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Current Residency:Brooklyn,
New York, 11222

Date of Birth: 11/30/1989
Citizenship: Turkish
Visa Status:

1. About Zeynep Dilara

A. Profile Links

WEBSITE

<https://www.zeynepdilara.com/>

IMDB

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10958881/>

VIMEO

<https://vimeo.com/zeynepdilara>

INSTAGRAM

<https://www.instagram.com/hizeynepdilara/>

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/yazabilirsin>

B. Articles

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

By Tejal Rao

Published Jan. 27, 2023 Updated Jan. 30, 2023

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/27/dining/grandmas-tiktok-instagram-youtube-cooking.html>

"...the shorts had the same irresistible flavor as
Martin Scorsese's 1974 documentary "Italianamerican."
In its opening scenes, Catherine Scorsese, the director's mother,
sits on a shiny, plastic-wrapped couch and considers the silliness of her son's film:
"What should I say? You want me to tell you how I make the sauce?"

I have watched it countless times, always noticing some new, magnificent idiosyncrasy
in Ms. Scorsese's tone, her gestures, her humor,
the precise clutter of her countertops and shelves.
I thought of her again when I watched the charming short by Zeynep Dilara."

<https://www.nytimes.com/by/tejal-rao>

2. Biography

Zeynep Dilara is an independent filmmaker who produces, directs, and writes interview and conversation-based digital documentaries for streaming platforms such as Disney+, TV channels such as National Geographic, and social media platforms, primarily YouTube.

She describes herself as a curious individual with a strong sense of sensibility, self-motivated, open to teamwork, work-oriented, proactive, and realistic. She believes in genuine romanticism and attributes her vitality and survival to her high life energy and love.

Graduating with a degree in Information Technology (IT) in 2011, she ventured into creative writing for production companies and creative agencies. In the nascent stages of her professional journey, she gleaned invaluable insights from writers, journalists, academicians, and documentary filmmakers.

Her filmmaking career commenced in 2013 with testimonial videos for art galleries in Turkey, where she captured artists and curators discussing exhibitions or collections. Employing a documentarian storytelling approach, she produced artist progress videos, artist portrait videos, and exhibition opening films.

In 2016, she clinched her maiden filmmaking prize in a contest under the credits of writer and director with her inaugural pitching effort. The same year, she directed this film for national television.

Relocating to Istanbul in 2017 to expand her filmmaking horizons in a larger environment, Zeynep Dilara embarked on her journey as an independent filmmaker.

From 2017 to 2022, she predominantly directed documentary films. However, after three film projects faced cancellation in 2022 due to the economic climate in Turkey, she resolved to depart from the country. In early 2023, she made the move from Istanbul to New York, seeking opportunities for creative growth in a more expansive and advanced industry.

Currently residing in Brooklyn, New York, she actively pursues opportunities to immerse herself in the city's culture and gain a deeper understanding of her surroundings.

“If there's anything worthwhile doing for the sake of culture, it's delving into subject matters and situations that connect people,” says Krzysztof Kieslowski. This quote has been a driving force behind Zeynep Dilara’s journey into documentary filmmaking. Over the years, she has embarked on numerous filming adventures, some of which remain unseen by others.

During her first year in Istanbul, she turned her lens towards her neighbors and landlord, urging them to explore the culture and history of their neighborhood. With her friends, she posed probing questions, aiming to uncover more about their lives. She turned her camera towards her family, fueled by a curiosity to understand who they truly are.

Upon moving to New York, she continued her quest for answers, engaging with the city and its inhabitants. She created a 25-minute digital documentary, drawing inspiration from Krzysztof Kieslowski's 1980 documentary "The Talking Heads." Her film featuring conversations with 20 different artists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds, capturing the essence of the city's creative spirit.

3. Professional Experience:

Zeynep Dilara made 6 documentary films, more than 20 commercial films, little over 50 documenter video for digital platforms, 3 independent digital video series project for social media platforms.

A. Most Recent Jobs (Last 5 Years)

- 2024 - *Just One Question (25 min. Digital Documentary)*

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=QVDgi9dbpDg>

Description

This series celebrates art in all forms, connecting creatives in the tattoo community, artists, and art enthusiasts from New York. It brings together a diverse range of artists, including painters, dancers, writers, musicians, and tattoo artists, for a novel exploration of art.

