



NELOFER PAZIRA

is an award-winning Afghan-Canadian filmmaker, journalist and human rights activist.

She starred in the movie *Kandahar* (Cannes 2001) and co-produced, co-directed *Return to Kandahar*, winner of the 2003 Gemini award. She directed and produced *Audition*, a documentary about images and cinema in Afghanistan, which premiered at Toronto's Hot Docs Festival. She wrote and directed *Act of Dishonour* (2010), a dramatic feature film about honour killing and the plight of returning refugees in Afghanistan. She's written and produced *This Is Not A Movie* – a doc about journalism and the Middle East – premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and International Documentary Festival in Amsterdam. She has been featured in numerous documentaries, including the award-winner *Giant Buddhas*. She's been a jury member at film festivals around the world.

As a journalist Nelofer has worked for the Canadian Broadcasting (CBC) TV and Radio. Her radio documentary *The Road to Damascus* (CBC/ideas) won the 2016 Gabriel Award. Her other radio doc. *Of Paradise and Failure* -- was the winner of New York's Media Award. She has written for *The Independent* (London), *Guardian*, *Toronto Star*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, the British film journal 'Sight and Sound', *Nexus Institute* and many other publications. Nelofer's book *A Bed of Red Flowers: In Search of My Afghanistan* was awarded the Drainie-Taylor Biography Prize in Canada.

Nelofer is a former president of PEN Canada and assisted UNESCO in 2001-2002 as a cultural ambassador in their work inside Afghanistan. She represented Canada in Europe as a cultural delegate accompanying then Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

Since 2003, she founded a charity -- The Dyana Afghan Women's Fund (www.dawf.ca) - that has been providing education for women in Bamyan.

Nelofer has a degree in Journalism and English Literature (Carleton University) and an MA in Anthropology/Sociology and Religion (Concordia University) and two honorary Doctorates (Carleton and Thomson Rivers Universities).