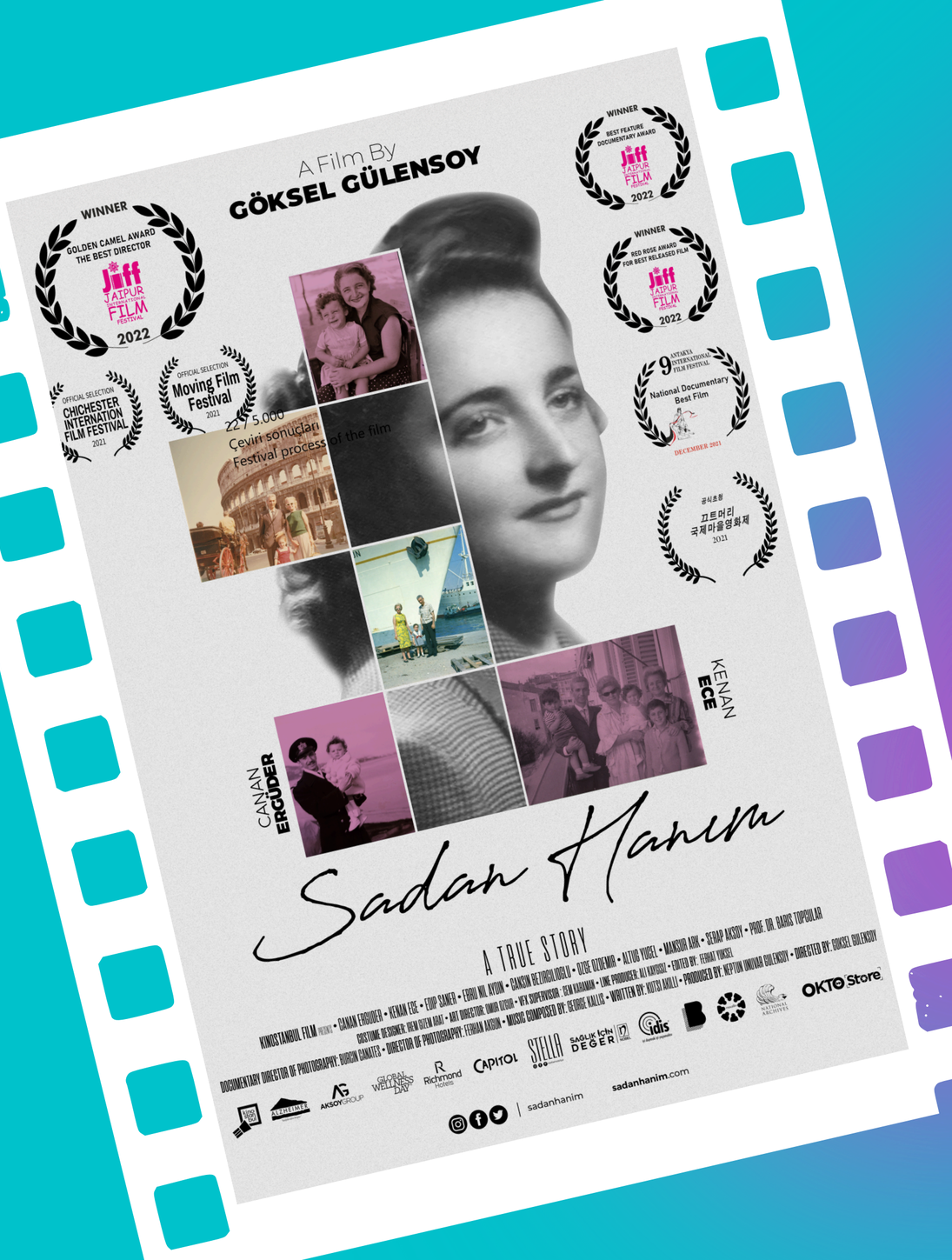
A TRUE STORY

SADAN HANIM

“HAVE YOU EVER WALKED ALONG A SHORELINE, ONLY TO HAVE YOUR FOOTPRINTS WASHED AWAY? THAT’S WHAT ALZHEIMER’S IS LIKE. THE WAVES ERASE THE MARKS WE LEAVE BEHIND, ALL THE SAND CASTLES. SOME DAYS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS.”

