

KINO LORBER  
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presents

# A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT

a film by ANA LILY AMIRPOUR

Official Selection – Sundance Film Festival 2014

*2014 / 99 minutes / Color / in Farsi with English subtitles*

A Kino Lorber Release

Kino Lorber, Inc.  
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## SYNOPSIS

Strange things are afoot in Bad City. The Iranian ghost town, home to prostitutes, junkies, pimps, and other sordid souls, is a place that reeks of death and hopelessness, where a lonely vampire is stalking the towns' most unsavory inhabitants. But when boy meets girl, an unusual love story begins to blossom...blood red.

The first Iranian Vampire Western, Ana Lily Amirpour's debut feature basks in the sheer pleasure of pulp. A joyful mash-up of genre, archetype and iconography, its prolific influences span spaghetti westerns, graphic novels, horror films, and the Iranian New Wave. Amped by a mix of Iranian rock, techno and Morricone-inspired riffs, its airy, anamorphic, black-and-white aesthetic and artfully drawn-out scenes combine the simmering tension of Sergio Leone with the weird surrealism of David Lynch.

## CREDITS

Written and Directed by Ana Lily Amirpour  
Produced by Sina Sayyah, Justin Beganud, and Ana Lily Amirpour  
Co-Producer – Sheri “Shahzad” Davani  
Executive Producers – Elijah Wood, Daniel Noah, Josh C. Waller, Nick Mocerri,  
Ben Conrad, Alexei Tylevich, Reza Sixo Safai, Daniel Grove, Patrick Grove  
Editor – Alex O'Flinn  
Production Designer – Sergio De La Vega  
Director of Photography – Lyle Vincent  
Costume Designer – Natalie O'Brien  
Key Makeup Artist – Jill Fogel  
Music by – Federale, Radio Tehran, Bei Ru, Farah, White Lies,  
Kiosk, Free Electric Band, Dariush

In Association with Spectrevisions, Logan Pictures, Black Light District and Say Ahh Productions

## CAST

The Girl - Sheila Vand  
Arash - Arash Marandi  
Atti - Mozhan Marnò  
Saeed - Dominic Rains  
The Street Urchin - Milad Eghbali  
Shaydah - Rome Shadanloo  
Hossein - Marshall Manesh  
The Rockabilly - Reza Sixo Safai

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## ANA LILY AMIRPOUR

Ana Lily made her first film at age 12- a horror movie starring guests of a slumber party. She has a varied background in the arts including painting, sculpting, and touring the nation as frontwoman of an indie rock band, before she eventually moved to Los Angeles to make films. Ana Lily's short films have played at festivals around the world including the Berlinale, BFI London, Edinburgh, IKFF Hamburg, Slamdance, Nashville, NYCIFF and Seoul Korea Children's Festival. Her 2011 short film PASHMALOO was acquired by Arté Television and in 2011 Ana Lily was one of five filmmakers chosen by the Berlinale to shoot a film, funded by the Medienboard in Germany. She spent 4 months in Berlin shooting A LITTLE SUICIDE, an intricate film that mixed stop-motion animation with live-action footage. The film was a nominee for the 2012 Berlin Today Awards. Ana Lily has participated in filmmaker programs like the Berlinale Talent Campus, FIND screenwriter and director Labs, Tribeca All Access, and FIND's Fast Track. She was the 2009 recipient of the Adrienne Shelly Fellowship in Screenwriting and 2008 grand prize winner of the Bluecat Screenwriting Award. A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night is Amirpour's debut feature film, making it's world premiere at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in the NEXT category. [www.analilyamirpour.com](http://www.analilyamirpour.com)

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It's like Sergio Leone and David Lynch had an Iranian rock 'n' roll baby, and then Nosferatu came and babysat for them. It's shot in black and white; it has a crazy awesome soundtrack and an incredible cast. I wanted to make an Iranian film, but the question was how? Since I obviously can't shoot in Iran, the solution became the invention of the entire film; I found a desolate, vacant oil-town in the desert of California which became the fictitious Iranian ghost-town Bad City, and suddenly there were no rules. I created my own universe, and made the rules. And the cast of characters are inspired by pop icons I love from the 50's all the way through the 90's, like James Dean, Sophia Loren, Ninja from Die Antwoord, and of course, the limitless possibilities of a Vampire. I wanted the look and feel to be timeless, and truly complete the mythical and surreal feeling of the story, so that's why I shot in black and white anamorphic; it gave us this graphic look, and the film suddenly became a truly genre-blending experience.

It's impossible to talk about making this film without talking about the music. Music has been a big part of my life; I was singer and bass player of a rock band for many years, and now love DJ'ing, so it's natural that music is also a vital part of this film. The soundtrack was very much a part of the design of the film, at the script level. Each song you hear was picked in advance, and the power of music is so massive that it leads the way in the filmmaking. It's the magic that transports a moment into another dimension.

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## **THE GIRL**

played by Sheila Vand

A lonely and quiet young girl wearing a full chador...why is she following the very bad men of BAD CITY...

Sheila Vand is a SAG award-winning actress and artist based in Los Angeles and New York. Vand was recently seen in Ben Affleck's Oscar®-winning film ARGO as Sahar, the Iranian housekeeper. Vand's recent stage credits include making her Broadway debut alongside Robin Williams in Pulitzer finalist "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo", and performing in Frank Zappa's "200 Motels". Vand is also the creator of experimental performance piece Sneaky Nietzsche, which was commissioned by LACMA in 2011. And she also has an ongoing collaboration with 2013 TED fellow Alexa Meade. Their photo series, MILK: What Will You Make of Me? has been featured in Huffington Post, Wired Magazine, Juxtapoz Magazine, and the 2013 TED Global Conference. MILK is currently on exhibit at Galerie Iva Kamm in Zurich, and at Artisphere in Arlington, VA.

