



## HYDERABAD FILM CLUB NEWS LETTER

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### IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL

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## PROGRAMME



### IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL

*in collaboration with*

IRANIAN CULTURAL HOUSE, NEW DELHI

*Supported by*

FILM MEDIA PRODUCTIONS PVT. LTD.,

&

TANMAYEE VISUALS

*At Prasad Labs Preview Theatre, Banjara Hills*

16-08-2013	6.00 p.m.	: Inaugural function followed by screening of film BELOVED SKY Director: Dariush Mehrjui
17-08-2013	6.00 p.m.	: THE CHILD AND ANGEL Director: Masud Naqqashzadeh
	7.45 p.m.	: FAMILY BOND Director: Nader Moghadas
18-08-2013	3.00 p.m.	: HERE WITHOUT ME Director: Bahram Tavakoli
	5.00 p.m.	: THE SONG OF SPARROWS Director: Majid Majidi
	6.45 p.m.	: FORTY YEARS Director: Alireza Raisian

## Cinema of Iran

The Iranian Film Industry referred to the cinema and film industries in Iran which produces a variety of commercial films annually. Iranian art films have garnered international fame and now enjoy a global following.

In the 1960s, there were 'New Wave' movements in the cinema of numerous countries. The pioneers of the Iranian New Wave were directors like Forough Farrokhzad, Khosrow Sinai, Sohrab Shahid Saless, Bahram Beizai, and Parviz Kimiavi. They made innovative art films with highly political and philosophical tones and poetic language. Subsequent films of this type have become known as the New Iranian cinema to distinguish them from their earlier roots. The most notable figures of the Iranian New Wave are Abbas Kiarostami, Jafar Panahi, Majid Majidi, Bahram Beizai, Darius Mehrjui, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Khosrow Sinai, Sohrab Shahid-Saless, Parviz Kimiavi, Samira Makhmalbaf, Amir Naderi, and Abolfazl Jalili.

Along with China, Iran has been lauded as one of the best exporters of cinema in the 1990s. Some critics now rank Iran as the world's most important national cinema, artistically, with a significance that invites comparison to Italian neorealism and similar movements in past decades. A range of international film festivals have honored Iranian cinema in the last twenty years. World-renowned Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke and German filmmaker Werner Herzog, along with many film critics from around the world, have praised Iranian cinema as one of the world's most important artistic cinemas.

There is no particular love of Arab cinema but Indian cinema is relatively popular among the Iranian masses. 6 to 8 Hollywood films make it to Iranian movie theaters each year.

For the first time in the history of Iranian and Indian Cinema, an Iranian film has been Directed by an Indian, Pankaj Prakash and Produced by another

## Hyfic

Indian, Manju Sinha, maintaining all the set norms of the Iranian Government but/and in the Bollywood style, in order to come up with a film which would be Iranian and still in a style that the Iranian audience have always loved. The film, "DIVANA-e-ISHQ" is based on the Iranian Love Legend of SHIRIN FARHAD set in contemporary Iran. It is a romantic musical, with a fusion of Indo-Irani music. A film which hopes to start a trend of cross productions, as well as co-productions, between India and Iran.

Parallel to the Iranian New Wave, with its neorealist and minimalist art cinema, there exists a so-called "popular art cinema" in Iran. Filmmakers who belong to this circle make films with a broader range of audience than the narrow spectrum of highly educated people who admire the New Wave, but believe that their movies are also artistically sound. Filmmakers

such as Nasser Taghvaee and Ali Hatami are the best examples of this cinematic movement (some of these filmmakers also make new wave films e.g. Mum's Guest by Darius Mehrjui). The Demon and the Bald Hassan, Adam and Eve, The Fisherman's Story, City of Oranges, and Talisman are some of Hatami's works.

Following the rise of the Iranian New Wave, there are now record numbers of film school graduates in Iran and each year more than 20 new directors make their debut films, many of them women. In the last two decades, there have been a higher percentage of women directors in Iran than in most countries in the West. Samira Makhmalbaf directed her first film, The Apple, when she was only 17 years old and won the Cannes Jury Prize in 2000 for her following film The Blackboard.

## SYNOPSES

### BELOVED SKY

(ASEMAN-E MAHBOUB)(Iran/2011/Color/80 mins.)

Director : Dariush Mehrjui

Cast : Ali Mosafa, Mani Haghighi, Leila Hatami

Shayan is a young renowned doctor, who at the peak of his career and social success, finds out he has an incurable disease. Therefore, he leaves his work and daily life and leaves the city. He ends up in a village where unexpected events await him.



With a sure touch, Mehrjui infuses the story with magic realism and the sensibility of simpler times as a mysterious herbalist and a traumatized woman become key to unlocking the past and the future for a man resigned to having no tomorrow. A colorful ensemble cast, stunning landscapes, and more than a few glimpses of tasty Persian cuisine make this film a treat for the eyes.

*Winner of Best Director at the 2011 Fajr Film Festival.*



### THE CHILD AND ANGEL

(Iran/2009/Color/95 mins.)

