

5th Annual IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL

SAN FRANCISCO

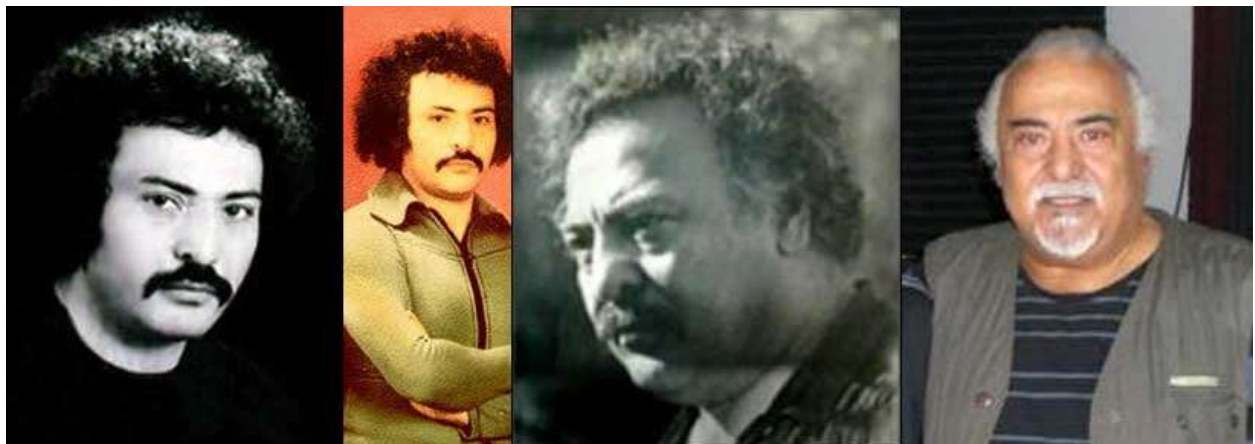
September 8-9, 2012

Iranian Film Festival – San Francisco is an annual event showcasing the independent feature and short films made by or about Iranians from around the world.

Discovering the Next Generation of Iranian Filmmakers©



A Tribute to Esfandiar Monfaredzadeh



Esfandiar Monfaredzadeh, Iranian composer, was born in 1941 in Tehran. He grew up with friends like Masoud Kimiaii (director) and Faramarz Gharibian (actor) in the same neighborhood. He learned the musical instruments at the early age at school, joined Radio Iran, then went to the University of Tehran to study music but quit after he wrote the music for the movie Ghaisar, which revolutionized the Iranian cinema at that time. He continued writing and composing music for many films until the Iranian revolution when he left Iran.

Filmography: Gheisar, Biganeh Bia, Reza Motoori, Dash Akol, Balooch, Khaak, Tangna, Gavaznha, Ghazal, Window, Bread and Alley, Amoo Sibiloo, City Dancer, Toghi, Goodbye Friend, Rahai, Tangna, Nefrin, Guests of Hotel Astoria, Iranian Taboo

Dash Akol

Director: Masoud Kimiai, 1971, 95 minutes, Based on a story by: Sadegh Hedayat, **Cast:** Behrouz Vossoughi, Mary Apick, Manoucher Ahmadi, Bahman Mofid, Jahangir Forouhar, Kan'an Kiani, Mansoor Matin, Jalal Pishvaian, Shahrzad



Dash Akol is greatly respected in Shiraz as an honorable man who has lost his family's money through helping his friends. He has an enemy, however, named Kaka Rostam, a mean and spiteful person. Dash Akol, who is in his forties, falls in love with Marjan, daughter of the late Haji Samad, for whose estate he is the executor. But he keeps his love secret. One day a suitor asks for Marjan's hand, and Dash Akol considers it against his code of honor to refuse. On the night of the wedding, Dash Akol hands over responsibility for the family to the bridegroom. As he is leaving the house, however, Kaka Rostam is waiting for him and a fight ensues. Kaka Rostam stabs him in the back, but Dash Akol succeeds in killing him. On his deathbed, Dash Akol sends his parrot to Marjan with the confession of love he has taught it.

One Line of Reality

Director: Ali Vazirian, Iran, 2012, 84 minutes, **Cast:** Hossein Yari, Mehroosh Sharifinia, Homayoon Ershadi, Reza Naji



The career of a journalist couple, Kasra and Forough is endangered in the aftermath of political and social changes, which have led to the closure of many Iranian journals. They publish a cultural-literary weekly magazine titled Farhang-e Fakhteh, however they are facing several problems which discourage them to carry on the job. Shortly afterwards, such difficulties put them on the verge of bankruptcy, but a proposal made by a foreign institute transforms their life.



