

# BEGINNER

Written & Directed  
by  
Burçak Üzen Açık

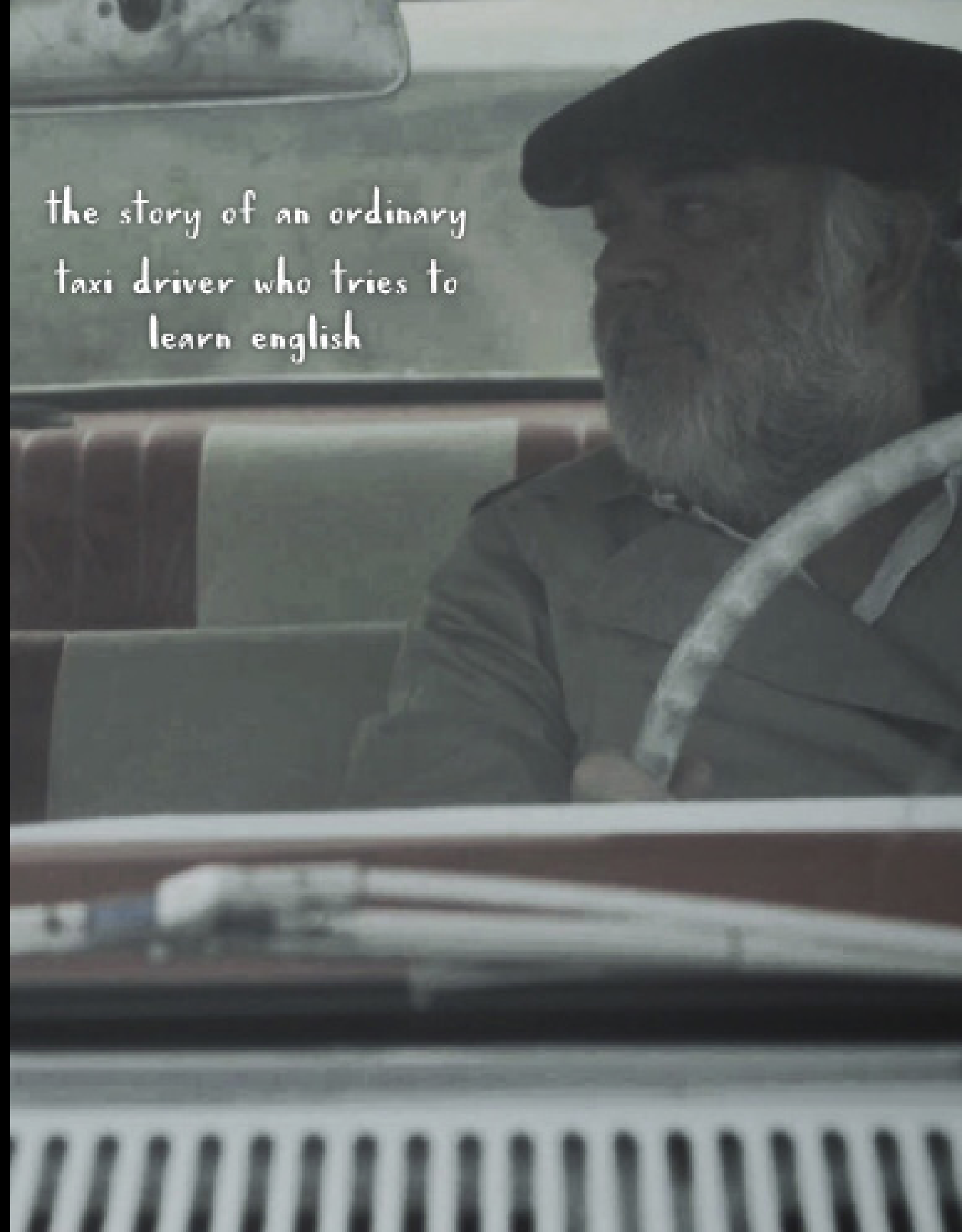
*"the story about  
ordinary taxi  
Driver who try to  
learn english"*

**BEGINNER**  
Production Book

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the story of an ordinary  
taxi driver who tries to  
learn english





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# The Story, Beginner

Faruk, 60 years old, is retired but still working as an ordinary taxi driver. At week days he works daytime, at the weekends at nights.

He lost his wife about ten years ago. Since that loss, every day has been in the same routine.

Other than his job, there is only one thing he deals with night and day; trying to learn English. He got himself books for practicing.

When he is at home, he tries to learn from these books.

While driving, he asks the people in his taxi whether they can speak English or not, so that he can practice.

Sometimes he is mocked by people around, sometimes admired. He does not care about it, he does his best to learn the language.

When he does not study or drive, he works at home. He paints the walls, cleans and polishes the windows, sews cushions for the chairs.

He waters his flowers. He is a tidy man, he is like preparing his home for something.

After six months of hard work, his English is now much better. His home once deserted-like, is now brand new.

He wakes up to a special morning, gets ready for something, shaves, combs his hair nice.

He even uses perfume. He wears his new suit, gets in his taxi and heads for the airport.

There, some officers delivers him two kids. These kids are Faruk’s elder son’s children.

They were born in England and speak no Turkish. Their parents died in a car accident six months ago.

After a bureaucratic procedure, the English government has sent the kids to Faruk, their grandfather.

Faruk has been doing everything for his grandchildren for six months.

