

# The Museum of Modern Art

*The Eye of Iran: Cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari*  
September 14–30, 2018  
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters  
Screening Schedule

**The Pear Tree.** 1998. Iran. Directed by Dariush Mehrjui. Screenplay by Dariush Mehrjui, Goli Taraghi. With Golshifteh Farahani, Homayoun Ershadi. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 95 min. Homayoun Ershadi (Taste of Cherry) plays a middle-aged intellectual who has returned to his childhood home in the countryside to write. As he suffers a bout of writer's block, he remembers his first crush, M, performed by a radiant Golshifteh Farahani (Paterson, About Elly) at the age of 14. Personal life is intertwined with tumultuous political events in this nostalgic picture, beautifully lensed by Mahmoud Kalari, who fills the screen with sensual imagery and gives each stage of the protagonist's life a distinct, ravishing visual identity. Directed by Dariush Mehrjui, one of the most enduring figures of Iranian cinema, who first became internationally known for his pioneering Iranian New Wave work *The Cow* (1969), *The Pear Tree* is a love poem to youth and memory.

Friday, September 14, 7:00 p.m. T2. **Introduced by Mahmoud Kalari**

Saturday, September 29, 4:00 p.m. T2

**Fish & Cat.** 2013. Iran. Directed by Shahram Mokri. With Babak Karimi, Shadi Karamroudi. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 134 min. An opening title card references the shutdown of a cannibal restaurant in 1998. What follows is a creepy trip of no return—rendered in one uninterrupted shot by cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari. Trapping the characters and the audience in a single take with no chance to escape, the hallucinatory nightmare is sustained over more than two hours with a constant sense of déjà vu and menace. This tour de force of form and storytelling is one of the most daring experimentations from Iran in recent memory.

Saturday, September 15, 4:00 p.m. T2. **Introduced by Mahmoud Kalari**

Sunday, September 30, 5:00 p.m. T2

**Gabbeh.** 1996. Iran. Written and directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. With Shaghayegh Djodat, Hossein Moharami, Roghieh Moharami. 35mm. In Persian; English subtitles. 75 min. The nomadic people of the Qashqai and Bakhtiari communities weave a colorful rug called Gabbeh. As filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf observed their life, what began as a documentary project turned into something else—more surreal than real. A beautiful young woman named Gabbeh has seemingly leapt out of a rug depicting two small figures: a woman and a horseman. She finds herself in front of an old couple and begins to tell them about her lover, the horseman, whom she wants to marry but must wait for her father's approval.

Cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari captures all the vivid colors that brighten life in this wondrous fable about a woman's desires.

Saturday, September 15, 7:30 p.m. T2

Sunday, September 23, 2:30 p.m. T2

**The Fish Fall in Love.** 2006. Iran. Written and directed by Ali Raffi. With Roya Nonahali, Reza Kianian, Golshifteh Farahani. 35mm. In Persian; English subtitles. 96 min. Aziz has been away from his home on the Caspian coast for two decades. His return is threatening to his former lover, Atieh, who has been running a popular restaurant in Aziz's old family house with her daughter, Touka. Will Aziz shut down the slice of heaven she has poured her heart and soul into? Trying to avoid the subject of the house, she prepares sumptuous feasts for Aziz night

after night. Juxtaposing this middle-aged pair's delicate connection is Touka's burning love affair with a young man.

Sunday, September 16, 2:30 p.m. T2

Friday, September 28, 4:30 p.m. T2

**A Separation.** 2011. Iran. Written and directed by Asghar Farhadi. With Leila Hatami, Peyman Moadi. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 123 min. Simin (Leila Hatami) and Nader (Peyman Moadi) live a comfortable life in Tehran, but Simin is determined to move overseas to bring up their daughter in a different environment. When Nader insists on staying in Iran to take care of his elderly father, divorce seems inevitable. While they are mired in legal proceedings, a chain of events leads them into yet another tangled mess involving a couple from a poor and deeply religious family. What first appears to be a domestic drama turns out to be a piercing, complex text on gender, class, religion, truth, and all that makes up life in modern Iran. Academy Award and Golden Globe winner for Best Foreign Language Film.

Sunday, September 16, 5:00 p.m. T2

Friday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. T2

**A Moment of Innocence.** 1996. Iran. Written and directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. With Mirhadi Tayyebi, Ali Bakhshi, Ammar Tafti, Mohsen Makhmalbaf. 35mm. In Persian; English subtitles. 78 min. Filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf was an anti-Shah radical during his teenage years before the Islamic Revolution. An attack on a Shah police officer landed him in jail for over four years. Two decades later, Makhmalbaf, whose political views have since evolved, re-creates this incident on screen with the help of the officer who survived the event. As the two appear in the film, playing themselves coaching young actors to reenact what took place, a labyrinth of fiction and nonfiction, conveyed in a nonlinear, elliptical style, addresses a tangled past and the befuddling nature of memory.

