

# 7th Annual IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL

SAN FRANCISCO

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**September 27-28, 2014**

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

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



## **A Tribute to Pouran Derakhshandeh**

**Saturday, September 27 @ 7:45 pm**



Pouran Derakhshandeh (March 27, 1951, Kermanshah, Iran), is an Iranian film director, producer and screen writer. Pouran Derakhshandeh graduated in film directing in 1975 from Advanced School of Television and Cinema in Tehran. She started her professional career by making documentary films for the Kermanshah Television and subsequently for the Tehran Television. At the time she began working at NIRT and Produced “Plague,” a documentary about plague disease in Kurdistan Province. Next year, she produced a documentary about “Last Wednesday

of the year “Ceremony in some areas of Iran. In 1978 she director “mineral springs of rah haraz” and a trilogy doc about handicraft in Kurdistan titled, “Moj, janamaz and sajadeh”, “Nazok kari” and “short –napped coarse carpet”. Four episode “syn the tic and natural Fibber” was a research documentary about thread, worsted cotton, silk and synthetic fiber. During 1979-1980: Pouran Derakhshandeh Produced “the wheels whirl”. It has a look to economical and society depression and closed manufactures like Iran National. A “Shokaran”, focused on addiction 17 episode doc. Difficulties in women /men and children, drug’s smuggles and its Prevention ways. The production longed from 1980 to 1982.

**Filmography:** Hush... Girls Don’t Scream (2013), Endless Dreams (2009), Professionals (2008), Twenty (2008), Eternal Children (2007), Wet Dream (2005), Candle In The Wind(2003), A Love Without Frontier (1998), Lost Time (1989), Passing Through The Dust (1988), Little Bird Of Happiness (1987), Relationship (1986)

## **Hush! Girls Don’t Scream**

**Director:** Pouran Derakhshandeh [in person], 2013, Iran, 106 minutes, **Cast:** Shahab Hosseini, Merila Zareei, Tanaz Tabatabaei, Babak Hamidian, Farhad Aesh, Amir Aghaei, Jamshid Hashempour, Hadi Marzban, Nima Safaei, Arash Mohajer, Maedeh Tahmasebi

**Screening on Saturday, September 27 @ 7:45 pm**



Carelessness and indifference of the parents leads to an accident for eight-year-old Shirin. For a long time, the soul wounds remain with her and affects her life. The wound is deepened and the accident is finally led to a disaster since she is not able to find anybody to talk to...

When the school bell rings, a thin eight year old girl named Shirin is stunned. She doesn’t know what to do... if she should get lost somewhere. Thinking of returning home with Morad, driver of her parent’s firm, gives her heart ache. Apparently it was a vision which was revived by school bell everyday – as if she is going to be thrown into a deadly hole then. But no one hears

her. Her cries and screams are lost into the space. She tries hard to find somebody to talk to, but there's no result. No one sees her. No one hears her. She is dead, but there's no dead body to find. Everybody keeps silent and the wound bleeds to destroy her. That accident leads to this disaster... Cut... Hush... Girls don't scream!

**AN IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**

## **Untold History of the United States**

**(CIA role in 1953 coup in Iran)**

**Director:** Oliver Stone, 2013, USA, 58 minutes, **Cast:** Mohammad Mossadeq, The Shah, Dwight Eisenhower, Kermit Roosevelt, Fazlollah Zahedi, John Foster Dulles

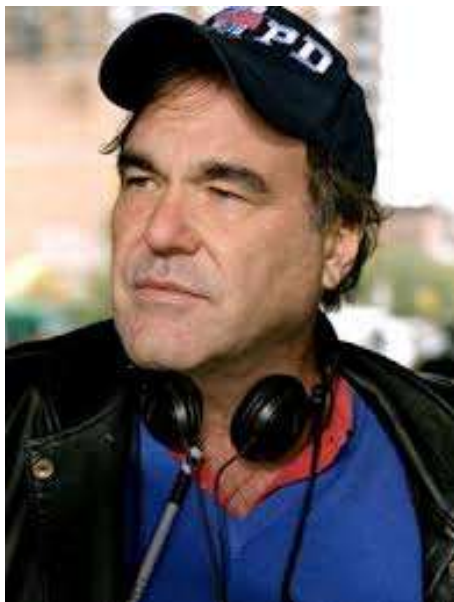
**Screening with: Control + Wound ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 3:15 pm**





*Untold History of the United States* challenges the basic narrative of U.S. history that most Americans have been taught. It not only renders Americans incapable of understanding the way much of the rest of the world looks at the United States, it leaves them unable to act effectively to change the world for the better.

When Dwight Eisenhower took office, the Dulles brothers met with Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's grandson and the CIA's top Middle East expert, to discuss eliminating the popular Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq who was opposed to the British oil monopoly and five American oil companies for taking more than 60% of Iran's oil revenue. John Foster Dulles approved \$1 million to use to bring the fall of Mossadeq. Behind the scenes, the CIA went to work, launching "Operation Ajax" headed by Roosevelt. British intelligence, MI6, provided support. When Mossadeq uncovered the shah's collaboration with the coup attempt, forced the shah to flee the country. The CIA, meanwhile, had been buying up Iranian journalists, preachers, army and police officers, and members of parliament, who were instructed to foment opposition to the government. The CIA also purchased the services of the extremist Warriors of Islam, a "terrorist gang," according to a CIA history of the coup. In August, Roosevelt began setting mobs loose to create chaos in the capital, Tehran. He spread rumors that Mossadeq was a Communist and a Jew. On August 19, 1953, in the midst of the anarchy, Roosevelt brought General Fazlollah Zahedi out of his CIA hiding place. Zahedi announced that the shah, then in Italy, had appointed him the new prime minister. After an armed battle, coup plotters arrested Mossadeq and thousands of his supporters. Some were executed. Mossadeq was convicted of treason and imprisoned. The shah returned to Tehran. The American oil companies were also grateful. Previously frozen out of Iranian oil production, five U.S. oil companies now received 40 percent ownership of the new consortium established to develop Iranian oil. The United States had gained an ally and access to an enormous supply of oil but in the process had outraged the citizens of a proud nation whose resentment at the overthrow of their popular prime minister and imposition of a repressive regime would later come back to haunt it. The masterful director, Oliver Stone, brings this part of the U.S. and Iranian history to light for the generations to come.



