

close up iranian film

Close Up Iranian Film has gained international recognition for its unique storytelling, poetic visuals, and profound exploration of social and cultural issues. Rooted in Iran's rich cinematic tradition, close-up films often blur the lines between reality and fiction, creating immersive experiences that resonate deeply with audiences worldwide. These films are celebrated for their ability to depict personal stories with universal themes, making them a significant part of Iran's contemporary cinematic landscape. In this article, we will explore what defines close-up Iranian films, their historical context, notable examples, and the elements that make them stand out on the global stage.

Understanding Close Up Iranian Film

Definition and Characteristics

Close-up Iranian films typically focus on intimate portrayals of characters, emphasizing personal stories that reflect broader societal issues. The term "close-up" refers not only to the camera technique—zooming in on faces or details—but also to the film's focus on personal narratives and emotional depth. These films often employ minimalist storytelling, poetic imagery, and a contemplative pace, inviting viewers to reflect on the nuances of human experience.

Key characteristics include:

- Intimate camera work that captures subtle expressions and gestures
- Use of real locations and non-professional actors to enhance authenticity
- Blurring of documentary and fiction styles
- Focus on social realism and human rights issues
- Poetic narration and symbolism

Historical Context

Iranian cinema has a storied history, with its roots tracing back to the pre-revolutionary era. However, it was after the 1979 Islamic Revolution that Iranian filmmakers began experimenting with storytelling techniques that would later define the close-up genre. The revolutionary period posed restrictions on artistic expression, leading filmmakers to develop subtle ways of conveying social critique and personal

stories.

The 1990s marked a golden age for Iranian cinema, with directors like Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, and Jafar Panahi pioneering a style characterized by poetic realism, philosophical depth, and a focus on everyday life. These filmmakers often used minimal equipment and locations, emphasizing authenticity and simplicity. Their work laid the foundation for what is now recognized globally as close-up Iranian film.

Notable Close Up Iranian Films

Several films have become iconic examples of the close-up Iranian style, showcasing the genre's diversity and depth.

1. Close-Up (1990) – Abbas Kiarostami

Often considered a masterpiece, "Close-Up" by Abbas Kiarostami employs a documentary approach to tell the true story of a man who impersonated a filmmaker. The film blurs the lines between reality and fiction, using real people and staged scenes to explore identity, deception, and societal perceptions. Its innovative narrative structure and poetic imagery exemplify the core of close-up Iranian cinema.

2. The Mirror (1997) – Jafar Panahi

This film features a young girl who attempts to leave her school, but her journey is complicated by the camera's perspective, which sometimes breaks the fourth wall. "The Mirror" employs a minimalist style, emphasizing the child's point of view and exploring themes of innocence and societal constraints.

3. Ten (2002) – Abbas Kiarostami

Set entirely inside a car, "Ten" captures conversations with women from various backgrounds, offering insights into Iranian society. The confined setting creates an intimate atmosphere, allowing viewers to connect deeply with the characters' personal stories and social realities.

4. Offside (2006) – Jafar Panahi

Focusing on young women trying to attend a football match illegally, "Offside" uses humor and satire to critique gender restrictions in Iran. The film's close-up shots and character-centric storytelling highlight individual struggles within oppressive systems.

Elements That Define Close Up Iranian Films

Several thematic and stylistic elements distinguish Iranian close-up films from other cinematic genres.

Authenticity and Realism

Iranian filmmakers often employ non-professional actors and real locations to root their stories in reality. This approach enhances authenticity and allows viewers to connect with genuine human experiences beyond theatrical portrayals.

Poetic and Symbolic Visuals

Despite their minimalist approach, these films are rich in symbolism, using visual metaphors to convey complex ideas about identity, morality, and society. The deliberate use of framing, lighting, and camera angles creates poetic imagery that elevates everyday scenes.

Focus on Social and Cultural Issues

Close-up Iranian films frequently address topics such as gender roles, social justice, censorship, and political repression. They serve as subtle forms of resistance and commentary, often navigating restrictions through allegory and layered storytelling.

Philosophical and Reflective Narratives

These films encourage viewers to ponder existential questions about truth, perception, and human nature. The slow pacing and contemplative tone foster introspection and emotional engagement.

Impact and Global Recognition

Iranian close-up films have achieved significant acclaim at international film festivals, including Cannes, Venice, and Berlin. Directors like Abbas Kiarostami and Jafar Panahi have received numerous awards, establishing Iran as a powerhouse of auteur cinema.

The global appreciation for these films stems from their universal themes, poetic storytelling, and innovative techniques. They challenge conventional narrative forms and demonstrate that powerful cinema can be created within restrictive environments.

Challenges and Future Directions

Despite their success, Iranian filmmakers face ongoing challenges, including censorship, limited access to international markets, and restrictions on filmmaking. Nevertheless, many continue to innovate, finding new ways to tell compelling stories under constraints.

