

01 – 07
JUNE 2017



IRANIAN
FILM
FESTIVAL
ZURICH



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PROGRAM

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BACKGROUND
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Liebe Gäste des Iranian Film Festival Zurich

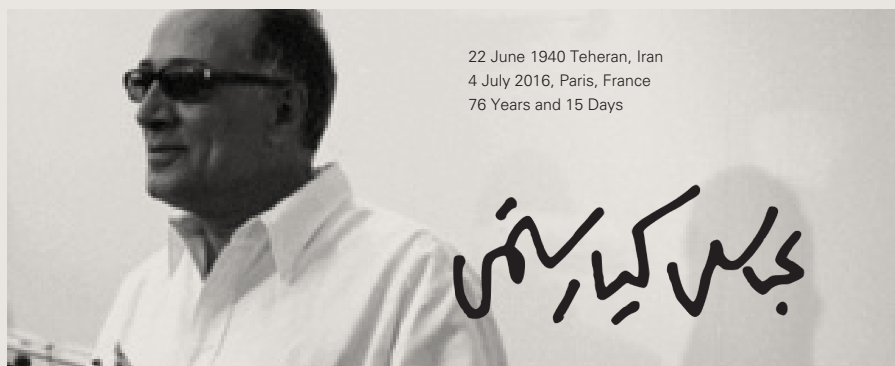
Iranische Filme. Wir begegnen ihnen häufiger, als es wohl den meisten von uns bewusst ist. Eine Goldene Palme in Cannes, ein Goldener Bär in Berlin oder auch ein Oscar für iranische Filmschaffende zeugen fast schon regelmässig vom Ideenreichtum und von der Qualität des iranischen Films. Filme wie «Raving Iran», der unter anderem von der Zürcher Filmstiftung unterstützt worden ist, oder «Taxi Teheran» finden auch bei uns ein breiteres Publikum.

Das iranische Film Festival in Zürich nimmt diese Blitzlichter auf und widmet dem iranischen Film bereits zum dritten Mal die Aufmerksamkeit, die er verdient. Mit dem Fokus auf Immigration, Integration und Frauenrechte nimmt das Festival aktuelle Themen auf und zeigt sie aus einem anderen Blickwinkel. Das ist eine Stärke des Iranischen Film Festivals in Zürich: Es ermöglicht einen Wechsel der Perspektive und einen neuen, unverstellten Blick auf Fragen, die uns beschäftigen. Das Festival trägt mit den Mitteln und der Sprache des Films dazu bei, dass wir einander über die Grenzen von Religionen, Kulturen und Ländern hinweg besser verstehen und einander kennenlernen. Das stärkt das gute Zusammenleben, auch hier in Zürich.

Ich danke den Organisatorinnen und Organisatoren des Iranian Film Festival Zurich für ihr Engagement für die Filmstadt Zürich. Ich wünsche dem Festival für seine dritte Austragung viel Erfolg und Ihnen, liebe Festivalgäste, viel Vergnügen bei Ihren Entdeckungsreisen in die iranische Film- und Kinowelt.



**Corine Mauch,
Stadtpräsidentin**



© Yadolah Dodge, 2005 Locarno, achievement award.

Abbas Kiarostami

If one tries to put together pages written about Abbas Kiarostami's life and his achievements from the day on when he won the Bronze Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival in 1989 until his death in July 2016, then one needs to put twenty seven years to collect these written pages by traveling around the world from his place of birth Iran to almost all 193 countries that are currently members of the United Nations. «Where Is the Friend's Home?» first won the Golden Plate at the Fajr Film Festival before being awarded the Bronze Leopard at the 1989 Locarno Film Festival.

I met Kiarostami for the first time in 1989 at the Locarno Film Festival. This year was his truly take off point with the film *Where Is the Friend's Home?* The film tells a deceptively simple account of a conscientious school-boy's quest to return his friend's notebook to a neighboring village, since, should his friend fail to hand it in the next day, he will get expelled from class. Throughout his life Abbas Kiarostami continued his remarkable work by telling stories about peace, love, civil duty, royalty and care for others in all his magnificent films. His kind and precious advices will always be with me.



او جای دوری نرفته، او در میان ماست.
 امروز کسی نمیگوید و تا کنون نشنیده ایم لغت "مرحوم" حافظ، یا مولانا، سعدی و
 عباس کیارستمی در همین حوالی ها ست.

PREFACE



Yadollah Dodge
Artistic & managing
Director, IFFZ

The Iranian Film Festival in Zurich (IFFZ) is being organized to fill the cultural gap between Iranians and Swiss as well as the many foreigners living in Switzerland. Each year the festival presents the Swiss audience a selection of the best contemporary feature films, documentaries and shorts from all generations of Iranian filmmakers in Zurich. The IFFZ understands itself as a platform for presenting the Iranian culture and tradition and for building a bridge between different cultures by the means of the universal language of art - and especially the 7th art, cinema.

