



SAHAR  
BINIAZ

CAMYAR  
CHAI

HEATHER  
DOERKSEN

A FILM BY BAHARAK SAEID MONIR

# AMBROSIA

AMBROSIA FILM PRESENTS SAHAR BINIAZ CAMYAR CHAI HEATHER DOERKSEN "AMBROSIA" PAULINE EGAN VEENU  
SANDHU TINA MILO MILIVOJEVIC AND ZEUS GHADBAN DIRECTED BY AFSHIN PARVIZFAR PRODUCED BY BAHARAK SAEID MONIR  
EDITED BY ADAM HURST COSTUME DESIGNER MANELI NOURBAKHSH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FARHAD SABA AND BAHARAK SAEID MONIR

## SYNOPSIS

A beautiful and talented fashion designer's excitement in landing a dream job is complicated when her new boss takes more than a professional interest in her, which makes her question her own values, threatens her marriage, and ultimately forces her to make a life-changing decision.



## CAST

SAHAR BINIAZ

Leila

CAMYAR CHAI

Ali

HEATHER DOERKSEN

Sarah

PAULINE EGAN

Monica

TINA MILO MILIVOJEVIC

Samira

VEENU SANDHU

Maryam

ZEUS GHADBAN

Ferry

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Title: Ambrosia

Duration: 79 min

Origination: Digital Camera: Red One

Ratio: 1.78:1

Format: HDCAM SR 1080p 23.98

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

Language: English/Farsi with English subtitles

Year of production: 2011



Leila (Sahar Biniiaz) and Ali (Camyar Chai) are an Iranian-Canadian married couple in Vancouver, who both yearn for something more in their lives. Leila is a talented tailor who wants to become a fashion designer while Ali, an ambitious pizza shop owner, hopes to expand his pizza business.

Leila is attending a fashion design school and soon gains the attention of the owner, Sarah Lane, a noted fashion designer. Upon graduation, Sarah offers Leila a job in her design firm. Leila happily accepts and starts work immediately. Soon, Leila realizes that Sarah's interest is more than professional when Sarah tries to seduce her.

Ali's business begins to struggle because of the bad economy. He finds himself forced to dismiss his employees and Leila offers to work afternoons at the pizza shop. She hurries back to the pizza parlor after long days at the design firm and then works in the kitchen while Ali makes deliveries.

The couple are exhausted and unhappy. Their relationship becomes strained, and Leila begins to dream of a different life. When Leila discovers that she is pregnant, she keeps the news from Ali and feels no choice but to plan an abortion.

Ali decides to sell their house, and does not tell Leila. When Ali confesses that he has put the house up for sale, they have a fight. In tears, Leila walks out and moves in with a friend.

On the way to her abortion appointment, Leila sees a little girl dancing to the music of a cellist in a park. She sits on a bench and watches the girl for some time. After arriving at the clinic, Leila changes her mind and decides to keep her baby.

Having sold the house, Ali moves into a trailer. At the fashion firm, Leila confronts Sarah and quits her job. When Ali hears the news that Leila has quit the fashion firm, he rushes to see her. Leila is moved by his love and sincerity, and decides to get back together with him.





**SAHAR BINIAZ**  
Leila

Sahar Biniiaz is a sensual Canadian/ Iranian actress, entrepreneur and humanitarian. Born in India and raised in Iran, Biniiaz eventually settled in Canada. Since childhood, Biniiaz was determined to succeed as an actor.

She took acting lessons at the Academy Of Dramatic Arts, The Actors Foundry and the Lyric school of Acting in Canada, and graduated with honours from the prestigious Stella Adler Academy of Acting & Theatre in Los Angeles. She has also studied with renowned coaches Ivana Chubbuck and Larry Moss, and attended the Shiamak Dance Academy. In addition, she studied Business Entrepreneurship at UBC.

