



A WEEK WITH AZAR

“Najd Ahmadi proves that expressive, individual narration need not be followed by a clouding of political sharpness.”

—Nace Zavrl – FeKK 2018

“A fragmented burst of frustration caused by the travel ban established by Trump in 2017.”

—The Centre for Finnish Media Art

*“In a mixture of documentary, essay, poetic journal, and photo novel, which allows Azar symbolic resistance and a conceptual escape to her homeland, **A Week with Azar** tells of the personal effects of political decisions.”*

—Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film

Tara Najd Ahmadi

Producer: Jurij Meden and Tara Najd Ahmadi

2018, 11 min., Color, US, Farsi and English with English subtitles

Original Formats: 16mm film, digital video and still photo frames

Screening Formats Available: MOV

“A Week with Azar” by Tara Najd Ahmadi

Third World Newsreel: <https://twon.org/catalog/pages/responsive/cpage.aspx?rec=1548&card=price>

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018, (212) 947-9277 x 10, twon@twon.org



SYNOPSIS

A Week with Azar is a short experimental documentary film, based on a true story of Azar, an Iranian computer engineer living in the United States, who in the winter of 2017 failed to see her ill sister in Isfahan (Iran) for the last time because of the Executive Order 13769, commonly known as the travel ban. According to this ban, the nationals of seven countries, including Iran, could not enter the USA. The film's fragmented narrative structure and aesthetic (juxtaposing 16mm film, digital video and still photo frames) is a reflection of the fragmented life of an immigrant.

SCREENINGS, FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- Edinburgh International Film Festival
- Festival De Films ELLES TOURNENT, Bruxelles
- Diagonale, Festival des Osterreichischen Films, Graz
- Go Short Film Festival, Nijmegen
- ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
- Center of Finnish Media Arts, Helsinki
- Academic Film Center, Belgrade

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BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER



Born in Tehran and currently based in Vienna, Tara Najd Ahmadi is a non-fiction filmmaker and scholar. Her films focus on creating a panorama of marginalized narratives that can be gleaned through unofficial oral histories. In that space, she is interested in the ways in which subjects resist against power structures and deal with the consequences.

Retrospectives of her work has been shown in various places including Depot (Kunst und Diskussion) in Vienna, and the Academic Film Center in Belgrade. Her works have been shown in various film festivals and art venues including International Short Film Festival Oberhausen and Burchfield Penney Art Museum. In 2019 she received her doctorate degree in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester (NY), where she investigated the notions of “incomplete and unfinished” in art projects and films that were made during revolutionary times. Najd Ahmadi is also the recipient of the George Eastman Museum graduate fellowship (2016-2018), the New York State Council on the Arts Media Arts Assistance Fund (2017), Flaherty Film Seminar fellowship (2017) and Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (2018). Visit <https://najdahmadi.com/>.

Tara Najd Ahmadi's Filmography:

My Sleepless Friends (2023)

An Art Historian’s Recipe (2022)

A Week with Azar (2018)

Productive Frustration (2016)

Three Minutes of Headless Life (2015)

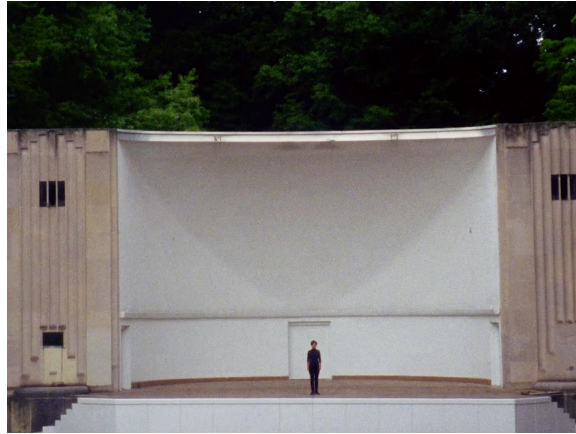
Measuring the Level of Resistance (2011)

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STILLS



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director: Tara Najd Ahmadi

Writer: Tara Najd Ahmadi

Producers: Jurij Meden and Tara Najd Ahmadi

Main actress: Azar Rahimi

Other actresses: Abby Comstock-gay Güner and Netha Cloeter

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