The 2017 edition of the Iranian Film Festival is dedicated to films on issues of immigration, integration, and matters related to women in Iran and around the globe such as sacrifice, love and honor. The festival presents outstanding films made between 2015 and 2017 by Iranian filmmakers from anywhere in the world and films about Iran from filmmakers of other nations.

Award Ceremony Film

Please save the date on Wed, June 07 2017, 20:40 at Riffraff 1 for the closing film **LIFE AND A DAY** *Winner of: „Reflet d’Or“ for Best Feature at the 22nd Geneva International Film Festival Tous Ecrans, Switzerland (for details please visit our website).

These films have been selected from impressive international film festivals such as Berlinale, Busan, Cannes, Fajr Film Festival and many others. *Love Marriage in Kabul*, *Polaris* and *Parting* are among the 13 films in competition under critical eyes of a five member jury for feature films.

The festival opens with a homage to Abbas Kiarostami, the Iranian director who won the Palm d’or among many other prizes.

Abbas Kiarostami left us on July 4th, 2016 after 76 years and 15 days. To provide homage to his great contribution to the World of Cinema an exceptional documentary is made by his closest friend Seifollah Samadian entitled *76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami* to summarize his professional life.

The IFFZ is a unique cultural event with 17 art features and documentaries in the heart of Zurich. The films are subtitled in English.

English title:

Take me home

Genre: Documentary

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 16 min

Language: No dialog

Subtitles: No dialog



Screenplay:

Abbas Kiarostami

Cinematography:

Abbas Kiarostami

Editor: Adel Yaraghi

Sound: Ensieh Maleki

Music: Peter Soleymanipour

Production company:

Kiarostami Foundation

Cast:

Biagio di Tonno

TAKE ME HOME

منو بپر به خونه

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

Abbas Kiarostami takes his camera to the south of Italy & captures beautiful pictures of alleys and stairs, which he presents the spectator in a playful video.

Director

Abbas Kiarostami, 22 June 1940 – 4 July 2016 was an Iranian film director, screenwriter, photographer and film producer. An active film-maker from 1970, Kiarostami had been involved in over forty films, including shorts and documentaries. He attained critical acclaim for directing the Koker trilogy (1987–94), Close-Up (1990), Taste of Cherry (1997) – which was awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival that year – and The Wind Will Carry Us (1999). In his later works, Certified Copy (2010) and Like Someone in Love (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

Public Screenings:

Thursday, June 1 2017, 20:40, Riffraff 1





76 MINUTES AND 15 SECONDS WITH ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

۷۶ دقیقه و ۱۵ ثانیه با کیارستمی

SEIFOLLAH SAMADIAN

A documentary tribute to the influential Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami by one of his closest collaborators.

Director

Seyfollah Samadian was born on January 28, 1954 in Urmia, Iran. He is a director and cinematographer, known for *Tehran: 25th hour* (1999), *ABC Africa* as a camera man (2001), *Roads* also as a camera man and *76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami* (2016). In 1991 he won the World Press Photo Award. He is the publisher and editor in chief of *Tassvir* (A Magazin for Visual Arts, since 1991). Some of his films include: *A Day in Tehran* (2012) and *Look at Me* (2012).

The movies *76 minutes and 15 seconds with Abbas Kiarostami* and *Take Me Home* will be shown successively.

Public Screenings:

Thursday, June 1 2017, 20:40, Riffraff 1

English title:

76 minutes and 15 seconds
with Abbas Kiarostami

Genre: Documentary

Country and year of
production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 76 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Screenplay:

Seifollah Samadian

Cinematography:

Seifollah Samadian

Editor: Seifollah Samadian

Sound:

Mohammad-Reza Delpak
Hassan Mahdavi

Producer:

Seifollah Samadian

Production company:

Tassvir Film Center

Cast:

Abbas Kiarostami
Juliette Binoche
Masoud Kimiai
Jafar Panahi
Tahereh Ladanian



English title:

Love marriage in Kabul

Genre: Documentary**Country and year of****production:** Australia, 2015**Duration:** 85 min**Language:** Farsi, English**Subtitles:** English**Swiss premiere****In competition****Screenplay:**

Amin Palangi

Cinematography:

Amin Palangi

Sound: Sanaz Fotouhi**Editor:** Bill Russo ASE**Music:** John Gray**Production company:**

Palangi Productions

Producer: Pat Fiske**Cast:**

Mahboba Rawi

Siddiq Rawi

Virginia Haussegger

Abdulfattah Asghari



LOVE MARRIAGE IN KABUL

ازدواج با عشق در کابل

AMIN PALANGI

Love Marriage in Kabul follows the incredible journey of Australian-Afghan, Mahboba Rawi, the founder of Mahboba's Promise Charity, as she passionately negotiates and challenges old traditions to make a love marriage happen in Kabul.