Ali Vazirian

Born in 1960, Tehran, Ali Vazirian is a graduate of painting. His debut short film “Once Again Rain” was screened and awarded in many national and international film festivals. He made his debut feature film “God is close” in 2007 and won many special awards also his second feature film was awarded many prizes from international festivals in the world.

Filmography:

Once Again Rain (2003), God is close (2007), A Span of Heaven (2008), One Line of Reality (2012)

I Am Nasrin

Director: Tina Gharavi, England, 2012, **Cast:** Micsha Sadeghi, Shiraz Haq, Nichole Hall, Christian Coulson, Darren Palmer



Nasrine and Ali are sister and brother in a comfortable middle class Iranian home, but when Nasrine has a run-in with the authorities, the punishment is more than she bargained for. At her father's bidding, she and her brother set out for the United Kingdom, torn about leaving behind their home and all that they know, embarking on a reluctant exile. Still, for Nasrine, there is undeniable excitement about the prospect of starting a new life in the West, and an eagerness for

its promise of new freedoms. Nasrine is quick to settle into her new life, making friends and forming bonds with the travelers, an English gypsy community. Her brother Ali, however, struggles with the realities of life in the UK and his awakening sexuality. "I Am Nasrine" is an intimate journey of self-discovery and ultimately reveals the unfolding of a soul. When you change where you are do you really change who you are?

I Am Nasrine is a film about love, finding oneself and the eternal search for home.

Sir Ben Kingsley has said about the film: "In our economic climate this is a film of vital importance ... Tina aims to make a life-enhancing film. An important and much-needed film."



Tina Gharavi

Born in Tehran, Iran, Tina Gharavi is an award-winning filmmaker, artist, and academic trained in the United States and France. Her work has been broadcast internationally (ITV and Channel 4 in the UK, Showtime in the US) and she is noted for innovative cross-platform work on migration as

well as issues related to equality and diversity. In 2000 she directed Closer, a 35mm film which was awarded the Grand Prize at Outfest in Los Angeles and was an official selection at Sundance in 2001. Gharavi's next major production chronicled her return to her mother's house in Iran, 23 years after the Islamic Revolution. Mother/Country was broadcast at prime time on Channel 4 in the UK where the national press gave it top billing and the London Evening Standard described it as "genuinely moving."

Her first feature film, I Am Nasrine, is a coming of age story of two young Iranian refugees in the North East of England.



www.IranianFilmFestival.org

Daughters of Malakeh

Directors: Jet Homoet & Sharogh Heshmat Manesh, Holland/Iran, 2011, 75 minutes



In public, Maryam wears a headscarf and obeys the rules of the state. But in the privacy of her own home, she's the breadwinner who runs the show, along with her mother and younger sister, Ghazal. When Maryam decides to get married, a blushing bride at 45, her worlds collide. With the support and encouragement of her family, she reconciles her personal autonomy with the expectations of a traditional marriage. Brother and co-director Sharogh Heshmat Manesh presents an intimate portrait of family life in Iran, candidly capturing his sister's wedding jitters, her fear of giving up her independence and of being too old to break free from her habits, and her attempts to add a pre-nuptial stipulation to the Marriage Guarantee.



Jet Homoet & Sharogh Heshmat Manesh

After completing her major Audio-Visual design studies at the Willem the Kooning Academy in Rotterdam, she studied Documentary at the National Film and Television School, Beaconsfield, England. Her graduation film 'That Fire Within' was the beginning of many films focusing on ordinary women with a

personal mission in life. Against the backdrop of social and political circumstances, she wants to

give insight in her subjects' drive and determination using a direct and intimate film-style.

Filmography: Daughters of Malakeh, Tara, Sweet Cécile, Lake View, That Fire Within, Not My Living Self

The Neighbor

Director: Naghmeh Shirkhan, Canada/USA, 2010, 104 min, **Producer:** Amir Naderi, Music: Mohsen Namjoo, **Cast:** Azita Sahebjam, Tara Nazemi, Parisa Wahedi, Kamyar Mahinsa, Matt Dean, Ramin Sanadizadeth, Parvin Sahebjam



A story that weaves through the lives of five generations of mothers and daughters, *The Neighbor* takes its audience on an unexpected journey. Shirin (Azita Sahebjam), a middle-aged woman living in Vancouver has seemingly outlived most of her passions. As she yearns for something to give meaning to her monotonous days and nights, a chance encounter with her next door neighbor, Leila (Tara Nazemi), promises to unfold a new chapter in her life. Attempting to befriend Leila, Shirin's persistent curiosity soon uncovers there's more to the young woman than Leila is ready to reveal.

