

Fazilet Eczanesi (1983)

Tulay Eratalay

OVERVIEW

Director: In total, his directing career, Tülay Eratalay has directed two films, seven documentaries, numerous TV series and also written two screenplays. made educational, cultural, music, documentary and drama programs. In 1995, his two feature films brought him important awards in Turkey. *Düş, Gerçek, Bir de Sinema* won Best Film, Best Director, and Best Actor awards at the 10th Ankara Film Festival, and Best Third Film and Best Supporting Actor awards at the 12th Adana Altın Koza Film Festival. And *Özlem... Düne, Bugüne, Yarına* won Best Second Film, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress at the 32nd Antalya Altın Portakal Film Festival and Best Actress at the 10th Ankara Film Festival. Having carried out many projects, Tülay Eratalay retired from his position at TRT Drama Programs.

Film: Semih Sergen was the scriptwriter of the film, which was adapted from the play *Fazilet Eczanesi* written by Haldun Taner. Haldun Taner dramatized his story *Eczanenin Akşam Müşterileri* in 1952, under the title *Fazilet Eczanesi* in 1960. During the preparation of the work, the author was inspired by the Afiyet Pharmacy in Erenköy, Istanbul and benefited from his observations in this pharmacy. One of Haldun Taner's early plays, *Fazilet Eczanesi* was first performed in 1960, but in the play Haldun Taner depicts Turkey in the 1950s. The play takes place in a neighborhood on the shores of the Bosphorus. The events that took place around Pharmacist Sadettin Dertsavar, the owner of Fazilet Pharmacy in the 1950s, are the subject. It is a play that reflects detailed observations on the pharmacy understanding of the period and pharmacist-patient relations. As in the play, Atif Bigeç and Ahmet Eren arranged the music and Orhan Alpaslan prepared the sets.

Background: In this movie, which deals with daily life in a realistic way, the characters are chosen from the main people involved in daily life. The choice of a pharmacy created a stage environment where people from all classes could be brought together. Daily events are handled with a humorous language. *Fazilet Eczanesi* addresses the problem of urbanization, a subject that was frequently focused on in the theater literature of its time. And it should be stated that the 1950s is one of the important turning points in the history of Turkish pharmacy. It was during this period that the first Turkish pharmaceutical factory became operational in 1952. In 1953, the Law on Pharmacists and Pharmacies was adopted and three years later the Turkish Pharmacists Association was founded. Enrichment, cultural degeneration and luxury consumption habits in the 1950s were subjected to criticism.

SYNOPSIS

In this film, shot in three parts, we are in a neighborhood around Beykoz on the Bosphorus. In this neighborhood, people with different identities and different professions live together happily. A sense of unity, benevolence, respect for the past and nature, and the right to be neighborly can be listed as the basic values in this neighborhood. People living in this neighborhood spend their days playing backgammon, gossiping, solving crossword puzzles, reading novels, and making sculptures. In the center of the neighborhood there is a pharmacy as a meeting point for everyone, and the name of the pharmacy is quite meaningful. This movie is about the clash between the old and the new order. Nostalgia is a very strong feeling. The main representative of the old and the past is the pharmacy. In this pharmacy all medicines are made in the classical way, the medicines are handmade by Sadettin. The pharmacy and its equipment are traditional in style. Whereas in those days many luxury pharmacies had opened and sold imported medicines. Sadettin and his son are the first to stand out in the clash between the old and the new. Sadettin is passionate about old-fashioned pharmacy. He wants his son to be his successor, but his son does not want to become a pharmacist despite studying pharmacy. When his father dies, Ünal sells imported drugs from Europe in the pharmacy and destroys his father's ideal. In fact, the first sign that

Sadettin's ideal will collapse, in other words, that the old order will collapse, is the cutting down of the old fig tree near the pharmacy because this fig tree is a concrete indicator of the past and was cut with a chainsaw for new construction. First of all, Sadettin was saddened by the cutting down of the fig tree. Along with him, Tapucu Refet, Pehlivan and Dr. Recai are among those who are upset. Those who ignore the past and do not care about the destruction of the old order are the contractor Tahsin, who makes a lot of money by building new constructions and those who work with him. Tahsin and Sadettin are representatives of the conflict between the past and the new. In this film, Istanbul's rapid process of apartment building is criticized. Because old buildings and even old trees must be demolished to build apartment buildings. Contractors who want to build apartment buildings do not respect the past, people, neighborhood culture or nature. Apart from Tahsin, his daughter Melda and Sadettin's son Ünal are also indifferent to the destruction of the old order and past. As a result, the past is completely destroyed with the death of Sadettin at the end of the movie. With his death, the understanding of pharmacy that he idealized disappears into history. It should be stated that in the theater text, while Tapucu Refet, Pehlivan and Journeyman Yusuf are chatting in front of the pharmacy, the subject turns to politics. They state that democracy prevails. At that time, there were two rival parties, the Millet Party and the Democrat Party. However, this conversation is not included in the movie. In the meantime, the movie has made additions to the character names. For example, Sadettin becomes Sadettin Dertsavar in the movie. On the other hand, Refet's name is Tapucu Refet.

