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# Jiyan

Average user rating ★★★★★ (5 / 3 votes)

99 minutes, Kurdistan/USA (2001), 12A



A Kurdish-American man returns to the town of Halabja to build an orphanage. An accomplished and moving feature from writer-director Jano Rosebiani

Director: **Jano Rosebiani**

Starring: **Kurdo GalalÃ©**  
**PÃ©sheng BerzincÃ©**

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## Jiyan Review

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**A Kurdish-American man returns to the town of Halabja to build an orphanage. An accomplished and moving feature from writer-director Jano Rosebiani**

On March 16 1988, 5,000 Kurdish people were killed and thousands more maimed when the town of Halabja was subject to a biological and chemical weapons attack by Saddam Hussein's air force. **Jiyan** (Life) begins five years after this atrocity, with DiyarÃ© (GalalÃ©) arriving in the traumatized community, where the polluted air still carries diseases and where his friend Salar (ShÃ©xanÃ©) says that those who survived the bombings are between "life and death". Amongst those whom Diyar befriends are two orphaned children: ShÃ©rko (HawramÃ©), a boy who dreams of becoming a pilot in order to bomb Saddam, and the seven-year-old Jiyan (BerzincÃ©), a girl with a badly scarred face.

Jiyan could equally have been titled **And Life Goes On**, for as with that 1991 drama from Iranian maestro Abbas Kiarostami, it demonstrates how, in the face of appalling hardship, people somehow keep going: here they gather at a local cafÃ©, fall in love - one suitor whispers poetry over a wall to his beloved - dance to music, and get married.

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**2**  
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**2: Paranormal Activity (£3.59m)**  
★★★★★

**3: A Christmas Carol (£11.33m)**  
★★★★★

**4: 2012 (£16.21m)**  
★★★★★

**5: Law Abiding Citizen (£1.48m)**  
★★★★★

**6: Nativity (£0.79m)**  
★★★★★

**7: Harry Brown (£3.51m)**  
★★★★★

**8: Up (£33.96m)**  
★★★★★

**9: De Dana Dan (£0.30m)**  
★★★★★

**10: A Serious Man (£0.74m)**  
★★★★★

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