Director

Amin Palangi is an Iranian-Australian filmmaker. Moreover he founded his production company Palangi Productions, is the director of the Persian International film festival in Australia and works as Convergent Media Lecturer at the Western Sydney University. Love Marriage in Kabul is his debut feature documentary film. His most recent film is Road to the Blooming City (2017). Before he made short films such as Seeing the Elephant (2013) and Vafadar (2008).

Public Screenings:

Friday, June 2 2017, 18:40, Houdini 3

Sunday, June 4 2017, 21:00, Houdini 3

Monday, June 5 2017, 16:20, Houdini 3





English title: Being born

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 92 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition

BEING BORN

به دنیا آمدن

MOHSEN ABDOLVAHAB

Pari and Farhad are a middle-class couple who are both involved in theater and cinema. As Pari unintentionally becomes pregnant, Farhad insists on abortion. However, Pari believes that abortion is inhumane and thus cannot accept her husband's will. A baby that has the possibility of making their family life happier causes some serious changes in their situation.

Director

Mohsen Abdolvahab was born in 1957 in Tehran. He began his cinematic career in 1980, editing documentary films and producing 25 short documentaries, which received national and international awards. Previous films with Rakhshan Bani-Etemad include Gilaneh (2004) and Mainline (2006). Please Do not Disturb (2010), his first feature film, was screened in more than 30 international film festivals and brought him 10 awards.

Public Screenings:

Friday, June 2 2017, 18:30, Houdini 1

Sunday, June 4 2017, 20:50, Houdini 5

Monday, June 5 2017, 16:10, Houdini 1

Screenplay:

Mohsen Abdolvahab

Cinematography:

Mohammad Ahmadi

Editor: Sepideh Abdolvahab

Music: Peyman Yazdanian

Producer:

Mohammad Ahmadi

Production company:

Kavir Film Production

Cast:

Behnaz Jafari

Hedayat Hashemi

Elham Korda

Roya Javidnia

Shahnaz Chamacham



English title:**The Descendants**

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2015

Duration: 81 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition

Screenplay:

Yaser Talebi

Cinematography:

Amin Mafi

Editor: Yaser Talebi**Sound:** Misagh Modanloo,
Jon Hagglund**Music:** Peyman Yazdanian**Producer:**

Mitra Roohimanesh

Cast:Hassan Rostamani
Viktoria Lushnikova
Mehrtash Saeidi
Hossein Mirzagholi

THE DESCENDANTS

فرزندان

YASER TALEBI

Farrokh, a young man in his mid-twenties, had been studying abroad in Greece. When he receives a full scholarship in Sweden he moves there and informs his parents. That's the last time they heard from him. However, when his wife's despair drives her to a crisis that leaves her physically disabled, Farrokh's father Jacob travels to Sweden in order to find their son.

Director

Yaser Talebi was born in Sari, North of Iran, in 1982. Yaser Talebi is an Iranian film director, producer, screenwriter, editor, and a documentary director. He is known as a documentarian who makes poetic and social environmental films. His recent film include the Road to Perdition (2016) and the Descendants (2015).



Public Screenings:

Friday, June 2 2017, 18:50, Houdini 5

Sunday, June 4 2017, 21:10, Houdini 1

Monday, June 5 2017, 16:30, Houdini 5



POLARIS

پولاریس

SOUDABEH MORADIAN

A psychologically traumatized war photographer is locked in a desperate struggle to protect her secrets and escape her inevitable return to the Middle East.

“Polaris” is a non-political drama which addresses universal human issues attendant to war, immigration, cultural diversity, post-traumatic stress disorder, women’s rights and children of war.

Director

Soudabeh Moradian is an Iranian-American independent filmmaker. A number of her movies have been in the official selection of various international film festivals and many of them won awards. She has made several TV documentary series about Iranian rural women, and some independent documentaries.

Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 18:30, Houdini 1

Sunday, June 4 2017, 16:10, Houdini 1

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 20:50, Houdini 1

English title: Polaris

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country & year of prod.:

Iran - USA, 2016

Duration: 92 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition

Screenplay:

Naghmeh Samini,
Soudabeh Moradian

Cinematography:

Pierluigi Malavasi

Editor: Cecily Rhett

Music: Karen Homayounfar

Producer:

Christina Jo’Leigh,
Mahdi Davari

Production company:

Cinematic Artistry

Cast:

Alicja Bachleđa
Bahram Radan
Coby Ryan McLaughlin
Roya Taymourian
Diane Marshall-Green
Elisabeth Röhm



English title: Parting

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 78 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition



Screenplay:

Navid Mahmoudi

Cinematography:

Koohyar Kalari

Editor: Jamshid Mahmoudi

Music: Sahand Mahdizadeh

Sound: Hossein Ghoorchian

Producer:

Jamshid Mahmoudi

Production company:

Aseman Parvaz Film

Cast:

Reza Ahmadi

Fereshteh Hosseini

Behrang Alavi

Nazanin Bayati

Shams Langaroudi

PARTING

رفتن

NAVID MAHMOUDI

Two young Afghans, Fereshteh and Nabi, are in love, but Fereshteh has to follow her parents and leave Afghanistan to find refuge in Iran. Nabi decides to illegally cross the border, find Fereshteh and take her through Turkey towards Europe and a better life.

Director

Navid Mahmoudi was born in Parvan, Afghanistan and relocated to Iran when he was a child. His earliest work in cinema was as an assistant director and later as a television producer. PARTING (2016), his feature debut, premiered at the Busan IFF.



Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 18:50, Houdini 5

Sunday, June 4 2017, 16:30, Houdini 5

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 21:10, Houdini 5



APRICOT GROVES

باغستان زرد آلو

POURIA HEIDARY OUREH

Aram, a young Iranian Armenian immigrated to the US as a child returns to Armenia for the first time to meet his girlfriend's family. During his trip Aram notices many cultural, religious, and national differences. However, far harder obstacles are ahead of him.

Director

Pouria Heidary Oureh was born in 1984 in Tehran, Iran. From young age he was interested in visual and performance arts and storytelling, especially through drawings. He graduated from SAE institute of Digital Film in Dubai. Consequently he has worked with several renowned Iranian directors in Iran as well as abroad his home country before moving on to direct his own films.

Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 18:40, Houdini 3

Sunday, June 4 2017, 16:20, Houdini 3

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 21:00, Houdini 3

English title:

Apricot Groves

Genre: Fiction, Romance

Country and year of

production: Armenia, 2016

Duration: 80 min

Language: Armenian / Farsi

Subtitles: English

World premiere

In competition

Screenplay:

Pouria Heidary Oureh

Cinematography:

Ashkan Ashkani

Editor: Ehsan Vaseghi

Music: Lullaby,

Garegin Arakelyan

Producer:

Pouria Heidary Oureh,

Ali Sadraie

Production company:

Taat Films

Cast:

Narbe Vartan

Pedram Ansari

Hovhannes Azoyan

Samvel Sarkisyan

Araik Sargsyan

Allison Gangi

Maro Hakobyan



TIME— TABLE

JUNE 1

Thursday

JUNE 2

Friday

1	Take me Home – 15 min	20:40, Riffraff 1	
2	76 min and 15 sec with Kiarostami – 76 min	20:40, Riffraff 1	
3	Being Born – 92 min		18:30, Houdini 1
4	Love Marriage in Kabul – 85 min		18:40, Houdini 3
5	The Descendants – 81 min		18:50, Houdini 5
6	Polaris – 92 min		
7	Apricot Groves – 80 min		
8	Parting – 78 min		
9	Breath – 130 min		
10	Dasein – 92 min		
11	Blind Spot – 79 min		
12	A long day – 88 min		20:50, Houdini 1
13	Undocument – 87 min		21:00, Houdini 3
14	Inversion – 84 min		21:10, Houdini 5
15	Red Nail Varnish – 88 min		
16	I – 84 min		
17	Life and a Day – 115 min		

JUNE 3

Saturday

JUNE 4

Sunday

JUNE 5

Monday

JUNE 6

Tuesday

JUNE 7

Wednesday

	20:50, Houdini 5	16:10, Houdini 1		
	21:00, Houdini 3	16:20, Houdini 3		
	21:10, Houdini 1	16:30, Houdini 5		
18:30, Houdini 1	16:10, Houdini 1		20:50, Houdini 1	
18:40, Houdini 3	16:20, Houdini 3		21:00, Houdini 3	
18:50, Houdini 5	16:30, Houdini 5		21:10, Houdini 5	
20:50, Houdini 1	18:30, Houdini 1		18:30, Houdini 5	
21:00, Houdini 3	18:40, Houdini 3		18:40, Houdini 3	
21:10, Houdini 5	18:50, Houdini 5		18:50, Houdini 1	
16:10, Houdini 1		18:30, Houdini 1		
16:20, Houdini 3		18:40, Houdini 3		
16:30, Houdini 5		18:50, Houdini 5		
		12:00, Riffraff 1		
	12:00, Riffraff 1			
				20:40, Riffraff 1

