

# BEYOND THE ARARAT

---

## CREDITS

English title	Beyond the Ararat
Original title	Au-delà de l'Ararat
Director	Tülin Özdemir
Photography	Johan Legraie
Sound	Félix Blume
Editing	Anne-Laure Guégan
Sound design	Raf Enckels
Music	David Yengibarlian

## PRODUCTION

Production company	Stenola Productions
Producer	Anton Iffland Stettner
Co-production company	Associate Directors
Co-producers	Mark Daems Bram Crols

### Supported by/ in co-operation with

- The Centre of Cinema and Audiovisual of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and VOO
- Flanders Audiovisual Fund

## FORMAT

Original version	French
Running time	57 minutes
Format	DCP HD Cam Digital Betacam, Blu-Ray DVD <b>1 : 2,35 – 5.1 – Color</b>
Year of production	2013

## INFO & SALES

Stenola Productions  
Anton Iffland Stettner  
[anton@stenola.eu](mailto:anton@stenola.eu)

## CONTACT

Stenola Productions  
9a Rue des Chartreux  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium / EU  
T +32 2 503 34 51  
F +32 2 503 23 50  
[info@stenola.eu](mailto:info@stenola.eu)  
[www.stenola.eu](http://www.stenola.eu)

## SYNOPSIS

*"Beyond the Ararat" is the story of a woman of Turkish origin who embarks on a journey to better understand what makes up her identity.*

*A road movie which brings her from her childhood neighborhood in Brussels to Turkey and Armenia. A quest where each woman she encounters could be the reflection of herself.*

*Entering the land of her ancestors, Anatolia, she questions her cultural heritage. Stopping in her grandmother's village, she discovers the "Agit"; an antique oral tradition where women sing for their dead. The songs open a potential space for mourning, where Turkish, Kurdish but also Armenian women missing from that land, can sing "together".*

*The confrontation with the "missing" from her memory, brings her farther eastward in Anatolia to the foot of the Ararat Mountain, and beyond...*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

*It's the story of a woman of Turkish origin who embarks on a journey to better understand what makes up her identity. A road movie which brings her from her childhood neighborhood in Brussels to Turkey and Armenia. She discovers the "Agit"; an antique oral tradition where women sing for their dead. The songs open a potential space for mourning, where Turkish, Kurdish but also Armenian women missing from that land, can sing "together" for their dead.*

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Born in the heart of Europe, I grew up amongst the contrast between two cultures: the Christian East outside the home, and the Muslim orient inside. Very early, the question of identity came naturally to me, as I found it necessary to understand what bound me to the country of my origins: Turkey. Throughout my life, I was confronted with the dispute surrounding the "genocide" or «so-called genocide». It blurred the bond I had with my identity and cut me off from the land of my roots, Anatolia.

This is the main stake of the film. History can divide and separate. In this film, I choose to write my own memory with Anatolian, Armenian and Kurdish women's accounts. Through oral traditions and songs, *Beyond the Ararat* is a way of finding a common space to share stories with other women and to find my place among them.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

I graduated from the Saint-Luc School of Art in Brussels and worked several years in architecture, interior design and scenography before entering the film school INSAS. After two years in the directing program, I took a Masters in creative documentary and visual anthropology and made my first documentary film *"Our Wedding"*. In this film, I explored the theme of traditional marriage amongst Turkish immigrants. This was a first step towards questioning what made up my identity.

*"Beyond the Ararat"* is a continuation of this debut. This quest takes me away from the family context to the much larger question of the land my origins, Anatolia.

In October 2011, the documentary «*Clivovich vs Kebabtje*» was part of a film-photo installation project. It was shot in the Balkans, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Bulgaria. Borders are not where we see them. The topic was: what at the same time separates people and connects them? The film was screened in several venues in Flanders for the Balkan Film Festival.

In December 2011 for the exhibition «*Women and city*» at the Foundation of Architecture in Brussels, I directed «*Rendez-vous sur le quai*», a documentary that gives women say on what they think about the place of women in the urban environment.

My desire through documentaries is to explore themes such as identity, personal and physical boundaries and memory.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

« *Rendez-vous sur le quai* » – documentary, 21 min (2011)

« *Clivovich vs Kebabtje* » – documentary, 27 min (2011)

« *Our wedding* » – documentary, 28 min (2008)

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCER**

Originally from New York City, Anton Iffland Stettner moved to Paris in the '90s. He graduated from the Superior School of Cinema of Belgium (INSAS) with a Masters degree in 2008. In 2009 he founded Stenola Productions where he is lead producer. In 2013, in addition to his activities at Stenola, he became head of development for feature length films at Need Productions.

The way we conceive and produce films is driven by the need for a strong point of view. We scout for talented and bold filmmakers. Our determination to make high quality films, results in a care throughout the writing, production, and distribution phases. Through documentary and fiction, we collaborate with co-producers, broadcasters and funding agencies across Europe. Based in Brussels, today Stenola collaborates on documentaries selected in major film festivals involving Belgian, French, German and other European coproducers, broadcasters or financing funds.