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Iranian FESTIVAL

6 - 16 February 2015

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Welcome to the

**Edinburgh Iranian Festival 2015**

Building on the success of the previous Edinburgh Iranian Festival seasons in 2009, 2011 and 2013, we are proud to announce that the fourth season is taking place from 6th – 16th February 2015. The Edinburgh Iranian Festival is a non-political showcase for world-class Iranian culture, as well as for musicians and artists working both in and outside Iran.

We aim to introduce the tremendous breadth of Iranian history and culture to audiences across Scotland, and integrate the two communities through a broad range of interactive events spanning numerous art-forms. This year’s festival will particularly focus on:

- **Fashion and Iranian Textile**
- **Tourism**
- **Iranian Cinema**
- **Contemporary Art**

Our fashion events take place at the National Museum of Scotland on Saturday 7th February. The day includes a fashion show followed by a discussion panel about fashion, from ancient to modern day Iran. We are also keen to encourage tourism in Iran this year, through a series of interactive lectures given by tour operators and other experts. This event will take place at the Nomads Tent on Sunday 8th February.

From Sunday 8th February, an Iranian Film Season will start at the Filmhouse Cinema, with a film screened each night. And finally we are very proud to provide a platform for Iranian and non-Iranian artists to show case their work, inspired by Iranian culture, in our multi-art form exhibition, Perception, at the Summerhall Gallery.

Please see relevant sections of the brochure or visit our website for more details: [www.ediranfest.co.uk](http://www.ediranfest.co.uk) We would like to thank all of our sponsors for supporting the festival and helping to make it a reality. The 2015 festival season is partnered with British Council Iran as part of their UK-Iran Season of Culture. A big thank you also to the volunteers and the festival organisation team, for their time and effort. We hope you enjoy the festival and are able to go to as many events as possible.

**To contact us email us at info@ediranfest.co.uk or call 0753 068 1713**

پیشنهاد می‌کنیم سعی بکنید از استفاده از کتابخانه‌های عمومی استفاده کنید.
OPENING CEREMONY

Date/Time: Friday 6th Feb 2015 / 20:00 – 22:00 (Doors open at 20:00, event starts at 20:30)

Venue: St John’s Church, West End Princes St, EH2 4BJ

Entry: £5 (under 10’s are free & require parental supervision at all times)

Box Office: Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, EH1 2ED
Tel: 0131 228 1404

The opening ceremony of the 2015 Edinburgh Iranian Festival will include:
- An introduction to the programme for the 2015 festival
- Poetry reading by Rab Wilson of his Scots translation of Ruba’iyat of Omar Khayyam, alongside a reading in the original Persian
- Live music by Arezoo Symphony Orchestra
- Drinks reception

Please see below for more details.

The Ruba’iyat of Omar Khayyam in the Scots Language (Rab Wilson)
Rab Wilson is a Scottish poet, working largely in the Scots language. At the Opening Ceremony, Rab will read verses from one of his major works: his ‘oversetting’, in Scots, of the famous medieval Persian work The Ruba’iyat of Omar Khayyam. The late Prof. Philip Hobsbaum (ex chair of English Literature, Glasgow University) has described this work as ‘an astonishing feat’. Alongside Rab’s Scots version, a reading will be performed in the original Persian.

Arezoo Symphony Orchestra
Arezoo Symphony Orchestra was founded in 2011 by Amin Keshmiri, the conductor of this orchestra. Amin played with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2014. All members of Arezoo Symphony are from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Their work includes Iranian Classical and Orchestral music such as Suite of Bijan and Manijeh (Hossein Dehlavi), Az Karkhe Ta Rhine (Majid Entezami), Shooostari for Violin and Orchestra (Hossein Dehlavi), Simple Symphony (Benjamin Britten). Arezoo is a popular Iranian name meaning wish and ambition. Amin named the orchestra in the loving memory of his sister, Arezoo, who passed away in 2008 in Iran.
Persian Chic: Fashion Show

Date/Time: Saturday 7th Feb 2015 / 13:40 - 14:40
Venue: National Museum of Scotland, Grand Gallery, Level 1, Chambers Street, EH1 1JF
Entry: FREE Admission
Purchase: Visit ALANGOO.com to purchase work on sale

Enjoy a day of music & fashion inspired by Iran! Designers from around the world will showcase their exclusive designs influenced by Iranian art and culture. The museum events will start with a Display of Ancient Garments, followed by Azadeh’s music performance, Persian Chic Fashion Show, and end with the Persian Chic Panel Discussion with the designers and experts.