CHARACTERS

Sadettin Dertsavar: The pharmacist who is passionate about his pharmacy representing the past.
Müteahhit Tahsin: Opportunistic and rich contractor who demolishes old buildings
Melda: Contractor Tahsin's daughter who criticizes the old order and admires the West.
Ünal: The son of Sadettin, who wanted to be a sculptor instead of a pharmacist.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Sadettin Dertsavar: Sadettin is the protagonist of the movie. He is firmly attached to old values. He is passionate about his job as a pharmacist. Even his surname alludes to his job.

Passionate: For 36 years, Sadettin has been a pharmacist in a neighborhood near Beykoz on the Bosphorus. He does his job with love and pride. He even shows this in the way he answers the phone in the pharmacy. He answers the phone with pride and he wants to continue his profession until the end of his life. With the mortar in his hand, he prepares medicines with local raw materials. He wants his son Ünal to be a passionate pharmacist like himself. Sadettin sometimes scolds his son when he sees that he does not like pharmacy. because he wants to see his son give up his fondness for art and his love for abroad. His main goal is to raise his son as the heir in his place. During his conversations with his tradesman neighbors, his wife, his foreman and his customers. Sadettin states how important his job is and that he loves his job. In addition, he constantly states that he expects everyone to have great respect for the pharmacy profession, which he continues to do in the old fashioned way. Even the words used by Sadettin are Ottoman words. He chooses his words carefully. For example, he always sends his customers away by saying "İzzet-i İkbal".

Idealist/Arrogant: Sadettin wants to do pharmacy, which he is passionate about, until his death. More importantly, he has adopted the principle of doing this pharmacy with traditional methods. He prepares his medicines with local ingredients in the mortar he has. He works hard and gets tired, but he doesn't complain about it. For him, nature and human emotions are very important. He risks demolishing the pharmacy wall to prevent the fig tree from being cut down. When there is a patient in the neighborhood, Before Dr. Recai, Sadettin comes. In his opinion, pharmacies that bring imported drugs are stores. Therefore, Sadettin despises them. However, Sadettin's pharmacy is the lifeblood of that neighborhood. According to Sadettin, without his pharmacy, neither the neighborhood nor its residents would be left. One of the main reasons why his pharmacy is so important is that Sadettin does his job with love. Sadettin has put in a lot of sweat and effort for years. Ultimately, for all these reasons, he is proud of himself and his pharmacy. His biggest wish is for his son Ünal to follow in his footsteps and continue running the pharmacy in the same way. If his son fulfills his wish, Sadettin will be proud of his son. But,

unlike Sadettin, his son is not an idealist and Ünal is not a fighter like his father. So, when Sadettin dies, imported drugs start being sold in the pharmacy, just like the others.

Critical: It is noteworthy that Sadettin usually makes critical sentences. For example, he criticizes both his wife and his doctor friend for reading novels and getting carried away by them. One of the situations he sharply criticizes is the impact of westernization, especially USA, on social life. He expresses this with the following sentence: "We even Americanized children's games." But Sadettin's son Ünal receives his share of the heaviest criticism. Because Ünal does not want to fulfill his father's ideal. However, according to his father, Ünal should be his father's successor. However, Ünal is reluctantly studying in the pharmacy department. Sadettin wants to convey what he knows to his son. He says to his son, "Let's study", but his son does not want to study with him. Sadettin gets angry at his son for these words and scolds him.

Tahsin: Rich contractor who demolishes old buildings and builds new apartment buildings in their place.

Opportunist: Tahsin wants to demolish the old buildings in that neighborhood and build multi-storey apartments instead. To fulfill this wish, he cuts down trees and displaces shop owners. Dr. Recai and Tapucu Refet make a calculation while playing backgammon and talking about Tahsin's projects. Ultimately, an apartment building of at least 8 floors will be built in the place of the pharmacy. There will be two flats on each floor. Tahsin will have a rental income of 16,000 lira every month. Tahsin takes the law professor Ercüment with him in order to buy the old buildings quickly and cooperates with him. In fact, Ercüment attracts the reaction of the neighborhood people because he started working with Tahsin gives Ercüment a good wage. The fig tree near the pharmacy in the neighborhood is cut down because of him. Tahsin does not respect nature either. The neighborhood gets upset about this. Pehlivan even shouts "He does not fear God " at him. The neighborhood residents are angry with Tahsin because he disregarded the neighborhood culture and past for his own benefit.