PAT SUMMITT

BY GÖKSEL GÜLENSOY | WWW.SADANHANIM.COM





PRESENTED IN AWARENESS OF WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Based on a true story, Sadan Hanım" is a feature documentary unfolding between 1933 and 2018, portraying the extraordinary life of an Istanbul woman across decades of social and personal change.

The film follows a clear narrative arc with a defined beginning, development, and conclusion, presenting a complete and self-contained story. Real-life events are complemented by carefully staged reenactments, allowing memory to be visually reimagined while preserving authenticity.

Featuring carefully staged reenactments performed by renowned actors

CANAN ERGÜDER & KENAN ECE

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 55 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE — AND EVERY DAY, THE NUMBER GROWS.
BEHIND EACH NUMBER IS A UNIQUE STORY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WITNESS ONE OF THEM?



STORY ESSENCE

A TRUE-LIFE STORY OF A WOMAN WHOSE NEARLY CENTURY-LONG LIFE BECOMES A REFLECTION ON MEMORY, LOVE, AND LOSS AS ALZHEIMER'S SLOWLY TAKES HOLD.

OVER NEARLY A CENTURY, "SADAN HANIM" TELLS THE STORY OF A LIFE IN WHICH MEMORY ITSELF BECOMES THE FRAGILE BORDER BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT.

Through rare home movies and intimate long-term observation, Sadan Hanım traces a woman's century-long life as Alzheimer's slowly reshapes memory, identity, and love.

WHY THIS STORY – WHY NOW

As societies worldwide face increasing life expectancy and aging populations, stories about memory and identity have become urgently relevant.

Alzheimer’s is no longer a distant medical condition, but a lived reality for millions of families.

“Sadan Hanım” transforms this global issue into an intimate, human story, offering audiences emotional access rather than statistics.



SINOPSIS

“Sadan Hanım” is an 85-minute feature documentary exploring Alzheimer’s disease through time, memory, and identity, told through the extraordinary life of an Istanbul woman whose memories reach back nearly a century.

Born in 1927, Sadan Hanım lived a life rich in personal and historical memories. When Alzheimer’s entered her life at the age of 86, those memories began to slowly fade. As her past dissolves, the film follows both the woman she once was and the person she is becoming.

The progression of the illness is portrayed through rare original 8 mm archival footage filmed by Sadan Hanım and her family across Turkey, Europe, and the United States, interwoven with more than 140 hours of observational footage recorded over a period of two years. As past and present merge, memory itself becomes the narrative voice.

Through this unique structure, “Sadan Hanım” creates an intimate and deeply human portrait of memory fading, identity shifting, and the universal effort to hold on. Awarded at multiple international film festivals, the documentary speaks to global audiences, appealing strongly to arthouse viewers, cultural broadcasters, and platforms seeking premium human-interest storytelling.



KEY SELLING POINTS

- Feature-length documentary (85 minutes)
- Based on a true story spanning nearly a century (1933–2018)
- Unique use of rare personal 8 mm archival footage
- Intimate long-term observational filming (over two years)
- Universally relevant subject: Alzheimer’s disease and memory
- Multiple international festival awards







TARGET AUDIENCE & MARKET POSITIONING

Market Fit

“Sadan Hanım” is well suited for theatrical documentary releases, cultural TV programming, and premium streaming platforms focusing on human-interest storytelling.

