

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Omid Marzban is an experienced journalist and filmmaker from Afghanistan who has worked for Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty since 2005. He specialized in screenwriting and film directing



at the Prague Film School. Born in 1984, Omid has witnessed every major political turmoil of Afghanistan over the past three decades - from the collapse of the communist regime to the empowerment of the mujahedin, the civil war, the Taliban, and post-Taliban Afghanistan.



Kabul 1970



Kabul 2015



RFE/RL's mission is to promote democratic values and institutions by reporting the news in countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established.

We provide what many people cannot get locally: uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate. Our journalists are on the front lines in the fight for free flow of information in their countries and often put themselves at great risk to do their jobs.

We broadcast in 26 languages to 23 countries including Russia, Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. Our digital content in English is available at rferl.org.



Media Nest aims to provide the latest know-how from the film industry such as development, production, and post-production in order to ease and facilitate this otherwise back-breaking and, at times, unpredictable process.

A young production house with an ambitious working history over the course of 2015, Media Nest has positioned itself as the co-producer of three feature films and two documentaries in addition to its ongoing support of several committed and aspiring short film projects.

Media Nest is also the organizer of the Festival of Iranian Films, which takes place annually in Prague, Brno, and Bratislava. (<http://www.emnfilm.net/>)

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GIVING WOMEN A VOICE

REBEL BEATS

A FILM BY OMID MARZBAN



SYNOPSIS

Afghanistan's first and most popular female rapper takes on controversial issues such as violence against women, in particular child marriages and so-called honor killings. Despite receiving death threats on several occasions, Paradise has not given up. Rebel Beats takes you deep into Paradise's cheerful and tearful moments of life



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Not long ago, Kabul was a city where women lived as freely as men. In addition to attending schools, universities, and offices, women frequented cinemas, concerts, swimming pools, and other entertainment centers with no social, religious, or cultural restrictions. They could even dress in ways that today would be hardly imaginable. After more than three decades of war, the Afghan capital is almost unrecognizably different, especially when it comes to women's freedom and self-determination. The war has plunged Afghanistan centuries back and severely damaged the country's educational, cultural, and social structures.

As someone who was born and raised in Afghanistan, I can say that the current suppression of women by various tools such as the misinterpretation of religious and cultural values has no roots in Afghan society.

Now that the war is relatively over, civil activists are working harder than ever, and the Afghan

Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens - men and women alike¹. The country's elite is trying to overcome the remaining social obstacles and move forward.

Rebel Beats briefly takes the audience on a journey back to Afghanistan's so-called Golden Era. It also highlights the sacrifices and passionate drive of Afghanistan's younger generation - especially women - who are paving the way for generations to come

PARADISE

Paradise is Afghanistan's first female rapper. She makes up half of the band 143Band; the other half being her fiancée, Diverse. Paradise was born into an Afghan



refugee family in Iran and returned to Afghanistan in 2008. The controversial artist has won numerous national and international awards, including the United Nations' Women Award in 2013 and the Courageous Artist of the Year Award in Rumi Music Awards – 2015.

DIVERSE

A young IT professor from Afghanistan's western Herat Province, Diverse gave up his job and moved to Kabul to produce and record songs for his fiancé, Paradise.

¹ Afghan Constitution- Article Twenty-Two: Any kind of discrimination and distinction between citizens of Afghanistan shall be forbidden. The citizens of Afghanistan, man and woman, have equal rights and duties before the law. <http://www.afghanembassy.com.pl/afg/images/pliki/TheConstitution.pdf>

Diverse is a man who stands against the barriers in order to give Paradise a floor to raise the voice



of Afghan women. He writes lyrics and composes songs for Paradise and their 143Band, a music group that symbolizes the couple's love for each other.

143BAND

Each number represents the amount of letters in a word: 143 means I Love You. Established in 2008, 143Band stands on the basis of Paradise and Diverse's forbidden love. Surprisingly, unlike other traditional Afghan families, Paradise's family has no



jection to her choice to be with Diverse. However, Diverse's parents refuse to accept Paradise as their daughter-in-law. They believe singing and dancing in public are not appropriate for a woman, and Paradise is no exception. To escape family matters and to feel slightly safer, the couple decided to move to Kabul, which is Afghanistan's most heavily guarded city. But has that really helped?