

Emin Alper

Biography



Emin Alper was born on 13 August 1974 in Ermenek, Karaman. Trained in economics and history at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, he holds a PhD in Turkish Modern History.

His feature films have premiered consistently at the world's leading festivals. His debut, *Beyond the Hill* (2012), premiered at the Berlinale Forum, winning the Caligari Film Prize and a Special Mention for Best First Feature. *Frenzy* (2015) premiered in Official Competition at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Prize. *A Tale of Three Sisters* (2019) competed at the Berlinale, and *Burning Days* (2022) premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes, going on to win numerous awards internationally. His most recent feature, *Salvation* (2026), premiered in Official Competition at the Berlinale, where it won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize.

Alongside his filmmaking career, Alper taught modern history in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Istanbul Technical University, and currently serves as the artistic director of Sinematek (Cinémathèque) in Istanbul.

Filmography (completed titles)

FEATURE FILMS

Salvation (Kurtuluş, 2026)

World Premiere: 76th Berlin International Film Festival, Competition

Winner, Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize

Burning Days (Kurak Günler, 2022)

World Premiere: 75th Cannes Film Festival, Un Certain Regard

Selected awards: European Film Awards – Best Editing; Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival – Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Music, Best Editing; Ankara IFF – Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor; 69th Pula IFF – Best Film, Best Minority Co-Production; SİYAD (Turkish Film Critics Association) – Best Film, Best Director

A Tale of Three Sisters (Kız Kardeşler, 2019)

World Premiere: 69th Berlin International Film Festival, Competition

Selected awards: Istanbul Film Festival – Best Film, Best Director, FIPRESCI; Sarajevo Film Festival – Best Director, CICA Award

Frenzy (Abluka, 2015)

World Premiere: 72nd Venice International Film Festival, Competition

Selected awards: Venice – Special Jury Prize; Asia Pacific Screen Awards – Jury Grand Prize; SİYAD – Best Film, Best Director, Best Script, Best Editing

Beyond the Hill (Tepenin Ardı, 2012)

World Premiere: 62nd Berlin International Film Festival, Forum

Selected awards: Caligari Film Prize, Special Mention for Best First Feature; Asia Pacific Screen Awards – Best Film; Istanbul Film Festival – Best Film, Best Script, FIPRESCI

TV SERIES**Quest (Arayış, 2023) — 6 episodes**

Original drama series commissioned by Disney+ (Turkey)

Aleph (Alef, 2020) — 8 episodes

Original crime series commissioned by BluTV & FX (Turkey); listed among Variety's Top 15 International Series of 2020