Brutal: Tahsin is as cruel as he is opportunist. His own daughter Melda is also aware of these characteristics of her father. Melda explains the reason for her father's cruelty as follows: "While he was studying at the captain's school, my father was expelled from school, now he suddenly became rich and is taking revenge." His daughter is aware that her father is not loved by the neighborhood. That's why she feels the need to make this statement to the neighborhood about her father. But, her father Tahsin, treats Melda cruelly. Because before Melda goes to USA with Unal, he forcibly takes the jewel from Melda's neck. That jewel was inherited from Melda's deceased mother. In the face of her father's cruelty, Melda says to her father, "Take this and turn it into capital for yourself." and sets off for USA without even saying goodbye to her father. Even though years have passed, Melda does not forgive her father.

Deceitful: Contractor Tahsin is self-interested businessman. Everything and every means is acceptable to him. His interest is the most important one. He wants to buy and demolish the pharmacy as soon as possible so that he can build high-rise buildings that will make a profit instead. He even creates a conspiracy for this purpose. First of all, Leman heard that Tahsin had conspired against Sadettin, the pharmacist. Ms. Leman came and immediately informed Sadettin. But Sadettin does not care about this. His wife Naciye even warns Sadettin to take precautions. Despite this, he is not afraid. However, one night when the pharmacy was on duty, a conspiracy was organized against the pharmacy. A fire breaks out in the pharmacy. Tahsin's daughter Melda was also at the pharmacy that night. Tahsin is not aware of this. The materials and medicines in the pharmacy are damaged. Sadettin has to leave the shop. As a result, Tahsin achieves his wish.

Melda: Contractor Tahsin's daughter who is aware of her individuality and makes individual decisions

Free spirited: Melda is a woman who lived her life as she wished until she was twenty years old. Her father is a rich contractor. She takes advantage of his father's opportunities. Her father does not interfere with her. Melda tells Ünal that "No one can interfere with me". She goes to parties and dances at night. She was expelled from the university. Melda had many boyfriends until the age of 20 and was married and divorced once. In fact, she herself admitted to Ünal that they called her "merry widow" for this reason. But this is not a problem for Melda. Melda is a woman who makes her own decisions. She comes to the pharmacy from time to time. She talks to some people on the phone at the pharmacy. She doesn't feel the need to lower her voice when talking on the phone since Melda likes to attract the attention of those

around her. She makes friends with Ünal in the neighborhood then this friendship turns into a relationship. Even though her father objects, she declares that she is with Ünal the night her father conspired and they go to USA together.

Inconsistent: Melda always uses English or French words in her conversations. For example, instead of saying thank you, she says merci. Sometimes she even expresses his reactions with long English sentences such as "I don't believe it". She applied for a Fulbright scholarship. One day, she even tried to speak English with the Fulbright Scholarship Commission manager on the phone at the pharmacy. Melda was expelled from the university, but she wants to go to USA and study there. She always speaks English and seems like a fan of the West. But when she wants to buy medicine, she prefers to come to this traditional pharmacy, which she "likes more than other pharmacies". Melda pronounces the words incorrectly. For example, she says, "A tailor cannot sew his own costume." And many times Melda's Turkish is corrected by the people around her. Melda is aware that her Turkish is inadequate but there is no desire to improve her language.

Unconcerned and Individualistic: Melda is individual. She attaches importance to individual life. Compared to other women in the neighborhood, Melda has the freedom to choose her own lovers or spouses. She was asked to have an arranged marriage by her father. But Melda was able to end this marriage by her own decision. Moreover, she married the son of her father's enemy. When he goes to USA, she does not even ask his father's opinion, just like when she got married. The important thing for her is "to love and be loved." She said this while talking to Ünal. On the other hand, Melda does not react if the developments around her do not concern her. For example, cutting down the fig tree, which is the symbol of the past in the neighborhood, is sad for the neighborhood. Besides the past, nature was also damaged. But according to Melda, the old fig tree is "just the mascot of the pharmacy." Therefore, cutting that tree is not important according to her.

Ünal: The son of Sadettin, the pharmacist, who wanted to be a sculptor instead of a pharmacist.

Lover: Ünal falls in love with Melda after seeing her. Melda begins to be at the center of Ünal's life. Ünal admires Melda but he is not as comfortable as Melda and cannot show his feelings to Melda. Melda often comes to the pharmacy and they chat. They get closer and closer. Ultimately, Ünal finds his love reciprocated. Because of this love, Ünal goes to USA with Melda. However, according to his father, Ünal should replace his father, but he prefers love. In short, Ünal fell in love with the daughter of his father's enemy. In fact, before Melda, Ünal wants to go to Rome, where his friend Erdoğan lives. They even argue with his father because of this. Because Sadettin hides the letter from Erdoğan from his son Ünal. He will go to Rome with his friend and become a sculptor there. But when he falls in love with Melda, Ünal's whole plan changes. After falling in love with Melda, Ünal lives according to her wishes.