- **Naghmeh Kiumarsi** is a pioneering fashion designer in Iran, well-known for her postmodern style, use of vibrant colours and textures, as well as use of calligraphy and illustrations of poems.
- Textile engineers **Ghazal** and **Rana** are the founders of **Zarir** Design Group in Tehran. They use various methods of dyeing, printing and finishing on handmade Iranian fabrics.
- **Kourosh Gharbi** is an Iranian designer based in Dubai. Using historical references, Kourosh produces garments using *Termeh*, a fabric widely used in 17th Century Qajar Dynasty.
- **Diba Mehrabi** is an Iranian designer based in London. She mixes different cultural and historical symbols and traditions with modern print techniques.
- **Sepideh Ahadi** is an Iranian designer based in Berlin, working for Chapati design. She focuses on the importance of traditions and sustainability through fashion designing and clothing.
- **Tehran based jewelery designer Farish Alborzkouh** was the student of sculpting Master Parviz Tanavoli for twelve years. Her jewelery designs can be described as “wearable sculptures”.
- Edinburgh-based jewelery designer **Jessica Howarth** creates jewelery that reflects Iran’s rich history of tribal jewelery and the cultural and social importance of these objects.

*Special thanks goes to ALANGOO for co-organising this event.*
**Display of Ancient Iranian Garments**

**Date/Time:** Saturday 7th Feb 2015 / 13:00  
**Venue:** National Museum of Scotland, Grand Gallery  
Join us for a curator-led viewing of 18th and 19th century clothing and fabric samples from the Persian textile collection at National Museums Scotland, including richly decorated brocade coats and lavishly embroidered trousers. Based on floral elements, their patterns repeatedly show a droplet-shaped motif called both, Persian for bush, which is widely known in the West as Paisley pattern.

**Persian Chic: Contemporary Iranian Fashion, Panel Discussion with Experts**

**Date/Time:** Saturday 7th Feb 2015 / 15:00 - 16:00  
**Venue:** National Museum of Scotland Auditorium  
This unique panel discussion provides an opportunity to hear about sources of inspiration behind some of the pieces featured in the Persian Chic Fashion Show as well as a discussion on concept of fashion in contemporary Iranian society (see Lecture Page).

**Fashion Sale**

**Date/Time:** Sunday 8th Feb 2015 / 10:00 - 17:00  
**Venue:** Nomads Tent, 21 St Leonard’s Lane, EH8 9SH  
A second chance to see the pieces displayed at the Persian Chic Fashion Show, as well as an opportunity to purchase them.

**Beyond the Chador: Iranian dress for women (Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood)**

**Date/Time:** Sunday 8th Feb 2015 / 11:00 - 12:00  
**Venue:** Nomads Tent, 21 St Leonard’s Lane, EH8 9SH  
For centuries Iran has been producing intriguing textiles and beautiful garments, especially for women. The talk will look at some of the echoes and how urban and regional dress have responded to each other over time (see Lecture Page).
Arezoo Symphony Orchestra  
**Date/Time:** Friday 6th Feb 2015 / 20:00 – 22:00  
**Venue:** St John’s Church, West End Princes St  
Arezoo Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Amin Keshmiri, will perform Iranian Classical and Orchestral musical pieces at the festival Opening Ceremony (see Opening Ceremony Page).

Azadeh  
**Date:** Saturday 7th Feb 2015  
**Time 1:** 13:00-13:40 @ The Museum  
**Venue 1:** National Museum of Scotland, Grand Gallery  
**Time 2:** 20:30-21:00 @ The Summerhall  
**Venue 2:** Summerhall, Summerhall Place,  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
Singer and songwriter Azadeh will be bring her Persian heritage to life through her Persian Folk songs. She has supported blues legend Robert Cray as well as Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. She will be accompanied by Ali Nourbakhsh on percussion, Nicole Robson on Cello and Chris Jerome on keyboard. She will perform Persian Folk songs at the National Museum of Scotland and British pop-soul music at the Opening of the Perception Art Exhibition.

Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin (EYG)  
**Date/Time:** Sunday 8th Feb 2015/20:30-21:30  
**Venue:** Traverse Theatre Bar, 10 Cambridge St, EH1 2ED  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
To celebrate the opening of the Iranian Film Season at the Filmhouse Cinema (see Film Page) there will be a drinks reception and live music by EYG at Traverse after the film.

Coming Home – A’ Tighinn Dhachaigh’ is a project with Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin’s Big Band, with 25 young musicians, and conducted by Scottish composer Mike Vass. British/Iranian musician Roxana Vilk has also been working with EYG, teaching them Persian songs, which then through guidance from Mike and Roxana EYG created their own musical responses.
Persian Music; Lecture, Performance & Workshop (Dr Parmis Mozafari)

Date: Friday 13th Feb 2015
Time: 20:00-21:00
Venue: The Sutton Gallery,
18a Dundas St, EH3 6HZ
Entry: FREE Admission

This talk will cover a historical overview of the condition of female musicians and dancers in Iran. Dr Parmis Mozafari, who will be delivering this talk, is a research fellow at the Institute for Iranian Studies, University of St Andrew. She did her BA and MA in music in Iran and received her PhD in ethnomusicology from the University of Leeds.

She is a Santur player and has taught music in Iran and ethnomusicology and Persian music in the UK. The talk will be followed by a short performance by Dr Mozafari on Santur, and an introductory workshop on Traditional Iranian instruments, including an opportunity to get hands-on experience. This event includes a drinks reception courtesy of Sutton Gallery.

Nima Yushij in Melody by Majid Mokhberi

Date: Friday 14th Feb 2015
Time: 20:30-22:00
Venue: The Sutton Gallery,
18a Dundas St, EH3 6HZ
Entry: FREE Admission

Musician Majid Mokhberi will perform songs that take Nima’s verse as their lyrics as part of the “Nima Yushij; Inspiring Poetry, Music & Art” event. See Books & Poetry Page for more details.
Perception Art Exhibition
Date / Time: 8th – 16th Feb 2015 / 11:00-18:00
Venue: Summerhall, Summerhall Place, EH9 1QH
Entry: FREE Admission
The Perception multi-artform exhibition promises to captivate art lovers. Over 250 Iranian artists, and non-Iranian artists inspired by Iran, from around the world responded to an Open CALL under the title of Perception. The disciplines included video, installation, multi-media, painting, photography, sculpture and more. All completed submission were reviewed by a judging panel, namely: Janet Rady, Morteza Nematollahi, Gohar Dashti, and Helia Darabi. A special thank you to all judges, for offering their time and expertise.

The following 40 submissions have been selected through the judges:
Visit our website for further details on the artists and their work.

Perception Opening Night
Date / Time: Saturday 7th Feb 2015 / 20:30-22:00
Venue: Summerhall, Summerhall Place, EH9 1QH
Entry: FREE Admission
The Perception opening night commences with a music performance by Azadeh (see Music Page), prize giving ceremony, talks by various speakers, a drinks reception and finally a special first view of our exhibition for the public. The prize for most promising submission is £1,000, plus an acquisition award, in the form of a guaranteed purchase of an artwork by one of our sponsors. Speakers include judge Janet Rady and artist/gallery owner Hassan Meshkinfam.
Vividly in Tehran by Laleh Sherkat
Date: 18th Jan - 16th Feb 2015
Time: 10:00 – 21:00
Venue: Filmhouse Café, 88 Lothian Rd, EH3 9BZ
Entry: FREE Admission
A set of 24 photos by photographer Laleh Sherkat, capturing ordinary life in Tehran, representing the people of Tehran walking their daily routes, running their ordinary errands and going for drinks with friends. The streets are always lively and busy with colour, optimism and talent.

Edinburgh Persian School: Language Workshop, Kids Artwork & Wojtek the Bear!
Date: Sat. 14th Feb 2015
Time: 11:00 – 13:00
Venue: Liberton High School, 328 Gilmerton Rd
The pupils will exhibit their artwork about Iran and about Wojtek the Bear. See Workshops page for more details.