Primary Audience

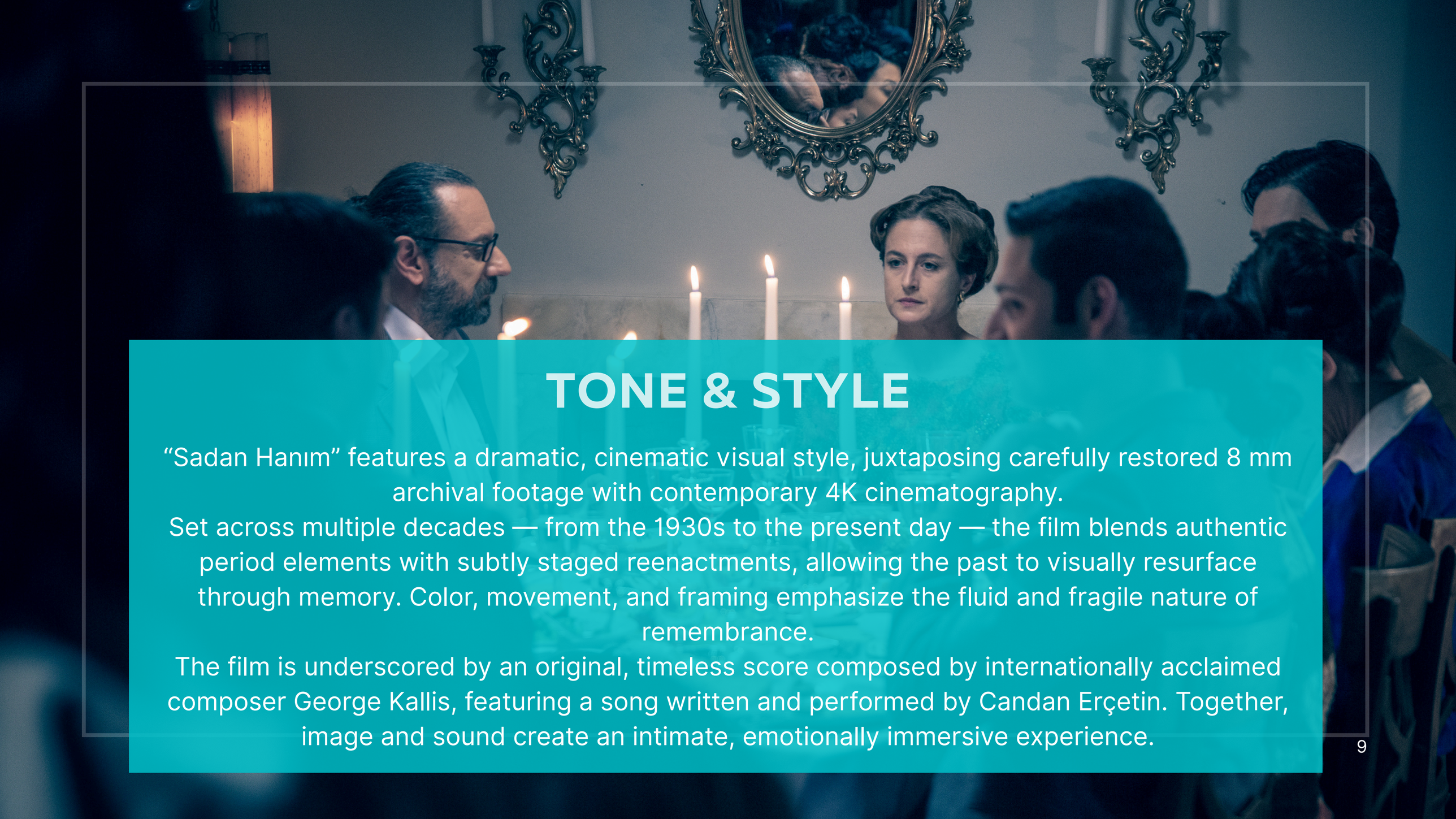
- Arthouse documentary audiences
- Cultural and public broadcasters
- Viewers interested in human stories, memory, and aging

Secondary Audience

- Adult viewers (35+)
- Audiences with personal or family experience of Alzheimer’s
- Educational & awareness-driven platforms

Comparable Titles / References

- Still Alice – intimate emotional access to Alzheimer’s
- Alive Inside – memory and identity through lived experience
- My Mother, the Game – personal family narrative and observation



TONE & STYLE

“Sadan Hanım” features a dramatic, cinematic visual style, juxtaposing carefully restored 8 mm archival footage with contemporary 4K cinematography.
Set across multiple decades — from the 1930s to the present day — the film blends authentic period elements with subtly staged reenactments, allowing the past to visually resurface through memory. Color, movement, and framing emphasize the fluid and fragile nature of remembrance.
The film is underscored by an original, timeless score composed by internationally acclaimed composer George Kallis, featuring a song written and performed by Candan Erçetin. Together, image and sound create an intimate, emotionally immersive experience.