Since then, Biniiaz has appeared in many TV series and films. Her TV credits include *Blade* (2006), *Painkiller Jane* (2007), *Under one roof* (2008), *Blue Mountain State* (2010), with recurring roles in *Smallville* (2007, 2010) and *Sanctuary* (2010). Her film credits include: *Neal 'N' Nikki* (2005), *Watchmen* (2009), *The Search for Santa Paws* (2010) and *Ambrosia* (2012).

As Biniiaz puts it, "Acting has taught me about my own inner emotions and helped me mature as a human being."

As a humanitarian, Biniiaz has volunteered at Pattaya orphanage in Bangkok, Thailand, provided support services to the homeless, and traveled around the world to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation.

In 2012, Biniiaz was crowned Miss Universe Canada.







**CAMYAR CHAI**  
Ali

Camyar Chai is an Iranian/Canadian actor, writer and director. Born in Iran and raised in London, New York and Vancouver, Chai earned his M.F.A. in theatre at the University of British Columbia. Chai has performed extensively across Canada and the United States.

He is a regular contributor to CBC Radio, and is the founding Artistic Director of one of Canada's leading independent theatre companies, Newworld Theatre. He is also a published playwright, and his opera librettos have been produced in Canada and the United States.

Chai is a recipient of the UBC Graduate Fellowship, a Ray Michel Award for his direction of *The Devil Box Cabaret*, two Jessie Richardson Awards for playwriting of *Devil Box Cabaret* and *Vanun* and a Jessie Richardson Award for Acting (with the ensemble of Western Theatre Conspiracy's *Mojo*).

Chai has appeared in numerous plays including: *Adrift on the Nile* and *The Adventures of Ali and Ali* as well as TV series, including: *DaVinci's Inquest*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Intelligence*, and *Masters of Science Fiction*. His film credits include *Protection* (2000), *Hejira* (2005), *Everything's Gone Green* (2006), *The Last Mimzy* (2007) and *Ambrosia* (2012).



**PAULINE EGAN**  
**Monica**

Pauline Egan is an accomplished Australian actress, dancer, and musician. Egan appeared in her first stage play at the age of five, and began classical piano and dance training at the age of seven. Pauline trained with globally recognized acting coach Tom McSweeney and The Australian Film & Television Academy.

Pauline has appeared in *Crooked Business* (2007), *Blood Money* (2008) and *The Pacific* (2008) directed by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. She played leading roles in *The Winter Case* (2008), *Tinted* (2009), *A Good Night To Die* (2009), *Swing* (2009), and “Celluloid” (2009).

In 2009, Pauline moved to North America to further her career, and landed the recurring role of ‘Erika Myers’ on the popular Syfy network series *Sanctuary* (2010–2012), Spike TV’s *Blue Mountain State* (2010) and CW Network’s *Supernatural* (2011).

Egan’s upcoming films include *Ambrosia* (2012), *The Christmas Consultant* (2012), and *Elysium* (2013) starring Matt Damon and Jodie Foster.