The Art of Hassan Meshkinfam
Date/Time: 7th – 28th Feb / Tue-Sat, 11:00 – 17:00
Opening Night: Sat 7th Feb 17:00 – 19:00
Venue: The Sutton Gallery, 18a Dundas St
Entry: FREE Admission
Artist Hassan Meshkinfam (b. 1954 Shiraz) studied in Iran and at the School of Fine Art in Besancon and Paris. In 2003 he founded the Meshkinfam Museum of Visual Arts, the first private museum in Iran dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Shiraz.
Meshkinfam’s mixed-media artworks interpret and illustrate the works of acclaimed Iranian poet Nima Yushij, representing the essence of the poet’s words with his arresting, dream-like imagery. The festival would like to thank the Sutton Gallery for coordinating this exhibition.
Iranian Film Season

Venue: Filmhouse Cinema, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ
Booking: Online www.filmhousecinema.com OR Call: +(44) 131 228 2688

The 2015 Iranian Film Season is curated by Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz and sponsored by The Sutton Gallery, Arts & Business Scotland, Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies of University of Edinburgh and the Filmhouse Cinema. The film season will include 8 feature films, one each night, starting from Sunday 8th Feb 2015, including a number of UK/Scottish Premiers. The Filmhouse Cinema is the venue for all screenings. Please contact the cinema directly to book your tickets.

The Desert Fish  (Mahi Kavir)
Incl. Director Q&A  and Reception
Date/Time: Sunday 8th Feb 2015 / 18:10
Mohammad Ghorbankarimi • 2013
Iran/Canada • 84mins • Farsi with English sub.
Ahmad is a young boy who wants to unravel the mystery of his dead mother who still comes to him in dreams. He undertakes an incredible journey to find out where he came from and the secrets his father never told him.

The screening of this film will be followed by a Q&A with the director Mohammad Ghorbankarimi, arts director / custom and set designer Nassim Azadi, and Editor Maryam Ghorbankarimi. There will be a drinks reception and live music by Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin (EYG), at the bar of the Traverse Theatre, opposite Filmhouse, to mark the opening of the Film Season. See Music Page for more details.

Taboo (Taboo)
Date/Time: Monday 9th Feb 2015 / 20:45
Vahid Vakilifar • 2012 • Iran • 84mins • Farsi with English sub.
A man seeks to protect his hypersensitive body from a daily rise in temperature caused by pervasive electromagnetic waves. He concocts an aluminium jumpsuit which he wears under abundant layers of clothing. Despite his fragile health, every evening he rides his motorbike to keep appointments with his customers. His mission: to destroy cockroach nests. After each mission the man plunges into the dark heart of the city, crisscrossing the far flung streets of a megapolis in which time has stood still and from which the tumult of the day has disappeared.
**Downpour (Ragbaar)**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday 10th Feb 2015 / 17:45  
**Bahram Beizai • 1972 • Iran • 128 min • Farsi with English sub.**

A teacher arrives in a new city in the pre-revolutionary Iran and falls in love with a underprivileged young woman that nurses her very old mother and raises her young brother. In an environment where commitments & social problems often stand in the way between people & their dreams.

**A Few Kilos of Dates for a Funeral**  
(Chand Kilo Khorma baraye Marasem-o Tadfin)

**Date:** Wednesday 11th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 20:45  
**Saman Salur • 2006 • Iran • 85 mins • Farsi with English sub.**

Asadry and Yadi work at a petrol station removed from the main traffic routes since the building of a ring road. It is winter and heavy snow lies on the ground. Sadry, a former performing strongman who accidentally lost an eye, is behaving strangely. He takes off from time to time and seems obsessed with the weather. Yadi is in love with a girl from a nearby town and sends her passionate letters via the local postman. Sadry and Yadi occasionally receive a visit from Orooj, the neighbourhood undertaker, their only contact with the exterior.

**The Prince (Shahzadeh)**

**Date/Time:** Thursday 12th Feb 2015 / 18:10  
**Mahmoud Behraznia • 2014 • Iran/Germany • 92 mins • Farsi/German with English sub.**

It’s 1997 and Afghanistan is controlled by the Taliban. Seventeen-year-old Jalil Nazari finds refuge in Iran, where he seeks out an existence doing odd jobs. One day luck comes his way and he lands the starring role in an Iranian feature film. The film, ‘Djomeh’ directed by Hassan Yektapanah is selected for the 2000 Cannes Film Festival where it wins the ‘Golden Camera’ award, thus hurtling Jalil towards unexpected horizons...
**Kami’s Party** (Mehmuni-ye Kami)
**Date/Time:** Friday 13th Feb 2015 / 18:10
**Ali Ahmadzadeh • 2013 • Iran • 80mins • Farsi with Eng. sub.**
Negin is spending a few days on holiday with her boyfriend Omid and her sister Nazanin in a villa by 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 women drive off to Lavassan, where the party is taking place. Negin doesn’t realize, however, that a surprise awaits her in the trunk of the car.

