

Mehdi Parsi

- ❖ Phone: (+98) 936-323-8516
- ❖ Email: mmparsi@gmail.com
- ❖ Director of Photography, Photographer, Colorist
- ❖ Tehran, Iran

Summary

A visionary Director of Photography (DP) and photographer, leveraging nine years of extensive industry experience. Founded and managed Naranj Studio, spearheading over 100 successful projects, including 50 documentaries and commercials. Mastery of cinematography and photography yielded visually striking imagery across diverse genres, complemented by over 12 years of outstanding proficiency in live performance and documentary photography (Analog and Digital). Recognized for exemplary problem-solving abilities, adept teamwork, and proven leadership skills. Committed to continuous growth and further elevation in the international film industry.

Career Goal

- Staying updated on the latest industry advancements and gaining experience and a deep understanding of state-of-the-art workflows within the international cinema industry while working for an active and progressive company.
- Advancing expertise in the Director of Photography (DP) role, both nationally and internationally, especially within narrative cinema and documentary genres.
- Enhancing networking skills and pursuing collaborations with exceptional artists from diverse backgrounds in a collaborative environment.
- Establishing a professional and international cinematic-style color grading company to serve valuable Iranian and international independent filmmakers, within a maximum timeframe of 3 years.
- **As an independent artist** my enduring aspiration lies in the realm of social responsibility, where I endeavor to fuse artistic expression with meaningful societal interactions and enriching intellectual dialogues. As I gaze towards the future, I am filled with hope and anticipation for a trajectory that is anchored in interactive performing arts and photography imbued with a social-political perspective. It is my fervent belief that this journey will be characterized by boundless exploration, constant growth, and the relentless pursuit of innovative approaches to broaden horizons and break new ground in these vital arenas of expression.

Work Experience

Official

❖ **Founder and Managing Director**

Naranj Studio, Tehran, Iran, 2015-2020

- Pioneered the establishment of Naranj Studio, a premier hub for cinematic and commercial endeavors, fostering collaborations with leading talents in the cinema industry.
- Orchestrated the comprehensive management of the studio, spearheading operations across cinematography, photography, and post-production, while steering the production of documentaries, short films, and TV/online commercials.
- Cultivated a vibrant and creative environment, fostering effective collaboration among a dedicated team of three staff members and forging strategic partnerships with parallel companies and freelance professionals to deliver impactful visual content.
- Overseen the successful execution of over 100 photography projects, spanning diverse genres and subjects, encompassing commercial ventures, documentation, live performances, and events.
- Produced and directed 50 industrial documentaries and commercial videos, achieving commendable viewership and engagement rates.
- Directed more than 20 multi-camera records of live events, concerts and theaters, showcasing mastery in capturing dynamic and immersive experiences.
- Held the esteemed role of Director of Photography for 10 short films, 10 documentary features, and one notable feature film, consistently delivering cinematic excellence and visual storytelling prowess.

❖ **Photo Editor**

Artna News Agency, Tehran, Iran, 2013-2014

- Selected and published captivating series of photographs, ensuring adherence to editorial standards and meeting strict deadlines.
- Fostered a deep understanding of photography principles and techniques through hands-on training provided to intern photojournalists.
- Established a comprehensive archive of photographs for the news agency, ensuring efficient organization and accessibility.

❖ **Photography Instructor**

Saveh Art School, Saveh, Iran, 2012-2013

- Taught senior students the principles of photographic aesthetics, creative photography techniques, and critique as part of a challenging year-long program.
- Mentored students in developing unique and self-expressive pieces through intensive experimentation and improvisation in darkroom techniques.
- Founded a series of photography exhibitions showcasing the work of local junior and senior photography students.

Freelancing

❖ **Colorist**

Tehran, Iran, 2020-present

- Responsible for meticulously overseeing color correction, precise color grading, and the meticulous finalization of digital videos across diverse projects, spanning from short films to commercial videos.

❖ **Cinematographer**

Tehran, Iran, 2015-present

- Provided insightful consultation to directors, drawing from a background in theater directing, to ensure high aesthetic and storytelling standards.
- Delivered visually captivating cinematic experiences across narrative films, documentaries, and TV commercials, leveraging strong photography skills.
- Effectively led and coordinated crew members to achieve project objectives efficiently.
- Developed expertise in cinematic shooting techniques, utilizing cutting-edge equipment for desired visual effects.