Monday, September 17, 7:00 p.m. T1

Saturday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. T2

**Offside.** 2006. Iran. Directed by Jafar Panahi. Screenplay by Panahi, Shadmehr Rastin. With Sima Mobarak-Shahi, Shayesteh Irani, Ayda Sadeqi. 35mm. In Persian; English subtitles. 93 min. Iranians are soccer-crazed but half of them—women—are banned from the stadiums. To cheer for their national team, those with means can travel abroad, but there is always another way for those creative and daring enough. Shot during the actual game between Iran and Bahrain to qualify for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, this fictional tale with a documentary touch focuses on several young women's comical attempts to sneak into Tehran's Azadi Stadium. The humorous tricks they deploy are in sharp contrast to the very real repression they suffer. Director Jafar Panahi (*The Circle*, *Crimson Gold*, *This Is Not a Film*), never one to shy away from provocative subjects, won the Berlin International Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize for this sharp-witted film.

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. T1

Sunday, September 30, 2:30 p.m. T1

**Cloud and the Rising Sun.** 1997. Iran. Written and directed by Mahmoud Kalari. With Amir Payvar, Mohammad Reza Sharifinia, Farshid Dehkhoda. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 78 min. For his directorial and writing debut, cinematographer Mahmoud Kalari turns to his most familiar subject: filmmaking. A small crew from Tehran is filming in the countryside. Just when they are ready to shoot the final scene, the weather refuses to cooperate. As if that's not enough of a problem, the lead actor suddenly abandons the shoot to attend to a family emergency. How far will the filmmakers go to accomplish their mission? Having worked on dozens of productions as a cinematographer, Kalari reflects on the absurd and comical

situations that befall filmmakers in this charming picture (on which he also served as cinematographer).

Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. T2

Wednesday, September 26, 4:30 p.m. T2

**Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine.** 2000. Iran. Written and directed by Bahman Farmanara. With Farmanara. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 93 min. Veteran director Bahman Farmanara, known for such pre-Islamic Revolution Iranian New Wave works as *Prince Ehtejab* (1974) and *Tall Shadows of the Wind* (1978), plays a character much like himself and also named Bahman: a filmmaker who is making his first film following a two-decade ban. As Bahman makes plans for a documentary on Iranian burial rites, he confronts his own mortality. This introspective, semi-autobiographical work is a poignant meditation on life and death and the challenges filmmakers face in Iran.

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. T2

**The Wind Will Carry Us.** 1999. Iran. Written and directed by Abbas Kiarostami. Based on an idea by Mahmoud Ayedin. With Behzad Dorani, Noghre Asadi, Roushan Karam Elmi. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 118 min. Behzad, an engineer from Tehran, has traveled to a remote Kurdish village with his colleagues on unknown business. They have heard that an old woman might die any day now, and hope to witness the burial and mourning rituals. While death hovers around the corner, Behzad gains perspectives on life and spirituality as he befriends the locals and experiences the majesty of nature. One of Abbas Kiarostami's most celebrated works, *The Wind Will Carry Us* contemplates the profound questions of life through the observation of the simplest existence. Winner of Venice International Film Festival's Special Jury Prize.

Friday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. T1

Thursday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. T1

**Leila.** 1996. Iran. Written and directed by Dariush Mehrjui. With Leila Hatami, Ali Mosaffa. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 129 min. Young, affluent, and in love, Leila and Reza live the life of a dream. When their doctor confirms Leila's infertility, the couple is convinced they can be equally happy with or without children. But when Leila's mother-in-law craftily, relentlessly badgers for her consent to accept a second wife for Reza, Leila begins to falter. Can this modern woman resist traditional expectations? Leila Hatami (*A Separation*) appears in her first leading role, powerfully conveying the heroine's quiet devastation.

Sunday, September 23, 5:00 p.m. T2

Saturday, September 29, 7:00 p.m. T2

**Pig.** 2018. Iran. Directed by Mani Haghighi. With Hasan Majuni, Leila Hatami, Leili Rashidi. DCP. In Persian; English subtitles. 108 min. One by one, well-known film directors have fallen victim to a mysterious serial killer. Blacklisted filmmaker Hasan (Hasan Majuni) is puzzled—and genuinely insulted—that he has not yet been targeted. As if his feelings are not hurt enough, his former lover and leading lady (Leila Hatami) has agreed to work with another director. Anger mixes with insecurity to turn Hasan into a whiny, delusional man-child. This black comedy looks at the world of filmmaking and censorship with a surreal, absurdist touch.

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m. T2