Shirin lives in Vancouver, a city in a "foreign" land. Estranged from her mother, and involved in a long-distance relationship that keeps hitting a dead end, Shirin tries to keep afloat. She supports herself as a folk dancer and instructor, but it's her passion for tango, as well as her fond memories of her grandmother in Iran that keep her going. Shirin's routine is disrupted when she meets her new next door neighbour, Leila. Intrigued by the younger woman's comings and

goings, and their common roots, Shirin tries to befriend her despite Leila's lack of interest and cold demeanor.

Official Selction: Montreal World Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Sao Paulo International Film Festival

Naghmeh Shirkhan



Naghmeh Shirkhan [middle] started her career in the 1990's editing independent documentaries and feature films for New York City based filmmakers. During that time, she was also teaching filmmaking to high school students as she prepared for the birth of her first child. She wrote, directed and co-produced *The Neighbor*, her first feature-length narrative. She holds a degree in Broadcasting and Film from Boston University.

Tickets on Sale Now!

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The Flowers of Kirkuk

Director: Fariborz Kamkari, 2010, Italy/Switzerland/Iraq, 105 minutes, **Cast:** Morjana Alaoui, Ertem Eser, Mohamed Zouaoui, Daniela Poggi, Mohamed Bakri



A love story set in Iraq [directed by Iranian filmmaker Fariborz Kamkari], during the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein, Najla, a young Kurdish doctor at the University of Rome, is forced to choose between his dreams and ideals and traditions of his family, and the impossible love and attraction for Sherko. A story of sacrifice and pain, of jealousy and betrayal, related to the theme of individual responsibility in the face of a mass tragedy and the fate of two men who want to marry Sherko.



Fariborz Kamkari

Fariborz Kamkari, of Kurdish descent, was born in Iran and lives and works in Italy. He graduated in Film Direction and Dramatic Literature. In 2002, Kamkari joined into partnership with FAR OUT FILMS.

He has written and directed short films, documentaries and two features, has written for television, and is the author of the novel "THE FLOWERS OF KIRKUK".

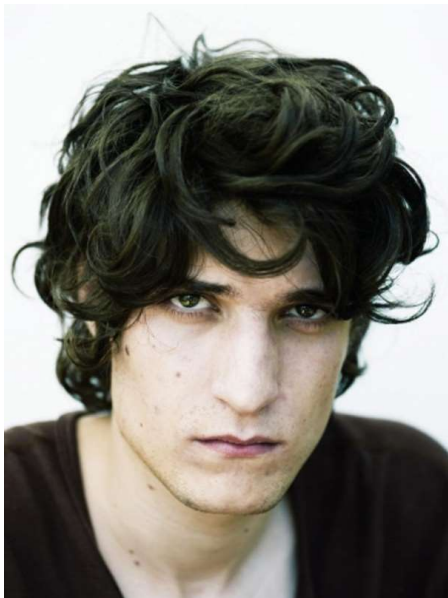
Rule of Three (La Règle de trois)

Director: Louis Garrel, France, 2011, 17 minutes, **Cast:** Golshifteh Farahani, Vincent Macaigne, Louis Garrel



Dawn. Tuesday. Paris. Quiet streets. A park for children and dogs. Spring sunshine. Louis is ready to take care of Vincent, but asks Marie to manage by herself. He forgets that for her, it's all about something else. It is said that our need for consolation is insatiable. The three of them spend an afternoon together, and at the end of the day, one thought in common: what is the use, if I am alone?

Louis Garrel



French actor and director, Louis Garrel was trained at the Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique in Paris, graduating in 2004. Drawing attention for his performances in Rodolphe Marconi's "This Is My Body" (2000) and Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Dreamers" (2003), he has remained loyal to his filmmaker father Philippe Garrel, playing the lead in the latter's last three films: "Regular Lovers" (2004), for which he won the César Award for Most Promising Actor, "La Frontière de l'aube" (2008) and "Un été brûlant" (2011). He has also played in six films by Christophe Honoré, from "My Mother" (2004) to "The Beloved" (2011). Furthermore, Garrel has directed three shorts: "My Friends" (2008), "Petit Tailleur"

(2010) and "La Règle de trois" (Rule of Three, 2011). He is about to start his first feature film.

Hezarsi [1030]

Director: Iman Tahsinzadeh, Iran, 2012, 74 minutes



In the tradition of such classic films as “Grass” and “People of the Wind” comes another memorable film about the Bakhtiari tribe in Iran with their annual migration. The story of human life and their challenges to continue the tradition.

Iman Tahsín, born is 1983, Iran.