❖ **Lighting Designer**

Tehran, Iran, 2009-present

- Engineered dynamic lighting setups for live performances, photography, and cinematography, optimizing visual narratives and creating immersive atmospheres.
- Collaborated closely with seasoned cast and crew members on extensive projects, showcasing adaptability and ingenuity in addressing diverse project needs.
- Proficiently utilized lighting equipment to harness emotional resonance and achieve captivating visual storytelling across various mediums.

❖ **Photographer**

Tehran, Iran, 2003-present

- Specialized in live performance, journalism, and industrial/commercial photography, capturing captivating moments with artistic flair.
- Documented various subjects through cultural and artistic projects, producing impactful photographs for exhibitions, publications, and personal projects.
- Proficient in analog photography, chemical processing, darkroom techniques, and scanning, with a strong passion for teaching photography.

Education

❖ **Cinematography Master Class**

Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Tehran, Iran, 2021

- Completed 40+ hours of intensive training in cinematography, combining practical on-set experience with theoretical study.
- Focused on integrating artistic vision with the aesthetic elements of feature film cinematography, with emphasis on the role of Director of Photography (DP).
- Executed a final project demonstrating proficiency in applying learned principles and techniques to real-world cinematic scenarios.

❖ **Master of Arts (MA) in Theater Directing**

Art and Architecture Tehran Azad University, Tehran, Iran 2009-2012

- Conducted thorough research and successfully completed a Master's thesis concentrating on directing actors, particularly emphasizing physical methods.
- directed and performed a comprehensive theater production aligned with the thesis statement.

❖ **Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theater Directing**

Shiraz Azad University, Shiraz, Iran 2003-2007

❖ **Diploma in Filmmaking**

Iranian Youth Cinema Society, Shiraz, Iran 2002-2003

Selected Projects

Feature Films

❖ "If You Die" Tehran, Iran, 2020

Directed by Kianoosh Jahandideh

Director Of Photography: Mehdi Parsi

As the Director of Photography (DP), I played a pivotal role in shaping the visual identity of the film, collaborating closely with the director and production team to achieve the desired aesthetic. I utilized creative camera techniques and lighting setups to craft dynamic and immersive visuals that brought the story to life on screen. This experience honed my skills in time management and problem-solving, enabling me to effectively navigate challenging production constraints while delivering exceptional results.

Documentaries

❖ "Parawalk" (2017) Tehran, Iran

Directed by Mehdi Parsi

Cinematographer: Mehdi Parsi

In the TV documentary "Parawalk," I collaborated closely with distinguished scientists from the Iran Neural Technology Center (INTC) and researchers from the Iran University of Science and Technology. As director and cinematographer, I ensured narrative integrity and maintained visual excellence, highlighting groundbreaking advancements enabling disabled individuals to walk. This experience showcased my ability to translate highly detailed and complex subjects into compelling visual narratives, upholding the highest standards in documentary filmmaking.

❖ "Deminers" (2018) Tehran, Iran

Directed by Morteza Khedmatloo

Cinematographer: Mehdi Parsi

As the cinematographer for the TV documentary "Deminers," I effectively captured the formidable challenges faced by mine clearance experts operating in hazardous and life-threatening conditions. Tasked with documenting their bravery and resilience, I adeptly navigated the intense and perilous working environment of deserted areas strewn with over 20 million mines, showcasing the harrowing realities of their work. My role involved skillfully highlighting the courage and sacrifices of these individuals, ensuring that their stories were authentically portrayed on screen despite the dangers and stress inherent in the project.

Short Films

❖ "Gaze" (2019) Tehran, Iran

Directed by Sina Aghayani

Director of Photography: Mehdi Parsi

In this experimental episodic short film, I contributed to establishing a visually evocative style reminiscent of Edward Hopper's paintings. The film explores a nuanced blend of passivity and nostalgia, offering a unique perspective on contemporary socio-political history in Iran. As the director of photography, I worked closely with the director to create a vivid visual and emotional essence inspired by the selected paintings, translating them into an experimental cinematic language that resonated with audiences.