Director : Masud Naqashzadeh

Cast : Mona Ahmadi, Mohammad Reza

Zadsorur, Afshin Hashemi, Qasem Zare

The film tells the story of a girl named Fereshteh and her 11-year-old nephew who have lost their family in Khorramshahr during the Iran-Iraq war.



A young girl named Fereshteh (literally meaning angel) sees what may come in the following days. She is obliged to cross the war front to search for her brother. Fereshteh finds what she's already seen in her dream: Living in world of the dead; a becoming reward for an angel.

"The Child and The Angel" was selected best film of Iran's 23rd Hamedan International Film Festival for Children and Young Adults this year gathering a total of four awards.

"Child and the Angel" won the Silver Elephant award for the best screen play at the 2009 edition of India's Golden Elephant International Children's Film Festival (ICFF), Hyderabad.

**FAMILY BOND**

(Iran/2011/Color/80 mins.)

Director : Nader Moghadas  
 Cast : Ali Nasirian, Katayoun Amir Ebrahimi, Behrouz Baghai, Shirin Bina, Azadeh Shams

Mr. Kamali and his wife come to Tehran from a far town to visit their children but they will be involved in complicated circumstances.

**Director's view:** It is not important work with repetitive themes. We should see how we can transfer it to a new structure and a joyful experience.

**HERE WITHOUT ME**

(Iran/2011/Color/100 mins.)

Director : Bahram Tavakoli, Writer : Najira, Tavakoli  
 Stars : Saber Abbar, Negar Javaherian, Fatemah Motamed-Aria, Parsa Pirouzfar

The film won the Best Actress prize at the thirty-fifth International Film Festival in Montreal, Canada.

Yalda is a disabled daughter of the family who has developed the interest towards collecting glass animals, and harbors a secret attraction to her brother Ehsan's best friend Reza. Ehsan, whose voiceover introduces the film, writes poetry and desperately dreams of leaving Iran. He dreams of being a writer and spends his spare time haunting cinemas and watching old movies over and over. Farideh holds down two food factory processing jobs to help support her family. Farideh is the only member of the family who interacts with the brutal conditions of Iran and willingly takes the challenge

**FORTY YEARS**

Chehel salgi

Farhad is on the verge of forty years. His wife - a journalist - and her daughter's lives. One day he gets news that Kian Cyrus wants to marry when the journalist had returned to Iran.

**Director:** Alireza Raisian Love At 40 is about a lost love re found. Negar is a married woman who works at a musical company. When she is given an assignment to collaborate with an Iranian expat Orchestra leader, she comes face to face with a former lover. Meanwhile, Negar finds herself in a compromised situation with her husband, who turns out has had a hand in her falling out with her former lover.

**HALFYEARLY MEMBERSHIP**

(July to December, 2013)

<b>SINGLE</b>	.. <b>Rs. 500</b>
<b>COUPLE (Wife &amp; Husband)</b>	.. <b>Rs. 600</b>
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP</b>	.. <b>Rs. 4000</b>

*Enrolment is done only on screening days  
 at the Venue on production of 2 photographs.*

**THE SONG OF SPARROWS**

(Iran/2008/Color/96 mins.)

Director : Majid Majidi, Producer: Majid Majidi, Writer : Majid Majidi, Mehran Kashani

Karim works at an ostrich farm outside of Tehran, Iran. He leads a simple and contented life with his wife Narges, and three children in his small house. He loves his wife and children and tries hard to make them happy.

One day when he is in farm, he was told to return home early as his elder daughter, Haniyeh's hearing aid is lost. When he reaches home he finds that his son Hussein and neighborhood children are searching the hearing aid in place for water storage which is a sludge now. Karim scolds his son and others for coming there, but joins them in searching. During the search his son Hussein and his friends reveals their idea of cleaning sludge and growing gold fish in it and to become millionaires. Karim rejects the idea and discourages them. However they get the hearing aid from there. But he finds that it's not working properly. He approaches the hospital and learns that he has to wait three four months to get the aid freely or otherwise he has to go to Tehran city to get it immediately. As his daughter's exam is approaching nearly he is worried about getting the hearing aid.

After that incident, one day when they are moving new ostriches into farm, one of the ostriches runs away. Karim is blamed for the loss and is fired from the farm. However soon after this, he travels to the city in order to repair Haniyeh's, hearing aid and knows that it costs 350,000 tomans, but finds himself mistaken for a motorcycle taxi driver. Thus begins his new profession: ferrying people and goods through heavy traffic. However, the people and goods he is dealing with every day start to change Karim's generous and honest nature, much to the distress of his wife and daughters. Every day he brings second hand items to his home and began more greedy and started forgetting his daughter's hearing aid. It is up to those closest to him to restore the values that he once cherished.

**AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS**

Winner, Best Performance by an Actor (Reza Naji) - Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2008

Selected as Iran's representative for Best Foreign Language Film in the 81st Academy Awards.

2008: Berlin International Film Festival: Silver Bear for Best Actor: Reza Naji

*Printed, Published and Edited by  
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