English Title: Breath

Genre: Drama, Fiction

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 130 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition**Screenplay:**

Narges Abyar

Cinematography:

Saed Nikzad

Editor: Sajad Pahlevanzadeh**Music:**

Massoud Sekhvatdoost

Producer:

Mohammad Hossein Ghasemi

Production company:

Noor Taban Film Company

Cast:

Gelare Abasi

Mehran Ahmadi

Jamshid Hashempur

Shabnam Moghadami

Sareh Nour Mousavi

Pantea Panahiha

BREATH

نفس

NARGES ABYAR

Breath is about an Iranian family who lives in Iran. It tells the story of Bahar, who is living with her father, Ghafour (Mehran Ahmadi) and Grandmother (Pantea Panahiha) during the 70s. Bahar is living in her childish and surreal world, filled with their dreams and fantasies.

Director

Abyar graduated in Persian literature; she has written several stories and fiction books for children and also adults. Abyar began her directing career with the film *Objects in Mirror are closer than they appear* in 2005 and later on made some shorts and documentaries, most of them are about the Iran–Iraq War.



Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 20:50, Houdini 1

Sunday, June 4 2017, 18:30, Houdini 1

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 18:30, Houdini 5



DASEIN

آنجا بودن

KHASHAYAR MOSTAFAVI

Escaping war, a Syrian writer seeks asylum in Germany with his family. On the escape route he lost his wife so that only he and his daughter are left. Once they are settled in a refugee camp, he is forced to give his daughter to a German family. In the end he steals her back from them and they leave Germany.

Director

Khashayar Mostafavi is an Iranian filmmaker and writer with a master in Film Directing from the Tarbiat Modares University. He has directed two feature-length political documentaries *Our Cherry Orchard* and *Fight Me*, and several other short films. His most recent films is: *Fight me* (2015). Before that he made many documentaries and fiction short films such as, *30 Years of Loneliness* (2012) and *Anti-Love* (2008).

Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 21:00, Houdini 3

Sunday, June 4 2017, 18:40, Houdini 3

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 18:40, Houdini 3

English title: **Being There**

Genre: **Fiction, Drama**

Country and year of

Production: **Germany, 2017**

Duration: **92 min**

Language: **German**

Subtitles: **English**

World premiere

In competition

Screenplay:

Khashayar Mostafavi

Cinematography:

Khashayar Mostafavi

Sound: Khashayar Mostafavi

Editor: Gisela Gondolatsch

Music: Khashayar Mostafavi

Producer:

Khashayar Mostafavi

Cast:

Hassan Shahbazi

Stephan Kubisch

Birgit Wolff

Sara Luise Krutein

Andreas Becker

Madlin Beuck

Romina Hosseini



English title: Blind Spot

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 79 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition**Screenplay:**

Parisa Hasehmpour

Ehsan Biglari

Cinematography:

Morteza Ghaphoori

Editor: Saeed Sayah,
Khashayar Movahedian**Music:** Adib Ghorbani**Sound:** Behrouz Moavenian**Producer:** Mehdi Golestaneh**Production company:**

Eli Image

Cast:

Mohammad Reza Forutan

Hanieh Tavasoli

Shaghayegh Farahani

BLIND SPOT

نقطه کور

MEHDI GOLESTANEH

Khosrow who has to spend more than 20 days of each month outside the city. Far from his family he gets suspicious about the relations his wife Nahid has with the people around her. One day when he goes back to town he finds out some things that make him judge his wife. Whereas he is worried about his wife's infidelity she tries to save their family.

Director

Mehdi Golestaneh is an Iranian film director. He is mostly known for his film Nazanin (2013). He has B.A. in art and architecture. He directed and produced several films and movies including Sleeplessness, Eye Witness, Freedom Point, Big Trouble, Relationship Lights and Nazanin.



Public Screenings:

Saturday, June 3 2017, 21:10, Houdini 5

Sunday, June 4 2017, 18:50, Houdini 5

Tuesday, June 6 2017, 18:50, Houdini 1



English title: Red nail varnish

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 88 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition

RED NAIL VARNISH

لاک قرمز

SEYYED JAMAL HATAMI

Akram is 16 years old. Despite the death of her drug addicted father and her mother's inability to look after her three children she decides to maintain the family's unity. In doing so, she turns into a mature woman.

