

# THE SHAVE

a film by

MEHRTASH MOHIT

a

**CFC**

Canadian Film Centre

production

# INFORMATION

**Production Company:** Canadian Film Centre  
**Distribution (World):** Canadian Film Centre  
**Nationality:** Canada  
**Language:** English

**Duration:** 10min 51 sec  
**Image Format:** 1.33  
**Sound Format:** 5.1  
**Year of Production:** 2022

## Distribution

Canadian Film Centre  
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## Film

Mehrtash Mohit  
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Bonnie Do  
[bonnie.do@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.do@gmail.com)

A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants, stands in the center of a brightly lit hallway. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. To his left, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark patterned top, is partially visible, looking towards him. To his right, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, is partially visible, looking towards the young man. The hallway has white walls, a green exit sign, and a white door in the background.

## SYNOPSIS

A day in 14-year-old Pouya's life. New desires and a self-absorbed father, as the closest representation of who he is meant to become, leave him feeling confused and alone as he navigates the uneasy path from adolescence into adulthood.

## LOGLINE

A day in 14-year-old Pouya's life as he navigates the uneasy path from adolescence into adulthood.



L to R: Chris River as Pouya on set with director Mehrtash Mohit and script supervisor Ferah Mahmoud. Photo credit: Noel Araquel

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I spent my formative teenage years in post-revolutionary Iran where any formal sexual education was guided by outdated principles from a religious-based educational system. After immigrating to Canada, though, I realized how universally confusing puberty is among many men. Almost twenty years later, there remains a reluctance among men to encourage expression of emotional vulnerabilities. In *The Shave*, I present some of these ideas through the juxtaposition of the father character, who is the most intimate role model for our young, quiet protagonist, and the interaction between the two.

The main inspiration for *The Shave* stems from a particular event in my early teenage years that took place in a dental office - a touch on my cheek from a lab assistant that threw me into a mix of discomfort and confusing emotions. I was 15 years old and discovering my sexuality as I was growing into my pre-teen body. When I reflect on that moment I still wonder: I had found her attractive so why had it been uncomfortable? Do I even remember it correctly? Was it a big deal? With this film, I wanted to re-examine the ambiguity of that memory as a way to explore the confusion that a young adolescent experiences on their journey from childhood into adulthood.



Photo credit: Tim Leyes



Photo credit: Megan Vincent



Photo credit: Kristina Ruddick



Photo credit: Denise Grant

## CAST

**CHRIS RIVER** is a Canadian actor known for his versatility in portraying different types of characters in a wide genre of Film and TV roles. His latest credits include a supporting role in the Walt Disney Feature Film *World's Best* and a lead role in *The CW's Two Sentence Horror Stories*. In his personal life, he has a respectable musical repertoire; he plays the Piano, Guitar and the Clarinet.

**ALI BADSHAH** is a critically acclaimed storyteller and artist. Ali is the male lead in the Oscar-nominated feature film drama *The Breadwinner*, produced by Angelina Jolie. Recent major credits include *The Accused* (Fox), *Ghosts* (CBS), *Tehranto*, *This Place*, *Y: The Last Man* (FX), *Workin' Moms* (CBC), and *Doomsday Brothers* (Adult Swim).

**KRYSTINA BOJANOWSKI** Raised on the west coast, Krystina is a Toronto-based actor, singer, and creator. She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, and currently training in voice and presence to become a Patsy Rodenburg Associate. **SELECTED CREDITS** (Film/TV): *Anne with an E*, *Reign*, *Every Day's Like This*

**ANNE COUGHLAN** (she/her) is an ACTRA actor based in Toronto making her CFC debut as Julia / Receptionist in *The Shave* (Mehtash Mohit). Selected Film/TV credits, *Mum* in *The Day Grunge Died*, *Donna* in *Fear They Neighbour* S2 ep.9, *Motives* and *Murders* S3, *Forbidden* S3, *See No Evil* S4, *Treehouse* CKCO TV.



