

# IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL

## San Francisco September 27-28, 2008

Supporting the Iranian Film Culture®

Iranian Film Festival (IFF) is an annual event showcasing the independent feature and short films made by or about the Iranians from around the world.

### On the Road with Kiarostami

Running Time: 30 minutes  
Country: UK  
Director: Mark Cousins



Abbas Kiarostami is the most acclaimed Iranian film director whose films have won prizes all around the world. In this film he gives a rare and frank interview about his work, and journeys out of Tehran to meet Babak Ahmadpoor the now grown up star of his famous trilogy, which started with WHERE IS THE FRIENDS HOUSE. On the journey Kiarostami picks up the camera himself, producing images of pure poetry.

### Cinema Iran

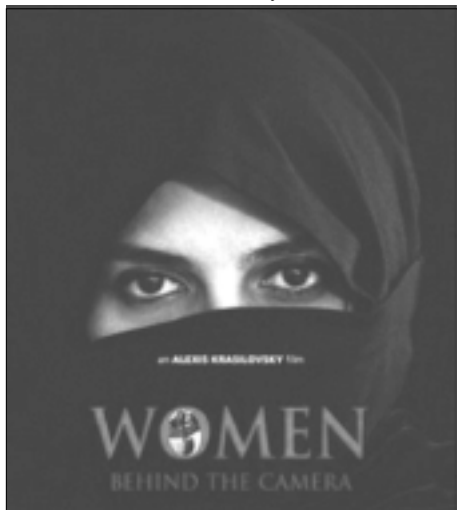
Running Time: 50 Minutes  
Country: UK  
Cast: Abbas Kiarostami, Darius Mehrjoui, Ezatollah Entezami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Mania Akbari, Jafar Panahi, Samira Makhmalbaf, Abolfazl Jalili, Omid Djalili...  
Director: Mark Cousins



For more than two decades Iranian filmmakers have been acclaimed around the world. Here the country's landmark directors explain why, many of them speaking on camera for the first time. Filmed on three continents, Cinema Iran tells the remarkable David and Goliath story of a small national film industry which went against the trends in Western Cinema and changed movie-making forever.

### Women Behind the Camera

Running Time: 90 minutes  
Country: US, France, Iran, Afghanistan, India, China...  
Director: Alexis Krasilovsky



This made-by-women-for-women documentary, based upon Alexis Krasilovsky's book of the same name, connects globally, exploring the lives of camerawomen in Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Iran, Mexico, Russia, Senegal, and other countries in a way never seen before. From the secret films by camerawomen of Taliban beating Afghani women, to historic footage by China's first camerawomen of Mao's travels through the Chinese countryside... From the playful narrative of a Russian filmmaker who learned the art from her father, her choice of career told as a love story, to rural India, where subsistence-level women are taught camerawork as a means of empowerment, to the glowing young Senegalese camerawoman willing to climb onto a man's shoulders – literally – to get her subject, Alexis Krasilovsky shows us a

world of beauty, courage and technical skill.

### The Wild Goose (Ghaze Vahshi)

Running Time: 51 minutes  
Country: Iran  
Genre: Fiction  
Cast: Mamoud Naghibian, Afshin Bayanati, Mahboubeh Ghafari, Habib Javanmard  
Director: Mahmoud Reza Sani



The story about the relationship between an Iranian and Iraqi soldier in a remote border at the threshold of the Iraq-America war. The main point in this movie is the relation between the both soldiers with a migrating and wounded goose, which has been wounded since it was shot, by the Iraqi soldier in the middle of the mine field.

### Wind, Ten Years Old (Bud, Dah Saleh)

Running Time: 23 minutes  
Country: Iran  
Cast: Shaaf Noori, Parisa Kani, Mehdi Moghadam, Marzieh Vafamehr  
Director: Marzie Vafamehr  
In Attendance: Shahmush Parsipur



One day in a life of a ten-year old girl during the Iran/Iraq war. War propaganda nurtures her for fighting. Little by little she gets attracted to fighting and wishes being killed in the war. This film criticizes Iranian children environment specially educational system.

### Lesson from Bam (Mashghé Bam)

Running Time: 23 minutes  
Country: Iran/Austria  
Cast: Azam Chardongi, Fatem Balaroodi, and the children of the Old Citadel School of Bam  
Director: Alireza Ghanie



Forty days have elapsed since the earthquake in Bam- southeastern -Iran - an earthquake that killed over 68,000 people (unofficially) and destroyed the city and the ancient mud-brick citadel of Bam. The children of the Old Citadel School have finally gone back to school in the old citadel but as most buildings have been destroyed, class has been set up in the open air. The children have written compositions about their own experience of the earthquake and one by one are reading their composition out to the class. But the young girl, Fateme, does not want to read out her essay...

