



Was born in Tirana on August 5, 1950. He graduated from Tirana's Higher Institute of Arts in 1972 as well as from the Institute of Theater and Film Art in Bucharest, Romania in 1975 and post graduated from Columbia University NY (USA) in 1993. Kujtim Çashku is a film director, screenwriter and producer who has won numerous awards at national and international film festivals, including the Critics Prize at the 1996 Bastia Mediterranean Film Festival, the UNESCO Award at the 1998 Venice International Film Festival for his political drama Colonel Bunker (1996) Selected as Albanian entry of 1998 Best Foreign Language Film in Oscars 1996 , the Best Screenplay Award, the FIRESCI Prize and the Silver Pyramid at the 2005 Cairo International Film Festival as well as the Bronze Palm at the Valencia Festival of Mediterranean Cinema for his film Magic Eye (2005), the CEI Award at the Trieste Film Festival for his "brave commitment to the development of Albanian cinema". He is the founder of OraFilm, Albania's first film production company in 1995. Founder of the Albanian Cineastes Association "Lumiere" in 2001, Albania's International Human Rights Film Festival (IHRFFA) in 2006 and the founder of the first Albanian Film School, the Academy of Film & Multimedia Marubi in 2004. Kujtim Cashku is Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres of the French Republic, Commander of the Order of Civilian Merit of the Spanish Kingdom, and a member of the European Film Academy.