Dreamer: Ünal lost his mother at a young age. He is an introvert. He gets along with the journeyman Yusuf and shares his ideas with him. but mostly chooses to be alone. He studies at the faculty of pharmacy, but does not study for his classes and fails the class. because he doesn't want to be a pharmacist. He always walks around with a statue in his hand. dreams. He sells his boat to realize his dream because he will go to Rome and become a sculptor. This is his biggest dream. But he does not work to realize this dream. He chooses the easy way to become a sculptor. According to Ünal, going abroad is enough to become a good sculptor. He did not even question whether he had the talent to be a sculptor. Meanwhile, when he sees Melda, his biggest dream is to marry Melda. His father wants to introduce him to his friend's daughter at Sütlüce. Ünal makes excuses to his father and does not even meet the girl.

Passionless: Ünal constantly argues with his father, Sadettin. Because according to his father, Ünal should be a craftsman. However, according to Ünal, he was born to be an artist he never wants to be a craftsman. But while he wants to go to Rome to become an artist, he suddenly gives up this idea. He goes to USA upon Melda's request. After a few years, Ünal became a craftsman, not an artist. Ünal became the new owner of his father's pharmacy. His father told him, "Don't sell imported medicine." But Ünal ignores his father's warning and sells imported drugs. Ünal, who has no real passion for art, starts running the pharmacy inherited from his father out of necessity. But when Ünal took over the pharmacy, the pharmacy lost its spirit. According to Sadettin, pharmacy is an art that should be practiced with love

and passion but according to Ünal, the pharmacy is just a shop where he makes money. Since Ünal is a passionless person, he has to act according to the circumstances. Rather than pursuing passion, he acts according to place and time.

THEMES

Urbanization and Westernization: The 1950s are very important in the urbanization of Turkey. In fact, many sources consider these years as the milestone of Turkey's urbanization. It is important that the population in cities started to increase rapidly in this period. After 1950, mechanization took place in rural areas. For this reason, there is migration from rural areas to big cities, especially Istanbul. As a result, the population in Istanbul increases rapidly. Immigrants need to find a place to live. This period is also the period when the economy began to become more integrated into the capitalist world economy. Aid packages from USA, foreign debts, foreign investments and imports increase significantly. Ultimately, a solution is found for the housing problem in Istanbul. Many contractors appear and many apartment buildings begin to be built. In the 1950s, Istanbul entered a rapid process of apartment building. In this context, a constant sound of destruction is heard around the pharmacy. For example, one day Pehlivan, comes to the pharmacy in a hurry. "Is that gunfire?" he says. Sadettin says, "No, they are using dynamite for destruction." Another day, Sadettin, Tapucu Refet, Dr. Recai and Journeyman Yusuf hear that the old fig tree, which is the symbol of the neighborhood's past, was cut down with a chainsaw. They will all be surprised. All these sounds are reflections of rapid apartment building and urbanization. The reflections of Westernization have spread to many areas. Westernization manifests itself primarily in urban life. Apartments, which are Western living spaces, begin to be built rapidly in Istanbul. Old buildings must be demolished in order to build apartments. It is necessary to get rid of the old. Admiration for Westernization can even be seen in Melda's boyfriend's sentence, "I prefer European-style pharmacies and medicines." Melda's choice to study in USA and her constant use of the words merci and bonjour in her speeches are among the concrete indicators of her admiration for the West or westernization.

Old and new Conflict: Here we witness the clash of two forces: The old order, in other words, the contrast between the past and its values and the new and the latest fashion. Destruction and preservation are in an eternal battle. The cutting down of the old fig tree next to the pharmacy is the first defeat of the old order. After the 1950s, the self-employed emerged as the new and lucrative class of the Turkish economy. In this change, monetary values are given importance over the humane values of the past. Order is established in favor of the powerful. Those who take advantage of opportunities and compromise their moral values easily adapt to this order. Those who take advantage of opportunities and compromise their morals easily adapt to this order. For example, Ercüment, a professor of law, prefers money and power. Dr. Recai says the following about Ercüment who takes on the role of Tahsin's lawyer for money: "Shame on that Ercüment for leaving forty years of law and becoming a lawyer for rich man". On the other side, Sadettin's son Ünal, whom Saadettin sees as the future and wants to raise like him, is also someone who takes the easy way out. He wants to be a sculptor, but he is not passionate about art. Just like Ünal, Melda doesn't care about her family and the past. For Melda, her own wishes and plans are paramount. What she cares about is finding a scholarship to go to USA and being able to lead a free life. She speaks good English on the phone with the head of the scholarship committee in order to get the scholarship and she also says bonjour or merci to the people she meets instead of good morning and thank you. Another example is Melda's young friend Sadun who comes to the pharmacy with her from the sea, he does not like this pharmacy and its medicines. Because according to him, this pharmacy and its medicines are traditional and old-fashioned.