Highlights of the filmmaking

In real-time production, Following Subject, Interviewing with the Subject, Capturing the conversation between subjects, Shooting and Editing

Credit: **Filmmaker and Concept Creator**

Language: English

Production: Independent, New York, USA

Platform: YouTube

- 2022- *Sile (5 min. Digital Documentary)*

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=kKyzr-cw5po>

Description

Grandmas Project is a collaborative web series sharing the recipes and stories of grandmas around the world, filmed by their grandchildren. In the second season of this film series, SILE represented Turkey among international films.

This 8 minutes documentary film premiered in Paris and has been screened in more than 10 countries with special screenings. Still getting invitations from documentary film festivals.

Highlights of the filmmaking

In real-time production, Following Subject, Interviewing with the Subject, Capturing the conversation between subjects, Shooting and Editing

Credit: **Filmmaker**

Language: Turkish (Original), English (Subtitle)

Production: Chai Chai Films, Paris, France

Platform: YouTube

- 2021 - *I Exist* (20 min. Digital Documentary)

https://youtube.com/watch?v=8qgYM3SU_n4

Description

Vodafone has been advocating gender equality for years under the roof of #BenVarım (I Exist / I Am For in Turkish) and defying stereotypical perceptions that women cannot exist in professions associated with men. This 20-minute digital documentary film showcases the stories of the members of Turkey's most important women's football team Besiktas and depicts the history of women's football in Turkey. Film reached more than 3 Million audience in first week on YouTube

Highlights of the filmmaking

Following Subject, Interviewing with the Subject, Capturing the conversation between subjects.

Credit: **Writer and Director**

Language: Turkish (Original)

Production: VMLY&R, Istanbul, TURKEY

Platform: YouTube

- 2019 - *25 LITER* (45 min. TV Documentary)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=w4pPjndoxKc>

Description

Global water crisis threaten some of the biggest metropolitan cities of the world such as Istanbul. This 45 minute documentary film tries to find a solution to this gloomy situation with the guidance of the host. Despite being prepared for broadcast on the National Geographic channel, this film was broadcast on all national and international channels in Turkey. In the first year of release, film reached over 60 million viewers. It began to be used as educational material in all schools. In 2023, the documentary was officially added to the curriculum of middle school students by the Turkish Ministry of National Education.

Highlights of the filmmaking

Following Subject, Interviewing with the Subject, Capturing the conversation between subjects.

Credit: **Co-Director**

Language: Turkish (Original), English (Subtitle)

Production: VMLY&R, Istanbul, TURKEY

Platform: National Geographic Turkey & National Television Channels & YouTube

- 2019 - *Mega Move (45 min. TV Documentary)*

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=O2QE55QeqSY>

Description

Istanbul's Ataturk airport, the home of Turkish Airlines for decades, is closed now. But the moving day there was a massive logistical challenge is of a scale never before attempted.

During 18 hours non-stop shooting, 12 unit director, captured the real-time action, interviews and real-time conversations between subjects.

This 45 minutes documentary film, broadcasted in 19 countries on National Geographic global channels.

Highlights of the filmmaking

In real-time production, Following Subject, Interviewing with the Subject, Capturing the conversation between subjects, shooting.

Credit: **Unit Director**

Language: Turkish (Original), English (Subtitle)

Platform: National Geographic Global

B. Before Documentary Filmmaking (2005 - 2019)

- High School Years: Writing for school newspaper and local newspapers column
- Collage Years: Copy Writing for creative agencies, Script Writing for production agencies,
- In the beginning of After Graduating Period: Working as an Assistant to a Writer; Ahmet Serif Izgoren - Turkish author known for his insightful writings on various subjects including psychology, humor, and personal development

All the books Ahmet Serif Izgoren wrote:

https://www.amazon.com/Books-Ahmet-Serif-Izgoren/s?rh=n:283155,p_27:Ahmet+Serif+Izgoren

- Between 2012 - 2019: Working as a Freelancer Videographer, Documenter Video Creator who can create concepts, who can write scripts, who can use camera and do editing for production companies, art galleries, artist studios, NGO's.

4. Education:

A. Academic Education

- *High School*

2005 - 2009: Four-Year Vocational Training in Software and Hardware at Voc-Tech High School in capital city of TURKEY, Ankara (Public School)

- *Collage*

2010 - 2012: Bachelor's Degree Program in GAZI University in capital city of TURKEY, Ankara (State University)

Two-Years Online Learning: Information Technology (IT) Major

B. Professional Development Training

- Effective Communication
- Body Language Analysis
- Teamwork
- Creativity in Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Effective Presentation Techniques
- Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)
- Creative Writing
- Talent Management
- Developing a Film Festival Strategy
- Financing Your Film and It's Impact Campaign
- Attracting Government Grants and Foundations
- Thinking Outside the Box When Grants Are Not Enough
- Getting Through the Money Gates What Works and Why?
- Find the Money: Fundraising for Film

