

My name is Mohammad Ranjbar

In 1986 I was born in a poor village in the Qarabagh district in the Ghazni province of Afghanistan.

When I became seven years old I went to school which was one and half hour way by foot. At that time there was no transportation for students available. During the time of Taliban regime I wanted to escape from Afghanistan but my family did not allow me to because I was still a small child.

My grandfather who is a Mullah had an old radio and he was often listening secretly to BBC radio programs. Every evening joining him listening to the program I became very interested in music which was banned from public life by the Taliban regime.

In 2005 when I graduated from school I participate in the Kankor examination (the final school examination) I decided to study arts at the University of Kabul.

After successfully passing the examination me and my classmates were living in a small hotel room in Kabul. At night we were going to the hotel lobby to watch Television. It was the first time in my life that I saw TV. Watching the movie "Titanic" on TV changed my life. At that night I decided to learn about cinema.

In 2006 I was accepted as a students of Fine Arts Faculty of the Kabul University. I chose cinema as a mayor. At that time studying cinema was not easy since we did not have any professional teacher and basically no equipment. For the whole department we had just one small camera which was reserved for students who were graduating. Later the situation improved and we had Afghan as well as foreign teachers coming to the university who gave workshops in photography, cinematography, documentary making, journalism and creative writing.

In 2008 during a 40 day workshop I made my first documentary. It was a film about a lonely man in Kabul who lost his whole family during the war. The "Lonely Man" won the first price at the competition of the students of Kabul University. The film was also nominate at the Slovakian student film festival.

The success of the film enabled me to make "Hidden Truth" a documentary for BBC Persian. The film tells the story of a man who was taken hostage by the Mujahiden during the war and was exceeded. Miraculously he survived but loosing his eyesight through the damage caused by the head shot he suffered.

Since 2009 I worked with the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Working there gave me the chance to make 3 new documentary every year. I also shot some short films like "Taxi" and "Who is Really Guilty?".

In 2010 I graduated from the arts faculty as a director and I made a short fiction film called "Hasina" which was nominated for a price at the Women's Voices Now From The Muslim World in Los Angeles, USA.

Later that year I worked as a documentary maker for a local TV station called Rahe Farda in Kabul. Since October 2010 I am working as a camera operator for ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) at IJC Kabul (International Joint Command). Our TV group produces public awareness TV spots and short films supporting security and economic development of our country.

"Jealousy" the short film I was submitted was nominated for the best film at the 100 International Film Festival in Teheran, Iran this year.

Still I am very interested to learn as much as possible about film and arts.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammad Ranjbar