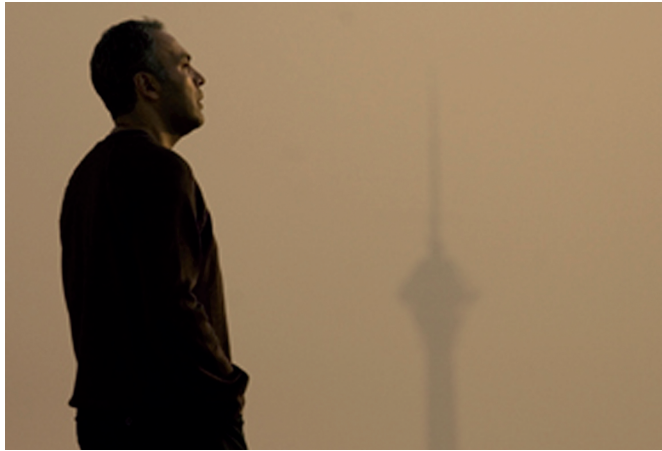


**DIRECTOR:**

Saman Estereki

Iran / 2008 / 35mm /  
Colour / 100min/ Persian



**SANDALI  
KHALI**  
EMPTY CHAIR

**PRODUCERS:**

Alireza Shojanoori,  
Iraj Taghipour

**PRODUCTION COMPANY:**

Behnegar, DEFC (Documentary  
& Experimental Film Center)  
No. 9. 3rd Floor,  
22 Bahman Alley,  
Yakhchal St,  
Gholhak, Shariati Ave.,  
Tehran Iran 194194

**SCREENPLAY:**

Saman Estereki  
Dop Hooman Behmanesh

**EDITOR:**

Saman Estereki,  
Alireza Shojanoori

**MUSIC:**

Babak Akhavan

**CAST:**

Fariborz Arabnia, Reza Attaran,  
Pantea Bahram,  
Farideh Faramarzi

**INTERNATIONAL SALES:**

Behnegar, DEFC (Documentary  
& Experimental Film Center)  
No. 9. 3rd Floor, 22 Bahman  
Alley, Yakhchal St, Gholhak,  
Shariati Ave.,  
Tehran Iran 194194

**FESTIVALS AND AWARDS:**

Pusan International  
Film Festival (2008)



**FILMOGRAPHY:**

One Stop Ahead (2003)  
Sandali Khali (2008)

A series of directors are making each other's movies, blurring the lines between actor and director. In the end, who is the one who ends up yelling "cut" from the "empty chair"? The film consists of three major episodes. One episode shows a couple agonizing over the decision to euthanize their newborn baby for his physical disabilities. The second depicts a career woman who was involved in a hit-and-run with a pedestrian on her way home. And the final episode portrays a filmmaker who is overwhelmed with guilt after killing a person by accident at a shooting site. Those positioned in desperate situations learn some advice from friends about God's will and the fate of human beings, and that advice is the question which the director actually presents to the audience. The most remarkable characteristic in the format is the narration itself. Those three episodes are depicted as movies within a movie, and as the stories of people who are actually involved in making this very film. Therefore, the points of view play a significant role here. This poses the question: whose point of view is in the last episode? The director makes a great choice to present the movie, which leads the audience to an animation in the end. It turns out that all the stories are made by characters in the animation. This represents the director's wit which distorts the relationship between God and human beings.

**DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY:**

Saman Estereki was born in 1981 in Khoramshahr, south of Iran. He began his film career in 2000 by directing the short film (Wrapped In A Cocoon), which participated in different international festivals including Goteborg in Sweden and Cupolino in Italy. He directed his first feature One Stop Ahead when he was 22 years old. His other short films include (You Really Can't Tell Them in Front of the Camera(2006) and (The First Day of Conscript(2007). Sandali Khali is his second feature film, the first on 35mm format.