**Parviz** (Parviz)
**Date/Time:** Saturday 14th Feb 2015 / 18:10
**Majid Barzegar • 2012 • Iran • 105mins • Farsi with Eng. sub.**
Adespite his 50 years Parviz still lives off his father and the two men don’t get on very well. Things come to a head when the father tells his son he has decided to remarry. Parviz has no other choice but surrender his place to his step-mother and leave home. Parviz finds it difficult to get used to this new solitary life far from his neighborhood and the people he knows. He thus concocts a novel way of fighting back against the injustice done to him.

**My Name Is Negahdar Jamali & I Make Westerns** (Man Negahdar Jamali Western Misazam)
**Date/Time:** Sun 15th Feb 2015 / 18:00
**Kamran Heidari • 2012 • Iran • 65mins Farsi with English sub.**
“My name is John Ford and I make Westerns” this is how John Ford introduced himself at the American Film Directors’ Association gathering. Negahdar Jamali, an Iranian from Shiraz introduced himself the same way when I first met him without knowing John Ford that well. He introduced himself with self-confidence and without any weakness in his statement; not in the Monument Valley or in the Grand Canyon but in Shiraz and the deserts surrounding the city. He has been making Western films continuously for the past 35 years under hard conditions, and this film is about the struggle with his family, friends, society,... to make what he likes the most in his life “Western Movies”.

13
LECTURERS & WORKSHOPS

Lecture Series
An academic lecture series will take place at the University of Edinburgh & the Nomads Tent. Sponsors include Iran Heritage Foundation, Iran Society, Alwaleed Centre, School of History Classics & Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh, the Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Edinburgh.

Iran & Tourism
Date/Time: Sunday 8th Feb 2015 / 15:30 - 17:00
Venue: Nomads Tent, 21 St Leonards Lane, EH8 9SH
Entry: FREE Admission

Ever wondering about travelling to Iran? This is a unique opportunity for those interested about the history and cultural heritage of Iran, to learn more from the experts, and find out where to go to and how to get there. Following the talk, there is a chance for informal Q&A while refreshments are served, courtesy of the Nomads Tent.

My travels to Iran - A photographic journey
Dr Laurent Galbrun, Assistant Professor in Architectural Engineering from the Heriot-Watt University, is a keen photographer, with particular interest in abstract forms of photography. During his recent trips to Iran he has captured numerous photographs of the architectural gems of Esfahan, Shiraz, Kashan, Qazvin, Qom and Tehran. He will use these pictures to give an insight into the people, culture, art and architecture of Iran, from a European perspective.

Views of A Specialist in Iranian Tourism
Dr Masood Khodadadi is a Teaching Fellow in Tourism and Events in the School of Business and Enterprise at the University of the West of Scotland. His recent research focused on how institutional/popular discourses of Iran/Persia are constructed and perceived in Britain. His specialisms & interests include: Cultural Tourism, Tourism Marketing, Destination Branding and Destination Image Formation Process.

40 Years of Travel to Iran!
Warwick Ball with 20 years of experience of operating tours to Iran since 1994 and over 40 years of personal travel experience to Iran (since 1970) as an archaeologist and historian, will be taking the audience through an amazing journey in this lecture.

Persian Voyages
UK based tour operators Persian Voyage will also be there with us, providing visa and travel advice for those interested to find out more.
**Persian Chic: Contemporary Iranian Fashion**  
*(Panel Discussion with Experts)*  
**Date/Time:** Saturday 7th Feb 2015 / 15:00 - 16:00  
**Venue:** National Museum of Scotland Auditorium  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
This unique panel discussion provides an opportunity to hear about sources of inspiration behind some of the beautiful pieces featured in the Persian Chic Fashion Show. In addition, academics working on different aspects of Iranian culture will discuss the concept of fashion in contemporary Iranian society, including the influence of pre-Islamic and Islamic culture on dress making in Iran. The discussion will be followed by a Q&A session.  