### Oliver Stone

Oliver Stone (born September 15, 1946) film director, screenwriter, producer and military veteran. Oliver Stone came to public prominence between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s for writing and directing a series of films about the Vietnam War, in which he had participated as an infantry soldier. Many of Mr. Stone's films focus on contemporary and controversial American political and cultural issues during the late 20th century. Mr. Stone's

films often combine different camera and film formats within a single scene as evidenced in JFK, Natural Born Killers, and Nixon. British newspaper The Guardian has described Mr. Stone as "one of the few committed men of the left working in mainstream American cinema." Mr. Stone has received three Academy Awards for his work on the films Midnight Express, Platoon, and Born on the Fourth of July. Some of his notable films are: Salvador (1986), Wall Street (1987), JFK (1991), Heaven & Earth (1993), Nixon (1995), Comandante (2003), Looking for Fidel (2004), Savages (2012).

In an interview with The Times newspaper on July 25, 2010, Mr. Stone claimed that America does not know "the full story" on Iran. In "Untold History of the United States" Mr. Stone looks at the CIA role in 1953 coup in Iran which changed the course of the history forever.

## The Sinners

**Director:** Faramarz Gharibian, 2013, Iran, 89 minutes, **Cast:** Faramarz Gharibian, Homayoun Ershadi, Rambod Javan, Shaghayegh Farahani, Bahareh Kian Afshar, Mohamad Motevaselani

Screening with: Stuffed Fish + Concealment ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 7:30 pm



A tightly plotted Iranian film noir, *The Sinners* opens on the streets of Tehran, where a beautiful woman who developed an independent streak during seven years in the United States meets a violent end. Many people wished her dead—the young lover she spurned, the married boss she blackmailed, the human trafficker she knew too much about, her angry father who felt disrespected—but who could be sinner enough to kill this woman, whose sense of freedom made her a “sinner” in her own land? Two quirky police detectives interview the suspects, revealing past events and motivations through classic noir flashbacks. The mismatched investigators are themselves sinners who use less-than-legal tactics. First-time screenwriter Sam Gharibian (son of veteran Iranian actor-director Faramarz Gharibian) shrewdly channels Hitchcock here, whose

philosophy that there's little difference between thinking about and committing a crime gets an Iranian twist.



### Faramarz Gharibian

Faramarz Gharibian, actor and director, was born November 17, 1941, Tehran, Iran. Learning film acting in the School of Visual Arts, US (1971), he started his career with a short role in Come Stranger (1968, Masoud Kimiai). His first professional debut was Soil (1973, M. Kimiai). In most of his films, he's played the role of resolute men who for achieving their goals or preserving their ideals, have the potential of facing conflict and put up with difficulties and dangers. He has some adventure films in his career and also directed three feature films, Duel in Tasuki (1986), Law (1995) and Her Eyes (1999). Gharibian has been nominated for the prize of Best Actor, and has won the prize for Train (1988, Amir Ghavidel), Misty Harbor (1992, A. Ghavidel) and The Rain Man (1999, A. Davoudi) from Fajr Intl. Film

Festival. In recent years he has won international awards from around the world. He was known the Best actor in Moscow International Film Festival and Asia Pacific Film Festival for Dancing in the Dust, he also won the Special Jury Prize in the Indiana Film Festival for The Beautiful City.



[www.IranianFilmFestival.org](http://www.IranianFilmFestival.org)

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**Venue:**

**San Francisco Art institute**

800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA 94133  
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## Trapped

**Director:** Parviz Shahbazi [in person], 2013, Iran 92 minutes, **Cast:** Nazanin Bayati, Pegah Ahangarani, Behrang Alavi, Farid Samavati, Ahmad Mehranfar, Amir Samavati

Screening with: Shahrzad + Role of Each Fret ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 5:15 pm



This fascinating moral thriller is centered on the bristling relationship between two very different young women in contemporary Tehran. Moving to Tehran for her studies and desperate for a place to live, quiet, studious Nazanin (Nazanin Bayati) rents a room from vivacious shop girl Sahar (Pegah Ahangarani). Although the two are unlikely companions, Sahar coerces Nazanin into joining her circle of friends. When Sahar ends up in trouble, Nazanin is drawn into the complex web of debt and deceit surrounding her roommate. With pitch-perfect performances by the two female leads, *Trapped* draws an intelligent portrait of the subtleties of inter-personal power dynamics.



Parviz Shahbazi

Parviz Shahbazi (born July 25, 1962 in Khorramabad, Iran) is a graduate of filmmaking from Tehran's Iran Broadcasting College. During the early 80's he began writing short stories and directing short films. He edited



several films and directed 12 short films before making his first feature film, *Traveler from the South*, in 1996. His debut feature film, *Traveler from the South* (1996) as well as his second film, *Whispers* (2000) went to countless festivals and brought him international recognition, collecting several prizes along the way. In 2002, his third film, *Deep Breath* was shown at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes Film Festival to great success. Among other accolades it won a FIPRESCI award at Pusan and the Jury special award at Turin as well as the Best Film award at the Belgrade Author Festival. **Trapped** is his latest film.

**AN IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE**

## **The Travels of Omidvar Brothers (1954-1964)**

### **The First Iranian World Explorers**

**Directors:** Issa & Abdullah Omidvar, Iran, 60 minutes, Documentary

**Screening with: Ride Your Dream + Hannan + Real Madrid Tanker ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 1:15 pm**





In 1954, Issa and Abdullah Omidvar, two enthusiastic and daring Iranian brothers, decided to go beyond their country's boundaries and discover the world.

Their eagerness for reaching faraway lands took them into an incomparable adventure that kept them traveling across the most recondite territories on earth for ten years. In those days, in which there were no travel facilities to speak of. They started their adventures on two motorcycle from Tehran to Mashad, continuing then on route of the orient.