He studied sculpture and music then cinema in 2001. After graduation, he started making films. He has made four short films and one feature film. Hezarsi is his latest film.



Surprise

Director: Masoud Hatami, Iran, 2012, 7 minutes, **Cast:** Pasha Jamali, Narges Zahed , Pardis Manochehri, Mojtaba Atri



Narges's friends have decided to surprise her on his birthday. But eventually Narges's friends become surprise.



Masoud Hatami

Masoud Hatami born in 1983 in Rasht, north of Iran. Graduated from the center of Iran's young filmmakers short film school of Tehran and Karnameh Film Institute. Made three short films and participated in several festivals in Iran and around the world as an editor, cinematographer and photographer.

Once Upon a Time in Earth

Director: Fayaz Bahram, Iran, 2012, 1 minute, Animation



Developing human civilization is often regardless of nature and damages it. The nature is an inseparable part of our lives and destroying it will destroy ourselves.



Fayaz Bahram

Fayaz Bahram, born 1988, studied architecture. He started making films in 2008. He has made: Mask, My Green Pencil and his latest film Once Upon A Time In Earth.

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A Few Minutes Sooner

Director: Mohamad Ebrahim Shahbazi, Iran, 2012, 14 minutes, **Cast:** Mehro Sahranavard, Mehdi Jeyrodi



The postman brings the new bills. The letter from their insurance company confirms the cancellation of their policies. The wife sighs and rises wearily to tell her husband. On his desk she finds a note....

Mohamad Ebrahim Shahbazi

Born 1987 in Ahvaz, Iran. Graduated in film direction from the University of Applied Science and Technology.

Filmography: Saw 12 (2008), Red Gray (2009), My Beautiful City (2011), Somebody Had to Shut Him Up (2012), A Few Minutes Sooner (2012)



Wind & Fog

Director: Mohammad-Ali Talebi, 2011, Iran, 74 minutes, **Cast:** Payam Eris, Masume Shakori, Asadollah Asadnia, Arasto Safinejad, Anis Shakorirad



Captivating images from pastoral northern Iran serve as a backdrop for Mohammad-Ali Talebi's enchanting tale of a boy rendered mute after losing his mother in the Iran-Iraq war. Ostracized by his classmates but doted over by his loving sister, eight-year-old Sahand--whose wan face and haunted eyes evince the unspeakable horrors he's witnessed--becomes obsessed with a wounded white goose. Making wondrous use of classic fantasy elements (the climax unfolds in a misty, magical forest), *Wind & Fog* is humanist filmmaking at its most affecting.



Official Selection:

Vancouver International Film Festival

- Awarded Berlin's Film Festival CINEMA fairbindet Prize for contributing in an "extraordinary way" to the ongoing dialogue on important global issues.

Mohammad-Ali Talebi

Born in Teheran in 1958, he studied film at Teheran University. A screenwriter and director of films for children and young people, his films TICK TACK and SACK OF RICE screened in the Kinderfilmfest competition of the Berlinale in 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Filmography: 1985 CITY OF MICE, 1992 THE BOOTS, 1994 TICK TACK, 1996 SACK OF RICE, 1998 WILLOW & WIND, 2000 YOU ARE FREE, 2006 THE WALL, 2010 MEADOW, 2011 WIND & FOG

Persian Pasta

Director: Vahid Sedaghat, Iran, 2011, 45 minutes



The Filmmaker decides to leave his country (Iran) to study in a university in Italy. When he arrives there, he makes friends with many Iranian students. Between them, Amin, has some special problems that makes the filmmaker to focus on him.



Vahid Sedaghat

Vahid Sedaghat was born in Tehran in 1983. He is a graduate of film editing from the University of Applied Sciences in 2008. After attending a course at “The Young Cinema” he made several student films and then founded

his company “Tolou Film” in 2004 where the films “View” and “Some frame to death” have been made. He also has made some documentary and fiction films like “The Day of the Jackal” & "We'll get used to it".

Iran – Then & Now

Director: Buddy Hatton, USA, 2010, 80 minutes



Get a better understanding of Iran’s ancient past and the progressive present, a country dubbed wrongfully as “Axis of Evil” but to witness the most welcoming, generous and hospitable people you ever meet, and their opinions about the American people.

Buddy Hatton

Buddy Hatton cannot remember a time he was not in show business. At an early age, he created, starred in, and produced his own radio and television show in San Francisco with fellow teenager, Johnny Mathis, as one of his regular featured guests. Television was the next aspect to challenge. He made an indelible mark in that field as well, as show host receiving, in the process, not one but TWO prestigious "Percy" Awards as Canada's Television "Male Entertainer of the Year" -- an unheard of achievement for an American. And, always, there was his career in radio through which his sharp wit and down-to-earth wisdom earned him a large, faithful following at KSFO, KNEW, and KFRC radio stations in San Francisco. With his love for people and excitement in discovering new places, plus his professional experiences before the camera, becoming a travelogue producer was a natural progression.



