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# RITA RAHIMI

FILM DIRECTOR · VISUAL ARTIST · CREATOR OF FANA

## PRESS KIT / BIOGRAPHY

### One-line biography

Rita Rahimi is an Iranian filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist creating original films and story worlds through cinematic craft and emerging AI production.

### Short biography

Rita Rahimi is an Iranian filmmaker, director, and multidisciplinary artist based in Armenia. Her work spans narrative cinema, animation, performance, visual art, and emerging technologies.

She is the creator of FANA, an evolving cinematic universe exploring rebellion, transformation, war, identity, displacement, and survival.

Since 2022, Rita has developed an extensive practice in AI-assisted filmmaking while continuing a creative career spanning more than twenty years. She also teaches AI filmmaking and emerging production methods at Inverse School.

### Full biography

Rita Rahimi is an Iranian filmmaker, director, and multidisciplinary artist based in Armenia.

For more than twenty years, her practice has moved across filmmaking, animation, visual art, performance, comics, and digital media, with a continuing focus on character, transformation, identity, movement, and cinematic storytelling.

Rita is the creator of FANA, an evolving narrative universe connecting films, characters, comics, music, and visual art. Rooted in the concept of fana, or the dissolution of the self, the project reinterprets an idea with deep roots in Persian artistic and mystical traditions through contemporary stories of war, displacement, rebellion, absurdity, and survival.

Since 2022, she has worked extensively with generative AI, developing filmmaking methods that integrate writing, character development, visual design, performance, image generation, animation, editing, sound, and post-production into a unified directing process.

Her AI-assisted narrative short FANA: Back in a Sec premiered at the 9th Yerevan International Short Film Festival in 2026. She is currently developing FANA: Dead Hour, a dialogue-free short film about war and displacement, followed by FANA: The Roach, a character-driven story centered on the first meeting between Ahu and Adil.

Alongside her filmmaking practice, Rita teaches AI filmmaking at Inverse School, sharing emerging production methods with a new generation of filmmakers and artists.

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## Artistic statement

I am interested in stories that exist between worlds.

Between memory and imagination. Reality and myth. The personal and the collective. The human and the technological.

My work often begins with characters undergoing transformation: losing identities, environments, relationships, beliefs, or structures they once depended on.

As an Iranian filmmaker living between cultures, and as a queer artist, I am drawn to people navigating contradiction, displacement, uncertainty, and reinvention.

Technology is an important part of my practice, but it is never the destination. I treat AI as part of an expanding cinematic language. Story, character, performance, rhythm, and emotional experience remain at the center of the work.

Through FANA, I am building a long-term body of interconnected stories that move between tragedy, fantasy, absurdity, comedy, political reality, and speculative worlds.

## About FANA

FANA is an evolving cinematic universe created by Rita Rahimi.

Set within a distorted, semi-apocalyptic world shaped by war, authoritarianism, social collapse, and the supernatural, FANA follows characters attempting to survive, rebel, connect, and retain their humanity as the structures around them disintegrate.

The universe unfolds across films, comics, characters, music, exhibitions, and future serialized stories.

Its name comes from fana, the dissolution of the self, a concept that has appeared for centuries across Persian poetry, mysticism, and art. Rita approaches that idea through contemporary narrative cinema and visual storytelling.

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## CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT

### FANA: Dead Hour

Narrative Short Film · 5-7 min · In Development

After a rocket destroys her apartment, Ahu flees through the ruins of her city and descends into a subterranean purgatory where the dead wait in silence.

A dialogue-free story of war, displacement, survival, and the moment distant violence becomes immediate and impossible to ignore.

Currently seeking producers, funding, and production partners.

### FANA: The Roach

Narrative Short · 10-15 min · In Development

Ahu and Adil meet for the first time in a war-torn city where surviving the rules can be as dangerous as breaking them.

The story brings together two central FANA characters with completely opposing relationships to authority: Ahu, an instinctive rebel, and Adil, an intensely law-abiding man whom the system has somehow failed to recognize.

Currently seeking development and producing partners.

## Teaching

AI Filmmaking Instructor · Inverse School

Rita teaches emerging AI filmmaking methods with a focus on cinematic storytelling, character development, visual production, animation, editing, and integrated generative workflows.

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## SELECTED FILMS

### Dissipate

2026 · Narrative Music Video for Delusive Relics · 3:27

Two synthetic bodies escape an abandoned laboratory into a world already falling apart.

An AI-assisted narrative music video combining character development, performance, visual worldbuilding, animation, and traditional post-production.

### FANA: Back in a Sec

2026 · AI-assisted Narrative Short Film · 3 min

A reckless drive builds toward a violent crash in an early experiment with AI-generated narrative cinema.

Premiere & Official Selection · 9th Yerevan International Short Film Festival · 2026

### Fairy Ring

2023 · Narrative Music Video for Delusive Relics · 4:37

A dark performance film built through choreography, costume, character, and transformation.

### FANA: Rays of Delight

2020 · Experimental Dance Film · 7:34

Four spontaneous days across four seasons become a cinematic experiment in movement, sound, perception, and rhythm.

### FANA: Vile Affection

2019 · Experimental Narrative Film · 3:52

A sleepless woman trapped inside a house confronts paranoia, trauma, and the lingering presence of an abusive relationship.

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## Selected exhibitions

FANA

Interdisciplinary Solo Exhibition

Shamis Gallery, Tehran · 2024

The Sun

Solo Exhibition

Aaran Gallery, Tehran · 2014

## Selected festivals & screenings

9th Yerevan International Short Film Festival · 2026

Edinburgh Iranian Festival · 2015

International Film Festival Rotterdam · 2013

Göteborg International Film Festival · 2013

## Publications

FANA: A Maple in Flames

Original Comic Book · 2024

150 pages · Pen on paper

Understanding Comics by Scott McCloud

Farsi Translation by Rita Rahimi

Published by Aban Books · 2012

## Contact

For interviews, screenings, festival programming, production, funding, speaking, or collaboration inquiries:

[ritarahimix@gmail.com](mailto:ritarahimix@gmail.com)

[rrfana.com](http://rrfana.com)

Instagram: [@rr.fana](https://www.instagram.com/rr.fana)

YouTube: [@rrfana](https://www.youtube.com/rrfana)

TikTok: [@rr\\_fana](https://www.tiktok.com/@rr_fana)

WhatsApp

Telegram: [@rrfana](https://www.telegram.com/@rrfana)