### The Slap (Sili)

Running Time: 5 minutes  
Country: Iran  
Cast: Nahid Ghafouri, Marzieh Mozaffari, Ebrahim Mirmalek, Ehsan Amani  
Director: Ehsan Amani



Clever, witty, and extraordinarily funny, The Slap appropriates the style, format, and humor of early Hollywood silent cinema. During a short ride through the Iranian countryside, a kiss in the dark leads the four characters to reveal their desires, egos, and suspicions.

### Abyaneh, Red Village

Running Time: 21 minutes  
Country: Iran  
Director: Katayoun Afrooz [In Attendance]



Abyaneh is an ancient village in Iran, situated 40 kilometers from the Iranian Nuclear Power Plants in Natanz, on the northwestern slope of Karkas Mountain. Being a village of great antiquity, the village has preserved in itself like a live museum, monuments from very far ages to this day. With a unique reddish hue, Abyaneh is one of the oldest villages in Iran.

### Hannibal Alkhas Colorful Poems

Running Time: 12 minutes  
Country: Iran  
Cast: Hannibal Alkhas Poems: Voice of Forough Farrokhzad



Director: Mohammad Reza Sharifi  
A documentary about Hanibal Alkhas, the Iranian master painter, mixed with the poetry of Forough Farrokhzad, the modern poet.

### Best in the West

Running Time: 70 minutes  
Country: US  
Director: Maryam Kashani



Leaving Iran for San Francisco in the 1960's, filmmaker's father and his friends maintained a friendship that would span over forty years, through cultural revolutions and political events that changed the world around them. By interweaving the history of oil relations between the US and Iran, with the personal mishaps, achievements, and relationships of these men, the film explores the possibilities and limits of freedom, and the importance of friendship throughout this struggle.

### Iran: Behind Closed Cha-Dors

Running Time: 30 minutes  
Country: USA/Iran  
Cast: Holly Morris



Director: Holly Morris



An installment of the popular PBS series "Adventure Divas." We find the Divas in modern day Iran, a country struggling to balance Islamic ideals with contemporary realities. Often referred to as a regime that's repressive towards women, the filmmakers come to understand Iran as a nation that is much more complicated than can be defined by a dress code or a dictator. We are witness to ways in which Iranian women break the rules, but more importantly what integral roles they play in the society.

### American Fugitive: The Truth About Hassan

Running Time: 75 minutes  
Country: Canada/Iran/USA  
Cast: David Theodore, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., Gary Sick  
Director: Jean-Daniel Lafond



Revealed to the world in the 2001 movie 'Kandahar', directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf, David Theodore Belfield is wanted in the U.S. for the 1980 killing of an Iranian diplomat, and now lives in exile in Iran. The story of an unrepentant assassin and an articulate accuser. This is the story of Hassan, a Black American who, in 1980, in Washington, acting on a fatwa, assassinated the Shah's representative to the United States, Ali Akbar Tabatabai. Since then, he has been wanted by the FBI and has lived in exile in Iran.

### 13 And a Half

Running Time: 60 minutes  
Country: Canada / Iran  
Directors: Nader Davoodi & Abbas Ahmadi



The story of "Thirteen" goes back to 100 years ago. Returning from a trip to France, the king has brought with him a new wife from there, for his harem, whose entrance is announced by him on the 13th day of the month. An incentive study of the present situation of Iranian women told through music and dance.

### Behzad's Last Journey

Running Time: 57 minutes  
Country: Ireland / Iran  
Director: John Murray t



This film follows Behzad, a charismatic Qashqa'i nomad on his spectacular annual journey across Iran. The Qashqa'i are a tribe of nomads who inhabit the mountains of South Western Iran, a proud people with a strong sense of identity and tradition. For centuries, the Qashqa'i have embarked each spring on a gruelling 500 kilometre migration. Resisting relentless pressure to give up their way of life, the Qashqa'i have maintained their own language, music, dance, dress and unique culture – but the nomadic journey is a dying form of human travel. With Behzad as our guide, the viewer can share in this great traditional journey.

### Iran: Behind the Walls

Running Time: 45 minutes  
Country: Turkey/Iran  
Cast: Fatma Mutemedarya, Pوران Derakhshandeh, Münire Ravanipur, Azem Talegani, Fatemeh Ashrafi, Mahla Zamani, Rafat Bayat, Suheyla Culodarzade, Nefiseh Hajhosemi, Haideh Zarrinbal, Firouzeh Mohamad Tamani, Lily Wanshidiad, Ferzaneh

Continued on page 47 >>