In 1954 Issa and Abdullah Omidvar were in their twenties and growing restless in the suburbs of Tehran. In that golden age before Iran de-selected itself from the high table of western nations it was still possible for youngsters to dream 'large'. The brothers ordered a couple of 500cc Matchless bikes (yes, they had a dealership in Tehran!) and set off to see the world and make films about it! They shot incredibly sensitive, stand-alone anthropological documentaries about Eskimos, Amazonian cannibals, Polynesian islanders and much more. They edited them on the road and then held impromptu screenings in universities, village halls and arts centers, charging an entrance fee and thus financing the next leg of the trip! Yes, they really were the original Persian DIY Adventure Motorcycle Showmen! It's getting over-used at this festival but seriously, you've never seen anything like this before!

**Note:** The original masters of these films shot on 16mm have been lost forever. But the digital format was provided by Mr. Issa Omidvar.

## The Last Winter

**Director:** Salem Salavati, 2012, Iran, 95 minutes, **Cast:** Jafar Shaikhahmadi, Asiye Moradizar

Screening with: Pomegranate + One Nice Day ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 5:30 pm



Baji and headman are the sole survivors of an isolated village that is going under the water little by little. They are the only companion and confidant of one another, who are waiting for their travelers. One night haphazardly and due to constraints of nature, they stay away from each other and Baji is left alone at home. The headman does his best to pass through the snow while Baji, all alone in the village, is knitting the last part of her story on the cloth.



*Salem Salavati*

Born 1975 in Kurdistan, Iran. Directed 11 short films and 3 documentaries, two fictions: in *The Departure Time* (2011) and *The Last Winter* (2012). He has received more than 50 national and international awards in different categories for best movie, direction, script and photography.

## **Sepideh - Reaching for the Stars**

**Director:** Berit Madsen, 2013, Denmark/Iran/Germany/Norway/Sweden, 91 minutes

**Screening with: Bahar ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 3:30 pm**



Sepideh wants to become an astronaut. She spends her nights exploring the secrets of the universe, while her family will do anything to keep her on the ground. The expectations for a young Iranian woman are very different from Sepideh's ambitions, and her plans to go to university are in danger. But Sepideh holds on to her dream! She takes up the fight and teams up with the world's first female space tourist, Anousheh Ansari.

**Festivals:** Sundance 2014, Melbourne Film Festival, Göteborg International Film Festival

With support from “Royal Danish Embassy”



**Berit Madsen**

Berit Madsen graduated from the film school Ateliers Varan in Paris and furthered her studies at the Danish School of Media and Journalism. She is presently completing a PhD in ethnography and social anthropology from Aarhus University. Most of Madsen's films have screened at festivals across the world and aired on television from the U.S. to Nepal. SEPIDEH - Reaching for the Stars is her first feature documentary.



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## Trucker & the Fox

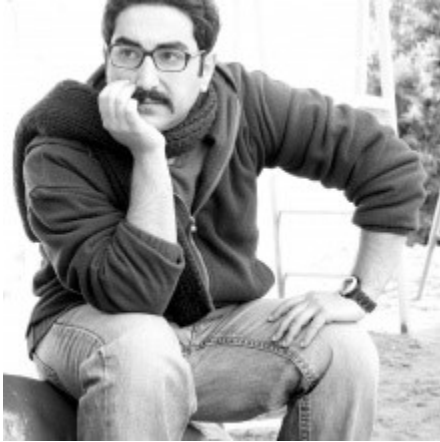
**Director:** Arash Lahooti, 2013, Iran, 78 minutes, **Cast:** Mahmood Kiyani Falavarjani

Screening with: *The Sunburned* + *The Theft* + *Image~* Sunday, September 28 @ 9:30 pm



Mahmood Kiyani Falavarjani is a truck driver, an animal lover and an award-winning filmmaker best known for his short *The Raven and the Fox*. When he finds himself in a psychiatric hospital after the death of his beloved collaborator—his pet fox—he’s diagnosed with bipolar disorder. His doctor gives him strict instructions to start from scratch and to stop obsessing over his loss. Mahmood tries his best to move on with the help of pharmaceuticals, yoga, meditation and a return to work, but he knows his cure is making movies with and about animals. So, he begins pre-production on a new film, a donkey romance—with a fox cameo, of course! Can he do the impossible a second time and domesticate a new fox? Mahmood’s motivation to promote a better understanding and appreciation of animals is tested once casting starts and the line between kindness and cruelty becomes blurred.

Festivals & Awards: Chicago International Film Festival Best Documentary Film



## Arash Lahooti

Arash Lahooti is a film director, producer and screenwriter. He was born in 1982 in Tehran. He holds a degree in Film Studies, and has made three short features and two documentaries. He is a member of the Iran Documentary Filmmakers' Union.

### Filmography:

I Am a Love Maker (2011), Trucker and the Fox (2013)

## The Sunburned

**Directors:** Bahram & Bahman Ark, 2013, Iran, 15 minutes, **Cast:** Ali Qasemi

Screening with: Trucker & Fox + The Theft + Image ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 9:30 pm



The Sunburned is about a lonely and disgruntle man who takes care of sun flowers. Due to his jealousy of the sun he takes the sun flowers to a dark place but under some circumstances he feels captive in darkness himself. But he finally comes out and back to his farm again.



## Bahram & Bahman Ark

Twin brothers Bahram & Bahman Ark, were born in 1999, graduated from the Art University majoring in painting. Have been making films for several years including 'Unclean' which was shown at the Cannes Film Festival in 2014.

## Kami's Party

**Director:** Ali Ahmadzadeh, 2013, Iran, 80 minutes, **Cast:** Mina Sadati, Nazanin Farahani, Pegah Ahangarani, Mehdi Koushki, Misa Molavi

Screening with: Honeymoon + Simorgh + Hidden Army ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 9:45





Negin is spending a few days on holiday with her boyfriend Omid and her sister Nazanin in a villa on the banks of the Caspian Sea. Not having had news of Omid for several hours Negin decides to go with her friend Farnaz to a party being held by Kami, a common friend. The two young women drive off to Lavassan, a small district on the outskirts of Tehran, where the party is taking place. Negin doesn't realize, however, that a surprise awaits her in the trunk of the car.



