



Saving Film & Television for Future Generations

*UCLA Film & Television Archive and Farhang Foundation Present the Best of New Iranian Film
April 27 – May 11*

Annual [UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema](#) opens with the Los Angeles premiere of *Tehran: City of Love*, and includes restorations of two landmark Iranian New Wave films

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LOS ANGELES, CA (Apr. 15, 2019) – UCLA Film & Television Archive’s annual UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema—the first showcase for new Iranian films in the U.S.—marks its milestone third decade with a program that illuminates the latest cinematic trends with comedies and outright satires as well as gripping dramas and documentaries that explore the complex realities of Iran’s contemporary moment and the difficult history that shaped it.

All films originate from Iran and are in Persian with English subtitles.

The event continues to be a platform for exciting new voices in cinema, creating a dialogue that fosters cultural understanding. “Putting together the program for the UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema every year is a journey of discovery,” says Paul Malcolm, Film Programmer for UCLA Film & Television Archive. “This year I’m not only excited about sharing every individual film with our audience, but I am also very happy at the range of subject matter and genres that are in the lineup, from family dramas to romantic comedies to the overtly political satire in *Sly*. I think our audiences will be pleasantly surprised at what they will discover in this year’s selections.”

“We are delighted to once again join forces with the prestigious UCLA Film & Television Archive to help present this year’s Iranian film series,” says Alireza Ardekani, Executive Director of Farhang Foundation. “The Archive’s dedication and service to Iranian cinema over the last three decades is definitely commendable, and they should be applauded for what they have achieved in celebrating and showcasing the best in Iranian cinema with the entire community.”

The celebration begins on April 27 with an opening reception and the Los Angeles premiere of *Tehran: City of Love*, the second feature film by up-and-coming Iranian-Canadian filmmaker Ali Jaberansari. This playful study of three people looking for love in a city where individual liberties can’t be taken for granted, is an all-new view of Iran’s capital and confirmation that Jaberansari is an exciting new voice in contemporary Iranian cinema. The director is scheduled to appear at the screening. View the trailer [here](#).

The film series includes a **rare political satire—Kamal Tabrizi's *Sly***, screening April 28 at 3 p.m. This refreshingly open spoof lampoons former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Qodrat Allah Samadi (Hamed Behdad) is a man who dreams of high office while delivering fiery conservative speeches in his garage to a handful of oddball followers. His increasingly off-the-wall positions threaten to expose the corruption of the whole system. See the trailer [here](#).

Star director Payman Maadi, who wowed the UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema in 2014 with *Snow on the Pines*, will be at the screening of his second film ***Bomb, A Love Story* on May 10 at 7:30 p.m.** This ambitious film of epic scope captures 1980s life in Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war.

Sahar Khoshnam's documentary *III Fate* has its world premiere on May 11 at 3 p.m. The long-overdue look at the role and image of women in Iranian cinema from 1900 to the Revolution delves into rare and classic titles.

Los Angelenos can be the first in the country to see ***Sunset Truck*, which won the award for best script at Armenia's Golden Apricot International Film Festival last year.** When a family's desert holiday camp finds its clientele drying up, the youngest son drums up business with a Facebook campaign touting the world's most beautiful sunsets. Also in the lineup are the engaging winners of Farhang Foundation's 10th Annual Short Film Festival. These promising works reveal intimate aspects of Iranian life and issues.

The series ends with **two rarely screened landmark pre-revolution films that have been painstakingly restored. *The House Is Black* is by Forough Farrokhzad, who was one of Iran's leading contemporary poets when she started work on this short documentary about a leper colony in Tabriz.** This important work of lyrical power and humanity helped launch the Iranian New Wave in the decade before the revolution. ***Brick and Mirror*, writer-director Ebrahim Golestan's 1964 film,** has an urgent street-level feel. After a taxi driver drops off a woman passenger (played by Forough Farrokhzad), he discovers a baby abandoned in the back seat. Over a single long night, his search for the woman grows increasingly allegorical as it reveals a self-satisfied, corrupt urban elite and intellectual class unable to grasp the roots of its own demise.

Closing night includes two special guests—artist Sussan Deyhim and historian Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, who will share their insights into the work and lives of Farrokhzad and Golestan, who were close and intimate collaborators.

The complete schedule of films and tickets are available on the UCLA Film & Television Archive [website](#).

For films screening at the Billy Wilder Theater, located at the Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024:

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. shows, and 7 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. shows.

General admission tickets are \$10 each.

FARHANG OPENING VIP RECEPTION: Saturday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Hammer Museum, \$100; tickets available [here](#).

About Farhang Foundation

Farhang Foundation is a nonreligious, nonpolitical and nonprofit foundation established in 2008 to celebrate and promote Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large. The foundation supports a broad range of academic and cultural activities in Southern California by funding university programs, diverse cultural programs such as the celebrations of Nowruz, Shab-e Yalda as well as musical performances, film screenings and festivals in Southern California. For more info, visit www.farhang.org.

About UCLA Film & Television Archive

The mission of the UCLA Film & Television Archive is to save film and television for future generations.

The Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital.

A unit of UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, the Archive Research and Study Center provides free access to its holdings to researchers, writers and educators. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe, as well as locally at UCLA's Billy Wilder Theater.

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