



A MINOR LEAP DOWN

A VERY ORDINARY CITIZEN



TODAY



A MINOR LEAP DOWN



FOR A RAINY DAY



ATOMIC HEART

The 2016 Edinburgh Iranian Festival Film Season

Following on from the success of its 2015 edition, the Edinburgh Iranian Festival presents a set of five new feature films, centring on the themes of masculinity, alienation and the family. A focus on Iran often comes with much commentary on the nation's women, and there's a tendency to imagine men as a homogenous group striving to protect and enforce the patriarchal system. Cinema, however, is the ideal lens through which to examine these constructions of masculinity – hence the theme of the season, curated by Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz. And, with four UK premieres and one Scottish premiere, Edinburgh cinephiles will have a real treat in store.

The season opens with the screening of Majid Barzegar's *A Very Ordinary Citizen*, co-written with the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Jafar Panahi. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Barzegar, who will also speak following *A Minor Leap Down*, which he produced. There will also be post-screening discussions following *For a Rainy Day* and *Atomic Heart*, and all screenings will be preceded by an introduction by the season's curator, Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, or another member of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival team.

A Very Ordinary Citizen

Yek shahrvand-e kamelan maamouli

Fri 19 Feb at 5.50pm

Majid Barzegar • Iran/Czech Republic/Netherlands 2015 • 1h40m • Digital • Farsi with English subtitles • 12A

Cast: Souren Mnatsakanian, Shadi Karamroudi, Nahid Hadadi.

Following last year's warm reception of Majid Barzegar's *Parviz*, his newest film - co-written by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Jafar Panahi (*The White Balloon*, *Taxi Tehran*) - has been chosen to open this year's Iranian film season. In it, Barzegar once again turns his camera to the understudied isolation of men living in a patriarchal society.

Facing the onset of Alzheimer's, Mr Safari, a pensioner in his eighties, decides to visit his son abroad. A young travel agent, Sara, is tasked with organising Mr Safari's travel arrangements. However, the nature of their relationship is understood very differently by Sara and Mr Safari.

Followed by a discussion with director Majid Barzegar and Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz.

Today Emrouz

Sat 20 Feb at 3.50pm

Reza Mirkarimi • Iran 2014 • 1h28m • Digital • Farsi with English subtitles • 12A

Cast: Parviz Parastui, Soheila Golestani, Shabnam Moghadami.

Director Reza Mirkarimi's flair for simple yet profound stories once again displays itself in *Today*, his third feature to be selected as Iran's official Oscar submission. In it, ageing taxi driver Younes takes a young woman to hospital at the end of his working day, not knowing what awaits him there. Like Mirkarimi's earlier films, *A Cube of Sugar* and *As Simple as That*, the narrative of *Today* unfolds in a single 24-hour period. And yet, it surpasses the limits of these few hours, telling stories of times gone by, some of which are of mythic proportions.

A Minor Leap Down Paridan az ertefa kam

Sat 20 Feb at 6.00pm

Hamed Rajabi • Iran/France 2015 • 1h28m • Digital • Farsi with English subtitles • 12A

Cast: Negar Javaherian, Rambod Javan, Mehri Aleagha, Shafagh Shokri, Mahmoud Behrouzian, Sadaf Ahmadi.

Nahal is four months into her pregnancy when she is given the news that her foetus has died and that she has two days to undergo an abortion. This revelation plunges her into a revolt against family and friends.

Director Hamed Rajabi describes his film as one depicting conditions in which meaningful social action has become extremely limited, and where the action takes place within the private and semi-public interactions of everyday life. But, when everyday life is itself both limited and limiting, these actions may risk alienating both our loved ones and the institutions that sustain our livelihood.

Followed by a discussion with producer Majid Barzegar and Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz.

For a Rainy Day Rouz-e mabada

Sun 21 Feb at 3.20pm

Faezeh Azizkhani • Iran 2015 • 1h30m • Digital • Farsi with English subtitles • 12A • Cast: Shirin Agharezakashi, Valli Azizkhani, Vahid Azizkhani, Hedieh Tehrani.

A student filmmaker discovers that her mother has been having recurring dreams about her own imminent death. Believing these omens, her mother sets out to both fulfil her outstanding religious duties and make her children's dreams come true. And, knowing that her daughter's foremost ambition is to make a feature film, she sets about hiring a superstar...

An impressive work by an up-and-coming filmmaker, *For a Rainy Day* experiments with the boundaries between fiction and reality. Following in the footsteps of the masters of Iranian cinema (including Abbas Kiarostami, who served as directorial consultant), Faezeh Azizkhani explores the possibilities for telling the truth in cinema.

Followed by a discussion with producer Negar Eskandarfar and Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz.

Atomic Heart Madar-e ghalb atomi

Sun 21 Feb at 5.50pm

Ali Ahmadzadeh • Iran 2015 • 1h37m • Digital • Farsi with English subtitles • 12A

Cast: Taraneh Alidoosti, Pegah Ahangarani, Mehrdad Sedighian, Mohammad Reza Golzar.

On their way home from a wild party, Arineh and Nobahar get into a car accident. A mysterious stranger by the name of Toofan offers to cover the costs and refuses to be reimbursed, instead asking the two girls to follow him into the unknown. As the trio travel through a Tehran night full of mysteries and surprises, Arineh and Nobahar discover a parallel world of the unexpected, the existence of which they had never imagined.

Atomic Heart, which had its world premiere at Berlinale, is director Ali Ahmadzadeh's follow-up to *Kami's Party*, which screened as part of last year's Iranian film season.

Followed by a discussion with Farshid Kazemi (University of Edinburgh) and Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz.

If you would like to know more about Iranian cinema and culture, please join Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, Senior Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, for a discussion in the Filmhouse Café Bar on **Thursday 11 February at 15:00**.

More information will be available on the website.



TICKET DEALS

Buy any three (or more) tickets for films in this season and get 15% off

These offers are available online, in person and on the phone, on both full price and concession price tickets. Tickets must all be bought at the same time.