### Ali Ahmadzadeh

Ali Ahmadzadeh was born in Tehran in 1986. Despite being qualified in architecture, his interest in music led him to graduate from the Neinava Music University. He is also a graduate in film direction from the Young Cinema Society.

#### Filmography:

##### Short Films

2007: Achmaz / Pinned, Fiction, 11 min, DV, Color

2009: Advantage, Fiction, 23 min, HDV, Color

2011: Collage, Fiction, 20 min, HD, Color

2012: Zanzan, Fiction, 40 min, HD, Color

**Feature Film** 2013: Mehmouniye Kami / Kami's Party, Fiction, 80 min, HD, Color



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*Iranian Film Festival ~ San Francisco*

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info@IranianFilmFestival.org ~ www.IranianFilmFestival.org

## Red Dream

**Director:** Shahriar Pourseyedian, 2013, Iran, 22 minutes, **Cast:** Aydin Safarnejad, Narges Badretaleyi



Mohammad is a boy who sees the world around him from his own point of view. New Year is coming and he has a dream...



**Shahriar Pourseyedian** was born in 1979, graduated in painting from Art University in Tehran. Aside from making films, he also teaches art at Ministry of Education.

## Stuffed Fish

**Director:** Baran Jafari, 2014, Iran, 6 minutes, **Cast:** Behnoush Bakhtiyari, Sahar Dolatshahi

Screening with: The Sinners + Concealment ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 7:30 pm



Shirin is a young woman who went to Canada for three weeks to visit her mother who had a surgery. Shirin returns to Iran a day earlier than she was supposed to without informing anyone. When she gets home she receives a message from Azita (her friend) asking Amir (Shirin's husband) to take her to the airport, in the new car he has just bought, for driving Shirin back home. Shirin picks up the phone and tells Azita that she has returned early and plans to surprise Amir by the stuffed fish she is going to make, and also the antique camera she has bought for him. While talking to Azita, she sees Amir parking the car in the yard through the window, but...



Baran Jafari

Baran Jafari graduated from Sooreh University in film direction. Started making films in 2010 with "Makareh" and has made five short films including the Stuffed Fish.



## Iranian Ninja

**Director:** Marjan Riahi, 2013, 30 minutes, **Cast:** Khatereh Jalilzadeh

Screening as part of the Shorts Program ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 11 am



This documentary recounts the challenges, difficulties and obstacles for Iranian women that engage in sports "Ninjutsu," to narrate Iranian first female Ninja, Khatereh Jalilzadeh. In the heart of Tehran, a community of female ninjas is kicking butt and changing lives. Led by the charismatic Khatereh, these martial arts enthusiasts teach young girls how to twirl nunchucks, launch dropkicks and break the bonds of their patriarchal society. With its eye-popping fight scenes and intimate character portraits, *Iranian Ninja* is an urgent dispatch from the frontlines of self-defense.



Marjan Riahi

Marjan Riahi graduated in Communication Science, journalism branch from Azad University and in Cinema Directing from Iranian Young Cinema Society (IYCS). Her documentary "Iranian Ninja," who she also wrote the script won the Best Script award at the 25th International Children & Young Adult Film Festival in Isfahan in 2011, journalist and producer of

children short films. Founder and Manager of Short Film News, as the first news network on short films and documentaries in Iran and Asia. A member of several journalist and film associations: International Federation of Journalists IFJ, Iran Journalists SENFI, Iranian Society of Film Critics & Writers, NETPAC. Chairperson of Shorts Competition in 17th International Children's Film Festival Golden Elephant in 2011 (India) and chairperson of NETPAC in 15th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in 2011 (Estonia). A jury member of several film festivals in Afghanistan, France, India, Iran and Poland.

## Abbas Kiarostami: A Report

**Director:** Bahman Ghosseinou [in person], 2013, USA, 88 minutes, **Cast:** Shohreh Aghdashloo, Feridon Hovida, Hazer Darius, Farrokh Ghafari, Andrew Sarris, Godfrey Cheshire, Richard Peña

Screening with: Iran's Vinyl Dream ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 1:00 pm



An analysis of the style and vision of Abbas Kiarostami, the iconic Iranian filmmaker, through the lens of his earliest work, particularly his first feature, THE REPORT. This early example of Kiarostami's work provides insight into his poetic, humanistic tendencies, combining allegorical storytelling with a documentary, neo-realist sensibility. The film includes interviews with critics, historians and scholars, including the late Andrew Sarris, providing a look at how the career of this master began and was shaped.



## Bahman Maghsoudlou

Film scholar and critic Bahman Maghsoudlou is the recipient of Iran's prestigious Forough Farrokhzad literary award for writing and editing a series of books about cinema and theater. These include the widely acclaimed *Iranian Cinema*, which was published in 1987 by New York University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He has also authored *Love & Liberty in Cinema* and published a collection of interviews with eleven major filmmakers entitled *This Side of the Mind & the Other Side of the Pupil*. Maghsoudlou continues to be prolific in his production of documentaries. He made another updated film

about Ardeshir Mohasses entitled *Ardeshir: The Rebellious Artist* that premiered at the Palm Beach Film Festival and MESA in 2013, and a feature length film, *Abbas Kiarostami: A Report*, about the style and vision of the acclaimed Iranian filmmaker that premiered at the Montreal Film Festival, 2013. This film was the first of a series of films entitled Iranian Cinema: Searching for the Roots.



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## Wound (Kozmak)

**Directors:** Ali Reza Salmanpour & Younes Tarrahi, 2014, Iran, 23 minutes, **Cast:** Ahad Pasbantous, Arman Asadollahi, Abbas Zare, Nasrin Moradi

Screening with: Untold History of the US + Control ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 3:15 pm



Ali, one of the ship's captains of the lake Urmie, after drying the lake, still lives there. Then one night...