## **THE PERSIAN JAMES DEAN**

played by Arash Marandi

He works hard and has a good sense of right and wrong...how can this last if he stays in BAD CITY?

Arash Marandi is an actor in film and theater from Hamburg, Germany. He graduated from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg, and has performed in many stage and theatrical productions. Last year he played the lead role in "Wie Um Friender", which won best short film at IKFF and played at many festivals internationally. Marandi speaks German, English and Farsi fluently.

## **THE GAMBLER**

played by Marshall Manesh

A drug addict and gambler, he's a typical product of BAD CITY. His addictions are eating him alive...

Marshall Manesh was born in Iran and started acting at the age of twelve in high school plays. He came to America in the mid '70s and joined the Persian Theater Group and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe for 8 years. His debut film was "True Lies" as Jamal Khaled, directed by James Cameron. He was also cast in "The Big Lebowski", directed by Joel and Ethan Coen in 1998 as a doctor. Marhsall has done more than 100 feature films, television projects, and more than 40 commercials. He had a recurring role on "Will & Grace" as Mr. Zamir, and on "How I Met Your Mother" as Ranjit.

## **THE PROSTITUTE**

played by Mozhan Marnò

She's seen the worst of men and will do whatever she has to to survive BAD CITY...

Mozhan Marnò's acting credits include the title character in THE STONING OF SORAYA M., TRAITOR, and CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR. She has made appearances on television shows as "The Mentalist", "Hung", and "Bones", and the upcoming season of "House of Cards". Theater credits include "9 Parts of Desire" (one woman show) at Berkeley Rep and The Geffen Playhouse and "Much Ado About Nothing" (Beatrice) at Shakespeare on the Sound. Her short film "Incoming", which she wrote and directed, has been screened at such festivals as LA Shorts Fest, Noor Film Festival and the

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NYC Downtown Shorts Fest. Marnó's first play, "When the Lights Went Out", had a mainstage production at New York Stage & Film, directed by Kate Whoriskey.

## **THE PIMP**

played by Dominic Rains

He's a drug dealer who keeps the underbelly of BAD CITY flourishing, and he wants the money you owe him...

This is Dominic Rains' second appearance at the Sundance Film Festival. The first was for his portrayal as the Mohawk sporting Muslim punk in Sundance's 2010 World Premiere of THE TAQWACORES. His performance led him to receive roles in the upcoming 'Jinn' trilogy films, the first of which will be released on April 4th, 2014 nationwide through Freestyle Releasing, as well as the current Sundance indie helmer, Ana Lily Amirpours' A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT. Dominic is a member of the award winning Elephant Theater Company where he spends most of his free time. He also recently produced his first film, STILL HERE, starring opposite Oscar® nominee Shohreh Aghdashloo and Emmy nominee Alan Rosenberg.

## **THE LITTLE BOY**

played by Milad Eghbali

He's only a child, but his destructive impulses could make him just another product of BAD CITY...

Milad Eghbali is a 7 year old singer and actor. Milad is the son of Dariush Eghbali, better known by his stage name Dariush is a world famous Iranian pop singer best known for his warm and plaintive bass voice heard in both ballads and political songs. Milad has performed live with his father for audiences of thousands, and he possesses a remarkable talent and presence at such a young age.

## **THE RICH GIRL**

played by Rome Shadanloo

Privileged and beautiful, this princess is itching for adventure in BAD CITY...

Rome is an actress and fine artist from Los Angeles. Rome has appeared on hit TV shows like "How I Met Your Mother" and "Entourage", and has appeared in feature films including COUGARS INC. starring Denise Richards, and most recently, the gritty drama 5TH & ALAMEDA. Shadanloo was born in Tehran, Iran and was raised in Los Angeles. While attending art school, Rome decided to pursue acting instead. The decision paid off as now she gets to do both. She also goes by the name "Rome Apple".

## **THE ROCKABILLY**

played by Reza Sixo Safai

He's the gay boy walking the streets of BAD CITY, even though no one seems to know he exists...

Reza was last seen at Sundance as the male lead in CIRCUMSTANCE, the 2011 Audience Award Winner of which the Huffington Post declared, "[Reza] deserves to be a frontrunner for Best Supporting Actor, for an Oscar." The film was bought by Participant Media and distributed by Road Side Attractions and went on to win key awards at OUTFEST, Rome International Film Fest, Madrid and New Fest playing all around the world to great acclaim with a Spirit Award nomination for Best Film. Since Reza's short film THE MARIO VALDEZ STORY took home 2nd place at Cannes, he has

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been a mainstay in the US indie film scene as both an actor and producer. Look for him in Alex Holdridge's upcoming MEET ME IN MONTENEGRO, as well as THEN WHAT, BOB? with Parviz Sayyad, and Brian Maguire's PREVERTERE.



### **THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**

When I was writing A GIRL WALK HOME ALONE AT NIGHT, a story with a Vampire, I had to answer the questions of who this Vampire was and is, and this meant writing her entire history. And when I did that, suddenly I had hundreds of years of stories in my hands. The movie is just a fraction of time in her existence, and I was so excited about the entire mythology of the world and its players, and the universe of A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT, that I decided to make it into a graphic novel as well. The first issue of the graphic novel is called "Death is the Answer", and it's being released concurrently with the premiere of the film.

- Ana Lily Amirpour

Produced by RADCO comics.

[www.radco.tv](http://www.radco.tv)