Neighborhood Culture: This is a neighborhood on the Bosphorus where waves, birds chirping and ferry sounds are heard together. In this neighborhood, the pharmacy is the central shop. but this is not just because of the location of the pharmacy. The pharmacy is located in the center on the seashore but this pharmacy has an important place in the lives of the whole neighborhood. As its name suggests, this pharmacy represents "virtue", which is an old value, and is also the heart of the neighborhood. In other words, as Sadettin said, "it is a value that the neighborhood cannot give up." This pharmacy is not just a place where patients come to get their medicines. Tailor Viçen and Melda often come to this pharmacy to talk on the phone, and Leman Hanım often comes to this pharmacy to gossip about her neighbors. This pharmacy is the meeting point of the neighborhood. Yusuf, the pharmacist's journeyman, Naciye, the pharmacist's wife, and Leman are always chatting in the pharmacy. Tapucu Refet, Pehlivan and Dr. Recai

also love to play backgammon in front of this pharmacy. This pharmacy is a meeting place for old lovers as well as the neighborhood. One day, Naciye accidentally met Müslüm, the theater actor she had been with before her marriage to Sadettin, in this pharmacy. They recognize each other. They reminisce about the past days. In fact, this pharmacy is a matchmaking place. Leman introduced Sadettin and his second wife Naciye in this pharmacy. During the conversation, Leman says that she heard that her neighbor Saniye was beaten by her husband and then adds: "I wish Saniye would come here, we would find her a husband in this pharmacy, this is the lucky pharmacy." There is always a warm conversation between those who meet in this pharmacy.

Enrichment: With the effect of the rapid urbanization process, contractors have made significant profits. For example, Contractor Tahsin's wealth is evident from the car he owns as well. One day, when the sound of his speedboat was heard, Tapucu Refet said, "His speedboat is the same as the Iraqi king's." On the other hand, one day while Tapucu Refet and Dr. Recai were playing backgammon, they tried to calculate the income Tahsin would earn if he bought the pharmacy and built a multi-storey building instead. According to Dr. Recai, if Tahsin builds an 8-storey building with two flats on each floor, his monthly rental income will be 16,000 liras. Journeyman Yusuf immediately adds: "He will rent the shops under the building to banks." While building the new apartments, contractor Tahsin takes the risk of demolishing not only the pharmacy but also the old fig tree next to the pharmacy. By the way, the contractors were not the only ones who benefited from that day. Another profitable segment of that period was the pharmaceutical brokers. According to Saddettin, medicine should be prepared in a mortar with the love of the pharmacist. However, the new pharmacists of that period bought ready-made drugs from the pharmacy warehouse and sold them. They sell ready-made medicines in luxury pharmacies with beautiful showcases. However, according to Sadettin, the basis of pharmacy is to prepare different medicines for each patient. He is proud to do this. Contractors and new pharmacists stand out as the most profitable in the new order. Their profit is realized by ignoring and destroying the values and elements of the past. They care about their own interests. It does not matter to them that the past and cultural values are being damaged. They do not hesitate to act ruthlessly to gain profit.

Love and marriage: There are concrete examples of arranged marriages at that time in this work. In the pharmacy, conversations take place about which woman can marry which man. The men and women who would be suitable for marriage are discussed during the conversations in this pharmacy. Leman is the matchmaker of the neighborhood. She does this with pleasure. It is Leman who introduces Naciye to Sadettin. Afterwards, she says that she has heard that her neighbor Saniye is not happy with her husband and she wants to introduce her to Hüsametttin, the pier officer, because she thinks these two people are good for each other. According to Leman, Saniye, as an educated woman, is suitable to marry Hüsametttin. Leman even states that this pharmacy, where matchmaking is carried out, in other words, this pharmacy is auspicious. but at that time, not everyone is in favor of arranged marriages. For example, Melda and Ünal want to make their own decisions. In the end, these two young people get married even though their fathers are enemies. and they go to USA. Melda even compares their marriage in defiance of their fathers to the play Romeo and Juliet. Before Naciye married Sadettin, she was with the theater actor Müslüm in Adana but she had to leave him because of her aunt. Then she married Sadettin. The reason why Sadettin married her was for her own benefit. In other words, Sadettin needed someone to work in the pharmacy and she was suitable to be a cashier. One day Müslüm comes to where Naciye lives by chance with his theater troupe. He says to Naciye, "Let's get out of here together." Naciye first goes, but then regrets it and returns to Sadettin. Because Müslüm, like Sadettin, tells Naciye, "Work with me."