Director

Seyyed Jamal Hatami was born in 1971. He studied Cinema in the Experimental Film Workshop and started to make shorts. To be a professional in cinema, he first worked as a set designer. Later on he worked as an assistant director, and at the same time made shorts and TV movies. "Red Nail Varnish" is his first feature.

Screenplay:

Amir Abdi

Cinematography:

Mohammad Reza Sokout

Editor: Ehsan Vaseghi

Music: Mehrdad Mirzaee

Sound: Majid Hashemipour

Producer: Kamran Majidi

Cast:

Pardis Ahmadih

Pantea Panahiha

Masoud Keramati

Behnam Tashakkor

Public Screenings:

Monday, June 5 2017, 12:00, Riffraff 1



English Title: Undocument**Genre: Fiction, Drama****Country and year of****production: Iran,****Jordan, UK 2015****Duration: 87 min****Language: Farsi****Subtitles: English****Premiere in Switzerland****In competition****Screenplay:**Amin Bakhshian,
Kyla Simone Bruce**Cinematography:**

Saimawn Si-Shen

Editor: Reza Jouze**Sound:** Mauricio Dorey**Producer:** Khalid Jabaly**Cast:**

Julia Krynke

Nabil Elouahabi

Molly Jones

Umit Ulgen



UNDOCUMENT

نا نوشته

AMIN BAKHSHIAN. KYLA SIMONE BRUCE

Undocument bears witness to four journeys of longing and love, immigration and identity as one cinematic vision. Based on factual research and personal stories, the film explores the challenges illegal immigrants – the ‘undocumented’ – face every day.

Directors

Kyla is an award winning writer and director based in London. She graduated with an MA with distinction from The London Film School in 2013, with her film *The Interpreter*, which has been nominated for several awards. Kyla’s documentary *Silver Rails* was licensed by BBCiPlayer.

Amin was born in Ahvaz, Iran. He studied at the London Film School. *Deep Breath* is his graduation project, which he wrote and directed and his new short *Cold Birth* is currently in post-production.

**Public Screenings:**

Friday, June 2 2017, 21:00, Houdini 3

Saturday, June 3 2017, 16:20, Houdini 3

Monday, June 5 2017, 18:40, Houdini 3



English title: *Inversion*
Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 84 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: German

Swiss premiere
In competition

INVERSION

وارونگی

BEHNAM BEHZADI

Niloofer lives with her aged mother, and stays busy with her alterations shop. When doctors insist that her mother must leave smoggy Tehran for her respiratory health, the family elders decide that she must also move away to accompany her mother. Now Niloofer is torn between family loyalty and living her own life.

Director

Behnam Behzadi was born in 1972 in Boroujen, Iran and obtained a diploma in cinema from the faculty of "Seda & Cima" in Tehran in 1995. Over the past few years he has written scripts, worked in editing and collaborated with various scriptwriters including Bahman Ghobadi.

After making some programs for TV, his first short film *Retaliation* gained an international success, winning the second prize of FIPA 2000 in France.

Public Screenings:

Friday, June 2 2017, 21:10, Houdini 5

Saturday, June 3 2017, 16:30, Houdini 5

Monday, June 5 2017, 18:50, Houdini 5

Screenplay:

Behnam Behzadi

Cinematography:

Bahram Badakhshani

Editor: Meysam Molaei

Music: Sahar Sakhaei

Sound: Rashid Daneshmand

Producer: Behnam Behzadi

Cast:

Sahar Dolatshahi

Setareh Pesyani

Ali Mosaffa

Shirin Yazdanbakhsh

Roya Javidnia



English title: A long day

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 88 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Swiss premiere

In competition



Screenplay:

Babak BahramBeygi

Cinematography:

Payam Naser,

Babak BahramBeygi

Editor: Babak BahramBeygi

Sound: Hasan Shabankareh

Music: Ensiyeh Maleki

Producer:

Babak BahramBeygi

Cast:

Reza Behboodi

Shabnam Moghadami

Alireza Ara

Morteza Youneszadeh

Baran Ebrahimi

A LONG DAY

یک روز طولانی

BABAK BAHRAMBEGYI

Having returned to the country after years, Shaheen pays a short visit to his hometown, and unwittingly becomes involved with one of his brother's business adventures.

He tries to resolve the issues but faces a new dimension of the story that puts him on the horns of a dilemma...

Director

Babak BahramBeygi was born in 1979. He studied at the Association of Young Filmmakers. Soon after graduation he started directing and editing short films and documentaries. He also has written several film scripts for television. Mr. BahramBeygi directed his first feature film A Long Day, in 2016.



