

Iranian cinema returns to Edinburgh with focus on female directors and animation

For immediate release

The biennial Edinburgh Iranian Festival, has announced dates for its stand-alone Iranian film season at the Filmhouse.

After the continued success and popularity of the Iranian film season, festival organisers have responded with another week of feature films screening this February. For the first time, the festival will also include a unique spotlight on animated short films made by Iranians living in and out of Iran.

Curated by Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz, Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, on the theme of 'Women Constructing Men', this season showcases a range of films made by Iranian female directors.

The season opens with the screening of Ida Panahandeh's second feature film, *Israfil*, which focuses on the emotional entanglements of its characters and takes on the challenge of narrating a love story within the restrictions imposed on Iranian cinema. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director and the screenwriter, Arsalan Amiri (subject to visa). Dr Pak-Shiraz will also lead the post-screening Q&A with both of them after *Nahid*, Panahandeh's debut feature film.

A screening of Tahmineh Milani's film, *Untaken Paths*, will also be followed by a Q&A with the director. The director addresses subjects such as women's rights in her films and is best known for her films *Two Women* and *Superstar*. Other titles being featured include *Tales* and *Gilaneh*, directed by the acclaimed Rakhshan Banietemad; Roqiyeh Tavakoli's *Mothering*; and Shirin Barghnavard's documentary film, *Poets of Life*, about the life of the rice-farmer, social activist and environmentalist Shirin Parsi.

For those interested in learning about women's engagement in Iranian cinema, Dr Pak-Shiraz will hold a pre-festival session, covering developments in both pre- and post-Revolutionary cinema. This is a free but ticketed event open to the public at the Filmhouse cinema on Saturday 17th February.

The season begins on Friday 23rd February 2018 and runs until Thursday 1st March. Tickets will be available directly from the Filmhouse cinema. Please check the website for updates. Full details of all films and timings can be found now on the festival website:

<http://www.ediranfest.co.uk/pages/film>

Notes to Editors

1. Tickets can be booked directly at the cinema from January. T: +(44) 131 228 2688, W: www.filmhousecinema.com
2. Further information can be found at <http://www.ediranfest.co.uk/pages/film>
3. **For interview requests, or further information, please contact Mahboobeh Shirkhorshidi at info@ediranfest.co.uk or by mobile on 07806655033**
4. Edinburgh Iranian Festival is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number SC044795
5. The Edinburgh Iranian Festival is entirely organised and run by volunteers