**The Panel:**  
Dr Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones: History, Classics & Archaeology, University of Edinburgh (Chair)  
Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz: Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies of University of Edinburgh  
Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood: Director of the Textile Research Centre, Leiden  
Dr Friederike Voigt: Senior Curator, National Museum of Scotland and some of the fashion designers who have taken part in the festival.  

**Beyond the Chador: Iranian dress for women**  
*(Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood)*  
**Date:** Sunday 8th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 11:00 - 12:00  
**Venue:** Nomads Tent, 21 St Leonard’s Lane  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
For centuries Iran has been producing intriguing textiles and beautiful garments, especially for women, which reflect the complexity of its cultural history and the many groups that live in this vast and diverse country. Naturally, these forms have changed over time, but ever so often there is an echo of a past style! The talk will look at some of the echos and how urban and regional dress have responded to each other over time.  

Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, Director of the Textile Research Centre, Leiden, is a specialist in Middle Eastern and Iranian dress. She has travelled to many parts of Iran over the last 15 years collecting examples of urban and regional dress, talking with men and women involved in their making, as well as those wearing the garments.
**LECTURERS & WORKSHOPS**

**Persian Calligraphy** (Dr. Jila Peacock)
**Date:** Sunday 8th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 14:00 - 15:00  
**Venue:** Nomads Tent, 21 St Leonard’s Lane,  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
Meet painter and printmaker, Jila Peacock, whose work, based on the elegant and dynamic forms of Persian calligraphy, creates a beautiful fusion of art and language. Listen to Jila talk about her work and create your own calligraphic art.

**Blood Oranges Dipped in Sal**  
(Dr Karen Babayan)  
**Date:** Monday 9th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 17:30 - 18:30  
**Venue:** Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Sq, EH8 9JZ  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
Family history and an extensive photographic archive are used as a principal resource in this new photographic work, performance and fictional text through the book ‘Blood Oranges Dipped in Salt’. The book explores a unique family heritage, the story the Armenians of Iran. Dr Babayan explores nostalgia, family mythmaking and archetypes as well as the role of food in heritage. This lecture will be followed by a Q&A and book signing by the speaker and a drinks reception courtesy of the Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Edinburgh.

**Xerxes’ Cabinet of Curiosities: Exotic Animals & Royal Authority in Achaemenid Iran**  
(Dr Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones)  
**Date:** Wednesday 11th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 17:00 - 18:00  
**Venue:** Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Sq, EH8 9JZ  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
The Achaemenid dynasty (559-331 BCE) ruled the biggest empire the ancient world had ever seen. By examining a variety of sources – iconographic and literary, Greek, Indian and of course Iranian, this lecture explores the rich variety of exotic wildlife imported into Persia to satisfy the monarch’s pleasure and his public image. This included Asiatic lions, Bactrian camels, zebu, wild asses, and Arabian horses as well as parrots, peacocks, and wild jungle fowl at the Iranian court. The lecture questions how the exotic animals were conceived by their Persian viewers, how they were displayed, and offers possibilities as to their treatment and use. Dr Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones is Senior Lecturer in Ancient History in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. He specializes in Achaemenid Iran and ancient Greek socio-cultural history, and in the reception of antiquity in popular culture.
**Persian Music; Lecture, Performance & Workshop**  
(Prof Parmis Mozfari)

**Date:**  Friday 13th Feb 2015  
**Time:**  20:00 - 21:00  
**Venue:**  The Sutton Gallery, 18a Dundas St  
**Entry:**  FREE Admission  

An interactive event on Iranian music (see Music Page).

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**The most Famous Persian Vizier:**

**The career of Nizam al-Mulk**  
(Prof Carole Hillenbrand)

**Date:**  Saturday 14th Feb 2015  
**Time:**  15:00 - 16:00  
**Venue:**  Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Square  
**Entry:**  FREE Admission  

Nizam al-Mulk (1018-1092) was the vizier of the Seljuq empire in Iran. His truly awesome achievement in staying in power for over thirty years was made possible by a combination of subtlety and ruthlessness, extraordinary stamina, personal courage, and thanks to a truly formidable intellect. He was a munificent figure, whose memory was cherished by many generations.