Helpfulness: In the neighborhood where the pharmacy is located, people of different belongings and professions live together. Armenian, Greek, Thracian, German individuals live here. Miralay, pharmacist, journeyman, contractor, tailor, title deed holder, doctor, milkman, postman, lawyer and kadayif maker are the professions of the people living here. Dr. Recai and Tapucu Refet often play backgammon in front of the pharmacy. Tapucu Refet helps Sadettin when he is in a lawsuit with the contractor Tahsin. Dr. Recai criticizes Ercüment, a local, for acting as Tahsin's lawyer. Because Ercüment preferred money. The biggest example of help comes after the pharmacy burns down as a result of a conspiracy. Because at first, Leman says, "Let my 70,000 liras of jewelry be your capital, Sadettin." The Dr. Recai, Tapucu Refet, Journeyman Yusuf, and Pehlivan all offer their moral support. Together they do their best to ensure the survival of the pharmacy, the "virtue" of the neighborhood. Despite the conspiracy of Tahsin, or despite all the financial difficulties, the pharmacy continues to survive thanks to strong neighborhood ties.

Matchmaking to marry suitable men and women is another sign of benevolence. Or Journeyman Yusuf does not tell his master that Naciye has left Sadettin. When Naciye returns home, he immediately destroys the letter she left for Sadettin. Another example is that many people in the neighborhood, especially Sadettin, try to help Muadelet who drinks the wrong medicine. Or they take a whistle and hang it around the neck of a mentally unstable person to make him feel better so that the person will think it is a medal and be happy.

Gender Discrimination: Gender Discrimination: It is observed that men use a negative language, a discriminatory language when they talk to women or talk about women behind their backs when they are not there. men in general have a discriminatory approach. Sadettin and his Journeyman Yusuf are the main men in the neighborhood who have a discriminatory attitude towards women. for example, when talking to Naciye about the future of the pharmacy, Sadettin has a discriminatory attitude towards his wife. Naciye says "let's sell the pharmacy, pay off our debts and deposit the remaining money in the bank. let's live off the interest we get from the bank, just like Gülnur does". Sadettin strongly opposes his wife. His wife Naciye then says "listen to a woman's word for once" to Sadettin. Sadettin says, "Aren't you a woman, women always pull people down. Which science and which invention in history has ever been made with a woman's mind?" He humiliates his wife and women in general. On the other hand, kalfa yusuf follows in his master's footsteps. He tells the deed Tapucu Refet, Dr. Recai, Pehlivan in front of the pharmacy that he went to the theater and wants to communicate with the belly-dancer Alev in the theater. Belly-dancer woman is haunted by the Journeyman Yusuf for this reason, the men in charge of the theater warn Journeyman Yusuf. He then says about the woman, "However, it is obvious that the woman has gone astray." He even adds: "Anyway, that man is going to pimp out this woman." The Pehlivan, the Tapucu and the Dr. Recai who listen to this story of Yusuf in front of the pharmacy laugh; they do not criticize what he says.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways is the movie *Fazilet Eczanesi* important in terms of the history of cinema? Is the theater text reflected on the screen as it is? Why?
2. What does this film say about politics, economy and especially neighborhood culture in the early 1950s?
3. Why was a pharmacy chosen as the main location in the movie? What was the importance of the pharmacy in the 1950s?
4. How does it contain references to the dominance of patriarchal discourse?

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SCENES

PHARMACY

1. Meeting Point of the Neighborhood: Fazilet Pharmacy

This pharmacy by the Bosphorus is the meeting point for people in the neighborhood. People from the neighborhood don't just come here to buy their medicines. They often come to this pharmacy to socialize. For instance, Leman comes to buy painkillers but also especially to gossip. Thanks to Leman, arranged marriages are decided in this pharmacy. For example, Leman showed Naciye to Sadettin in this pharmacy. Muadelet also often comes to this pharmacy to chat. Melda comes to this pharmacy to show herself. In short, this pharmacy serves as the main public space of the neighborhood. All the events that happen in the neighborhood are seen from here and moreover discussed here. For this reason, this pharmacy becomes the meeting point of the neighborhood.



2. Sadettin, who defends old-style pharmacy

In the early 1950s, the influence of capitalism and westernization begins to increase in Turkey. Sadettin is not happy with this situation. According to Sadettin, pharmacy should be based on traditional methods. Because pharmacy is not only about selling medicine. Pharmacy should be done with love. Otherwise, pharmacy is just a shop. At the university, his teachers taught Sadettin that pharmacy was a profession that affected human life. For this reason, Sadettin cares very much about his job, in other words, his profession. However, recently, the number of luxury pharmacies selling medicines from Europe has started to increase. They are competitors to Sadettin's pharmacy, but he doesn't care about the new luxury pharmacies because they don't have "handmade medicines made with love". Sadettin says "it is necessary to make different medicines for each body".



FATHER AND SON

3. Father and Son Conflict

Sadettin is idealistic and passionate about his profession. He expects and wants his son to be like him. However, his son Ünal does not want to be a pharmacist even though he goes to pharmacy faculty. That is why he is not successful at school. Ünal's goal is to join his friend Erdoğan in Italy. Once there, he will be able to become a sculptor. This is Ünal's biggest dream until he sees Melda and falls in love with her. However, his father Sadettin opposes his son's wish. Because according to Sadettin, Ünal should stay in Turkey and continue to practice traditional and ideal pharmacist like Sadettin.



