

Osama (2003)

Cast List

Osama	Marina Golbahari
Espandi	Arif Herati
Mother	Zubaida Sahar
Gol Rahman Ghorbandi	
Mohamad Haref Harati	
Mohamad Nader Khadjeh	
Khwaia Nader	
Hamida Refah	

Credits

Directed and written by	Siddiq Barmak
Producers	Siddiq Barmak, Julia Fraser, Julie LeBrocqy, Frank Mannion, Makoto Ueda
Original Music by	Mohammad Reza Darvishi
Cinematography by	Ebrahim Ghafori
Film editing by	Siddiq Barmak
Production design by	Akbar Meshkini
Sound Department	Faroukh Fadace, Behroz Shahamat

Plot Summary

A 12-year-old Afghan girl and her mother lose their jobs when the Taliban closes the hospital where they work. The Taliban have also forbidden women to leave their houses without a male "legal companion." With her husband and brother dead, killed in battle, there is no one left to support the family. Without being able to leave the house, the mother is left with nowhere to turn. Feeling that she has no other choice, she disguises her daughter as a boy. Now called 'Osama,' the girl embarks on a terrifying and confusing journey as she tries to keep the Taliban from finding out her true identity. Inspired by a true story, Osama is the first entirely Afghan film shot since the fall of the Taliban.

Awards for Osama

2003: Bratislava International Film Festival, Special Mention for direction, production and writing, Siddiq Barmak

2003: Bratislava International Film Festival, Nominated for Grand Prix, Siddiq Barmak

2003: Cannes Film Festival, AFCAE Award, Siddiq Barmak
2003: Cannes Film Festival, Award of the Youth, Foreign Film Siddiq Barmak
2003: Cannes Film Festival, Golden Camera – Special Mention, Siddiq Barmak
2003: Golden Globe, USA, Best Foreign Language Film Afghanistan
2004: Golden Satellite Awards, Best Motion Picture, Foreign Language, Afghanistan/Iran
2003: Kerala International Film Festival, Audience Award, Siddiq Barmak
2003: London Film Festival, Sutherland Trophy, Siddiq Barmak
2003: Molodist international Film Festival, Best Film Award, Best Full-Length Fiction Film, Siddiq Barmak
2003: Molodist international Film Festival, Best Young Actor Award, Marina Golbahari
2003: Pusan International Film Festival, New Currents Award – Special Mention, Siddiq Barmak
2003: Pusan International Film Festival, PSB Audience Award, Siddiq Barmak (Tied with *Seontaek*)
2003: Valladolid International Film Festival, Golden Spike, Siddiq Barmak (Tied with *Seontaek*)
2004: Young Artist Awards, Nominated for Young Artist Award, Best International Feature Film

Trivia for Osama

The actors in the film, all amateurs, are people of the city of Kabul. Siddiq Barmak found the main character, Marina Golbahari, on the streets of Kabul.