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JIMMY MCHUGH MUSIC CATALOG ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET IT'S A MOST UNUSUAL DAY SOUTH AMERICAN WAY
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COMIN' IN ON A WIND AND A PRAYER I FEEL A SONG COMIN' ON EXACTLY LIKE YOU **EMI**
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FILM

Posted: Fri., Feb. 15, 2002, 4:00pm PT

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Festival

Jiyan

Kurdistan

By DAVID ROONEY

An [Evini Films](#) production with participation of Kurdistan regional government, [Hubert Bals Fund](#), [Gothenburg Film Festival Fund](#), [Fondazione MonteCinema Verita](#), [United Colors of Benneton](#). (International sales: [Media Luna Entertainment](#), Cologne.) Produced, directed, written, edited by [Jano Rosebiani](#).

With: [Kurdo Galali](#), [Pisheng Berzinji](#), [Choman Hawrami](#), [Enwer Shexani](#), [Derya Qadir](#).

A heartfelt account of the aftermath of the chemical and biological bombardment of the Kurdish town of Halabja by Iraqi planes in 1988, "Jiyan" gives a human face to the massacre, which despite its magnitude drew only subdued attention from the international community. Somewhat didactic and narratively simplistic, Kurdish-American filmmaker [Jano Rosebiani](#)'s drama nonetheless provides moving, often poetic testimony to the tragedy and to the will of the devastated people to heal and rebuild, making it ideal for human-rights interest television slots.

In the attack on the small town ordered by [Saddam Hussein](#)'s regime, 5,000 were killed, an additional 7,000 disfigured and others continue to suffer from terminal illnesses, birth defects and disease spread by contaminated water and produce. Five years after the bombing, Kurdish-American [Diyari \(Kurdo Galali\)](#) returns to his homeland to build an orphanage. He befriends [Jiyan \(Pisheng Berzinji\)](#), a withdrawn young girl whose name means "life." Her sole surviving relative is a fiercely protective young cousin ([Choman Hawrami](#)). As [Diyari](#)'s project slowly takes shape, [Jiyan](#) gradually emerges from her silence to become part of the community again.

Camera (color), [Koutaiba Al Janabi](#); music, [Kurdo Galali](#), [Herem Ranyeyi](#). Reviewed at [Rotterdam Film Festival](#) (competing), Jan. 27, 2002. Running time: 102 MIN.

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