

Banned Iranian Psychological Thriller THE TURTLE Set for UK Theatrical Release

Adler & Associates Entertainment announces a rolling UK release of Bahman Kamyar's acclaimed Persian-language film

FARHAD ASLANI

SABER ABAR

NAZANIN BAYATI

NAZANIN KARIMI

THE TURTLE

Writer & Director BAHMAN KAMYAR



AND AZITA HAJIAN

WITH HOUMAN BARGHNAVAR

JAMSHID GORGIN

ALIREZA AGHAKHANI

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Burbank, California Jan 8, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Adler & Associates Entertainment, led by CEO and producer **Marie Adler**, in association with LePrince CineController, has announced the UK theatrical release of **THE TURTLE (Lâkposht)**, a Persian-language psychological thriller written and directed by **Bahman Kamyar**.

The film was **banned by Iranian authorities for two years without public explanation**, drawing international attention for its bold departure from traditional Iranian cinema. Following the lifting of the ban, *THE TURTLE* will now reach UK audiences through a **rolling, demand-driven theatrical release**, beginning in London and expanding organically based on audience engagement.

Rather than opening simultaneously across multiple cinemas, the release model allows screenings to grow city by city in response to real audience demand. This approach reflects Adler & Associates Entertainment's commitment to sustainable theatrical distribution while ensuring each screening is supported by an engaged audience.

Set over the course of a single, uneasy night, *THE TURTLE* follows Pirooz, a psychiatrist who projects calm authority while suppressing a deep fear of abandonment. When a sudden death in his wife's family brings Shayan, her former lover, back into their lives, an act of hospitality slowly evolves into a psychological confrontation. As tensions rise, paranoia, desire, and memory begin to blur, unraveling the fragile balance Pirooz believes he controls.

The film stars **Farhad Aslani** (*Leila's Brothers, Law of Tehran*) and **Saber Abar** (*About Elly, Here Without Me*), two of Iran's most respected actors. Kamyar's direction combines the intimate character focus of Iranian cinema with an unsettling, dreamlike atmosphere, resulting in a slow-burn psychological thriller that builds toward a transformative final revelation.

THE TURTLE marks a significant artistic statement within contemporary Persian cinema, pushing aesthetic and narrative boundaries while maintaining a gripping sense of suspense. Its unexplained censorship has only heightened global interest, positioning the film as both a psychological drama and a cultural moment.

"In Iranian cinema today, there isn't a better actor than Farhad Aslani. We waited six years for him to be available," said writer-director **Bahman Kamyar**.

"*The Turtle* is the kind of film where the meaning changes once you know where it's headed," said **Marie Adler**, CEO and co-producer of Adler & Associates Entertainment.

Worldwide distribution is handled by **Adler & Associates Entertainment**, with **LePrince CineController** managing UK and Ireland theatrical distribution. Press screenings and interview opportunities with writer-director Bahman Kamyar are available upon request.

Film Information

Title: THE TURTLE

Original Title: Lâkposht

Country / Year: Iran, 2025

Runtime: 97 minutes

Language: Persian (Farsi) with English subtitles

BBFC: 12A

Writer & Director: Bahman Kamyar

Producer: Bahman Kamyar

CEO & Co-Producer: Marie Adler

Main Cast:

Farhad Aslani, Saber Abar, Nazanin Bayati, Nazanin Karimi

UK Theatrical Release: Rolling platform release beginning in London

First Screening: Close-Up Cinema, London

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