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Hemeti
Director: Hakan Tokyay



In Iran women are the key to the transformation of the country. Women played an influential role in the downfall of the Shah in 1979 and the rise to power of Muhammad Khatemi. After Khatemi became president, discussions in the media started an ongoing debate on dress code, the chador, punishments for criminals such as diyet and rajm, polygamy, the muta (short-term) marriage, women's abilities to become judges, women's right to divorce, their visibility in the cinema, television and the media. Women claimed that the culture of patriarchy rather than religion kept women under pressure. Where do Iranian women stand vis a vis religious authorities and pro-freedom intellectuals?

Dead Heat Under the Shrubs

Running Time: 71 minutes
Country: Iran Genre: Fiction
Cast: Leila Booshehri, Abolfazl Ghorbani, Asieh Kalani
Director: Esmael Barari



A high-octane thriller. One day, a teenage boy happens to witness a woman dumping a body down a well near his village on the outskirts of the desert. Noticing his presence, the murderess decides to get rid of him, starting a chase and deadly marathon.

The Shade (Sayeh)

Running Time: 11 minutes
Country: Iran/Canada
Cast: Aryan Atri, Camyar Chai, Joleh Chaichian, Shaghayegh Mohammadali
Director: Mohammad Gorjestani



In a village in central Iran on a hot summer day a young boy sells balloons in hopes of buying ice cream. His struggle is paralleled with a city man, whose car blows a tire, causing him to search for a way back home. The two stories, though independent to themselves, are united by an umbrella, which shades each character's journey.

Zero Degree (Darjeh Sefer)

Running Time: 8 minutes
Country: Iran Genre: Animation
Director: Omid Khoshnazar



Because of his villain act, a soldier is captured in the camera cadre. He kills a man, and the camera wants to take revenge, but...

Faces on the Wall (Les Murs ont des Visages)

Running Time: 62 minutes
Country: Iran/France
Genre: Documentary
Directors: Bijan Anquetil & Paul Costes



All three Dastvaré children were killed during the Iran-Iraq War. The Islamic Republic of Iran had a mural painted in their memory. A fresco, which, among hundreds of others in Tehran, represents these young soldiers who sacrificed their lives, in the name of God, for their country, dying as "martyrs of Islam". Today, in their neighborhood, the legend of the "Dastvaré martyrs" still circulates, a complex mix of popular religion, State propaganda and personal memories. The Faces on the Wall questions the disillusion that surrounds an ideology based on the martyr's figure, the founding myth of the Iranian new regime.

Stand Up: Muslim American Comics Come of Age

Running Time: 56 minutes
Country: USA
Director: Glenn Baker
In Attendance: Tissa Hami



Stand Up: Muslim American Comics Come of Age is the story of Ahmed Ahmed, Maysoun Zayid, Dean Obeidallah, Azhar Usman, and Iranian comic, Tissa Hami. Muslims - and Americans all, and how each is responding to 9/11 in a different way. These comics face challenges from both mainstream America and within the Muslim community. All are at critical points in their careers, each evolving differently as a comic. But they are all striving for one thing: to break through the typecasting and achieve mainstream comedy success. Because above all, STAND UP is an American story. Which means anything is fair game for a laugh.

A World Between

Running Time: 55 minutes
Country: US / Iran
Director: Nezam Manouchehri
In Attendance: Jason Rezaian



A World Between is the story of a young Iranian-American raised in the United States, who travels to Iran to discover his father's homeland. His encounters take him across the country, from the teeming capital of Tehran, to the center of Ancient Persia in Esfahan, and finally to the home of his ancestors in Iran's holiest city, Mashhad. In each place we meet his friends and relatives who help form a more representative view of Iranians rarely seen in the West.

Exile Family Movie

Running Time: 94 minutes
Country: Austria/Iran

Director: Arash Riahi



A family's story, typically crazy and exceptional at the same time. A film about home and exile, parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters and all the other relatives, close and distant, in an extended Persian family. Some of them emigrated to Europe or America, though the majority has stayed in Iran. Regardless of all the danger involve, they secretly meet after 20 years at a place which won't raise suspicion among the Iranian authorities: Mecca. They come from America, Sweden, Austria and Iran to laugh, argue, cook and celebrate. This is accompanied by an excessive amount of hugging and kissing, and also a clash between Muslim and western cultures.