### Ali Reza Salmanpour

Ali Reza Salmanpour was born in 1982 in Tabriz, Iran. He started making films in 1999. He has written and directed ten short films. He also works in sound and editing field.



## The Role of Each Fret(tone)

**Director:** Maryam Farahzadi, 2013, Iran, 9 minutes, Animation

Screening with: Trapped + Shahrzad ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 5:15 pm



The story is about union of a couple in love by getting assistance from a joint effort of music and nature performed in Persian miniatures from ancient land of Iran.



Maryam Farahzadi

Born in 1990. BA in graphic design from Faculty of fine arts (University of Tehran). She has been working as an animator and character designer in animation studio for 5 years and has taken part in different animation projects for Iranian National TV.

## Ride Your Dream

**Director:** Pooyan Shadpoor, 2014, Iran, 7 minutes, **Cast:** Pooyan Shadpoor, Babak Mehrbakhsh

Screening with: Omdvar Travels + Hannan + Real Madrid Tanker ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 1:15 pm



“I vaguely remember, it was an elusive feeling to go out there and tame the wilderness, but I guess I've been thriving to go on a trip by bike since the first time I met a cycle tourist. I've started to arrange some trips with some good friends since two years ago. The idea to embark on this expedition dawned on me those days and since continued to haunt me restlessly. I had always dreamed about cycling and photographing of this route until the day Babak and I decided to cherish this unfulfilled dream.”



### Pooyan Shadpoor

Pooyan Shadpoor was born in 1982 in Rasht, Iran. Freelance photographer and filmmaker. He started photography professionally in 2007 and tried to experience different types and styles as documentary, theater, photography, nature, and began making experimental documentaries in 2010.

## I Am Sarah Maple

**Directors:** Tyler Gurd, 2012, United Kingdom, 14 minutes, **Cast:** Sarah Maple

Screening as part of the Shorts Program ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 11 am



*I Am Sarah Maple* is a documentary about the young Iranian-British Artist Sarah Maple and her journey with feminism and religion leading up to her first solo show in four years.

Sarah Maple was born in 1985 to an Iranian Muslim mother and English Christian raised father. She completed a BA in Fine Art from Kingston University in 2007 and in the same year won the '4 New Sensations' competition for emerging artists, run by The Saatchi Gallery. Sarah's artwork, film and performances have been exhibited internationally at galleries and institutions including A.I.R. Gallery (NY), AGO (Canada), the Southbank Centre (London), The New Art Exchange (Nottingham) and Kunsthooone (Estonia). Her exhibition at Kunsthooone broke the museum's record for visitor numbers in a day, first weekend and overall duration. Sarah has also been invited to speak at an Amnesty International event, as well as events at Birmingham and Warwick universities, and the LSE. Sarah has worked collaboratively on film projects with Nick Knight and the Southbank Centre and her work has also been included in publications by the Whitechapel Gallery and Gestalten. She lives and works in her native Sussex.





Tyler Gurd is a documentary filmmaker currently based in Los Angeles. After attending high school in Shanghai, China, he moved to California where he graduated from Chapman University. With degrees in both Film Production and Political Science, Tyler seeks to merge these two disciplines to create informative and contemporary documentaries about the issues facing the world today.

## **Bahar in Wonderland**

**Director:** Behrooz Karamizade, 2013, Germany/Afghanistan/Iran, 16 minutes, **Cast:** Kani Mohammadi, Julia Kahl, Korkmaz Arslan

**Screening with: Sepideh ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 3:30 pm**



Young Bahar is surrounded by danger as she and her father try to make their way from Syria to Germany, but she believes she has found her own unique way to defend herself and fight her fears.



## Behrooz Karamizade

Behrooz Karamizade was born in Ahwaz, Iran, and has been living in Germany since 1985. He studied film at the University of Kassel, and he is one of the founders of the NUR film group. His short films — *Murche (Ants)* (08), *To Be a Child in Iran* (08), *Packing* (09), *Salam AleikumAllemagne* (11) and *Bahar in Wonderland* (13) — have been shown at film festivals around the world, including the Rotterdam Film Festival, Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, Berlinale, and the Montreal World Film Festival.

## Shahrzad

**Director:** Koorosh Asghari, 2012, Iran, 8 minutes, **Cast:** Rojan Khedri, Mehdi Shirdel, Maryam Asgari, Bahador Bastan

Screening with: Trapped + Shahrzad + Role of Each Fret ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 5:15 pm





Shahrzad tells a story of difference, contemporary women versus the traditional. Though both experience neglect and hurt in their society and family, this story attempts to show how they can free themselves from all barriers.



### Koorosh Asgari

Koorosh Asgari ( born in 1972) is a photographer and a filmmaker, who lives and works in Tehran. He has held many exhibitions and received awards for his work. He has made several short films including Shahrbanoo (2012), Shahrzad (2012).

## Haleema

**Director:** Boris Schaarschmidt [in person], 2013, Sudan/Germany, 18 minutes,  
**Cinematographer:** Ali Sadeghpour Moghadas [in person], **Cast:** Dara Iruka, Peres Owino, Dani Dare, Samba Schutte, Larry Thigpen

**Screening as part of the Shorts Program ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 11 am**





Blistering heat in the desert of Sudan. A pregnant mother and her two young children are on the search for water and safety from the ruthless Janjaweed militia. When the brother is too weak to continue, Haleema is sent by her mother to find water. A dangerous journey full of hope and despair begins.



### Boris Schaarschmidt

Boris Schaarschmidt holds a BA in Cinematography from the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund, Germany, and an MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute (AFI) in Los Angeles. He received an annual scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Pat Hitchcock O'Connell Scholarship Award. Boris has written, produced, and directed 15 highly successful short films, receiving numerous awards and special recognition, with several earning DVD distribution and widespread screenings on the international festival circuit.

