



## Special Focus (Australia) : Contemporary

Country : Australia

### Shayda

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2023 / Colour / 117 minutes / English



**Director :** Noora Niasari

**Producer :** Vincent Sheehan

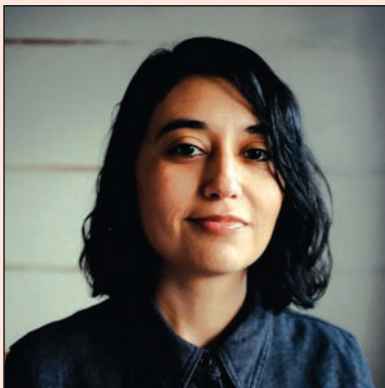
**Cinematographer :** Sherwin Akbarzadeh

**Editor :** Elika Rezaee

**Music :** Kate Dean

**Cast :** Zar Amir Ebrahimi, Leah Purcell

**Synopsis :** Shayda, a courageous Iranian mother, seeks sanctuary in an Australian women's shelter alongside her six-year-old daughter. Amid the Persian New Year, they find comfort in Nowruz traditions and the promise of fresh starts. However, their newfound stability is threatened when Shayda's estranged husband resurfaces, placing her journey to freedom in peril. The story unfolds as Shayda grapples with the challenges of protecting herself and her daughter against the re-emergence of a tumultuous past.



**Director's Biography :** Noora Niasari is a writer, director, producer, and co-founder of Parandeh Pictures. Born in Tehran and brought up in Australia, Shayda, her first feature film, received the prestigious Audience Award at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Sony Pictures Classics after its World Dramatic Competition release. She started off studying architecture but eventually became interested in film making. She travelled the world, producing films in Chile, Wales and Lebanon. In Chile, she produced *Antunez House* (2017), which was shortlisted for the New Talent Award at the 2017 Sheffield Documentary Festival.