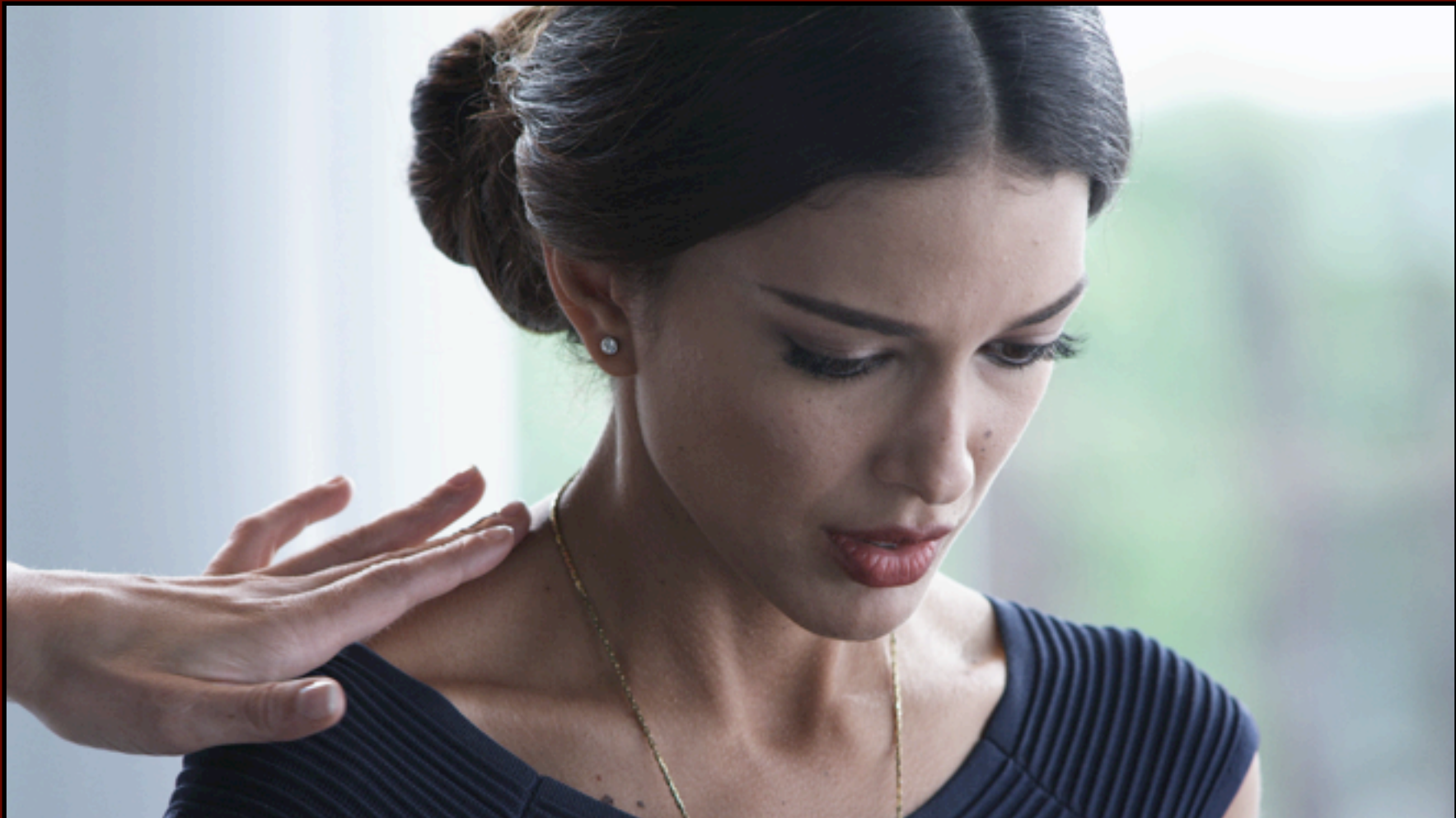
**HEATHER DOERKSEN**  
Sarah

Canadian-born actress Heather Doerksen has worked in film, theatre, television and animation. She received her B.A. in acting at Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts, appearing on stage in *Antigone*, *Big Love* and *The Cherry Orchard*.

After graduating, Heather was a founding member of Genus Theatre. Throughout her career, Doerksen has appeared on stage, film and television. She was nominated for a Leo Award for best female performance in “Alchemy and Other Imperfections” in 2012.

Her film credits include *The Eye* (2008), *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (2008), *The Uninvited* (2009), *Marmaduke* (2010), *The Client List* (2010), *The Cabin in the Woods* (2011), *Indie Jonesing* (2012), *Ambrosia* (2012) and *Guillermo del Toro's Pacific Rim* (2013).

Her TV credits include recurring roles in *Smallville*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The L-Word* and *Stargate Atlantis*. Her Theatre credits include *Little Mountain Mountaineers*, *Breakfast with Evie* and *Freeport, Texas*.



