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Interview:

Roohullah Hasani talks about his experience at Andebølle Youth College



“Everything started when I was still a student in Andebølle!”
read the interview

Roohullah Hasani

by Lucia D'Addezio

Roohullah Hasani, born in Afghanistan but grown up in Denmark, is a former student of Andebølle Folk Highschool and now he is trying to realize his dream: to become a movie director.



Like many other former students, he came back to Andebølle for a couple of days, to visit the school, to meet the teachers and the new students. We decide to ask him few questions about his new life after a great semester in Andebølle and about his projects in the field of filmmaking. In fact, Roohullah won a competition with his script and Odense International Film Festival gave him money to shoot his first movie.

Can you tell us something about your passion for movies? Have you always dreamed of being a director?

Basically yes. I come from a very poor Country and we never had a TV. I remember the first

time I saw a movie: I was 6 years old and I went with my family in another city. Many people were watching a movie on a big screen so I went there to have a look; it was a Jackie Chan movie and from then on I have always dreamed of becoming an actor and a director too. I wanted to work in the field of cinema and movie-making and this is what I'm trying to do now. In the beginning everyone kept saying: "this is a hard job, there is plenty of competition, you have to be beautiful and perfect, you will never succeed" but I didn't care, I have always believed in myself and in my capacity and I'm

ready to work hard to achieve my dream.

What are you working on at this time?

Right now I am editing my first movie, having already six hours of material on tape and an editing studio in Odense at my disposal ([Odense Filmværksted](#)). After this, I hope I could be accepted as student at the Film School in Copenhagen.

Shooting movies is really expensive and, furthermore, you are very young. Was it hard? How did you find the money to carry out your project?

Everything started when I was still a student in Andebølle. During my stay in the college, together with my teachers and schoolmates, I participated as audience in the International Film Festival organized every year in the city of Odense. Then I met a guy who wanted to be a filmmaker like me, he was working to realize his movie and he told me about the existence of a new-talent contest launched by Odense Film Festival to help new directors with money and technical support. Actually, he managed to make his movie thanks to this contest and I thought it was a great opportunity for me too, so I started to think about my future and about what I really wanted



“The semester at Zandebølle was the best period of my life, I had a lot of fun and now I have friends all over the world”.

Interview with **Roohullah Hasani**

to do with my life. That is the reason why I decided to write a story and to send it to the contest.

You were a student in Andebølle at that time...

Yes, I was studying in Andebølle. When I got there I was 18 years old and I had just finished with my Business school. At that time we were preparing the Andebølle Festival and we were working on our performances during the whole day. After the rehearsal, I always went to my room to write my story for the whole night. Before this, I only dreamt about my future as a filmmaker but the idea of being a movie director became more concrete when I decided to send this application to the international film competition launched by OFF (Odense Film Festival). They were looking for new interesting and creative ideas and they only

told me: “the story must be short and good”. Having a good story in my mind for a long time, I started to work intensively to the script, day and night, wishing for a good luck with the OFF jury and, after sleepless night and a lot of stress, I got an email. They wanted to meet me and, after this interview, they took the final decision: with my story, partly autobiographical and partly fictitious, I won the competition and the money to make my own movie. They gave me 10.000 Kr to make my first movie. I got more money from sponsors and organizations (about 15.000 Kr) and with this budget I started to shoot the movie.

Did your stay in the school helped you in some way?

Of course. I really loved my semester in Andebølle. Everything started there and all the teachers helped me a lot with my project: Lorens was a great

guide for me, because he is educated as actor, and actually he selected with me the cast and helped me with all the auditions for actors; Christian helped me too. They motivated me and gave me a lot of good advices for my future career. In Andebølle, teachers are like parents and like friends for me and for all the other students; it's always a pleasure to meet them again when I am coming back to the school for a visit.

What do you remember most of your semester in Andebølle?

I remember the day that I left the school. The morning after I woke up in my house and everything was quiet. So I got out of bed and went to breakfast. I was alone, eating my breakfast and I was so sad that I could only think about how much I wanted to go back to Andebølle and be with my friends. I really wanted to cry. I've been there for six months and everything was great, this was the best period of my life, I had a lot of fun and I met people from all over the world. After Andebølle I decided to travel and to see new Countries and new places and that is the only reason that made me choose not to come back for another semester. Otherwise I would have stayed in the school for another six months.

What about your plans for the future?



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As I said, I would like to study at the Film School in Copenhagen. Maybe after this I could go to the U.S. or to another foreign Country to learn more about cinema and filmmaking. This is my dream and I am sure 100% of what I want to do. I have already many ideas for new movies: I would like to talk about my Country and to tell the world stories about Afghanistan. We have so many beautiful things that nobody knows! But for the moment I am looking forward to see my first movie (that is almost ready) shown in the Odense International Film Festival next year. After this, we will see...



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