Two of his projects received funding from the Film & Medien Stiftung NRW, the strongest state funding in Germany. In addition to his own projects, Boris has worked for industry titans like Quentin Tarantino, where he worked on the post-production of his Oscar-nominated film *Inglorious Basterds*.

Boris is currently directing a series of webisodes called *Ernie's Girls*, while finalizing the script for his first feature length film *Der Heimkehrer*.



### Ali Sadeghpour Moghadas

As the son of a popular Iranian cinematographer, Ali stepped behind the camera with a naturally rooted connection to film and visual story telling. *Wide Open: The Inside World of High School Football*, a documentary film Ali shot for 44 Blue Productions, won the Aurora Award and the Telly Award in 2001. In 2007, Ali graduated from the American Film Institute with a MFA in Cinematography. His thesis film *Green* was the recipient of

the Honorable Mention Award by the American Society of Cinematographers in 2008. Ali has been shooting for networks such as FOX, History Channel, Discovery Channel, TLC, MSNBC, A&E, MTV.

## Road to Kurdistan

**Director:** Persheng Sadegh Vaziri, 2013, Iran/Iraq, 40 minutes

Screening with: A Little Farther + Layover Las Vegas ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 11 am



*Road to Kurdistan* is a documentary about the relationship between Iranian Kurdistan and Iraqi Kurdistan. Foad, a male musician from Iran, and Serwa, a female musician from Iraq, give perspective on the relationship between the two regions and share experiences of living in their respective countries. Through the exploration of their lives, we come to appreciate Kurdish history and how the people of this region have been exploited and used as pawns for different powers. These young adults have promising lives ahead of them, but can they overcome the weight of the history of their people?



### Persheng Sadegh-Vaziri

Persheng Sadegh Vaziri is an award-winning independent filmmaker, born and raised in Tehran, Iran. When the revolution in Iran broke out she was compelled to stay in the U.S., where she received her B.A. from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and an M.A. in Cinema Studies from New York University. She has worked for Deep Dish TV on a 12-part series about the war in Iraq, which was broadcast on PBS and has been shown worldwide in museums, art houses, and universities. It was included in the 2005 Whitney Museum Biennial. Her personal documentaries are about Iran and her relationship to the country she left as a young person, the

upheavals of revolution, the Iran-Iraq war, and years of difficult history with the United States. Her work has shown widely in museums, art houses, universities, and on television. They include *Caught Between Two Worlds* (2008), *Women Like Us* (2002), *A Place Called Home* (1998), *Far From Iran* (1990), *Journal from Tehran* (1987), and her latest film *Road to Kurdistan*.

## Control

**Director:** Mohammad Hadi Amini, 2013, Iran, 20 minutes, **Cast:** Mahmud Nazarian, Davood Nourpour

Screening with: Untold History of the US + Wound ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 3:15 pm



A man is going to be retired and wants to replace his son....



Mohammad Hadi Amini

Mohammad Hadi Amini was born in 1985. He studied Computer Engineering. He began artistic work in 2001 as a sound recordist, and started making films in 2006 with industrial and social documentaries.

‘Control’ is his first short fiction film.



## Hidden Army

**Director:** Mohammad Esmacili, 2014, Iran, 10 minutes, **Cast:** Abbas Naderan

Screening with: Kami's Party + Honeymoon + Simorgh ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 9:45 pm



Under the burning hot palm trees and the hot sun, a lone soldier is running to the enemy. Not the many explosions around him and not even the bullet in his leg are stopping him. But a massive explosion finally runs him down. He drags himself near a house and puts his back against a palm tree, when suddenly the voice of a woman grabs his attention...



### Mohammad Esmacili

Mohammad Esmacili was born in 1983, Tehran, Iran. Experimental photographer since 2005. Established Mim Studio in 2007. Photo manager of "Cinema" weekly magazine in 2008. Photographer for "Rooyesh and Rona" monthly magazine in 2010-11. Photographer for "Film" monthly magazine 2011-2012. Directing film since 2011. First short film "Newzif" (2011) and his latest short film "Hidden Army" (2014).

## A Little Farther

**Director:** Nikan Nezam, 2012, Iran, 30 minutes, **Cast:** Hamidreza Azarang, Farid Ghobadi, Morteza Aghahosseini, Sara Poursabri, Elham Jafar Nejad, Sam Kaboodvand, Leila Shoghi

Screening with: Road to Kurdistan + Layover Las Vegas ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 11 am



There are passengers on the way to a mysterious spring where they meet other people with different purposes.....



Nikan Nezami

Nikan Nezam was born in 1983 in Iran. He started studying Cinema at “Iran Young Generation Film Institute” in 2009. A Little Farther., is his first short film. It was shown at AFI (US), Warsaw, and Busan.

## Iran's Vinyl Dream

**Director:** Massod Vadiie, 2014, UK, 7 minutes, **Music:** Mohammadreza Shajarian, **Remix:** Moslem Rasouli, **Animation:** Zoe Bulbeck

Screening with: Abbas Kiarostami: A Report ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 1:00 pm



The Introduction of gramophone to Persia during Qajar dynasty. In 1906, Maxime Pick, a salesman for gramophones and typewriters, received permission from the monarch Muzzafar al-Din Shah Qajar to distribute the gramophone in Iran. Following the lead of Edison agents who rushed to prominent statesmen and artists to demonstrate the superior sound of the new machine by recording and then mass distributing their voices, Pick hurried a letter to the court of Muzzafar al-Din Shah. Requesting that the Shah issue an order (farman) to the Iranian community of musicians and singers, he maintained that a recording of their voices would in return 'be a source of joy for Shah.' Pick requested that the Shah's farman also grant 'The Gramophone Company' permission to distribute and sell the new machine in Iran.

### The Dokumuzik Group Projekt

The Dokumuzik Group Projekt, the creators of Iran's Vinyl Dream, is a Eurasic Collective of artists, media practitioners, curators, and catalysts of visual culture. Their work has been exhibited in Europe. The group is mainly interested in the intersections of art, historical and philosophical speculation with a focus on Installations, Art performances. They live and work in Europe.