Combined with creative scripting and editing, his touching cinematography and warm stage presence continues to delight audiences everywhere.

Aman

Director: Ali Jaberansari, UK/Iran, 2012, 27 minutes, **Cast:** Hadi Tavakoli, Akbar Razani, Bagher Soroush, Hamed Javadi, Pantea Shalchi, Negin Akhavan



Aman is a Turkmen young man who works as a janitor in an indoor pool of a luxurious high rise in Tehran, Iran. When the time comes for Aman to get married back in his village, he decides to pose as a security guard by borrowing his friend's uniform to impress the girl's family. But an unexpected incident and its consequences leads Aman to question his morals and his desires.

Ali Jaberansari

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1981, Ali Jaberansari moved to Vancouver, Canada with his family in his teens. He studied computer science at university. In 2007, after spending a year attending Abbas Kiarostami's



filmmaking workshops in Tehran, he decided to pursue his real passion for making films. His resolve was strengthened when he was accepted into the MA Filmmaking program of the London Film School from which he graduated in 2011 with a distinction and emphasis on directing and editing. This is Ali's graduation film.

Selected Filmography: Aman (2011), Tric-Trac (2009), Sound of Distances (2008)

The Last Image of a Memory

Directors: Farnaz Jurabchian & Mohammad Reza Jurabchian, Iran, 2011, 18 minutes, **Cast:** Amin Behroozzadeh, Shabnam Abdollahi



Amir comes home from work, unlike other days his wife Rana is not home. Gradually Amir begins to realize that her absence is unusual...

Farnaz Jurabchian & Mohammad Reza Jurabchian



Farnaz Jurabchian was born in 1978, in Tehran. Studied film at the Melhoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Studies, 2004-2008, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran. Bachelor of French Literature, 1999-2002

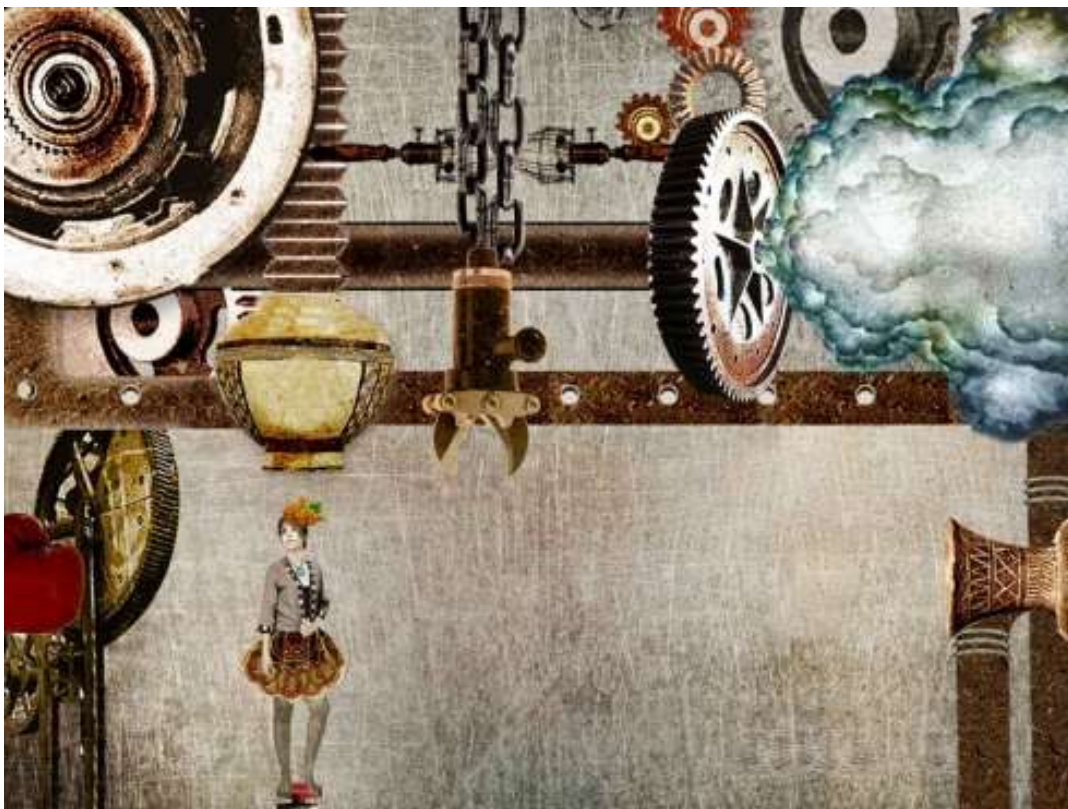
Filmography: The Last Image of a Memory (2011) Nyamat (2011) The House of Strangers (2009) The Dinner (2008) The Dream (2008).

