

## Abstract

### Tawfiq Nizamidin: Uyghur Cinema's Star of Tomorrow



Tawfiq Nizamidin (b.1991) is the Uyghur film director that has received the most international attention so far. Although his repertoire to date is small (including directing about half a dozen short films and writing and producing a handful others), most of these works have been screened in important international film festivals and cinema events. He is the only Uyghur director listed on the MUBI film catalogue, alongside the Tibetan director Pema Tseden. One of his short films “The Night of Arzu” was nominated for the Best Live Action Short Film prize at the 2017 Golden Horse Awards. This lecture discusses Tawfiq’s cinematic aesthetics in relation to and beyond the trends of Uyghur cinema, and explores how he breaks new grounds in terms of portraying his Uyghur characters as secular and urban individuals of empowered agency, instead of conforming to the stereotypical emphasis on their traditional and religious identity.