

# SAF

written & directed by **ALİ VATANSEVER**







# SAF

**Terminal Film** in coproduction with **2Pilots Filmproduction** and **4 Proof Film** presents **SAF**

Turkey / Germany / Romania, 2018 / 102 min.

 **Terminal**   **2PILOTS**   **4 PROOF FILM**

Official Selection

**tiff**

Toronto International  
Film Festival 2018

saf \ sʌf \ 1. Pure. 2. Naive. 3. Foolish.




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## SYNOPSIS

The Fikirtepe district of Istanbul. Urban transformation is sweeping away the poor communities and Syrian refugees take shelter in deserted buildings. Kamil and his wife Remziye risk losing their home. Unemployed for a long time, Kamil, has no choice but to secretly accept a job on a construction site. Not only is he taking the job from a Syrian refugee, he's also working for the company that's destroying the area next door. Oppression and anxiety both in his neighborhood, where he fears discovery, and at work, where he's accepted the low wages paid to refugees, gradually transform him. When Kamil suddenly disappears, Remziye has to face the consequences of his actions, which do not fit the man she knows. But she will not give up.





A person is seen from behind, wearing a grey sweater and a bright orange safety vest. They are looking out over a city skyline at dusk or dawn. The sky is a pale, overcast grey. In the background, several city buildings are visible, some with lights on. A street lamp with three glowing white lights is prominent in the mid-ground. The overall mood is contemplative and urban.

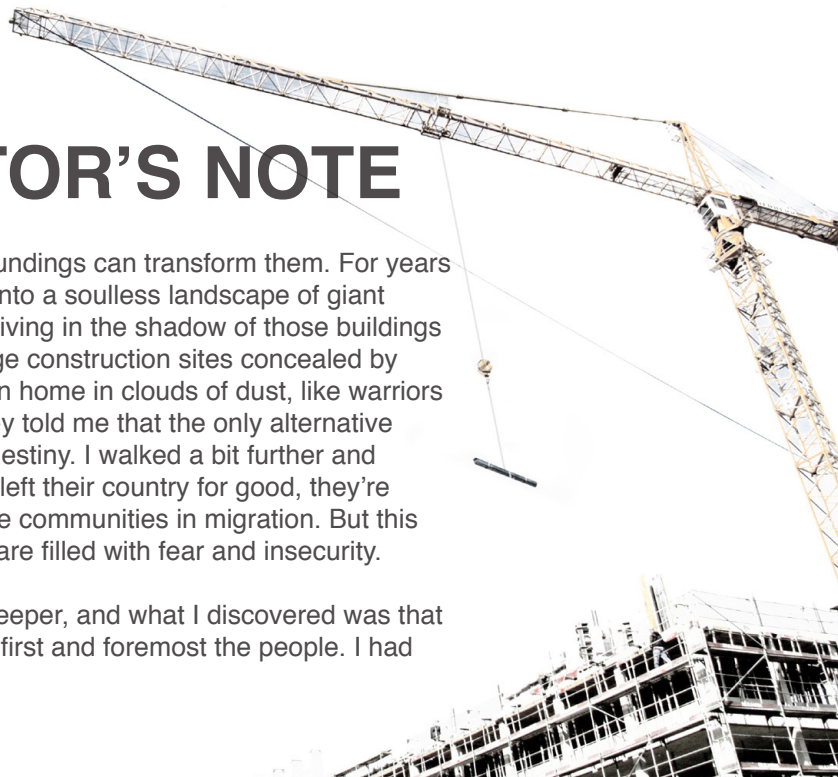
...what I discovered was that it's not simply the area that's being transformed, it's first and foremost the people. I had found my motive for making SAF...

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I've always been intrigued by how people's living surroundings can transform them. For years I passed by Fikirtepe, witnessing the shantytown turn into a soulless landscape of giant residential complexes. So I decided to investigate how living in the shadow of those buildings affects people. The first time I visited the area I saw huge construction sites concealed by metal panels. I saw people who lived next to them return home in clouds of dust, like warriors returning from the battlefield. When I talked to them they told me that the only alternative was to leave the area, to migrate, that this was simply destiny. I walked a bit further and met Syrian refugees living in vacated buildings. Having left their country for good, they're in the same situation as the local residents, i.e., both are communities in migration. But this common fate does not bring them together: the streets are filled with fear and insecurity.

This paradoxical situation in Fikirtepe made me dig deeper, and what I discovered was that it's not simply the area that's being transformed, it's first and foremost the people. I had found my motive for making SAF...



Can one remain a selfless,  
caring human being living  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This very environment makes its inhabitants face the evil within and come to terms with it, like we are turning evil by resisting against the status quo every day. By recounting the story of Kamil and Remziye, I am attempting to deal with my own monsters that lie within me.

Can one remain a selfless, caring human being living in a place full of fear and hatred? When the clouds have cleared, what will be left of our humanity? SAF reveals how we build prejudices against others while we turn a blind eye to our own failings. As the world becomes increasingly polarized, we as individuals are also becoming polarized with our prejudices, with our self-protectionism; we are completely losing touch with one another. Can the viewer simply leave Kamil behind and take up Remziye's cause? Can we dare to look at ourselves from a distance and ask ourselves if we can remain open, caring individuals while the world is becoming more uncaring, selfish, prejudiced every day? Is it some outside force causing the world to transform, or is it us?





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## ALİ VATANSEVER DIRECTOR

**A**li Vatansever was born in Istanbul in 1981. After studying Industrial Product Design and Film and TV in Istanbul, he completed his MFA degree in Film Production at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. In 2003, Ali started his film career by directing short films. He is currently pursuing his directing career with Terminal Film, a production company he co-founded. His debut feature, *El Yazısı* (One Day or Another, 2012) has been screened in various international festivals and distributed in movie theatres throughout Turkey. Aside from filmmaking, Ali teaches film at Koç University and works closely with NGOs on local democracy and governance.







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## TERMINAL FILM

**T**erminal Film is a creative production house based in Istanbul. Founded in 2008, its main focus is on producing quality, broad-based audiovisual projects for both international and local audiences and customers, primarily producing feature-length films. One Day or Another (2012), Terminal Film's first feature film production was written & directed by Ali Vatansever and premiered at both the Istanbul Film Festival and the Cairo International Film Festival. The film has also been shown in movie theatres across Turkey where it has been seen by over 50,000 persons. SAF, Ali Vatansever's second feature, provided with support by national funds and Eurimages, and will premier at the Toronto International Film Festival 2018 in the Discovery section.

**A**part from feature-length films, Terminal Film also produces high quality and niche audiovisual content for private customers. Terminal Film also supports civil society by providing video production services in the general public interest.







# SAF

## CAST & CREW

**With:** Saadet İşıl Aksoy, Erol Afşin,  
Onur Buldu, Ümmü Putgül, Kida Khodr Ramadan

**Director:** Ali Vatansever

**Screenplay:** Ali Vatansever

**Cinematography:** Tudor Vladimир Panduru

**Editing:** Evren Luş

**Sound:** Alexandru Dumitru

**Art Director:** Emre Yurtseven, Meral Efe Yurtseven

**Producers:** Selin Vatansever Tezcan, Oya Özden

**Co-Producers:** Harry Flöter, Jörg Siepmann, Anamaria Antoci

**With the support of:** Turkish Ministry of Culture, Eurimages,  
Film-und Medien Stiftung NRW

**Developed with the cooperation of:** Sources 2, Meetings on  
the Bridge, FilmTEEP, If Sundance Lab, Global Media Makers  
and Connecting Cottbus Co-Production Market



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 **Terminal**

**2PILOTS**

**4 PROOF FILM**