Mohammad Reza Jurabchian was born in 1983, Tehran. BA in photography from University of Art and Architecture 2003-2008.

Filmography: The Last Image of a memory (2011), Nyamat (2011), The house of Strangers (2008) [director of photography], The Last Day (2007).

Bride Can [Leily va Majnoon]

Director: Ronak Taher, Iran/Australia, 2011, 7 minutes, Animation



A witty deconstruction of women's life in traditional Iranian society, emphasizing gender oppression and lack of control over their already determined fate. *Bride Can* uses surprising juxtapositions of imagery to criticize objectification of women in Iran.

Ronak Taher

Born 1984 in Tehran, Ronak Taher is an animator, graphic designer and illustrator. She studied Bachelor of Arts, majoring in graphic designing in Art University. She later achieved her master's degree in illustration from Tehran's Azad University.

Festivals:

2012 Chicago Film Festival

2012 Florida Film Festival



Burning Nests

Director: Shahram Maslakhi, 2012, Iran/Iraq, 74 minutes, **Cast:** Shahram Haghighat Doost, Masoud Yousefi



An Iranian young man whose family was the victim of bombing in Halabja goes for a search of his real parents after he discovers the woman who raised him was not his real mother. Based on a true story, this engaging and well crafted film, takes the viewer to a journey that shows how a nonsense act of war can destroy a generation after generation. A heart warming film shot in Iran and Iraq.



Shahram Maslakhi

Shahram Maslakhi was born in 1986 in Tehran. His father was from Iraq and a citizen of Halabja. Maslakhi obtained his diploma of theatre in 2004 and received associate and bachelor degrees in filmmaking. He began his career as an actor/playwright in 2001. He made his first film –made for TV, *Bewildered*, in 2007. ‘Burning Nests’ is his first

feature film after making several TV documentaries.

A Short Film About Ice Fishing

Director: Jason Shahinfar, USA, 2011, 8 minutes, **Cast:** Levi Adema, Zach Engelhart



Two friends devote a winter afternoon in South Dakota to ice fishing, cold beers, friendly chatter, man’s best friend, guns, dynamite...all on a frozen lake.

Festivals: South by Southwest 2012, Slamdance 2012, Aspen Shortsfest 2012

Jason Shahinfar

Jason Shahinfar is a Brooklyn-based writer/director. His work includes the feature-length *Cut From Home* and he has shot several award winning commercials.

He is currently prepping his next feature length film and co-writing a Western to be shot around the Badlands area.



Bedtime Stories from the Axis of Evil

Director: Vibeke Bryld, Denmark, 2011, 23 minutes



Through beautiful childlike dioramas and vivid bedtime stories, director Vibeke Bryld complicates George W. Bush's simple-minded characterization of North Korea, Iran and Iraq. The definition of the Axis of Evil happened in the aftermath of September 11th when George Bush in January 2002 gave a speech where he named a string of countries thought to be homes of

terror. The countries were Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. Bush is gone, but the traces of the language remains. In BEDTIME STORIES FROM THE AXIS OF EVIL we visit a family from each country as night falls over the earth. Through childlike cardboard cities we enter into a space between the strange logic of political agitation and fairytales as the stories between child and parent unfold. The stories are woven together by love, ideas of justice, beauty, and ultimately concepts of good and evil. It is a film about the stories that divide us and bring us together. About the fine line between storytelling and reality.



Vibeke Bryld

Vibeke Bryld is a filmmaker and writer based in Copenhagen. Her last documentary *Bedtime Stories from the Axis of Evil* was nominated for best Danish documentary short by the Danish Film Academy and had its international premiere at Hot Docs 2012. Vibeke is the assistant editor of DOX, The European Documentary Magazine. Her background is in Philosophy and Arts from University of Copenhagen and she holds an MA in Screen Documentary from Goldsmith's

College, London. Over the last years she has directed a series of documentaries for Al Jazeera English and produced and directed portraits of internationally acclaimed artists in New York, London, and Copenhagen and the experimental short *Throwing Paint Tins off the Roof* which was nominated for the New Vision Award at CPH:DOX in 2007. She has also worked as a programmer for the Danish Cinematheque, DFI and Odense Film Festival.



