

By Loren King Globe Correspondent March 15, 2018

Turkish tales

Another festival with longevity is the **Boston Turkish Film Festival**, now in its 17th year showcasing leading and emerging Turkish filmmakers. Running March 22-April 8 at the Museum of Fine Arts, the festival opens with “Sideway,” about a seaside town where ominous signs lead the townsfolk to believe that doomsday has arrived. Director Tayfun Pirselimoglu will discuss his film following the 6:30 p.m. screening. Also on March 22, the festival presents its annual Excellence in Turkish Cinema Award to actor, author, screenwriter, and director Ercan Kesal. Kesal’s documentary “Gone With the Hazelnuts” screens March 23 at 7 p.m. followed by a discussion with the director.

Other highlights include veteran director Ferzan Özpetek’s “Rosso Istanbul” (March 24), a semi-autobiographical dramatic thriller about Orhan (Halit Ergenc), an editor who returns to Istanbul after 20 years in London to help Deniz (Nejat Isler), a film director, complete the draft for his first book. It’s the first time in 20 years that Özpetek has shot a film in his homeland, and it’s rich with memories of his youth. Yilmaz Erdoğan’s “Sour Apples” (March 30) is set in the resort city of Antalya in the late ’90s, and centers on 40-year-old Muazzez (Farah Zeynep Abdullah) as she cares for her aging father who has Alzheimer’s.

German-born Fatih Akın, the son of Turkish immigrants, earned international acclaim with “In the Fade” (March 31), winner of the Golden Globe for best foreign film and the best actress award for Diane Kruger at the Cannes Film Festival. In the contemporary thriller, Kruger anchors the film as a young mother reeling from tragedy who decides to seek justice and revenge.

For more information go to
www.bostonturkishfilmfestival.org.