

NADİR SÖNMEZ

Actor - Writer

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Ama, But, 2019, DasDas, Istanbul International Fringe Festival

Metamorphosis



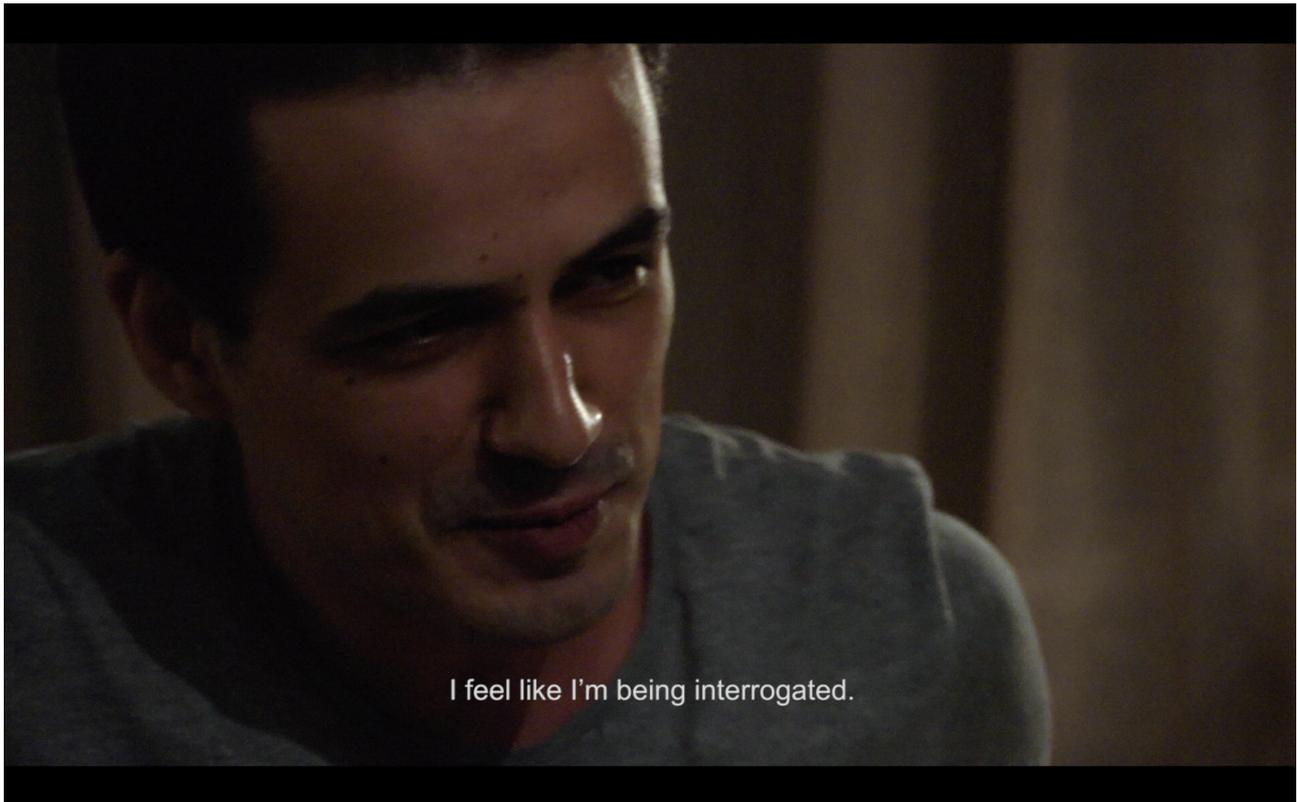
Metamorphosis, feature-length, 2014

Director: Christophe Honoré

Cast: Amira Akilli, Sébastien Hirel, Mélodie Richard, Damien Chapelle, Nadir Sönmez

Plot: When Europe skips class to climb aboard an eight wheel truck with a magnetic young man named Jupiter, little does she know of the journey of initiation that lies ahead of her. Just off the side of the motorway lies a land inhabited by powerful gods who can transform humans into plants or animals in the blink of an eye. Jupiter, Bacchus, Orpheus: Europe watches, listens and plays in this confrontation of gods and mortals, grasping a greater sense of life and love with these sweet vengeful seducers.

Sober Nights



Ah Geceler!, Sober Nights, short film, 2014

Director: Can Eskinazi

Screenplay and cast: Nadir Sönmez, Esmé Madra

SIYAD (Association of Film Critics) Best Short Film Nominee

Plot: An actor tells a story about a man he met online and describes the socio-psychological aspects of his date with him. His story is an exploration of tension and desire between males of different milieus.