Faruk and his grandchildren are now ready for a new journey together in life.



# Beginner



# The Characters

**Faruk** (60): He has a calm personality. He is skilled in many daily handy stuff.

He lost his wife long time ago and has never got married again. He drives a taxi not only to earn his living but for the opportunity to speak English with tourists.

He likes to learn new things. He has his own small world.

**Figen** (50): Faruk's neighbor. She has never married, but has feelings for Faruk.

She shows him her feelings in every opportunity. She loves to take care of herself well and is a great cook.

She is cheerful, amiable, but talks a bit much. She is in a fantasy world, she likes fairy tales and her favorite color is red..







# SHE LIVES IN A SCARLET DREAM WORLD

## The Cast

**Güven Kiraç** was born in 1968 in Turkey. He is an actor, voice-actor, and producer.

He is best known for Fatih Akin's masterpieces; Head-On (2004), Zeki Demirkubuz's Innocence (1997) and the groundbreaking Turkish film Takva: A Man's Fear of God (2006).

He has also appeared on TV and on stage in many productions in Turkey as well as around the world.

Güven is currently appearing in a Turkish prime time TV Show.

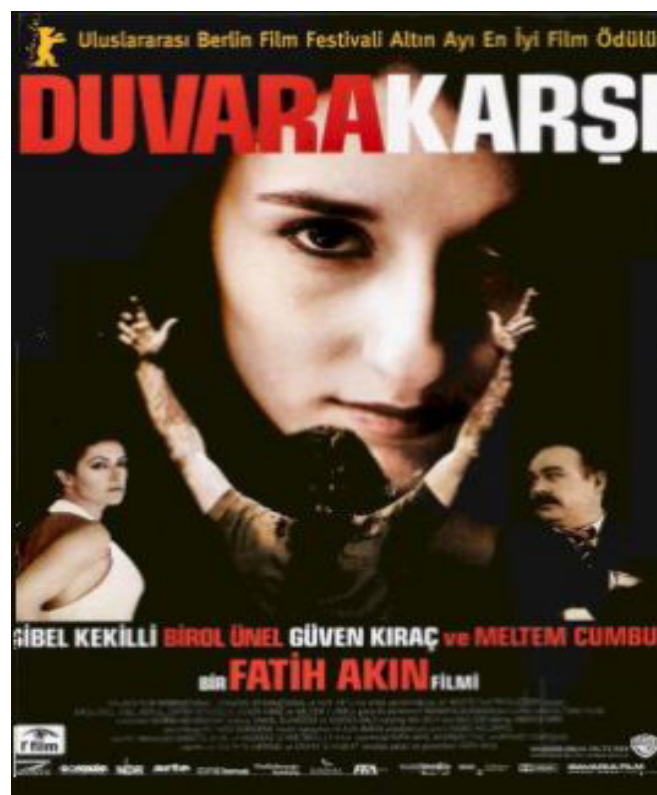
IMDB;  
[Güven Kirac](#)







# Güven Kıraç, Filmography



# About the Director

Burcak Uzen Director | Writer

Burçak Üzen was born in Istanbul.

She graduated her primary and elementary schools in Beylerbeyi and started Marmara University Communication Faculty. She has a post graduate degree at Beykent University Fine Arts Faculty Cinema Branch.

After graduating, she wrote and produced many award-winning short films. She also wrote and starred in the talk show, BiTIK.



Meantime, she travelled all over the world including India, Thailand, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, Malta, England, Ireland, UK and the USA to find inspiration.

Burcak is currently working on her first feature film, Beginner and developing her next feautre.





# THE STORY OF AN OLD MAN WHO TRIES TO LEARN ENGLISH



## Director's Statement; “Why This Story”

The classic opinion in our society is that when people get older, new beginnings are more difficult for those people.

In fact, both religions Islam and the whole eastern philosophy say; “to learn something new until the last breath, is something so special and sacred”.

The film tells the story of a taxi driver at the beginning of stage of his learning English in his early sixties.

We see people around him, what he goes through and how learning a new language changes his entire life upside down.

I wanted to tell this story, because there's no end of learning even when story about an old man whose life changes into something much more beautiful during his English learning process.

Through the story I want show the natural human reactions like struggling against difficulties, giving up and the psychology in motivation coming by success. Faruk is someone like you and me, he is one of us... but he insists on taking a path none of us may prefer.

The whole story says, it is not the finish line that you reach is important, it is the path that you take to get there is of importance.

During his learning process, Faruk comes across many characters. Each character is a reflection an emotion that he or she represents, or a metaphor of a fact.

These characters positively or negatively, somehow develop Faruk's character. Just like... everyone or everything in our life can change us, Faruk will go through this change. Color of the film is “yellow”.

For a cinematographic concept, the art director works delinquently for every inch of the movie to have a visual demonstration.

“  
*Don't worry that your life is turning upside down.  
How do you know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come?*” RUMI

The visual style of the film is like a fairy tale. Coworking with the director of photography will bring forth a system of an emotional change reflected by colors.

The enlightenment of the character's dark world is seen within the change of the colors throughout the movie as it develops.

The shadows of the objects at the character's home and the in his world is reflected on screen with the color yellow. And the outer world is so pure and the color “yellow” is also seen in the other taxi drivers' yellow cabs scenes, showing their world. The plot is so realistic just like its visual design.

BURÇAK ÜZEN



# Beginner, Stills

## Beginner