## Layover Las Vegas

**Director:** Esmail Mihandoust [in person], 2014, Iran, 33 minutes, **Cast:** Anahita Nemati, Ramin Fathie

Screening with: Road to Kurdistan + A Little Farther ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 11 am



A famous Iranian actress travels to America to attend a film festival. During her trip to join the film director to go to the festival, she loses her flight at the airport and has to remain until the next flight in Las Vegas...



Esmail Mihandoust

Born 1955 in Khoi, Iran; graduated from the Tehran Commerce University (1977) and Experimental Film Foundation (1991). Directed some short films [Me, Rear Window and Hitch; Phobia, 13th Hour], and many TV serials [The Adventures of House Number 13, The Moon and the Fire, The Old House, The Neighborhood Attorney, Intimate Enemies, Yek Tir Do Neshan] before directing his first feature film: A Very Close Encounter [IFF 2010]. He has written many articles on cinema for various public colleges in Tehran and Isfahan. He has also written two books titled: New World New Cinema, and Truin Documentary. His latest book is on Asghar Farhadi, Oscar winning director of A Separation.

## Homeless to Homeowner

**Director:** Jahangir Golestan [in person], 2014, USA, 26 minutes, **Cast:** Mohammad Mohanna,  
**Music:** Farokh Ahi

Screening as part of the Shorts Program ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 11 am



Homelessness continues to devastate communities across our Nation. In Sacramento, CA a group of determined individuals are transforming this seemingly intractable problem. The new film *Homeless to Homeowner* introduces Mohammad Mohanna, a successful Iranian American developer and philanthropist, who believes everyone deserves dignified and prosperous lives. Shocked that his homeless neighbors are routinely harassed and relocated, he established a facility where homeless individuals receive the resources they need to become productive citizens.



Jahangir Golestan

Jahangir Golestan was born in Esfahan in 1953 and raised in a family of restaurateurs. Leaving Iran at age 17, he studied and worked in London and Paris before finally settling in southern California's Orange County. An international financier and UCLA film student,

Golestan released his first documentary “Esfahan: A City Known as Half the World” in 1997. This was followed with “Iran: A Video Journey” (2000), and “Bam 6.6 Humanity Has No Borders” (2008). Homeless to Homeowner is his latest film.

## Simorgh (Phoenix)

**Director:** Meghdad Asadi Lari [in person], 2014, USA, 4 minutes, Animation

Screening with: Kami's Party + Honeymoon + Hidden Army ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 9:45 pm



Simorgh is a personal interpretation of The Conference of the Birds by Farid ud-Din Attar. A choreographic piece that incorporates Persian music, calligraphic art and ornament designs to tell the traditional Persian story of life that deals with the fragility of self worth. It centers around a few birds of different breeds, each representative of a particular human characteristic; ego, greed, avarice, etc. The birds are seemingly satisfied with their perceptions of self, but on a chance journey they each embark upon, they find they are stronger as a community and are strengthened by allowing others to complete their true ‘self’.



Meghdad Asadi Lari

Born 1982 in Shiraz, Iran and currently living in Rochester, NY, award winner director, animator and Student Academy Awards nominee, Meghdad Asadi Lari started his higher education in 2000 by studying Electrical Engineering in Shiraz University and continued to M.Sc. in



Communications Engineering. During his graduate studies, he discovered his passion for graphic design and animation. Familiar with all aspects of aesthetics, his artistic and creative abilities have been recognized by professionals as fast and precise. Not long after completing his technical degrees did he decide to step into the art field as a creative professional. He started his MFA in Computer Animation and directed and produced several animations which played at festivals worldwide and gained several national and international awards. He finished his MFA degree in 2014 with faculty awards for his thesis film, Simorgh.

## Honeymoon

**Director:** Pouya Nabbi, 2013, Iran, 9 minutes, **Cast:** Mehrdad Sedighian, Anahita Afshar

**Screening with: Kami's Party + Hidden Army ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 9:45 pm**



Barham and Ava who are on their honeymoon go through a difficult situation in a rainy night.



Pouya Nabbi

Pouya Nabbi was born in 1989 in the city of Zanzan. Nabbi is a graduate of computer engineering. He started his journalism activities in 2006 with film magazines, and has worked as an

assistant director on four feature films. Honeymoon is Nabbi's second experience as a director.

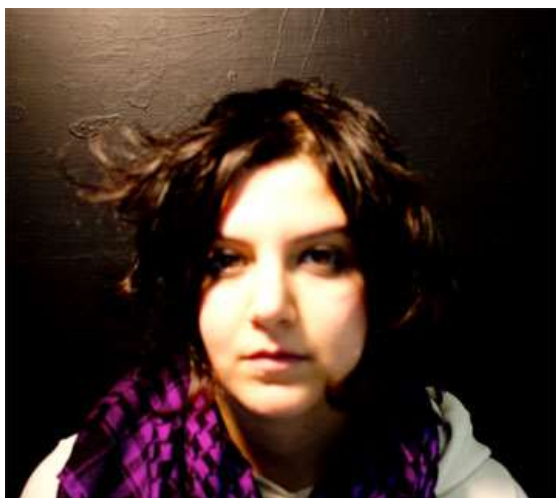
## Concealment

**Director:** Salome MC, 2013, Japan, 2 minutes, Music Video, **Cast:** Salome

**Screening with: The Sinners + Stuffed Fish ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 7:30 pm**



How many times do we reveal, just to show another layer of cover? How many times do we look covered, but we are baring our souls?



### Salome Mc

Salome Mc was born in 1983 is an Iranian Hip hop and multi-media artist. She has released three Hip Hop albums online, along with self-made music videos and gained recognition as the first female rapper of Iran. She added experimental audio/visual art projects to her field of work after moving to Japan, and had various performances, exhibitions and screenings in around the world. She has a bachelor's degree in textile design from Iran and a master's degree in audio/visual arts from Tohoku University of Arts and Design in Japan.