Professor Carole Hillenbrand was educated at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh. She taught Islamic History, Arabic and Persian at the University of Edinburgh for 29 years. She is now Professor Emerita of Islamic History at the University of Edinburgh and Professor of Islamic History at the University of St Andrews. Her research interests include the Seljuqs of Iran, the Crusades, and medieval Muslim political thought, especially the work of al-Ghazali, the most famous Persian religious scholar.

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**The Jewel of Persian Architecture:**

**The Friday Mosque of Isfahan**  
(Prof Robert Hillenbrand)

**Date:**  Saturday 14th Feb 2015  
**Time:**  16:00 - 17:00  
**Venue:**  Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Square  
**Entry:**  FREE Admission  

The Friday Mosque of Isfahan (Masjid-e-Jameh Isfahān) has a continuous history of over a millennium; none of the major ruling dynasties of Iran has failed to leave their mark on it. So it is a museum of structural and decorative techniques, a prism through which to recognize the identifying traits of Islamic architecture in Iran.

Professor Robert Hillenbrand, F.B.A., was educated at Cambridge and Oxford and has spent most of his career teaching at the University of Edinburgh; he is currently Professor of Art History at the University of St Andrews. He has published nine books, co-authored, co-edited or edited a further twelve and has published some 170 articles on Islamic art and architecture. He has served as Slade Professor of Art at Cambridge.
**LECTURERS & WORKSHOPS**

**Persian Rug Making Workshops for Kids & Adults**

**Kids:** Date/Time: Sat 14th Feb 2015 / 14:00 – 15:00  
**Adults:** Date/Time: Sun 15th Feb 2015 / 14:00 – 15:00  
**Venue:** Persian Rug Village, 34 Morningside Road,  
**Entry:** FREE (For reservations call + (44) 131 466 7071)  
The Persian Tent, inside the Persian Rug Village in Morningside, will be having a series of workshops about rug making and repairing Persian rugs for kids and adults. There will also be an Iranian Teahouse at the Persian Tent (see Food Page).

**Edinburgh Persian School: Language Workshop, Kids Artwork & Wojtek the Bear!**  
**Date/Time:** Saturday 14th Feb 2015 / 11:00 – 13:00  
**Venue:** Liberton High School, 328 Gilmerton Rd, EH17 7PT  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
Meet organisers & pupils of the Edinburgh Persian School during an open day, as well as getting a taste of learning the Persian Language!  
Dr Golnaz Nambakhsh and teachers of the Persian School will provide a half an hour introductory workshop to the Persian language at 11am. Persian classes for kids and adults are available on Saturday mornings throughout the year. Contact the school for details: persianschoolofedinburgh@yahoo.co.uk.

The pupils will exhibit their artwork about Iran. This year’s special project is Wojtek, a brown bear born in the mountains of Iran, who lived alongside the Polish II Corps as they moved through Iran, Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Egypt, and then died in the Edinburgh Zoo in 1963.

**Sites of Memory: Public Emotionality, Gender & Nationhood in the Music of Googoosh**  
*(Dr Ladan Nooshin)*  
**Date:** Monday 16th Feb 2015  
**Time:** 17:30 - 18:30  
**Venue:** Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Sq,  
**Entry:** FREE Admission  
In June 2000, Googoosh, the best-loved Iranian pop singer of all time, left Iran after more than twenty years of silence. She toured to ecstatic audiences in packed stadia throughout Europe and North America, eventually settling in Toronto. This lecture will explore a number of aspects of Googoosh and her music, focussing on the extraordinary emotional response which her music evokes for many Iranians. For instance, the concerts which followed her departure from Iran in 2000 were marked by a level of emotional outpouring - even abandon - unparalleled by any other performance of Iranian music. A number of issues around questions of gender, nation and voice will be addressed, focussing on some of Googoosh’s post-2000 songs. Dr Ladan Nooshin is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Arts, Social Science and Music in the City University London. This lecture will be followed by a Q&A and a drinks reception courtesy of the Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Edinburgh.
The Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam in the Scots Language (Rab Wilson)
**Date:** Friday 6th Feb 2015
**Time:** 20:00 - 22:00
**Venue:** St John’s Church, West End Princes St,
This talk will take place at the Opening of the Festival. See Opening Ceremony Page for more details.