Excerpt: “I was intrigued by something in his manner on the phone. I wanted to see his photo. He said ‘I don’t use a smartphone but I need to see someone immediately. If that doesn’t work for you, some other time then.’ I told him we could find a way but he went offline. When back online, he was in an internet café and had a webcam. So, I saw him on Skype.”

[Here is the link of the movie with English subtitles](#)

Anonymous



Anonim, Anonymous, Short Play, 2016, Köşe Bucak Kadıköy: Walk Around The Corner

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Çisil Oğuz, Reyhan Özdilek, Özlem Yıldız

Plot: Three men sit around a table. They have a casual conversation about art openings, transexual people's rights and one-night stands.

Excerpt: "I just wonder if they might actually be looking for what they are complaining of. Imagine that your desire is violence... People will get confused and won't give you what you want if you express yourself clearly about it. It is important to first understand the established values in a society and then challenge them. You should ask yourself what you should do to get people to attack you."

Ok



Peki, Ok, Staged Reading, 2017, Pera Museum

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Meriç Aral, Hare Sürel, Nadir Sönmez

Plot: Beril is a gallery owner. She invites Tilbe, an artist, for a coffee to talk about an exhibition. They chat about the Istanbul art scene and personalities, artwork projects and their private lives. Kürşat, a server at the café, comes to ask for their orders and remembers a place where he saw both of them. An underground party already bonded these people to each other.

Excerpt: “Once in Turan Street, take the first right and there you see the theatre. The guys who run the place managed to get an excise license. There is no other way to make it financially though. Twice a month, they organize private nights in their decor storage. The party is called ‘Sophisticated’. You need to know the name of it at the entrance. Their close friends were the first guests before it quickly became popular among the gay community. So they transformed the concept to better fit the queer entertainment style. They invited a DJ called Soquette. He does minimal house-ish remixes of most melancholic songs of Yıldız Yilbe and Ahmet Kaya.”

[Here is the link to the video of 'Ok' at Pera Museum](#)

Password: olurtabi

Doppelgänger



Doppelgänger, Short Play, 2017, Köşe Bucak Bomonti: Walk Around The Corner

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Nadir Sönmez, Çisil Oğuz

Plot: An adult film company in Istanbul is searching for a scriptwriter. A candidate tells about his fantasies during the interview.

Excerpt: “We’re thinking of making an addition to our website. It’ll be a space where we can inquire into the sexual relations of people that don’t belong to the same social circles - people that meet on apps, or dating sites; or, as in your case, in clubs. Think of like a young male college student in Istanbul. He meets a visitor from a provincial city like Urfa, who has a wife and kids back home. They go to a hotel room. They can’t agree on the music they’ll play while having sex. The student wants to put on hard techno, the guy wants to hear a folk singer.”

Durak



Durak, performance, 2018, Alt, A Corner In The World Bomontiada 29'59" Performance Night

Writer and performer: Nadir Sönmez

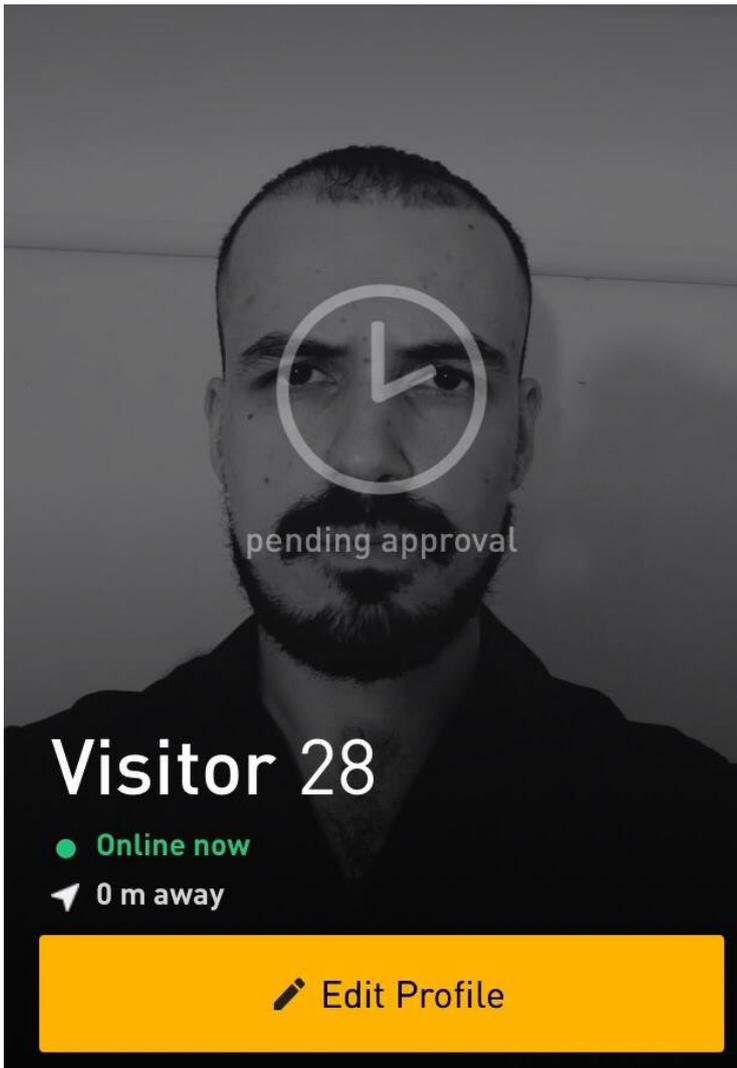
Plot: Observations about the clientele of an authentic gay bar in a popular district of Istanbul.

