

Iranian cinema returns to Edinburgh for dedicated season

For immediate release

The Edinburgh Iranian Festival, which runs every two years in the capital, has announced dates for a stand-alone Iranian film season at the Filmhouse.

Such was the success of the run of eight films screened within the course of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival in February 2015, organisers have responded to popular demand with another five feature films showing this February.

The selection of films, curated by Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, Senior Lecturer in Persian and Film studies at the University of Edinburgh, centres on the theme of masculinity, alienation and the family.

Four of the five films are UK premiers, and the remaining film is a Scottish premiere.

This film season opens with the screening of Majid Barzgar's latest film, *A Very Ordinary Citizen*, co-written with the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Jafar Panahi. Following the warm reception of Barzgar's UK premier, *Parviz*, during last year's Edinburgh Iranian Festival, Barzgar once again turns his camera to the understudied isolation of men living in a patriarchal society. This opening film will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

Other titles being featured include *Today*, directed by Reza Mirkarimi; *A Minor Leap Down* dir. Hamed Rajabi; *For A Rainy Day* dir. Faezeh Azizkhani; and *Atomic Heart* dir. Ali Ahmadzadeh.

The season's curator, Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, said: "We have a fantastic line-up of films, from the forefront of Iranian cinema. With all but one of the films never seen by UK audiences before, Edinburgh cinema-goers have a real treat in store."

"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."

The season begins on Friday 19th February 2016 and runs for 3 days until Sunday 21st. Tickets will be available directly from the Filmhouse cinema from January, check the website for updates. Full details of all films and timings can be found now on the Edinburgh Iranian Festival website: <http://www.ediranfest.co.uk/pages/film>

Notes to Editors

1. The 2016 Iranian Film Season runs from Friday 19th Feb 2016 to Sunday 21st February in collaboration with the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies department at the University of Edinburgh.
2. Tickets can be booked directly at the cinema from January. T: +(44) 131 228 2688, W: www.filmhousecinema.com

3. Further information can be found at <http://www.ediranfest.co.uk/pages/film>
4. For interview requests, or further information, please contact Mona Vaghefian at info@ediranfest.co.uk / 07944 360 328
5. Edinburgh Iranian Festival is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number SC044795
6. The Edinburgh Iranian Festival is entirely organised and run by volunteers and is affiliated to Edinburgh University Persian Society (EUPS)