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From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad

Director: Maziar Bahari, UK, 2012, 56 minutes, **Narrator:** Badria Timimi



From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad is a groundbreaking documentary about one of the most explosive conflicts in the world. For the first time on the record, an Israeli official, vice Prime Minister Moshe Yalon, implicitly, accepts the responsibility for the assassination of Iranian scientists, damaging Iranian nuclear centrifuges with a computer virus and destroying Iran's military and nuclear facilities in the past few years.

The recent events are not the only incidents uncovered by filmmaker **Maziar Bahari** in *From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad*. The film provides an overview of the relationship between the two nations from the time when Persian King Cyrus the Great provided refuge to Jewish people fleeing Babylon in 2500 BC to the secret dealings between the state of Israel and Iran before and after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.



Maziar Bahari

Maziar Bahari is an Iranian Canadian journalist and filmmaker. He was a reporter for Newsweek from 1998 to 2011. Bahari graduated with a degree in communications from Concordia University in Montreal in 1993. Soon after, he made his first film *The Voyage of the Saint Louis* (1994). He has produced a number of documentaries and news reports for broadcasters around the world including, BBC,

Channel4, HBO, Discovery, Canal+ and NHK. Bahari's films include *Paint! No Matter What* (1999), *Football, Iranian Style* (2001), *And Along Came a Spider* (2002), *Mohammad and the Matchmaker* (1994), *Targets: Reporters in Iraq* (2005), *Greetings from Sadr City* (2007), *Online Ayatollah* (2008), *The Fall of a Shah* (2009) and *An Iranian Odyssey* (2010). Bahari has been a jury member of number of international film festivals. A retrospective of Bahari's films was organized by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in November 2007. During the 2009 Iranian Election Protests he was arrested without charge, and detained for 118 days. In September 2009, Bahari was nominated for the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord. Bahari's family memoir, *Then They Came for Me*, was published by Random House in June 2011.

Valentine's Day

Director: Mir Abbas Khosravi, Iran, 2012, 15 minutes, Comedy, **Cast:** Farzad Rahmani, Jabbar Sokri, Javad karimi, Arash Hossein Zadeh



The father of a student dies. Schoolmaster wants to tell him about it, but he can't...



Mir Abbas Khosravi

Born in 1977, studied Mechanical Engineering, started making films in 2001 as a screenwriter, editor and director: Khoram, Iman, Dige Siah, Gozar, Bazmandegan,

Lengeh Kafsh Iman, Azadeh, The Cow, Hoozour Sabz, Valentine's Day.

Sonnet of Delirium

Directors: Majeed Beenteha & Una Lorenzen, Iceland, 2011, 5 minutes, Animation



A woman is struggling with a lingering traumatic memory that has plunged her into a state of momentary madness. What is that creature that lurks mysteriously all around her?



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Stranger at Home

Director: Lena Liberta, Germany, 2011, 23 minutes, **Cast:** Arash Marandi, Nina Gummich, Ramin Yazdani, Mouna Sabbagh, Bünjamin Groos, Beate Finckh, Perparim Abazi



Azad is young and he is in love. The world should be open for him. But in state of toleration he's not even allowed to leave the city. While his girlfriend Lisa is making plans for the future, he still lives in a refugee shelter with his family, can't work nor study. When Lisa wants to move, Azad is facing a dilemma. If he wants to go with her, finally living a normal life, he has to put his family at risk of being deported. Azad has to choose between his freedom or his family.



Lena Liberta

Born 1981 in Erfurt (Thuringia), since 1999 videoart and short movies, 2 years philosophy and art history studies, assistant director for theatre, television journalism and presenter, visual communication studies at the Bauhaus University Weimar (diploma 2008), since 2008 movie direction studies at the Hamburg Media School.

Filmography:

Schatten Jeschuas, 2001, mini dv
Schokolade im Bauch, 15min, dvcam, 2007

Hundesöhne, HD, 2008

Uwe+Uwe (S16mm), Stiller See (short, 35mm Cinemascope), 2009

Stranger at Home (short, 4K Digital) 2010

35 Year Old Man

Director: Amir Motlagh, USA/Iran, 2012, 5 minutes, **Cast:** Bob Turton, Max Waldman



Greg turned 35 two days ago. Yesterday, he bought a toaster and cleaned the fridge.