Public Screenings:

Friday, June 2 2017, 20:50, Houdini 1

Saturday, June 3 2017, 16:10, Houdini 1

Monday, June 5 2017, 18:30, Houdini 1



The IFFZ Trophy

Known as the first declaration of Human Rights, the Cyrus Cylinder contains text in Babylonian cuneiform. It speaks about Cyrus, king of Persia (559 - 530 BC) and his conquest of Babylon in 539 BC. With this declaration Cyrus made a friendly bridge between the people of Babylon and Persia.

Ehsan Tabasi was born in March 1984. He created the Golden Cyrus Cylinder Trophy by using the exact copy which can be found in the United Nation Headquarter. He lives in Tehran where he continues his work as trophy and medal maker for national and international firms.

The inscription on the cylinder speaks of Cyrus' promotion of religious, racial, and linguistic freedom and his permission to those deported by the Babylonians to return to their homelands. It extols Cyrus as a benefactor of the citizens of Babylonia who improved their lives, and restored temples and cult sanctuaries across Mesopotamia and elsewhere in the region. Some segments of the text say:

"I will never let anyone take possession of movable and landed properties of the others by force or without compensation. While I am alive, I prevent unpaid, forced labor. Today, I announce that everyone is free to choose a religion. People are free to live in all regions and take up a job provided that they never violate other's rights."

Source: ancient-origins.net, translation obtained from Gresham College, England

English title: I

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country and year of production: Iran, 2016

Duration: 84 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Out of competition**Screenplay:**

Soheil Beiraghi

Cinematography:

Moein Motallebi

Editor: Shima Monfared**Sound:** Naser Entezari**Music:** Karen Homayounfar**Producer:** Saeed Sadi,
Saeed Khani**Cast:**

Leila Hatami

Mani Haghighi

Amir Jadidi

Behnoush Bakhtiari



I

من**SOHEIL BEIRAGHI**

Azar (Leila Hatami) is living a double life. On the surface she is a respectable young music teacher, but on the side she is involved in shadier dealings. Azar acts as a middle-man for those seeking illicit goods, whether it be forged passports or papers. She is content in her insulated role, safe from real danger, until she becomes increasingly immersed in the criminal world and suspicions about her begin to rise.

Director

Born in Tehran in 1986, Soheil Beiraghi graduated in Industrial Engineering. After 10 years experience as producer and director's assistant in more than 30 films, "I" is his debut feature film.

Public Screenings:

Sunday, June 4 2017, 12:00, Riffraff 1



English title: Life and a Day

Genre: Fiction, Drama

Country & year of prod.:

 Iran, 2016

Duration: 115 min

Language: Farsi

Subtitles: English

Out of competition

LIFE AND A DAY

ابد و یک روز

SAEED ROUSTAYI

Somayeh is at a loss. Her only desire is to leave her family and yet the love of her sick mother and bright brother hold her back. One day her elder brother, Morteza, introduces her to an Afghan who wants to marry her and take her to Afghanistan. Moved by her brother's concern she accepts the offer, primarily seeing it as a way to escape her family. However, at the very last minute, she discovers the hidden face of the marriage proposal.

Director

Saeed Roustayi was born in 1988 in Teheran, Iran. Life and a day is his first feature film.

Screenplay:

Saeed Roustayi

Cinematography:

Ali Ghazi

Editor: Bahram Dehghan

Music: Omid Raisdana

Sound: Alireza Alavian

Producer:

Saeed Malekan

Cast:

Payman Maadi

Navid Mohammadzadeh

Parinaz Izadyar

Shirin Yazdanbakhsh

Public Screenings:

Wednesday, June 7 2017, 20:40, Riffraff 1



**Susanne Ostwald**

Jury member

Susanne Ostwald is a journalist working for the «Neue Zürcher Zeitung», responsible for the reporting on films. Born in 1967 she studied English, theater and film studies as well as journalism in Berlin. Since her time at the University she has been working as a film critic. Ostwald held professional positions in London and New York and made a study trip to Iran.

**Peter Da Rin**

Jury member

Peter Da Rin was born in 1952. From 1986 to 1997 he was Secretary in the Film Department of Pro Helvetia, before becoming its head in 1997. He remained in this function until 2003. Before retiring in May 2017 Da Rin worked as a manager for festivals and markets at SWISS FILM.

**Nicole Wagner**

Jury member

Nicole Wagner studied socio-cultural anthropology and religion at the Free University Berlin, Germany and the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. During her studies, she focused on Visual anthropology, and Media anthropology. Her field experiences are in East Africa, India and Switzerland. Currently she is a Ph.D. candidate and works as a University lecturer and research fellow in Switzerland.

**Michèle Sauvain**

Jury member

Michèle Sauvain works as a journalist, filmmaker and producer for the Swiss Television SRF since more than 27 years. After a long time in the «News» department (Tagesschau and 10vor10) she switched to Documentaries 13 years ago. Moreover she was responsible for international coproductions and the Pacte de l'audiovisuel. During this time she realized and produced several documentaries and series.

