



NADİR SÖNMEZ

Actor - Writer - Director

Theatre - Performance - Film

Nadir Sönmez works as an actor, writer and director in theatre, performance and film projects.

He studied theatre at Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle University and acting at Paris Erik Satie Conservatory.

He had an MA on acting at Istanbul Kadir Has University. He wrote a master thesis on erotic aspects of the actor's voice. He is actually a PhD candidate at Istanbul University Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy Department.

In his theatre play *But*, a few sophisticated Turkish artists engage in an erotic, sarcastic and critical conversation, provoking the boundaries of professionalism and privacy; first in an audition room and then at a theatre backstage. The play premiered in 2019 on the occasion of Istanbul Fringe Festival.

In *Murder of the Male*, a digital project shared on WhatsApp in 2020, he remembers gay porn star Arpad Miklos's suicide in 2013 and performs a social autopsy. This autobiographical semi-fiction was transferred to the audience through text messages, voice recordings, Youtube links and sexy stickers.

In 2021, he wrote and directed his first short film *New Releases*, a sexual parody of European literature's way of dealing with refugee crisis.

He recently finished the post-production of *But*, his first feature film adapted from his theatre play.

BUT

2021, Feature Film

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Öner Erkan, Esmé Madra, İlda Özgürel, Nadir Sönmez, Emrah Özdemir,
Büşra Nur Albayrak



An ensemble of sophisticated Turkish artists engage in an erotic, sarcastic and dialectic conversation, provoking the boundaries of professionalism and privacy; first in an audition room and then at a theatre backstage in today's Istanbul.



NEW RELEASES

2021, Short Film

Writer and Director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Çisil Oğuz, Nadir Sönmez, Emrah Özdemir, İlda Özgürel



An unpublished writer wrote an erotic fiction, narrating the love affair between a Turkish woman and a Syrian refugee man. An editor reads passages from the draft and tries to convince the writer to publish it as a self-help book in Europe. Their conversation is a sexual parody of occidental literary glance at the refugee crisis.



"Öykü

How can I turn a novel into a self-help book?

Tan

Just let the story take place in Berlin instead of Istanbul. There are many Syrians there as well. The rest can remain the same. A Turkish female writer advising Europeans to make love with refugees... You have everything the market needs.

Öykü

I never dreamed of being a self-help writer when I was little.

Tan

I also didn't aim to make good futures for talented writers, while existing behind their shadows. As I lived, I accepted the flow of life.

Öykü

Who was the person you wanted to be?

Tan

I would like to be a good writer like you. But even I myself get bored reading what I have written.

Öykü

You seem too confident for someone who missed his life.

Tan

It's not easy to scare people who didn't achieve what they wanted."

