



Locarno Film Festival

CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE  
OFFICIAL SELECTION

A FILM BY GÜRCAN KELTEK

# NEW DAWN FADES



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A film by Gürcan Kelttek

Starring

Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu, Erol Babaoğlu, Suzan Kardeş, Ayla Algan

Turkey, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway

2h10 / 1.85:1 / Color

2024 / Turkish, Bosnian with English subtitles

Additional information and material at [heretic.gr](http://heretic.gr)

## World Sales · Heretic

Ioanna Stais

36, Alkmanos street, 11528 Athens, GREECE

+30 210 600 52 60

[ioanna@heretic.gr](mailto:ioanna@heretic.gr)

[www.heretic.gr](http://www.heretic.gr)



## SYNOPSIS

It's been years since Akin has been in and out of the hospital. He's relentless, angry, and shell-shocked from being stuck in the system. Since his discharge, he's well aware that his old life is long gone. He has become unable to leave his family house except for occasional visits to religious monuments in Istanbul. During those visits, he falls into a state of ecstasy as he tries to take refuge in God. These divine structures trigger something in him. As he loses touch with his true self, his mind shifts into another reality.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2015, I met Akın Altın, and I tried to make a documentary about him. I recorded hours of conversations, and every time we met, there was a sudden shift in him. When I realized I was recording an episode of a psychotic break, it felt too intimate to use it in a film, so I abandoned the project. Around that time, I was researching a group of doctors and physicians who started an occult/spiritualist movement in the late '40s in Turkey. There was a science book written with remote viewing (Rushelman's 'The Divine Order and Universe'), and clairvoyants and spirits were involved. The whole thing was fascinating. 'New Dawn Fades' came out of these two separate ideas.

The film chronicles episodes of psychosis in chapters, spanning 72 hours in total. However, I have no intention of explaining things like the diagnosis or the causes behind it. Instead, the film portrays his last couple of days before everything falls apart. His mind clings to random thoughts, and the narrative in his mind barely holds together. Reality and imaginary co-exist in the film, often in the most simple and banal ways.

The geographic locations of Istanbul reflect the character's emotional landscape. The camera moves with the character, while the audience follows just behind, witnessing his fragmented future. He has no understanding of why he feels the way he does or why these things are happening to him. I use long takes, sometimes up to 30 minutes, improvising with the actors. I allow accidents to happen and intentionally leave out parts of the storyline.

I made 'New Dawn Fades' because I believe insanity is just another social construct. There is a moment earlier in the film when Akın is secretly listening to his mother's phone conversation behind the door. At one point, he is looking at us through the crack. It's such an important moment because this film is about how we slip/escape through that crack, and I believe this is what cinema is all about.

Gürcan Keltek





## DIRECTOR BIO

Born in İzmir, Gürcan Keltek studied film at Dokuz Eylül University before directing several shorts including Overtime (2012), screened at Visions Du Réel. His medium-length film Colony (2015) was screened at FIDMarseille. His first feature film Meteorlar (2017) won more than twenty awards including First Feature Film Award and Bocolino d'Oro Film Critics' Award at Locarno Film Festival. It was screened at many international film festivals including Rotterdam, BAFICI, Viennale, Bordeaux, Fajr, Hong Kong and the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Art of the Real. Gulyabani (2018) premiered at Signs of Life of Locarno Festival and was screened at Tate Modern, Reykjavik, Rotterdam and Viennale. New Dawn Fades, premiering in Locarno International Competition, is his first fiction film.



## FILMOGRAPHY

GULYABANI

2018 - Turkey & Netherlands - 34'

METEORLAR

2017 - Turkey & Netherlands - 81'

KOLONİ

2016 - Turkey - 52'

FAZLAMESAI

2012 - Turkey - 11'







## CINEMATOGRAPHER BIO

Peter Zeitlinger has been Werner Herzog's Principal director of photography since 1995. Born in Czechoslovakia, Peter Zeitlinger is a naturalized Austrian filmmaker with a background in photography with an illustrious career in film and television productions.

He has made 13 films with the legendary director Werner Herzog, six feature films with Gotz Spielmann, three with Ulrich Seidl and two with James Franco. He has won five awards for Best Cinematography, including two Romy TV Award and a German Cinematography Award. "Encounters at the End of the World" was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2009. He has been a member of the German Film Academy since 2014 and a member of the BVK (German Society of Cinematographers). Peter Zeitlinger speaks five languages. His work has taken him to almost every country in the world. He lives in Italy with his family, where he founded the production and service company Film Srl.





## COMPOSER BIO

Tom Smith AKA Son of Philip is a Nottingham-born music producer, composer and audio engineer with over a decade of experience in the music industry. His widely varied palette of music has previously caught the ear of tastemakers such as Mary Anne Hobbs, Tom Ravenscroft, Overmono, Ben UFO, James Holden, Mixmag and many more. His debut solo album 'Plastic Borough', released earlier this year on Running Circle Records, showcases his unique, intricate and emotive approach to music making. Tom has naturally progressed into working with sound for visual media, including collaborations with fashion brands such as MITHRIDATE for their London Fashion Week Show in 2022, and online fashion store MR PORTER for their collaboration with sportswear and lifestyle brand ON. New Dawn Fades will be his first feature length film score.







## CAST

Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu

Erol Babaoğlu

Suzan Kardeş

Ayla Algan

&

Dilan Düzgüner

Gürkan Gedikli

Dilan Düzgüner

Neriman Kardeş

Damla Alibeşe

Ezgi Yaren Karademir

Lilay Gürbüz

Birce Bircan

Şahin Hayri Üren

Miraç Sevsay

Görkem Kasal

Sevi Algan Babaoğlu

Ergülcan Akıncıoğlu

## CREW

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY Gürcan Keltek

PRODUCED BY Arda Çiltepe (Vigo Film)

CO-PRODUCED BY Manuela Buono (Slingshot Films),

Marc Van Goethem (29P Films),

Stefan Gieren (The Storybay),

Fernanda Renno (Fidalgo Film Production)

CINEMATOGRAPHER Peter Zeitlinger (ASC, BVK)

ORIGINAL SCORE Son Of Philip

EDITORS Murat Gültekin & Semih Gülen

PRODUCTION DESIGNERS Yunus Emre Yurtseven &

Meral Efe Yurtseven

SOUND Massimiliano Borghesi

FIELD RECORDINGS Attila Faravelli

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Sunay Terzioğlu

COSTUME Meltem Balakan

MAKE-UP Neriman Kardeş

COLOR GRADING Felix Hüsken