## CREW

WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR    BAHARAK SAEID MONIR

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER    AFSHIN PARVIZFAR

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY    FARHAD SABA

EDITOR    BAHARAK SAEID MONIR

COMPOSER    ADAM HURST

COSTUME DESIGNER    MANELI NOURBAKHSH

CAMERA OPERATORS    STIRLING BANCROFT  
MACKENZIE SHEPPERD

SOUND MIXERS    JEFF CARTER  
RODERICK MATTE  
MARK BARRY



**BAHARAK SAEID MONIR**  
Screenwriter,  
producer and director

Baharak Saeid Monir was born in Tehran in 1971. Her first artistic experience was photography, which she continued into her late teens. After graduating high school, she studied cinematography, then joined the first private film school in Tehran to study filmmaking. Saeid Monir then started her own company in the late 1980s, producing commercial videos.

Six years of capturing important moments of people's lives and the way people behave, gave her some useful insights and experience in cinematography and directing.

Saeid Monir's curiosity landed her in Vancouver in 1995. She studied filmmaking at Simon Fraser University and created films that drew on her personal experience based on the widening political and ideological rift between the West and the Middle East.

Saeid Monir earned her BFA in film from Simon Fraser University in 2005 and was the recipient of the SFU Contemporary Arts Award for 2003 and 2004. Received her diploma of Entrainment Administration program at the University of British Columbia in 2007. She has worked on many films and videos, and has written, directed, and produced several short films. Saeid Monir's short films was shown at numerous film festivals around the world. She also received the UBC Graduate Fellowship in 2009 and her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Film Production in 2013.

*Ambrosia* is Saeid Monir's first feature film. The film had its world premiere at the 36<sup>th</sup> Montreal World Film Festival in August 2012, its international premiere at the 35<sup>th</sup> Cairo International Film Festival in December 2012, its British Columbia premiere at the 10<sup>th</sup> Haida Gwaii Film Festival in February 2013 and Metro Vancouver Premiere at Your Kontinet: Richmond Film and Media Arts Festival in July 2013. It has also been nominated for Best Motion Picture Picture Editing at the 15<sup>th</sup> Leo Awards.





**BAHARAK SAEID MONIR**  
Filmography

2012 *Ambrosia*

2005 "Hejira"

2004 "Alineation"

2003 "Imaginary Whirlings"

2002 "Antiques"

2001 "Sedna"

2000 "Shadow"



**FARHAD SABA**  
Director of photography

Farhad Saba was born in Tehran, Iran. In 1968, he entered the National Radio & Television University of Tehran (Seda va Sima) to study cinema & television. After his graduation in 1972, he worked as a camera assistant for national television. He quickly became a cameraman, working on short films, documentaries, Tele-Theatres and TV series.

His first cinematic credit as director of photography was the black & white *Mir Nassir Ghool-e negoonbakht* (1975). He became a full-fledged director of photography in the mid 1980s and shot several internationally-known films such as *Where is the Friend's Home* (1987), *Through the Olive Tree* (1994) and *Willow and Wind* (1999), with the legendary writer/director Abbas Kiarostami.

Saba's pioneering work with natural light sources complemented Kiarostami's penchant for location shooting and minimalist shot compositions.

Throughout his career, Saba has worked on over 30 films and 4000 minutes of TV series and documentaries. His works have screened internationally and received numerous nominations (Palme d'Or 1994) and won prestigious awards (Bronze Leopard 1989, Silver Hugo 1994, Golden Seashell 1995, Golden Moon of Valencia 2001, and the Golden Wheel 2001) around the world.

**Director's Statement:**

I was born and spend my formative years in the Middle East and lived for the past seventeen years in Canada, where I went to college and university.

I live in a strange and contradictory state in which the East and the West are in an ambivalent and conflicting relationship. The world in which I have lived is like a magnet where I constantly pushed and pulled between the two polars, East and West, each competing against the other for dominance. So, the duality of my plural-cultural life as it entails the East and the West is in part what led me to investigate the complex relationship between the East and the West and to dramatize it in my first feature, *Ambrosia*. This an ultra low budget made in Canada, and I funded the film myself.

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