MURDER OF THE MALE

2020, Performance on WhatsApp

Writer and performer: Nadir Sönmez

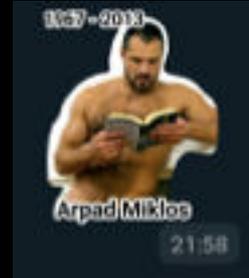
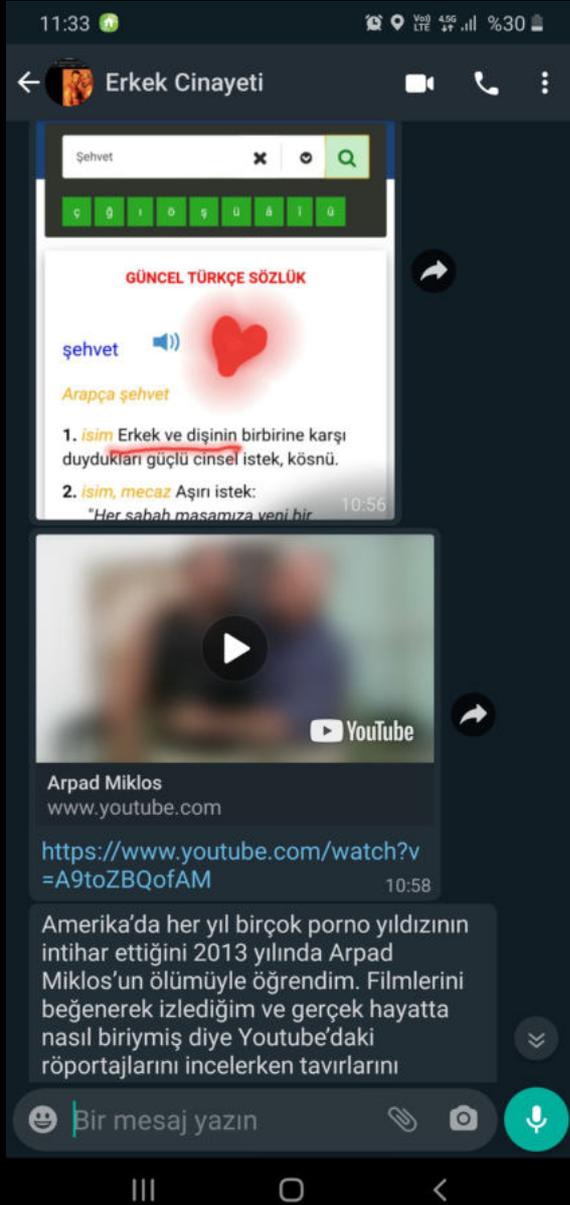
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A performance artist from Istanbul mourns the death of Arpad Miklos who committed suicide in New York. He performs a social autopsy to understand the famous porn star's decision to end his life and discovers that both he and some professionals from Turkish art institutions are involved in the case.



"I grew up sad for being gay. I automatically love Arpad Miklos just because he's a gay man. When I read the news about female pornstars committing suicide, that doesn't upset me as much as the deaths of some gay ones. This is why I apologize to straight people for not being able to care about them the way I do about Arpad Miklos."

BUT

2019, Theatre

Writer and Director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Öner Erkan, Esm  Madra, İlda Özgürel, Nadir Sönmez, Emrah Özdemir,
Büşra Nur Albayrak



Ama means but in English. AMA is a conversation piece about art, power, sex and role play in the Turkish intellectual scene. In four scenes, Nadir Sönmez creates a portrait of a small group of artists who examine their own profession with equal criticism and sarcasm, and overstep the boundaries between work and private life more than once. It's the dialogues that form the heart of the theatrical situation here and give Sönmez and his five fellow performers a witty and psychologically challenging model for a portrait of their own "caste" on stage. The purism of his production works like a magnifying glass on the game they play with feelings, art concepts and the perception of the self and other. Sönmez began writing AMA during the Me Too debate in Turkey. The "naval gazing" is therefore the artistic setting and a way of looking at society.

- Charlotte Orti, director of Fast Forward Theatre Festival in Dresden



"İlhan

Thank you for your consideration and kindness darling. Unfortunately, this is not good for me. I require the same thing from the others around me but this is not a healthy expectation. Everyone's got their own demons. They have to reflect them on someone and sometimes, that has to be me. I must put up with them, compromise, ignore. If I get used to you, it will be hard to accept my own friends and I will have no one but you around me. Create some problems.

Emel

Sorry. What did you say? I was captivated by your mouth.

İlhan

Don't sabotage my opinions.

Emel

You've got some amazing lips up there.

İlhan

Please.

Emel

So sexy.

İlhan

What do you want?

Emel

Kiss me.

İlhan

I've sent my pajamas to dry cleaning."

OK

2021, Staged Reading

Writer and Director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Çisil Oğuz, Meriç Aral, Nadir Sönmez



Beril is a gallery owner. She invites Tilbe, an artist, for a coffee to talk about an exhibition. They chat about the Istanbul art scene and personalities, projects and their private lives. Kürşat, a server at the café, comes to ask for their orders and remembers a place where he saw both of them. An underground party already bonded these people to each other.



LINKS

But - Movie Trailer

vimeo.com/545931762

Password: amafragman

But - Theatre - Recording of the play

<https://vimeo.com/653153734>

Password: ama2021

Ok - Recording of the play

vimeo.com/240378065

Password: olurtabi

New Releases - Short Movie

vimeo.com/570346669

Password: maher