012 In Flames (Yangın Var) by Murat Saraçoğlu (co-producer)

2011 Our Grand Despair (Bizim Büyük Çaresizliğimiz) by Seyfi Teoman

2009 Dark Cloud (Bahtı Kara) by Theron Patterson

2009 On the Way to School (İki Dil Bir Bavul) by Orhan ESKİKÖY & Özgür Doğan (co-producer)

2008 Summer Book (Tatil Kitabı) by Seyfi Teoman