

**KINO**  
INTERNATIONAL

# *TIMES AND WINDS*

a film by Reha Erdem



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## **TIMES AND WINDS**

### **CREW**

Directed and Edited by Reha Erdem  
Director of Photography - Florent Herry  
Art Director - Omer Atay  
Producer - Omer Atay

### **CAST**

Ozkan Ozen - Ömer  
Ali Bey Kayali - Yakup  
Elit Iscan - Yildiz  
Bulent Emin Yarar - Imam  
Taner Birsal - Zekeriya  
Yigit Ozsener - Yusuf  
Selma Ergec - Teacher

## **TIMES AND WINDS**

**Turkey  
2007**

**In Turkish with English subtitles**

**110 Minutes**

**Color - 35mm**

**Dolby Stereo**

**Not Rated**



## TIMES AND WINDS

### SYNOPSIS

Times and Winds takes place at a small and poor Turkish village, a haunting space flanked between high rocky mountains and a breathtaking sea.

The villagers are simple and diligent people who struggle to cope with a harsh nature. They earn their living out of the earth and animals they feed. And just like the animals and trees around them, these people have the knowledge of their temporal existence, hence the prevailing sense of resignation.

Ömer, Yakup and Yıldız, children of about 12 and 13 years old, live their childhood in this village. Ömer, the son of the Imam, wishes hopelessly for the death of his father. When he understands that wishful thinking doesn't translate into concrete results, he begins to search for ways to kill his father, while sharing his ideas with his friend Yakup.

Yakup is in love with his teacher, but hides his feelings even from his best friend Ömer. But when he sees his own father spying on the beloved teacher, he starts dreaming, like Ömer, of killing his father as well.

Yıldız struggles to study and manage the household - duties imposed by her own mother. She tries to be a mother for her baby brother, but fails at almost every turn. On the other hand, she learns with irritation about the secrets of the relationship between men and women.

The daily time is divided into five parts by the sound of the call to prayer. Every day, all human events are lived within these five time slices. In child raising, grownups go on with the practice they have experienced by their parents. They display their love awkwardly; fathers always prefer one of their sons and mothers command their daughters ruthlessly. This is the setting of Times and Winds.



## TIMES AND WINDS

**Reha Erdem – Director, screenwriter  
Biography**

Mr. Erdem left his history studies at the Istanbul Bosphorus University in 1983 to study cinema in Paris. He graduated from the Cinema Department of Paris 8 University and obtained his M.A. in Plastic Arts at the same university.

He shot his first feature-length film *Oh Moon* in 1989 as a French-Turkish co-production. The film was nominated for the European Film Academy Awards in 1990 and was screened at the Locarno, Moscow, Vancouver, and Dunkerque Film Festivals, eventually being chosen as The Best Film of The Year by the Turkish Writers' Association.

*Run for Money (1999)*, his second feature-length film, was selected as the official submission from Turkey for the Foreign Language Academy Awards. The film competed in Tokyo Film Festival and participated in the München, London, Göteborg, Oslo, Thessaloniki, Jerusalem, Washington D.C., Palm Springs, New Delhi, Montpellier, and Seattle Film Festivals.

Reha Erdem shot his third film *Mommy, I'm Scared* in 2004. The film was first screened at 23rd International Istanbul Film Festival and received the FIPRESCI Award. It also participated in several international film festivals including Göteborg, Copenhagen, Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival and Stuttgart Turkish Film Festival.

In Turkey, the film received awards at all the festivals it participated; Ankara Film Festival: Best Director, Best Script, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Promising Actor. Altın Koza (Golden Cocoon) Adana Film Festival: Jury's Special Prize, Best Script, Best Supporting Actress. Altın Portakal (Golden Orange) Antalya Film Festival: Best Script, Best Third Film, Best Costume, Best Art Direction, Best Editing.

His latest film *Times and Winds* had its world premiere at the 25th Istanbul International Film Festival and received the FIPRESCI and The Best Turkish Film awards. Afterwards, it attended the Adana Golden Boll Film festival where it won Best Turkish Film, as well as the Best Promising Actor (Ali Bey Kayalı), Best Promising Actress (Elit İscan) and Best Supporting Actor (Bülent Emin Yarar) accolades. *Times and Winds* received 3 awards (Best Director, Best Film and Best Cinematography) from the Turkish Cinema and Film Critics Association.

# **KINO**

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

## **TIMES AND WINDS**

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Times and Winds is a movie about time; the rhythm of time is the rhythm of the movie. It is a movie about three children captured by the flow of time in a village stuck between earth and sea, rocks and sky. There, a bell ring punctuates life according to the sun's movement, slicing the day into five times.

Prayers whispered five times a day, revolve like the sun, the moon and seasons, exposing five parts of humanity - that is, their five states of mind. Every encounter causes a new pain: the pain of growing up, of maturing, of getting old. This is the tragedy.

The movie aims at accompanying this tragedy within a special site, and also at making faces and bodies, words and sounds flow in the purity and freshness of this specific space, within its own cinematic time. The aim is to be the witness of this very pain.

Reha Erdem

### **FILMOGRAPHY**

**– Reha Erdem –**

Oh Moon (director and screenwriter) 1989  
Song of the Sea (short film) 1995  
Run for Money (director and screenwriter) 1999  
Mommy, I'm Scared (director and co-writer) 2004  
Times and Winds (director and screenwriter) 2006  
Anytime in October (short Film) 2006



## TIMES AND WINDS

### PRODUCTION NOTES

Times and Winds was shot in the village of Kozlu / Ayvacık between September 24th and October 29th 2005. The locations of the film were inside the village of Kozlu and its hills like Güzelçe\_me, Bakacak Kayası, Gedik, Çimenli Kıran, Yarıklı Kaya. The transportation to the hills was provided by horses and donkeys. The crew of the film lived in the village during the shoot. The people of the village were very attentive to the needs of the crew.

The houses used in the film were shot in their original setting. The school of the village which was shot down when the education system changed, was repainted and redecorated for the film.

The rainy scenes of the film were shot by a special water system that drew water from tanks, fire trucks and fountains. More than 150 animals were used for the shoot.

Özkan Özen, Ali Bey Kayalı and Elit Iscan who played the main characters were selected after a long search among thousands of children. Except Elit Iscan, who is from Istanbul, all the children who worked in the film are from the region. During the shoot, special permissions were granted to the children from their schools in order to play in the film.