WHY AUDIENCES WILL LOVE THIS MOVIE

WHEN AUDIENCES WATCH THIS FILM, THEY ENCOUNTER EMOTIONS THEY MAY ONE DAY EXPERIENCE IN THEIR OWN LIVES.
THE STORY INVITES THEM TO CONNECT DEEPLY WITH THE REALITY OF ALZHEIMER'S — NOT AS DISTANT OBSERVERS, BUT THROUGH AN INTIMATE AND PERSONAL EMOTIONAL JOURNEY.

OUR TEAM



GÖKSEL GÜLENSOY

Director



KUTSİ AKILLI

Screenwriter



PROF. DR. BARIŞ TOPÇULAR

Scientific Support

PARTNERSHIPS & SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT

ALZHEIMER ASSOCIATION TURKEY

Official awareness partner supporting public education and advocacy for families affected by Alzheimer's disease. Collaboration on awareness campaigns and events, including World Alzheimer's Day.

PROF. DR. BARIŞ TOPÇULAR

Scientific advisor ensuring medical accuracy and credibility throughout the project. Expertise in neurology and Alzheimer's research strengthens the film's authenticity and educational value.

WHY THIS MATTERS

These partnerships highlight the social and scientific relevance of Sadan Hanım. They build trust among institutions, healthcare professionals, and audiences—reinforcing the film's role in raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease.

AWARDS & FESTIVALS

- Best Director – JIFF Jaipur International Film Festival, India (2022)
- Best Documentary – JIFF Jaipur International Film Festival, India (2022)
- Best Realistic Film – JIFF Jaipur International Film Festival, India (2022)
- Jury Prize – Best Docu-Drama (3rd Prize),
- 55th Houston International Film Festival, USA (2022)
- Audience Award – Chichester International Film Festival, UK (2021)
- Best Film – Antakya International Film Festival (2021)

TO LOVE A PERSON IS TO LEARN THE SONG IN THEIR HEART. AND SING IT TO THEM WHEN THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN...

ARNE GARBORG



RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Available immediately – exclusive or non-exclusive deals negotiable

- Worldwide or selected territories
- Theatrical
- TV
- Streaming



GÖKSEL GÜLENSOY – DIRECTOR

Born on 9 March 1962 in Bandırma, Turkey, Göksel Gülensoy is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and director. He began his career assisting legendary Turkish directors Ertem Eğilmez and Halit Refiğ, and joined TRT Istanbul Television in 1985 as a camera operator and video editor.

He has directed numerous documentary films and worked as a director for major networks including Show TV, Cine5, NTV, and CNN Türk. His documentaries have received multiple awards in Turkey and internationally.

Gülensoy’s research beneath Hagia Sophia drew worldwide attention and later became the subject of a novel by Dan Brown. He holds an International Cinema Machine Operator License and a Post-Production Certificate (Istanbul Grass Valley).



DIRECTOR – SELECTED AWARDS

- Special Screening, Ankara Film Festival, Turkey (2006)
  “16–35mm” (Short Film)
- Official Special Screening, Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, Turkey (2005)
  “16–35mm” (Short Film)
- Special Jury Prize, Canadian Short Film Festival (2005)
  “16–35mm” (Short Film)
- Honourable Mention, Italian Cultural Institute, Istanbul (1998)
  “Paradise Island – Cyprus”
- Honourable Mention, New York Film Festival, USA (1997)
  “Paradise Island – Cyprus”
- Honourable Mention, San Sebastián Film Festival, Spain (1996) - “Ayasofya”
- Best Documentary, Tempera Film Festival (1995) - “Ayasofya”
- Second Prize – Best Documentary, Ankara Film Festival, Turkey (1994) - “Ayasofya”

CONTACT & REPRESENTATION

INTERNATIONAL
REPRESENTATION FOR
GÖKSEL GÜLENSOY –

AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR
OF **“SADAN HANIM”**

Sophie Kamuran Demirtas
Executive Producer
Ameera Consulting Company

+41 76 575 55 75
info@ameera.com.tr