5. Skills and Talents

- Using Camera: Advanced
- Directing of Photography: Advanced
- Real-Time Action Capturing: Advanced, Visual and Sound
- Interviewing: Advanced
- Script Writing: Advanced, Shooting Script and Edit Script
- Creative Writing: Advanced
- Film Editing: Advanced, Final Cut Pro
- Sound Designing: Advanced, Final Cut Pro
- Color Grading: Advanced, Final Cut Pro
- Translating: Turkish to English / English to Turkish
- Communication: Advanced
- People: Advanced
- Problem Solving: Advanced
- Time Management: Advanced
- Crisis Management: Advanced

6. Certificates and Licenses:

A. From IZGOREN ACADEMY Education and Consulting

<https://www.izgorenakademi.com/>

- Effective Communication
- Body Language Analysis
- Teamwork
- Creativity in Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Effective Presentation Techniques
- Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)

B. From Claudia Arevalo/ Creative Writing in Columbia University MFA

<https://www.claudiajanearevalo.com/>

- Creative Writing

C. From HYPERS ACADEMY

<https://hypersacademy.co/>

- Talent Management

D. From WOMEN MAKE MOVIES

<https://www.wmm.com/>

- Developing a Film Festival Strategy
- Financing Your Film and It's Impact Campaign
- Attracting Government Grants and Foundations
- Thinking Outside the Box When Grants Are Not Enough
- Getting Through the Money Gates What Works and Why?
- Find the Money: Fundraising for Film

7. Awards and Achievements

- 2019 - *Best Social Impact Award: 25 LITER*
- 2019 - *FELIS Award (Festival Iberoamericano de la Publicidad): 25 LITER*

8. Projects and Collaborations:

A. Brands

Documentary Film with **VODAFONE TURKEY**

Informative YouTube Video Series for **VODAFONE BUSINESS TURKEY**

Documentary Film with **FINISH**

Documentary Film with **TURKISH AIRLINES**

Digital Documentary Series for **REDBULL**

Digital Documenter Video Series for **EDELKRONE**

B. NGO's:

- Promote Film for **PINKTOBER**
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

<https://pinktober.org.pk/>

- Promote Film for **Life Without Cancer Association**
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

<https://kayd.org.tr/en/>

- Promote Film for **LÖSEV** (Foundation for Children with Leukemia)
Leukemia Awareness Campaign

<https://en.losev.org.tr/>

C. Artist Collaborations:

Documenter Video for **Robert Bodem** (Workshop)

<https://www.athenssculptureatelier.com/the-artist>

Documenter Video for **Gunnur Ozsoy** (Pre-Exhibition Period)

<https://www.gunnurozsoy.com/en/>

Digital Series with **Brainard Carey** (Interview Based Investigation Documentary)

<https://blog.praxiscenterforaesthetics.com/author/thewizardofoz/>

Documenter Video for **Shani Nizan** (Pre-Exhibition Period)

<https://www.shaninizan.com>

D. Independent Digital Projects:

○ Yazabilirsin (You Can Write)

<https://www.youtube.com/yazabilirsin>



"Yazabilirsin" is Turkey's first fully independent online education program on creative writing, story-telling and scriptwriting. This program shares educational content, archive, knowledge and motivational support via official web site www.yazabilirsin.com, YouTube and Instagram which is online since 2017. YouTube Channel almost 10K, every blog post got 30K and more viewer for each. Project reached almost totally 2K and people in person and online workshops.

Statement of the project “You Can Write”:

“Since I can remember, I've been writing.

Diaries, letters, stories, tales, poems, songs, books, columns, blogs...

Then, I began to write screenplays.

Learning to write, the impacts of this craft on the industry challenged me so much that I began to feel the weight of every piece of information I could access, and thus, I created "YOU CAN WRITE."

So that you don't struggle as much as I did, I am opening up everything I've learned to you. This way, I'm giving you time to develop yourself.

In fact, we're all winning.

