



Crossing (2024)

Description

A Poignant Journey Through Istanbul's Hidden Corners

"Istanbul is a place where people come to disappear." This poignant observation, made by Lia, one of the central characters in Levan Akin's "Crossing," encapsulates the heart of this moving film. Lia, a stern-faced older woman from Georgia's Batumi, has ventured into the Turkish capital to fulfill a promise to her deceased sister: to find her sister's transgender child living somewhere in Istanbul. With only a name and a faint hope, Lia embarks on this journey, joined by the young and naive Achi.











The film opens in the chaotic home of Achi, a young man living under the oppressive rule of his older brother. When Lia arrives, Achi seizes the opportunity to escape his miserable existence, claiming he knows where to find Lia's niece, Tekla. Together, they traverse the poorer sections of Istanbul, staying in cheap lodgings and navigating a labyrinth of uncertainties.

Mzia Arabuli and Lucas Kankava deliver remarkable performances as Lia and Achi. Arabuli's portrayal of Lia is both stern and vulnerably human, capturing the character's internal struggle and resilience. Kankava's Achi, with his wide-eyed naivete and occasional bravado, provides a perfect counterbalance, adding depth to their unlikely partnership.

As they search for Tekla, their paths cross with Evrim, a confident trans woman nearing the completion of her law degree and working for a trans rights NGO. Deniz Dumanli's portrayal of Evrim is extraordinary, bringing a grounded, vanity-free authenticity to the character. Evrim's story, interwoven with Lia and Achi's, enriches the narrative, highlighting the diverse experiences of marginalized individuals in Istanbul.

Levan Akin's direction is a masterclass in neo-realism, reminiscent of Italian cinema greats like De Sica. The cinematography by Lisabi Fridell captures the essence of Istanbul through a "fly on the wall" approach, often shooting through windows and doorways to create a sense of immersion and empathy. The city's portrayal is raw and unvarnished, a character in its own right, teeming with life and stray cats.

The screenplay, written by Akin, deftly balances the intersecting stories of Lia, Achi, and Evrim. It explores themes of family, identity, and the search for belonging. The dialogue is natural and poignant, enhancing the film's [emotional depth](#).

Strengths:

- Powerful and nuanced performances by the main cast
- Masterful direction and cinematography
- Rich, layered storytelling with emotional depth

Weaknesses:

- The deliberate pacing may feel slow for some viewers
- The narrative complexity might leave certain elements underexplored

Fans of neo-realist films like "Bicycle Thieves" or "The Kid with a Bike" will find "Crossing" equally compelling. It combines elements of drama, [social commentary](#), and personal journey, creating a unique and thought-provoking viewing experience.

"Crossing" is a must-watch for those who appreciate deeply human stories told with empathy and realism. It is a film that lingers in the mind, prompting reflection on the complexities of identity and belonging. Stream it now on [iwatchonline.cc](#) for a heartfelt and immersive experience.

FAQ about "Crossing"

Is "Crossing" based on true events?

"Crossing" is a work of fiction, though it draws on [real-life experiences](#) and [social issues](#) to create its compelling narrative.

Who directed "Crossing"?

The film was directed by Levan Akin, known for his ability to blend personal stories with broader social themes.

What themes does "Crossing" explore?

"Crossing" explores themes such as family, identity, the search for belonging, and the struggles faced by marginalized communities.

Is “Crossing” available for streaming?

Yes, you can stream “Crossing” on [iwatchonline.cc](https://www.iwatchonline.cc). It is the best platform for watching this [emotionally resonant film](#).

What makes “Crossing” different from other social dramas?

“Crossing” stands out for its neo-realist approach, powerful performances, and its empathetic portrayal of diverse characters. The film’s raw depiction of Istanbul and its sensitive handling of complex social issues make it a unique and impactful viewing experience.

For further reading, you can check out the [Wikipedia page on neo-realism](#) and [IMDb page for Levan Akin](#).

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5. Travel Review

ACTOR

1. Deniz Dumanlı
2. Lucas Kankava
3. Mzia Arabuli

DIRECTOR

1. Levan Akin

GENRE

1. Drama

RATING

1. 7

STREAMING-PLATFORM

1. iwatchonline

MOVIE YEAR

1. 2024

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