Iranian Film Festival

San Francisco
September 27-28, 2008

Venue:

San Francisco Art Institute
800 Chestnut Street,
San Francisco, CA 94133

Festival Offices:

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Minister flaunts fake Oxford degree

IranTimes: The new interior minister is in deep trouble after presenting the Majlis with a fake degree from Oxford University. President Ahmadinejad has dismissed the uproar—and kept the minister—saying diplomas are just “worthless” pieces of paper. Oxford University says it has not awarded Iranian Interior Minister Ali Kordan any degree of any kind despite his claims to have received an honorary law degree from the British university. Kordan is still insisting the degree is legitimate despite Oxford's denial. The degree issue has caused a flap in Tehran with claims and counterclaims being issued since Kordan was approved as interior minister August 5 on a Majlis vote of 169- 64 with 36 deputies abstaining. Kordan's official biography said he had received an honorary degree in law from Oxford signed by Professors Edmund Rolls, Peter Bryant and Alan Cowey. The Iran Times queried Oxford about the degree and received the following response: “The University of Oxford has no record of Mr. Ali Kordan receiving an honorary doctorate or any other degree from the University. Professor Edmund Rolls, Professor Peter Bryant and Pro-

fessor Alan Cowey have all at some stage held posts at the University of Oxford. However, none of them work in the field of law, and none of them would sign degree certificates.” Some Tehran dailies—including the hardline Kayhan, which normally has supported President Ahmadi-nejad—have cited the Oxford denial. Other dismiss the denial as the forgery, rather than the degree, and assert Oxford didn't produce the denial. Mohammad-Reza Rahimi, the vice president for legal affairs, insisted Kordan held an honorary degree from Oxford, and asserted that the denials were “accusations made by his detractors.” Rahimi said an official complaint had been lodged against the Alef news website, the first in Iran to report Oxford's denial on August 6. The Alef website was blocked by the government on August 12. When asked why Alef was blocked, the Tehran prosecutor said it had received numerous complaints against the site. It did not say what those complaints were or if it had investigated them to see if they had any basis. Alef is sponsored by Ahmad

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Philadelphia man charged with sanctions busting

IranTimes: An Iranian-American citizen has been arrested in Philadelphia and charged with conducting illegal transactions with Iran and lying about it. Ali Amirmazmi, 64, who owns TranTech Consultants Inc. (TTC) in Pennsylvania's southeastern Chester County, has long been under scrutiny from federal officials about his business dealings; he was finally arrested July 25 at his residence. According to prosecutors, Amirmazmi has been accused of several crimes committed from 1996 to last month, all related

to illegal dealings with companies in Iran—including some companies controlled by the Iranian government. The charges include violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which allows a president to embargo trade with foreign countries. Amirmazmi also allegedly conspired to act in the United States as an agent of the Islamic Republic without first registering with the attorney

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Regime tries denying it is buying American wheat

IranTimes: Commerce Minister Masud Mir-Kazemi is widely reported in the Tehran media as denying that Iran has bought any wheat from the United States, despite the fact that U.S. shipping documents show ships left U.S. ports carrying wheat to Iran late last month. But Mir-Kazemi did not actually deny buying any American wheat. What he actually said was: “We purchase wheat from Canada and some European countries, but Iran has not had any direct wheat imports from the United States.” The operative word there was “direct.” If Iran procured American wheat from a European-based dealer, then it didn't have “any direct wheat imports from the United States.” The Iran Times reported the Iranian purchases of U.S. wheat in its August 15 issue based on weekly wheat shipping reports, which showed 80,700 tons of American wheat left the United States for Iran in the last week of July. That shipment was the first U.S. wheat sale to Iran in 27 years, since two years after the revolution. Boycotting American wheat has become something of a political standard in the Islamic Republic, so the resumed purchasing was an embarrassment for the Islamic Republic. Iran has grown as much as 15 million tons of wheat in a single year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts that the ongoing drought in Iran will slash production this year to 10 million tons. It forecasts Iran will buy 4.5 million tons this year, up from just 200,000 tons last year. The Wall Street Journal reported more details. It said Iran has so far bought more than 1 million tons of U.S. wheat. It quoted traders as saying Iran was essentially forced to come to the United States. Jerry Gidel, an analyst for North America Risk

Management Services, said, “Do you think Iran would come to the U.S. if they had any place else they could buy it? In general, they need wheat. They're searching the world for wheat. They're buying U.S. wheat because it's the only thing they can buy.” Other countries export wheat. And Iran has often bought from Canada,



Australia, Argentina and the EU. But Joe Sowers, a senior analyst for U.S. Wheat Associates, an industry group, said exportable supplies from those countries are short right now, while the U.S. winter wheat harvest is just being completed. He said Australia is exporting little right now because it has had a drought and poor harvest the last two years. This year's crop looks better, but it won't be harvested until the fall. Canada and Europe are just starting their harvest now and aren't ready to ship yet. The 1 million tons of U.S. wheat so far bought is valued at about \$350 million. That will represent a huge surge in trade. Last year, Iran bought only \$146 million worth of goods from the United States and that was the first year in decades that sales exceeded \$100 million.