4. Is pharmacy an art or a craft?

Sadettin constantly talks to his son Ünal in order to increase his interest in pharmacy. He explains to his son how important a profession pharmacy is by giving examples. Sadettin tells his son, "We make a living thanks to this pharmacy". His son Ünal replies to his father, "You look at life from your own perspective, you don't care about my opinions". Moreover, Ünal says, "I want to be an artist, not a craftsman." Sadettin says, "How many people in this neighborhood have regained their health thanks to this pharmacy. I made different medicines for each patient. Sadettin says "pharmacy is an art even more valuable than sculpture or writing. If you were an artist, you would know the value of this pharmacy."



5. Ünal's opposition to arranged marriages

Sadettin wants Ünal to marry the daughter of his friend Şahap who lives in Sütlüce. But Ünal has a dream of going abroad. So Ünal says to his father, "I haven't done my military service yet, I'm too young, and she's not pretty." When Sadettin hears these words, he tells his son the following: "She has become a successful pharmacist. She is making money. You have only seen her photo. See this girl up close." Sadettin wants his son to have an arranged marriage like his own marriage. The girl he sees suitable for his son Ünal is a successful girl who earns her own money. Moreover, she is a pharmacist.



NACIYE: MARRIED WOMAN

6. Old love and Confronting the Past

One day when Sadettin is not at the pharmacy, Naciye's old love comes to the neighborhood and passes by the pharmacy. Thus, Naciye and Müslüm, a theater actor, who had met 12 years ago in Adana, meet by chance years later. 12 years ago, they start to talk about their short-lived love. Sadettin is Naciye's second husband. Naciye met Müslüm before her first marriage. He says to Naciye, "You don't seem to have changed at all" and he expresses his anger towards Naciye's aunt, whom he sees as the reason for their separation. Naciye does not know what to say in the face of Müslüm's words and says only fate. Müslüm tells Naciye that they should go back to Adana together. Naciye is surprised at first but then decides to go to Adana with Müslüm. Because according to Naciye, her husband Sadettin values the pharmacy more than her. Naciye becomes jealous of the pharmacy. Finally, Naciye leaves behind a letter to her husband and decides to go with Müslüm. But then she regrets her decision and returns to her husband. Naciye returns because Müslüm will treat her just like her husband Sadettin. Naciye cannot find the love and attention she is looking for in Müslüm. Because Müslüm wants to work with Naciye just like her husband. Thus, she is tired of working with her husband in the pharmacy and does not want to work with Müslüm in the future.



7. Naciye and Sadettin's Different Perspective on the Future

Naciye and her husband Sadettin have very different dreams for the future. Because Naciye suggests that they live on bank interest income like their neighbors Gülnur. Meanwhile, Naciye also makes a determination about the economy of that period. "Since there was no cash in the market, what her husband had to do was to sell the medicines and equipment in the pharmacy. Thus Sadettin and his wife will be able to get rid of their debts. However, Sadettin opposes this idea of his wife. According to him, living on bank interest income is usury and should not be done. Naciye says "listen to a woman for once". When Sadettin heard this, he said to his wife, "you are a woman and you are always desperate". Sadettin continues to make sentences reflecting his discriminatory view towards women: "In which field have we seen women's invention so far?" Naciye is in a sense humiliated by her husband because of her expectations for the future and because she is a woman.



TAHSIN: Contractor

8. Contractor Tahsin

Tahsin, the contractor, is the opposite of Sadettin wants to get rid of the pharmacy as soon as possible. Then he will be able to build a high-rise building in its place and he will make money and profit. To him, the pharmacy is a symbol of the. His daughter Melda tells Sadettin why her father is like this when she comes to the pharmacy one day. According to Melda, her father has a complex. Because he wanted to be a captain but he was not successful at school. However he suddenly became rich. He failed in the school but now he is successful and rich.



9. Clash of Old and New: Tahsin and Sadettin

One day Tahsin comes to the pharmacy with his lawyer. He wants the shop to be vacated as soon as possible so that he can build a new building in its place. Sadettin asks for a respite from Tahsin. Because his financial situation is not good at that moment. When Tahsin says that he has to look for a shop, Sadettin states that he has searched but he cannot find one in that neighborhood. When Tahsin hears this, he criticizes Sadettin by saying "you care too much about yourself" and he does this with a superior attitude. Sadettin then explains to Tahsin in detail why his pharmacy is important, why he does not want to leave this neighborhood and why the people in the neighborhood think the same way. Tahsin says "there is a law". "I will sue you." And Sadettin kicks him out of the pharmacy.



