

40 DAYS OF SILENCE

A film by Saodat Ismailova Uzbek with English Subtitles 100 min, 35 mm. Uzbekistan

www.volyafilms.com wwww.rohfilmverleih.de www.mapproductions.org Production:
Volya Films (Netherlands),
Atopic Films (France),
Rohfilm (Germany),
Map Productions (Uzbekistan)
with support from: Fonds Sud (France),
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Producers: Denis Vaslin, Antoine Segovia,

Benny Drecshel.

SYNOPSIS

Bibicha a young woman conceals herself in a vow of silence in the house of her grandmother Khanjarmomo, who lives with her illegitimate granddaughter Sharifa. Khaniarmomo doubts Bibicha reasons. Is she vowing for the return of her beloved mysteriously disappeared? or is she hiding an illicit pregnancy? During her vow. Bibicha is challenged by the sudden arrival of Khamida the mother of Sharifa who comes back to the village after years of absence. Bibicha sees in Khamida her possible future. This encounter brings back to life the past and future of this family of women whose destinies seem to repeat from generation to generation in an emotional curse. Bibicha will witness the awakening of her womanhood. Khanjarmomo will finally make peace with her past and will try to reconstruct her broken family, marrying Khamida to her dead lover in order to finally legitimate Sharifa.

During these 40 days all these women will come to means with their destinies.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"40 days of silence" is a story about women confronting crucial decisions: motherhood, the weight of tradition, homeland, freedom of emotional expression, religion or self-destruction in modern society. The characters are drawn from close people, whose lives and stories have inspired and animate the four characters that represent my vision of Uzbek women from past to present. Bibicha the main character is the silent mirror that reflects and exorcizes all these intimate stories to come out.

Aside from women's issues, I want to explore the idea of identity loss, of deep human reevaluation and transformation in a society deeply rooted in Islam, a society that was reshaped by communism and has recently become independent.

How all these changes is reflected in female destinies, in their souls.

This film pretends to unveil and present an intimate portrait of four women from four different generations, with different visions of life.







