

Afghanistan  
Documentary / HD / 90 mins

# Hip Hop Kabul



**Fazila AMIRI**

Director

Filmography:

First Feature Director

The character-driven feature-length documentary follows the story of Afghanistan's first female rapper, Paradise Soururi, who risks death threat from Taliban to become a world class hip hop star.

<b>Producer:</b>	Paul LEE
<b>HAF Goal:</b>	Funds
<b>Budget :</b>	US\$250,000

## SYNOPSIS

In 1996, the Taliban forbade women and girls from working or going to school in Afghanistan. After the regime was removed from Kabul in 2001, Paradise Soururi, 24, returned from Iran to her country, determined to tell her hidden story with her music – the hip hop music that is a newborn genre in Afghanistan. *Hip Hop Kabul* focuses on personal interviews with Paradise Soururi, who, despite receiving threatening messages from Taliban and other extremists, continues to create rap songs about women's rights that have influence. Alongside interviews about her craft, the film documents her live performances at major national and international concerts such as the 2013 Afghan Peace Concert (Kabul), the 2013 FLUPP Festival (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and the 2013 Bamiyan Concert (Bamiyan, Afghanistan) as well as her underground private concerts in Kabul as difficult preparations and decisions need to be made. The goal of the film is to show Paradise Soururi as a positive female role model – challenging the traditional role of Afghan women and introducing the evolution of Afghan rap to a modern audience.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the tradition of French New Wave cinema, *Hip Hop Kabul* focuses the documentary narrative on energetic love, youthful rebellion, and creative power of women – all set against colourfully composed urban landscapes of Afghanistan.

Through *Hip Hop Kabul* I try to offer a carefully-crafted view of hip hop culture in Afghanistan. Reflecting my personal experience as a female filmmaker in Afghanistan, I aim to produce a character-driven documentary about the life journey of Soururi, who also has returned to her home country from Iran and works as an artist. I am interested in filming *Hip Hop Kabul* as an alternative documentary, somewhere between a music documentary and a strong, emotional and thought-provoking personal narrative, poised between the traditions of Soururi's family life and the dreams and ambitions in the new urban world. Through her eyes, I try to paint a portrait of contemporary Afghanistan.



## DIRECTOR

### Fazila AMIRI

Fazila AMIRI is an Afghan filmmaker. She graduated from NSCAD University in Canada in 2012. Her short films *Paaizeb*, *Gerreh*, and *Dome of Secret Desires* have been shown at international film festivals including the 5<sup>th</sup> Passion for Freedom Festival (London), 7<sup>th</sup> International Arte Laguna Prize (Italy), and 41<sup>st</sup> Montreal World Film Festival (Canada). Currently AMIRI is in pre-production for her first documentary feature film, *Hip Hop Kabul*.



## PRODUCER

### Paul LEE

Paul LEE was born in Hong Kong, and graduated from the University of Toronto and from York University M.B.A. and M.F.A. As a film producer, LEE specialises in producing films for first-time filmmakers, and in producing international co-productions, women's films, Asian films, human rights/social justice educational films, and LGBT/gender issues films. LEE also has made his own award-winning films including *Thick Lips Thin Lips* (1994), *These Shoes weren't Made for Walking* (1995) and *The Offering* (1999).



## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Kabuli Camera

Founded in 2013, Kabuli Camera is committed to make films that manage to tell compelling Afghan narratives and present contemporary view of Afghanistan to both national and a larger international audience. The company aims to produce independent films that locate cinema in the experience of new generations of Afghan talents (new cinematic artists). Kabuli Camera's core activities include fundraising, producing feature films, and filmmaking training programs designed to support the growth and development of Kabul's feature film industry.



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