10. Cutting down a fig tree, A symbol of the neighborhood's past

There is an old fig tree next to the pharmacy. It has started to be talked among the people in the neighborhood that this tree will be demolished to build new buildings. One day Sadun comes to the pharmacy with Melda and says "They are going to cut down the fig tree" However, a little while later, while Pehlivan, Journeyman Yusuf and Dr. Recai were chatting, they suddenly heard that the fig tree next to the pharmacy was cut down with a chainsaw.



FIRE AT THE PHARMACY

11. Bad news for Sadettin: Leman warns Sadettin against the conspiracy

One day Leman comes to the pharmacy and says to Sadettin "I have bad news for you". Tahsin and his men will conspire against your pharmacy, says Leman. When Leman talks about the conspiracy, Naciye says, "I have seen Tahsin laughing in front of the pharmacy for a few days. I am worried." Then Naciye gets angry with her husband and says, "You are daydreaming again". Sadettin says, "You can't live without daydreaming" and adds, "Besides, don't you daydream while reading novels".



12. Conspiracy against Fazilet Pharmacy

One night when the pharmacy is on duty, Melda comes to the pharmacy. Ünal forgets everything when he sees Melda. They have a drink and get together. Ünal closes the pharmacy. That's why he responds late to those in need. The crowd gathers in front of the pharmacy until he comes out. At that moment, someone in the crowd shouts "the back of the pharmacy is on fire". The pharmacy is badly damaged in the fire. A policeman is assigned to investigate this fire. He asks Ünal if there was a woman in the pharmacy that night. At that moment Tahsin intervenes and says, "There is dishonesty here, immorality should not in this neighborhood."



MELDA: INDEPENDENT WOMEN

13. Melda's individuality and Understanding of Life

Ünal is very impressed by Melda. On one of his visits, he chats with Melda. Melda makes a phone call in the pharmacy and announces that she will go to USA with a Fulbright scholarship and continue her education there. Ünal asks Melda "did your family let you go?". She married the son of her father's business partner when she was 17. But then Melda realized that their mentality did not match and she separated from her husband. Melda is a woman who can make her own decisions without. She goes after what she wants with her own will. Ünal cannot hide his surprise and admiration when he hears Melda's words. Because "he also has a dream, but his father does not support his and even prevents



14. Tahsin's last act of cruelty: Against his daughter Melda

Melda's father says to his daughter, "I heard you couldn't find a scholarship." When Melda describes her relationship with Ünal, her father adds derogatorily that "when two hungry people lie together, a beggar is born ". Melda does not give up her decision despite her father's words. "So you are leaving me." At that moment, Tahsin tells his daughter to stop and forcibly takes the jewelry from Melda's neck. Melda then says, "It is our right to be happy, take this jewelry and make it your capital," and takes Ünal's hand.



15. Ünal leaves Turkey and his father and settles in USA

When policeman investigated the fire in the pharmacy and why it did not serve on time on the night it was on duty, Melda arrives. And she says "I was the woman who was in the pharmacy that night". Everyone is surprised, especially Tahsin. Melda says that she was the woman who was there the night the fire broke out in the pharmacy and that she came to the palace willingly. She says that despite the enmity between her father and Ünal's father, they love each other. For this reason, she states that they will go to USA together. Sadettin is surprised and asks his son the following question: "Will you leave this pharmacy and me and go abroad? Ünal says, "Yes father, I will, and you'll get compensation anyway".



AFTER THE FIRE

16. Neighbor solidarity: Fazilet Pharmacy in the new place

Sadettin decides to sell the pharmacy after the fire and after his son Ünal goes to USA. Because he has lost all hope for the future. He tells Tailor Viçen, "I am selling the pharmacy, tell your relative who wants to buy my pharmacy." In the meantime, even though Tapucu Refet "We can sue and even win the case.", Sadettin did not give up his decision. He even tells his wife Naciye "be happy, you got what you wanted, I am selling the pharmacy". While this was happening, Leman came and told Sadettin that she will provide capital to Sadettin. And she adds "you will be able to fulfill whatever the pharmacy needs". Pehlivan says that his kadayıfçı shop can be used as a pharmacy. Many people from the neighborhood gather in front of the pharmacy and Sadettin and Pehlivan go to see Pehlivan's shop and start planning the new pharmacy.



17. "What would this neighborhood do without me?"

Sadettin is happy to be able to continue his pharmacy in his new location with the help of his friends in the neighborhood. He starts to hope for the future again. First he will get rid of his debts and then he will take a loan from the bank. And he will make his pharmacy better. Just at this moment, the German woman in the neighborhood comes and says to Sadettin, "I thought you were going to another neighborhood." Hearing this, Sadettin immediately replies, "No way, what would this neighborhood do without me?" According to him, his pharmacy is indispensable in that neighborhood. Because that pharmacy is a symbol of the past, tradition and labor. It is not a shop where medicine is sold. His pharmacy is a place where he prepares handmade medicines with his love. This pharmacy is also a place where people like to come together.