**Matthias Wittmann**

Jury member

Matthias Wittmann, born 1976 in Vienna, is film critics, film scholar and curator of film retrospectives („Salaam Cinema. Iranian Cinema before and after 1979“, „Memoryscapes. Film Forms of Memory“ and a retrospective on the work of Paul Verhoeven). He is research assistant at the Seminar for Media Studies (University of Basel) and focusing on Iranian cinema, which - together with Professor Dr. Ute Holl and Hemen Hossein Heidari - is currently explored in the framework of an ongoing project supported by the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation).

**Armin Apadana**

Graphic Designer

Armin Apadana was born in 1992 in Zurich, where he lives and works as a graphic designer. The IFFZ website has been created by him. Armin is responsible for webdesigning and graphics.

**Niklaus Reichle**

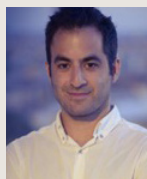
Staff management

Niklaus Reichle was born in Switzerland in 1986. He studied international relations and is currently working at the institute of sociology of the university of St.Gallen. In 2010 he founded the record label and film production company «La Suisse Primitive». Since 2015 Niklaus has been involved in a coproduction of an Iranian-Swiss feature film as well as in the production of a documentary on the Iranian car «Paykan».

**Alma T. Mugescu**

Head of volunteers

Alma T. Mugescu is a Swiss-Canadian born in Bucharest, Romania, who lives in Zurich, where she studied German-English translation at the Translator School DOZ-ZHAW. She has published translations for the NZZ Verlag, works as contracts manager at an international literary agency.

**John A. Zandi**

Finance

John A. Zandi was born in California, U.S.A, where he studied and started his career in finance. He has a breath of international experience having lived in Los Angeles, Austin, Berlin, Zurich, and Tehran.



Nina Mohadjer**Public Relations**

Nina Mohadjer was born on June 18, 1970 in Tehran, Iran and raised in Germany, where her family had moved before her birth. She attended law school, but knew that she wanted to act some day. She has a German Law degree, a Master of Law and a MBA. In 2010 and 2011 Nina chaired the largest American Cancer Society's fundraising event "Relay for Life". In 2011 she published her first novel "This Mother's Life". In 2013 she appeared as the supporting actress in the movie 'Asabiyyah: A New Social Cohesion'.



Kaweh Gholami**Logistics**

Kaweh Gholami was born in Chalus / Iran, he studied geology for 3 years in India and has been living in Zurich for over 30 years, where he finished his apprenticeship as a serigraph. Today he works as a translator and interpreter in the refugee sector for the Swiss Red Cross.



Yara Jäkel**Programmer**

Yara Jäkel was born in Tehran, Iran, where she studied photography and worked as a photographer. After emigrating to Paris, France, she studied cinema and had two photo exhibitions in 2009 and 2010 in Paris. She directed her first short film "Les Autres Moi" in 2010 in Paris. Since then she has continuously worked in the Film industry for film festivals in France, Belgium and Switzerland. She currently lives in Zurich.

COOPERATION

Cinélibre and the Iranian Film Festival Zurich agreed to cooperate in order to offer a selection of films programmed at the Iranian Film Festival Zurich 2017 to cinemas and film societies in other Swiss cities and within the network of Cinélibre. The festival films to go on tour in Switzerland will be selected by the festival and Cinélibre. The tour in other Swiss cities will take place in autumn / winter 2017.



Cinélibre is the Swiss Association of Film Societies and Non Profit Cinemas (Verband Schweizer Filmklubs und nicht-gewinnorientierter Kinos). Cinélibre provides the audience with an access to the diversity of films made around the world and to films from all periods of film history. To achieve this, Cinélibre supports the co-operation between its members and the exchange of film programmes. Cinélibre distributes films and organises tours with films which otherwise would not be available in Switzerland.



Robert M. Richter

Robert M. Richter, Managing Director of Cinélibre (Swiss Association of Film Societies and Non Profit Cinemas), author and curator of film programmes, has been specialised in Iranian cinema for more than twenty-five years.

As a programme consultant, he worked for film festivals such as the San Sebastián Film Festival, the Leipzig Documentary Film Festival, the Forum of New Cinema at the Berlinale a.o. For the 1996 edition of the Leipzig festival, he curated the first retrospective worldwide on the history of Iranian documentary films produced before and after the revolution.



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PRE-SALE

Pre-sale starts on May 17 at Houdini
and Riffraff as well as online at:

www.kinohoudini.ch or www.riffraff.ch



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