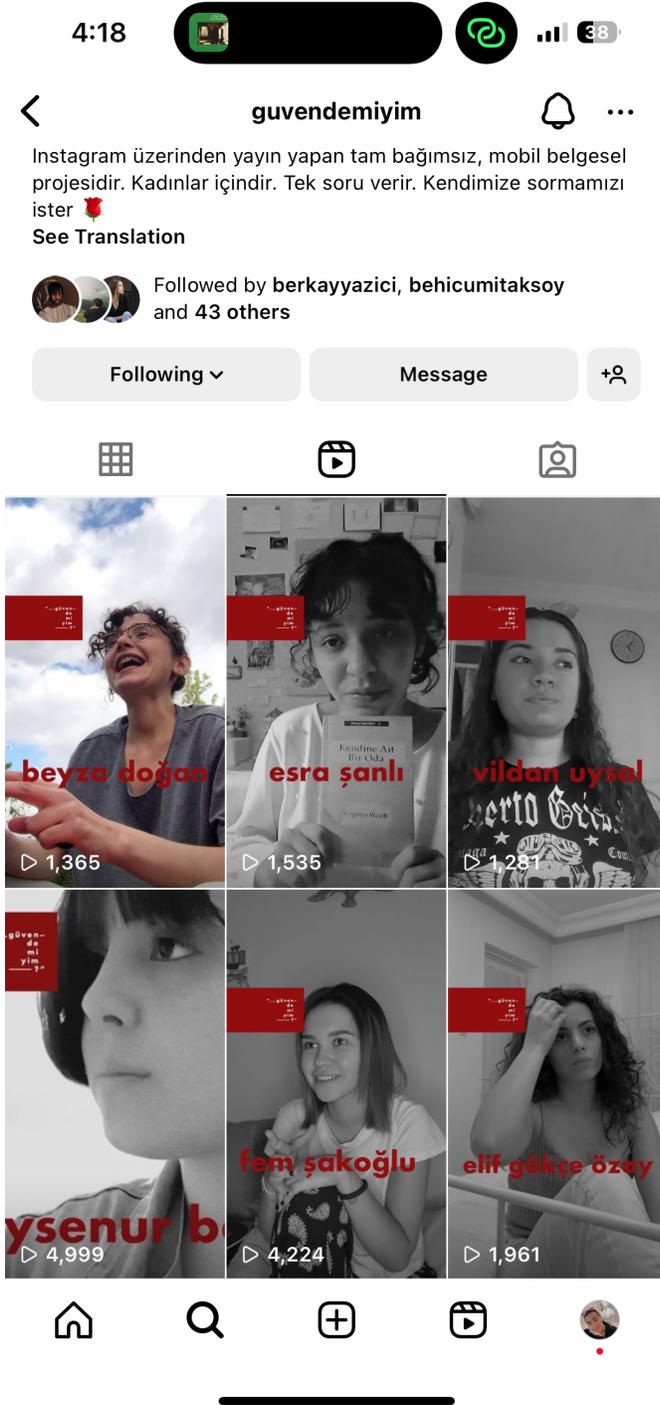
“You Can Write” is a project created with the motivation of this thought and belief. Together with other believers involved, we're creating a new wave that will stop this illness in its tracks.

I've shared everything I've learned about Screenwriting, and I'll continue to share.”

Credit: Founder, Content Creator, Educator

○ Güvende miyim? (Am I safe?)

<https://www.instagram.com/guvendemiyim/>



It is a completely independent, mobile documentary project broadcasted on Instagram. It is for women. It poses a single question and asks us to ask it to ourselves.

33 Self-Interviewed Video Content
33 Women, 33 different story about feeling in-secure in Turkey as a woman.

Statement of the project

“Am I safe?”:

“Before anything happens to us, we cannot definitively confirm whether we are safe or not. Therefore, we cannot know in advance. However, we can feel it. Are you able to feel it? Are you safe?”

This fully independent mobile documentary project aims to convey all the feelings of women living within the borders of our country about being safe from the most sincere place. It brings together places, people, and time frames that have no connection to each other. It envisions a tremendous unity where women who do not know each other gather around a giant circle formed by standing side by side, starting by asking themselves, "Am I safe?" and taking turns to share their feelings every five minutes.”

Credit: Founder, Director

9. Language Proficiency:

A. Turkish:

- Understanding: Advanced
- Speaking: Native Speaker
- Writing: Highly Proficient

B. English:

- Understanding: Advanced
- Speaking: Intermediate
- Writing: Intermediate

10. Skills:

Directing and Filmmaking, Editing, Multi-Cam Directing, Camera Operating, Sound Recording, Sound Design, Color Grading, Title Design.

11. Computer Programs

Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Photoshop Lightroom.

12. Personal Interests:

- Doing Research About Anything
- Listening People
- Reading and Writing Poetry
- Singing
- Looking to Sculpture
- Making Somatic Dance
- Following Shamanistic Rituals
- Human Nature
- Reading About Psychology
- Everything About Philosophy
- Exploring Movie Theaters in New York
- Cinema
- Travel