Photo credit: Janice Reid

**MEHRTASH MOHIT,  
WRITER/DIRECTOR**



Photo credit: Janice Reid

**BONNIE DO,  
PRODUCER**



Photo credit: Sam Coyle

**ANNA CATLEY,  
EDITOR**



Photo credit: Noel Araquel

**ARTEM MYKHAILETSKYI,  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

# FILMMAKERS

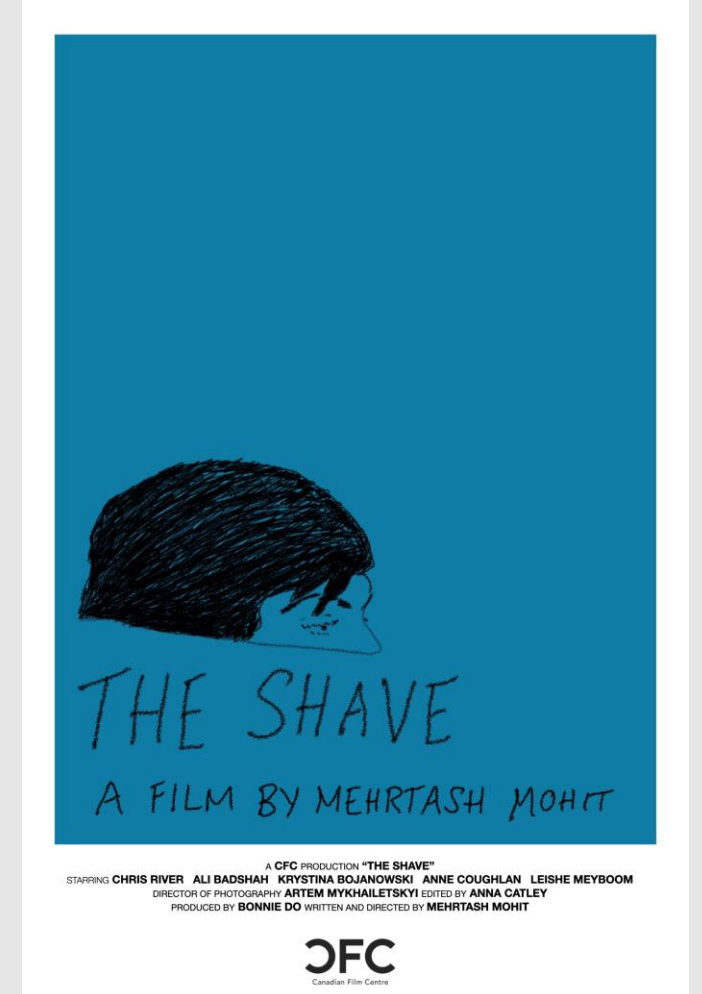
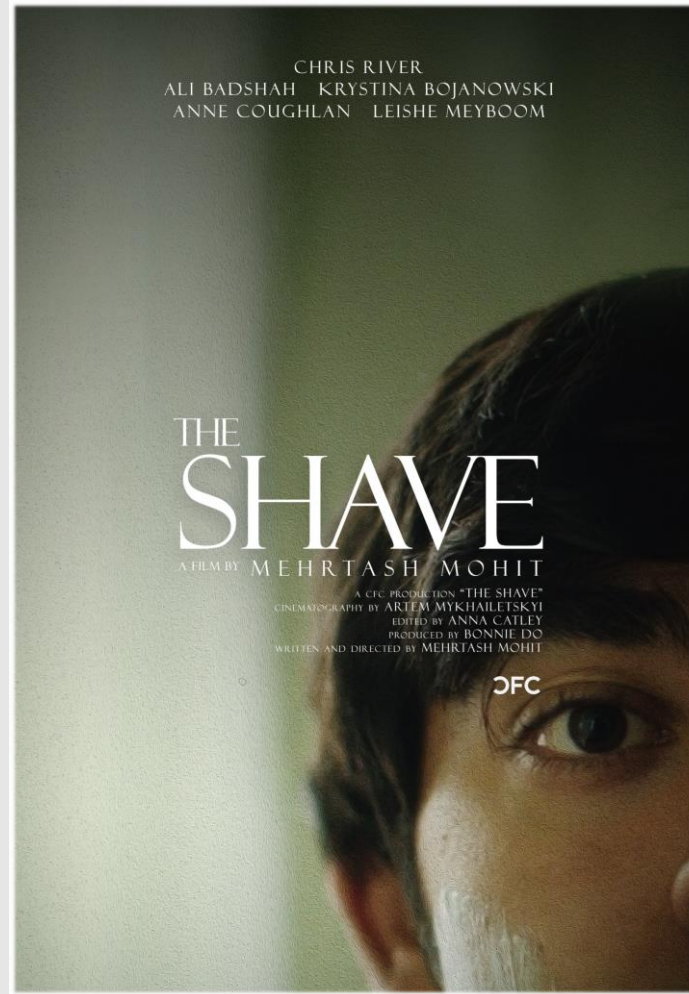
Mehrtash Mohit is an Iranian-Canadian writer and director with an M.F.A from York University. He views filmmaking as the only method that can satisfy his curiosity about human emotions and interactions. His films are the product of his reflections on seemingly mundane yet nuanced struggles that people grapple with throughout life.

Bonnie began her career at Telefilm Canada before joining Toronto production company, Serendipity Point Films, where she worked on seven productions, most recently as an associate producer on Crimes of the Future (dir. David Cronenberg). Bonnie is an alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre's Norman Jewison Film Program's Producers' Lab.

With Anna's lifelong obsession with cinema, she brings a deep wealth of knowledge about film across genres and time periods, which informs her unique creative eye in the edit process. Her latest works include the TIFF 2021 short film Little Bird, for which she was nominated for a Canadian Cinema Editors Award, the award-winning digital series, Avocado Toast, and Warren P. Sonoda's feature film, Things I Do For Money. Further examples of Anna's work can be found at [www.annacatley.com](http://www.annacatley.com).

Artem is a Toronto-based Cinematographer. A Toronto Film School graduate and an affiliate member of the Canadian Society Of Cinematographers (CSC), Artem has 5+ years' experience on multiple narrative projects, commercials, music videos and web content, and his work has screened in film festivals around the world. As a Ukrainian-Canadian immigrant, he brings a unique style and approach to the Canadian cinema scene.

# POSTERS





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Photo credit: Noel Araquel



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