

Sam Kalantari born 26 March 1976 is an Iranian film director and professional photographer. He is considered to be the fourth generation of Iranian documentary filmmakers.

Kalantari has received Crystal Simorgh for the best documentary film at the 38th Fajr International Film Festival for his film “No Place for Angels”. He also received Special Jury Prize-Diploma of Honor and trophy for directing this film from 13th Iran International Documentary Film Festival “Cinema Verite”. Additionally, in this festival the film received “The Audience Special Award”, “The Best Music” and “Art & Experience Awards and trophies, making this film among one of the most award winning ones from Cinema Verite.

Early Life & background

Kalantari was born in Tehran. He is a graduate of civil engineering and started filmmaking academically the same time as he entered university to study civil engineering. He entered the realm of Iran’s professional filmmaking scene in year 2001 after completing his academic studies in filmmaking in Ireland.

Professional photography has always been his hobby, Kalantari was invited by different galleries in Iran and UAE to have solo photography exhibitions.

Film Career

Kalantari was involved in the production of over fifteen films, including documentaries and series in different countries, he is known for being passionate about experiencing different genres.

His nomination for Crystal Simorgh for the best Research and Writing at the 32th Fajr International Film Festival for the film “Memories for All Seasons” directed by Mostafa Razaq karimi in the genre of war, directing and researching of film “ From House N.37” as a documentary-portrait about "Sadegh Hedayat" – who was an Iranian writer, translator and intellectual - which has been broadcasted and screened in many literary assemblies and internationally acclaimed networks and the experimental film of “ He” which in addition to winning numerous domestic awards has also been selected by many international festivals such as Visions du Réel (Switzerland) are among examples of his works in different genres.

Awards & Nominations

- 2020 Crystal Simorgh for the best documentary film from the 38th Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran for the film “No Place for Angels”
- 2020 Special Jury Award for best director from the 13th International Cinema Verite (international section) in Tehran for the film “No Place for Angels”
- 2020 Cinema Art & Experience Award for best director from the 13th International Cinema Verite in Tehran for the film “No Place for Angels”

- 2020 Best Audience Reactions Film from the 13th International Cinema Verite in Tehran for the film “No Place for Angels”
- 2017 Best Documentary Award from the 6th International Shahr Film Festival in Tehran for the film “He” (Mannequins of Ghale Hassan Khan)
- 2016 Best Director Award from the 8th Iranian Cinema Celebration in Tehran for the film “He” (Mannequins of Ghale Hassan Khan)- This film also won Best filming, Best editing and Best sound design awards from this celebration
- 2013 Nominee for Best Research for the film "Memories for all Seasons" from the “7th International Cinema Verite” in Tehran
- 2013 Nominee for Best Research and Writing for the film "Memories for all Seasons from the “32nd Fajr International Film Festival” in Tehran

Films Festival Works & Other related Activities

- 2014-2020 Member of the Board of Directors of the Iranian Documentary Producers Association
- 2017 Chairman of 9th Iranian Independent Celebration of Documentary Cinema
- 2016 Jury Member for the 11th International Cinema Verite in Tehran- International Section
- 2015 Member of the Selection Board for the 35th Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran
- 2015 Member of the Selection Board for the 10th International Cinema Verite in Tehran
- 2014 Jury Member for the 7th Iranian Cinema Celebration” in Tehran – Documentary Section
- 2013 Member of the Selection Board for the 6th Iranian Cinema Celebration” in Tehran – Documentary Section
- 2012 Chief Inspector of the Iranian Documentary Film Producers Association
- 2010 Member of Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association (IRDFA) & Association of Iranian Documentary Producers (AOIDP)
- 2008 Planning Director for the opening and closing ceremony of 27TH International Fajr Film Festival

Films & Series

- 2018-2020 Toranj Series, 13 episodes documentary for IRIB Mostanad (national documentary TV channel in Iran)
- 2018-2019 No Place for Angels, Cinematic Documentary

- 2017 The 7th City – documentary
- 2016 The Land of Legends– documentary
- 2015 Garage 888 Series (A documentary on new super cars and their history)
- 2015 Mannequins of Ghale Hassan Khan (in International festivals known as “HE”)
- 2014 Glass Wall– documentary
- 2014 The Emperor– documentary (joint production)
- 2011 To Spring – documentary
- 2011 From House No.37– documentary (joint production)
- 2009 Collection of Iran Ritual Foods – documentary
- 2009 My Heart is full of Dolls– documentary
- 2005 Friday was a bad day- Experimental
- 2004 Somewhere Nearby – Short Story
- 2003 This Woman speaks- documentary
- 2001 Unknown Desire - Short Film

Other Related Activities

Writer

- 2013 A City with blue sky- documentary
- 2013 Memories of all Seasons - documentary
- 2011 Death is knocking- (Cinema –TV)

Photographer

- 2018 Negah Art Gallery, Tehran – Maze
- 2017 E1 Art Gallery, Tehran – A Piece of Life
- 2016 Negah Art Gallery, Tehran – Cocoon
- 2015 Impress Galley, Dubai - The Beaming Soil
- 2015 Jorjani Art Gallery, Tehran- Catalepsy (Mix media)
- 2014 Jorjani Art Gallery, Tehran- TANHA