Excerpt: "The anthropologist inside me got excited as if he had seen a tribe he hoped no one else had discovered. He was astonished. Impossible to find these Anatolian chill vibes elsewhere.

In the first months of my Paris years, each time I passed by the Cox Bar in Le Marais, I envied the relaxed manners of mid-aged gay men, who also made me shy sometimes, standing and chitchatting with drinks in their hands. What I had last night was similar to those in Paris.

The average age was high and witnessing people socialize without using any communication or flirtation codes of my generation was disastrous. I had tapered off my alcohol consumption, yet I decided to enter, order a beer and chill around. I took the first step in, astounded by the unusual acceptance of an exclusively male crowd in the midst of a busy street in Aksaray."

Beirut



[Beirut, Beirut, performance, 2018, Alt, A Corner In The World](#)
[Bomontiada, 29'59" Performance Night](#)

Writer and performer: Nadir Sönmez

Plot: My dates with Lebanese men from various socio-economic backgrounds that I met on Grindr during my holidays in Beirut.

Excerpt: “He is going out to the terrace of Beirut Art Center. I give him space and time to show that I am an independent type of guy. I continue to see the exhibition. When I join him, he talks to me about gay parties happening in that terrace. He hasn’t been there for exhibitions. Now, our conversation revolves around his travels. He explains why he began preferring Athens as a holiday destination rather than

Istanbul. I learn why gay tourists gave up on my city. That situation affects my sex business as well, so his opinion might be helpful for me and the local authorities. He gives insights using Tekyön, a big gay club in Istanbul, as an example. He tells that there are handsome men in there but that they should be selected from a very crowded and diverse population. Although in Beirut, an average man is much more fuckable. And he adds that Athens is cheap and guys are hot. I think he means ‘there is not that much Syrians there as in your city’. He has the exact life that I want for myself. A man who picks his flights towards countries that economic crisis impoverished and where there are few refugees so that he can party with other crème de la crème gays. I feel closer to my dreams.”

But



Ama, But, 2019, DasDas, 1st Istanbul International Fringe Festival

Director and writer: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Esmem Madra, Nadir Sönmez, Öner Erkan, İlda Özgürel