Blood Oranges Dipped in Salt
(Incl. Book Signing)
**Date/Time:** Mon 9th Feb 2015 / 17:30 - 18:30
**Venue:** Uni of Edin, Lecture Theatre F.21, 7 George Square
The lecture by Dr Karen Babayan will be followed by a Book Signing and Q&A, as well as a reception [see Lectures Page].

Books about Iran available at Bookshops!
**Date:** 6th till 16th Feb 2015
**Time.1:** Mon-Sat: 10:00-18:00 / Sun: 12.00-17:00
**Venue.1:** Word Power Book Shop, 43-45 West Nicolson St
**Time.2:** Mon-Sat: 09:00-18:00 / Sun: 12.00-18:00
**Venue.2:** Blackwell’s, 53-62 South Bridge, Edinburgh
To mark the Festival, the independent bookshop Word Power and the Blackwell’s bookshop have put together a special collection of books on Iran, its history, and its culture. This collection will be available for purchase throughout the Festival so visit the shops and enjoy a browse!

Children’s Book Reading and Q&A with Azita Pourghasem & Mahdi Ziae
**Date:** Sunday 15th Feb 2015
**Time:** 15:00-16:00
**Venue:** Word Power Book Shop
43-45 West Nicolson St
**Entry:** FREE Admission
The Adventures of Sohrab and the Genie by Mahdi Ziae, and the Persian Nursery Rhymes by Azita Pourghasem will be discussed during a Q&A with the authors.

The Adventures of Sohrab and the Genie: The book explores a boy’s journey from boyhood to maturity through a series of adventures which teach him a lot about life, kindness and friendship.

Persian Nursery Rhymes: This is a collection of 29 Persian Rhyme songs, by Hengameh Yashar, from 1960’s in Iran, complete with English translation and CD.
Nima Yushij; Inspiring Poetry, Music & Art

Date: Saturday 14th Feb 2015
Time: 20:30 - 22:00
Venue: The Sutton Gallery, 18a Dundas St
Entry: FREE Admission

What could be more romantic on Valentine’s Day than Persian Poetry?

The work of the internationally acclaimed Iranian poet Nima Yushij (1896-1960), often regarded as the founder of modern Persian poetry, has inspired not only poets but many artists and musicians too.

Join us for an evening of poetry, music, and visual art at Sutton Gallery where in conjunction with an exhibition of Hassan Meshkinfam’s mixed media artworks, we will be presenting an evening of songs and words from the poet.

Hassan Meshkinfam’s work interprets and illustrates Nima’s poetry through arresting, dream-like imagery. Musician Majid Mokhberi will perform songs that take Nima’s verse as their lyrics. Members of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival Committee will read poems in both Persian and English, contextualising Nima’s life and work.

This event includes a drinks reception courtesy of the Sutton Gallery.
Iranian Cookery Class
Date: Sunday 8th Feb 2015
Time1: 13:00 – 15:00
Time2: 16:00 – 18:00
Venue: Nawroz Restaurant, 26-30 Potterrow,
Entry: £35
Reservations: Call +(44) 131 667 2299
Learn how to bake Iranian bread and use various spices during a 2 hour cookery class at the Nawroz Restaurant. Enjoy eating the food you have learnt how to prepare at the end of the session. Classes were filled quite fast last year, so book your place early to avoid disappointment.

Nawroz Restaurant
Date/Time: 6th – 16th Feb 2015 / 12 till late
Venue: Nawroz Restaurant, 26-30 Potterrow, EH8 9BT
Reservations: Call +(44) 131 667 2299
Nawroz is a Kurdish and Middle Eastern restaurant, which will be serving Iranian cuisine, various Kababs in particular, during the festival period. Please contact the restaurant for more information on their menu. This restaurant also includes an external shisha lounge.

Iranian Teahouse
Date/Time: 6th – 16th Feb 2015 / 09:00 – 18:00
Venue: Persian Rug Village, 34 Morningside Rd
Reservations: Call +(44) 131 466 7071
The Persian Tent, inside the Persian Rug Village in Morningside, will be serving a variety of teas and a collection of Iranian snacks (mezze) during the festival period. Please contact Persian Rug Village for more information on their menu.

There will also be rug making/repair workshops for kids & adults at the Persian Tent (see Workshop Page).
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