❖ "Someone is Always Lost" (2021) Tehran, Iran

Directed by Sina Aghayani

Director of Photography: Mehdi Parsi

This short film delves into the narrative of a female political activist and her enigmatic demise. I had the honor of collaborating effectively with prominent figures in the Iranian cinema industry, including Nima Dabirzadeh (colorist), Majid-Reza Mostafavi (producer), Amin Mirshekary (sound designer), and Bahram Dehghani (editor), as well as Baran Kowsari, who portrays the lead role. Together, we contributed to the creation of compelling cinematic storytelling, employing state-of-the-art equipment and diverse techniques to evoke emotions and captivate the audience.

Skills

Soft skills

- Leadership
- Effective Communication
- Teamwork
- Mentorship
- Problem-Solving
- Critical Thinking Mindset
- Creativity
- Artistic Insight
- Organization
- Curiosity
- Flexibility
- Challenge Seeking
- Work Ethic
- Attention to Detail

Hard skills

- Director of Photography (DP)
- Photography
- Operating DSLRs, camcorders, and cinematic style cameras
- Lighting design
- Editing movies
- Color correction
- Cinematic and theatrical Storytelling
- Directing
- Guiding actors
- Chemical film processing (Developing Films)
- Darkroom printing
- Scanning

Soft wares

- Adobe Photoshop (Advanced)
- Adobe Premiere (Advanced)
- Adobe Media Encoder (Advanced)
- Black Magic DaVinci Resolve (Intermediate)
- SilverFast HDR (Intermediate)
- Canon Utilities (Advanced)
- Microsoft Word (Intermediate)

Professional Membership

❖ **Theater Photographer Society**

Full membership

Tehran, Iran, 2022-present

- Contributed photographs to society publications, online platforms, or exhibitions showcasing the artistry of theater photography.
- Stayed updated on industry trends, advancements, and best practices through membership resources and connections within the society.

Certificates

- ❖ **Portrait Lighting Workshop**
Dream Light Company, Tehran, Iran 2011
- ❖ **Astronomical Photography Workshop**
Art and Architecture Tehran Azad University, Tehran, Iran 2011
- ❖ **Guiding Actors Workshop**
Maktab-e-Tehran Institute, Tehran, Iran 2012
- ❖ **International Guiding Actors Workshop**
Iran International Festival of University Theater, Tehran, Iran 2013

Awards

- ❖ **First Prize for Best Photograph**
The 16th Iran International Festival of University Theater, Tehran, Iran 2013

Published works

Book

- ❖ **Farhang, Mahgan. Zonorian, Saeed (2014). "Visual Literacy in Theater Stage Design", Abanbook.**
Photographs by Mehdi Parsi: Featured throughout the book (40+ photographs)

Yearbook

- ❖ **"Performing Arts" yearbook, published by The Iranian Association of Performing Arts in 2011.**
Contributed photographs by Mehdi Parsi featured in the yearbook.

Magazine

- ❖ **"Zard Quarterly Magazine", Published by Mohsen Art Gallery, as part of their editorial reports (2016-2017).**
Contributed photographs by Mehdi Parsi to various issues of the magazine

Exhibitions

(* Performance Art)

- ❖ **"Instant Photo: A Pin-Hole Camera Experience" - Solo interactive exhibition curated by Peyman Hoshmandzadeh at Zirpeleh Gallery, Tehran, Iran, 2017**

Provided over 50 hand-crafted and Ready-to-use pinhole cameras, inviting visitors to engage in capturing their own images through a unique and time-intensive process of chemical development and printing.

- ❖ **"Change in Recognition: A Multimedia Installation" - Group exhibition at Arte Gallery, Tehran, Iran, 2016**

An installation comprising five light-box stands, magnifiers, and medium format (120) slides, accompanied by a written narrative, coexists thematically with five other installations.

- ❖ *** "Am I Self-sufficient?" - Collaborative Performance Art with Yasmin Ravi Daghaheleh at Aran Art Gallery II, Tehran, Iran, 2015**

Intensively engaging with volunteers/participants, confronting individual with their own beliefs regarding the body and addressing obsessions with privacy.

- ❖ **"8X8 Whispers: Exploring Urban Landscapes" - Solo exhibition at Cafe-Gallery Montmartre, Tehran, Iran, 2014**

Curated and displayed 18 photographs captured in an instant camera style using a mobile phone. Explored the complex interplay of urban elements and compositions

Languages

- ❖ **Persian**
Native
- ❖ **Luri**
Fluent
- ❖ **English**
Fluent
- ❖ **Arabic**
Beginner