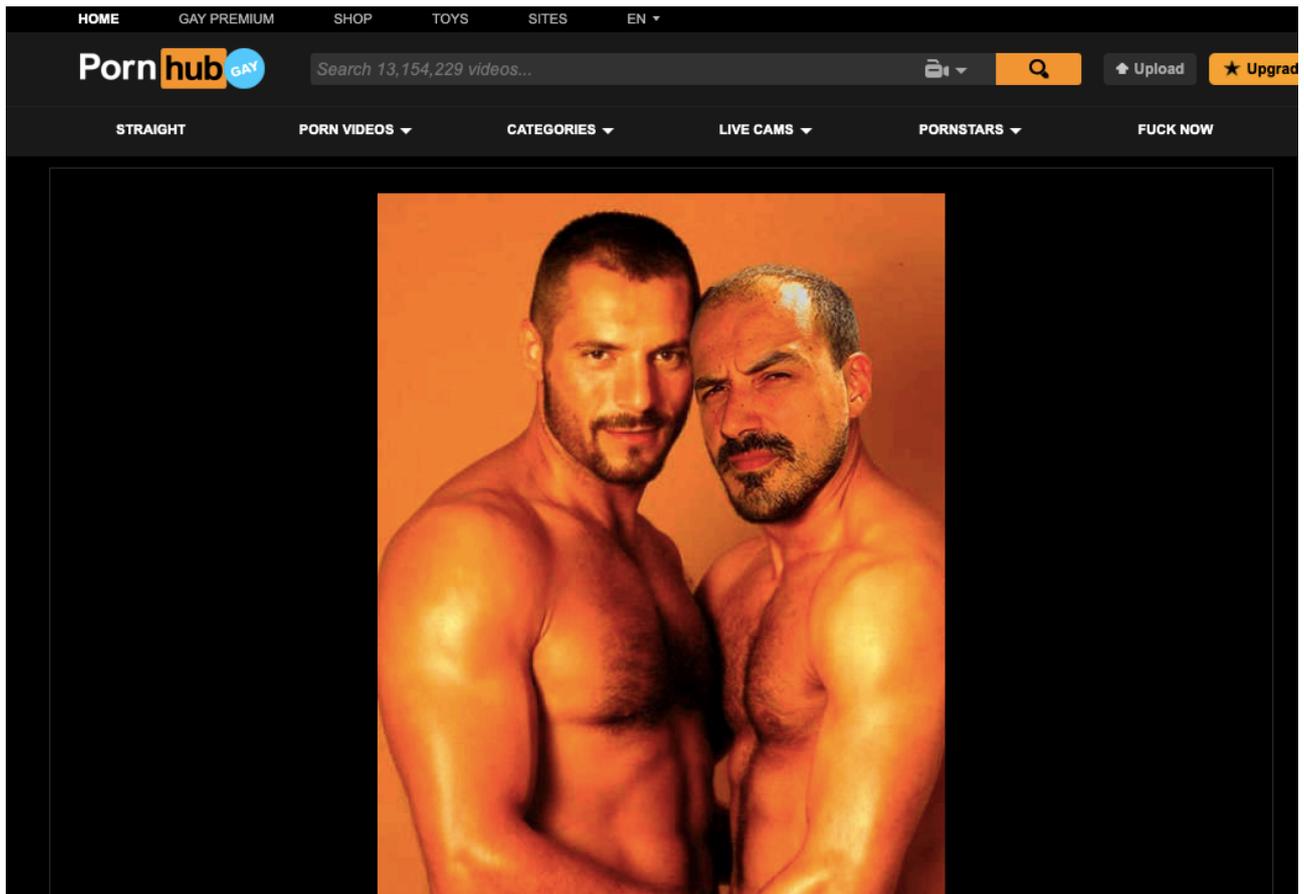
Plot: The lives of Meltem, Zafer, İlhan and Emel happen to evolve around their professions in the theater, cinema and art industries of Istanbul. They get together and talk for professional, social and private reasons. Meltem, an actress, auditions to star in a series. Zafer films her and their discussion about the tv world goes around issues about their genders. Sculptor Emel and gallery owner İlhan talk about family and friends while they deal with the emotional conflicts of their relationship.

Excerpt: “Nope, of course we’ll take another one, but I don’t want to change the subject. It is not easy for everyone to admit their talent. Face it. You deserve good conditions. If you keep that attitude, you may catch roles in so-called auteur movies and people might think that you have an honorable career. But then a lady with recognized beauty will play this part. That’s fine by me. They are mostly sweet and warm kind of girls. But I wish it was you who’d get it.”

[Here is the link to the video of 'But' in Turkish](#)

Password: amafringe

Murder of The Male



Erkek Cinayeti, Murder of the Male, 2020, WhatsApp Performance, 2nd Istanbul International Fringe Festival

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Plot: An artist from Istanbul mourns the death of Arpad Miklos who committed suicide in New York. He performs a social autopsy to understand the famous porn star's decision to end his life and discovers that both he and some professionals from Turkish art institutions are involved in the case.

Excerpt: “I grew up sad for being gay. I automatically love Arpad Miklos just because he's a gay man. When I read the news about female pornstars committing suicide, that doesn't upset me as much as the deaths of some gay ones. This is why I apologize to straight people for not being able to care about them the way I do about Arpad Miklos.”

New Releases



New Releases, 2021, Short Film, Borderline Offensive Festival

Writer and director: Nadir Sönmez

Cast: Çisil Oğuz, İlda Özgürel, Nadir Sönmez, Emrah Özdemir

Plot: An unpublished writer wrote an erotic fiction, narrating the love affair between a Turkish woman and a Syrian refugee man. An editor reads passages from the draft and tries to convince the writer to publish it as a self-help book in Europe. Their conversation is a sexual parody of occidental literary glance at the refugee crisis.

Excerpt: “How can I turn a novel into a self-help book?”

Just let the story take place in Berlin instead of Istanbul. There are many Syrians there as well. The rest can remain the same. A Turkish female writer advising Europeans to make love with refugees. You have everything the market needs.

I never dreamed of being a self-help writer when I was little.”

[Here is the link of the work](#)

password: maher