## One Nice Day

**Director:** Soosan Salamat, Iran, 3 minutes, **Cast:** Reza Meraji, Alireza Heydari

Screening with: The Last Winter + Pomegranate ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 5:30 pm



A teacher decides to give a backpack as a prize to one of his students by a ballot. The bag goes to Rasooli, the student who doesn't have one and carries his books in a plastic bag. After the class, the teacher finds out how the students did a kind gesture.



### Soosan Salamat

Soosan Salamat was born in 1980 in Iran. She is a member of the Short Film Support Company, the only center which supports independent Iranian short filmmakers. She has made several short films and has participated in some film festivals.



## Real Madrid Tanker

**Director:** Sattar Chamani Gol, 2014, Iran, 14 minutes, **Cast:** Ghassan Mahmood

Screening with: Omdvar Travels + Hannan + Ride Your Dream ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 1:15 pm



Qassan, a young Iraqi, works on a tanker truck taking oil from Iraq, delivering it in quays in the south of Iran and drives back. On the way back to Iraq, due to the heavy traffic, he has to wait a long line in order to cross the border. Alongside with the other driver's, he has to spend 20 days getting across the border between Iraq and Iran. On the other side of the Iranian border, where Qassan lives, his wife is having a baby and he is in the most hurry to get back to Iraq where he could be present for his baby's birth but the situation doesn't go as he wishes. Having got stuck in the border, he will have to hear his baby's voice through a mobile phone.



### Sattar Chamani Gol

Sattar Chamani Gol was born in 1979, in Kurdistan, Iran. He has directed 8 short fictions, 17 documentaries and 2 serials for TV. He has received more 50 national or international awards in various categories including direction and best film.

## The Theft

**Director:** Mohammad Farahani, 2013, Iran, 5 minutes, **Cast:** Reyhane Salamat, Fateme Babae

Screening with: Trucker & Fox + The Sunburned + Image ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 9:30 pm



An old woman appears to have committed a theft. Or, maybe she has not. Very often in life things are not as they seem.



Mohammad Farahani

Mohammad Farahani was born in Tehran in 1985. He holds a bachelor degree in industrial engineering. Graduate student in MBA courses. He has worked as an Assistant Director for 20 short and feature films. The Theft is his first film as a director.

## Hannan

**Director:** Syamak Kashefazar, 2013, Iran, 15 minutes, **Cast:** Zahra Majlesi, Hashem Moradi

Screening with: Omidva Travels + Ride Your Dream + Hannan + Real Madrid Tanker ~ Sunday,  
September 28 @ 1:15 pm



An infant is left alive after his parents are killed during the Iraq-Iran War. His destiny is in hands of locals under the heavy bombardments.



**Siamak Kashefazar**

Syamak Kashefazar was born in 1978, Tehran  
Filmography: Hena, Camera, Father's Will, Water,  
Hannan Cyan Hands, Doors & Curtains.



## Pomegranate is the Fruit of Paradise

**Director:** Teimour Ghaderi, 2012, Iran, 14 minutes, **Cast:** Shadi Ghaderi, Saeed Mardokhian

Screening with: The Last Winter + One Nice Day ~ Saturday, September 27 @ 5:30 pm



The film is about a girl named Shadi whose family does not allow her to go to school. Her friend decides he will try to teach her himself.



### Teimour Ghaderi

Teimour Ghaderi, born 1992, graduated in screen writing and photography. He has written the short stories: The Address I'm lost and Summer Cold. Has directed three short films: Pomegranate is the Fruit of Paradise, Picking the down and It Hit Upon the Roof. Winner of 18 national and international awards for the films Pomegranate is the Fruit of Paradise and Picking the Down.

## Image

**Director:** Yousef Jafary, 2014, Iran, 3 minutes, **Cast:** Donya Bagherifar

Screening with: Trucker & Fox + Sunburned + The Theft ~ Sunday, September 28 @ 9:30 pm



‘Image’ is a documentary and animation short about the imagination of a child about an Iranian stamp collection.



### Yousef Jafary

Yousef Jafary, was born in Arak in 1990. He studied cinema at the school of film in Arak, and presently is studying TV directing at IRIB University. He has made 15 short documentary, fiction, animation, and experimental films.

#### Films:

Here’s not the end of the road (documentary-2011) / Gizzz (experimental\_2012) / Lambent dance (exprimental\_2012) / Again (fiction\_2012) / Hosting (fiction\_2013) / Nativity (documentary\_2013) / Image (documentary-animation\_2014)



## Schedule & Showtime

### Saturday, September 27, 2014

11:00 AM Road to Kurdistan [40] + A Little Farther [30] + Layover Las Vegas [33] = 103 minutes  
1:00 PM Abbas Kiarostami: A Report [88]\* + Iran's Vinyl Dream [7] = 125 minutes  
3:30 PM Sepideh [90] + Bahar [16] = 106 minutes  
5:30 PM The Last Winter [95] + Pomegranate [15] + One Nice Day [3] = 113 minutes  
7:45 PM Hush! Girls Don't Scream [106]\* = 120 minutes  
9:45 PM Kami's Party [80] + Honeymoon [9] + Simorgh [4] + Hidden Army [10] = 103 minutes

### Sunday, September 28, 2014

11 AM **Shorts Program:** Haleema [18]\* + I Am Sara Maple [13] + Iranian Ninjas [30] + Homeless to Homeowner [26]\* = 120 minutes  
1:15 PM Omidvar Travels [60] + Ride Your Dream [9] + Hannan [15] + Madrid Tanker [14] = 98 minutes  
3:15 PM Untold History [58] + Control [20] + Wound [23] = 101 minutes  
5:15 PM Trapped [92]\* + Shahrzad [8] + Role of Each Fret [9] = 125 minutes  
7:30 PM The Sinners [89] + Stuffed Fish [6] + Concealment [2] = 97 minutes  
9:30 PM Trucker & the Fox [78] + The Sunburned [15] + The Theft [5] + Image [3] = 101 minutes

\* Filmmaker in Person

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**Venue:**

**San Francisco Art Institute**

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