Amir Motlagh

Amir Motlagh is a writer/director based out of Los Angeles. He is the recipient of multiple awards and has screened his work at over 70 festivals, theaters, microcinema's and galleries throughout the world. He is a graduate of UCLA, studied at The Stella Adler Academy of Acting and holds an MFA from

Chapman University in Directing. At times, he finds himself involved with other traditional and newly convergent visual mediums which have appeared in galleries, on the web and recently, in a museum. As a side course, he maintains an ongoing musical side project which has contributed to the commercial release of three albums under different nom de plumes.

It Was My City

Director: Tina Pakravan, 2012, Iran, 8 minutes, **Cast:** Katayoun Azami, Akbar Moazezi, Masoud Sakhaei, Mehdi Sabbaghi, Niki Mozaffari



People are living their lives, catastrophe strikes, it's a war... This film is shot in one take.

Tina Pakravan

Tina Pakravan holds a bachelor's degree in Cinema and has worked on several features as production manager and assistant director. She is also an actress and a scriptwriter.



Land's Gift

Director: Mehdi Talebani, Iran/Iraq, 2011, 35 minutes, **Cast:** Leyla Rasol



Land's Gift is about the concepts of land, nature, and life and how these are all interrelate with each other. The story of a young girl when she realizes her life is part of the nature, and the nature surrounding her is very intimately connected and inseparable.



Mehdi Talebani

Born 1976 Iran, started making films in 1997 at IRANIAN YOUNG CINEMA SOCIETY in SANANDAJ, received his bachelor in film directing from "SOOREH UNIVERSITY in

TEHRAN, member of IRANIAN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS ASSOCIATION (IRDFA). Presently aside from making films he manages Film Department at KURDISH HERITAGE INSTITUTE in SULEMANY.

Filmography: Sanandaj (2003),_Darwish (2004),_Oraman (2005),_Ors (2005),_Write on the wall (2006),_Lover's Kaaba (2007),_Land's Gift (2011).

Tonight is not a good night for dying

Director: Ali Asgari, 2011, 5 minutes, **Cast:** Mohammad Kart, Meisam poujafari, Ebrahim Ashrafi, Sepideh Ebrahimi



At night, all is quiet. But the silence is broken by the sound of a man falling. People gather round, everyone with something to say, but nobody knows why he fell.



Ali Asgari

Ali Asgari born in 1982 Graduated in Management from Azad University in Tehran, he is a student of Cinema at University of Rome and Cinecittà Film School who worked as assistant director in more that 10 feature films and more than 30 short films.

Filmography:

Tonight is not a good night for dying (2011),
La notte di quella sera (2011), Barbie (2012)

Phoenix

Director: Shahin Sorat, Iran, 2010, 8 minutes, Animation



This is an animation film about the history of Iran with all the bitter and devastating events that has happened to it from all sides over time. Even though only ruins are left from the ashes of the predecessors but Iran's ancient culture arose from these ashes like a Phoenix...



Shahin Sorat

Shahin Sorat was born in Tehran, Iran in 1973. He completed his studies at the University of Fine Arts, degree in Graphic.

He began his work by making TV commercial, animation and film editing on television. He has learned his filmmaking from masters such as Abbas Kiarostami, and Naser Taghvai.



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**Discovering the Next Generation of
Iranian Filmmakers©**

Schedule & Showtime

Saturday, September 8, 2012

11:00 AM Iran - Then & Now [80] **Q&A** + The Last Image of a Memory [18] = 98 minutes
1:00 PM Persian Pasta [46] + Aman [27] + 35 Year Old Man [5] **Q&A** + Bride Can [7] + A
Short Film About Ice Fishing [8] = 93 minutes
3:10 PM Daughters of Malakeh [58] + Valentine's Day [7] + Rules of Three [17] + Surprise [7]
= 97 minutes
5:00 PM I Am Nasrin [88] + Tonight is not a good night for dying [5] = 93 minutes
7:00 PM Dash Akol* [95] + **Q&A with Esfandiar Monfaredzadeh**
9:30 PM Burning Nest [74] + Phoenix [8] = 82 minutes

Sunday, September 9, 2012

11 AM Hezarsi [74] + Land's Gift [35] = 109 minutes
1:10 PM From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad [56] + Stangers at Home [23] + Bedtime Stories from
Axis of Evil [23] = 101 minutes
3:15 PM Wind & Fog [74] + It Was My City [8] + Once Upon a Time in Earth [1] = 83
minutes
5:05 PM Flowers of Kirkuk [105]
7:20 PM One Line of Reality [84] + A Few Minutes Sooner [14] = 98 minutes
9:05 PM The Neighbor [108] + Sonnet of Delirium [4] = 112 minutes

***Filmmaker in Person**

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**Venue:**

**San Francisco Art Institute**

800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA 94133  
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Iranian Film Festival ~ San Francisco

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