Future trends in close-up Iranian cinema may include:

- Greater use of digital technology and online platforms for distribution
- Exploration of contemporary social issues like migration, technology, and youth culture
- Collaborations with international filmmakers to broaden reach
- Increased emphasis on personal narratives that reflect a changing Iran

Conclusion

Close up Iranian film remains a vital and influential genre within world cinema. Its emphasis on authenticity, poetic visuals, and social commentary has not only shaped Iran's cinematic identity but also resonated globally. Through the works of visionary directors like Abbas Kiarostami and Jafar Panahi, these films continue to inspire audiences and filmmakers alike, demonstrating the power of cinema to reflect human truth amid challenging circumstances. As Iranian filmmakers adapt to new realities and technological advancements, the future of close-up Iranian film promises to be as innovative and impactful as ever.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of the film 'Close Up' in Iranian cinema?

'Close Up' by Abbas Kiarostami is considered a masterpiece that blurs the line between documentary and fiction, offering a profound insight into identity and societal perceptions in Iran.

How does 'Close Up' reflect Iranian society and culture?

The film explores themes of social class, identity, and deception, providing a nuanced portrayal of Iranian society through a real-life story that questions notions of authenticity and truth.

Why is 'Close Up' often regarded as a turning point in Iranian filmmaking?

It marked a shift towards more experimental and introspective storytelling in Iran, inspiring filmmakers to explore complex social issues with a blend of realism and artistic innovation.

What are the unique cinematic techniques used in 'Close Up'?

Kiarostami employs a documentary style with naturalistic acting, handheld camera work, and direct interviews, creating an immersive experience that challenges traditional narrative forms.

Has 'Close Up' received international recognition?

Yes, 'Close Up' has been celebrated worldwide, winning awards at various film festivals and being included in numerous 'best films' lists, solidifying its status as a global cinematic milestone.

How does 'Close Up' compare to other Iranian films in terms of style and themes?

'Close Up' stands out for its hybrid documentary-fiction approach, focusing on real people and events, while many other Iranian films tend to emphasize poetic realism and social critique.

What influence has 'Close Up' had on contemporary Iranian filmmakers?

It has inspired a new generation of directors to experiment with blending genres, explore social issues openly, and adopt a more personal and poetic style in their storytelling.

Are there any modern remakes or adaptations of 'Close Up'?

While no direct remakes exist, the film's themes and innovative approach continue to influence contemporary filmmakers both within Iran and internationally, inspiring similar blending of documentary and fiction.

Where can I watch 'Close Up' online or in theaters?

'Close Up' is available on various streaming platforms that feature classic and international films, and occasionally screened at film festivals or specialty cinemas dedicated to world cinema.

Additional Resources

Close Up Iranian Film: An In-Depth Exploration of Abbas Kiarostami's Masterpiece

Introduction

Close Up is a seminal work in Iranian cinema and a defining piece in the oeuvre of Abbas Kiarostami. Released in 1990, this film blurs the boundaries between documentary and fiction, examining themes of identity, perception, and the nature of truth. Renowned for its innovative storytelling and profound philosophical inquiry, Close Up stands as a testament to Kiarostami's mastery and the rich cinematic tradition of Iran.

Background and Context

The Cultural and Political Landscape of Iran in the 1990s

To understand Close Up fully, one must consider Iran's socio-political environment during the late 20th century. Post-1979 Islamic Revolution Iran was navigating new cultural terrains, with filmmakers often pushing boundaries despite strict censorship.

- Censorship and Artistic Expression: Iranian filmmakers faced significant restrictions, which often led to creative storytelling techniques.
- Emergence of Iranian New Wave: Kiarostami was a pivotal figure in this movement, emphasizing poetic visuals, minimalism, and philosophical depth.
- Cinema as a Reflection of Society: Films often explored themes of identity, social justice, and human nature within Iran's complex societal fabric.

Abbas Kiarostami: A Brief Biography

- Background: Born in 1940 in Tehran, Kiarostami initially studied painting before transitioning into filmmaking.
- Style and Philosophy: His films often combine realism with poetic imagery, emphasizing natural elements and human stories.
- Influence: Kiarostami's work influenced global cinema and inspired generations of filmmakers worldwide.

The Narrative and Structure of Close Up

Plot Overview

Close Up tells the extraordinary true story of a young man, Sabzian, who impersonates the renowned

Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf to infiltrate a family's life, claiming he will make a film with their permission. The film reconstructs this event through a blend of documentary footage, reenactments, and interviews.

- The Incident: Sabzian befriends a family, convincing them he is a famous director.
- The Consequences: The family's trust leads to legal action, and Sabzian's motives are explored.
- The Reconstruction: Kiarostami reconstructs the events with the actual participants, blurring factual and fictional boundaries.

Narrative Techniques

- Non-linear storytelling: The film unfolds in a layered manner, oscillating between real interviews and dramatized reenactments.
- Meta-cinema: The film comments on filmmaking itself—its authenticity, the nature of performance, and perception.
- Multiple perspectives: By presenting interviews with the family, Sabzian, and Kiarostami himself, the film offers diverse viewpoints.

Themes and Artistic Significance

Identity and Reality

Close Up probes the fluidity of identity—how a person's self-perception can be manipulated or constructed through social roles or external perceptions.

- Impersonation and Authenticity: Sabzian's impersonation raises questions about what constitutes true identity.
- Self-Perception: The film explores how individuals perceive themselves versus how others perceive them.

The Power of Cinema

Kiarostami emphasizes cinema's ability to depict truth, memory, and perception.

- Film as Reflection: The reconstructed scenes serve as a mirror to real events, questioning the reliability of storytelling.
- Fiction and Reality: By intertwining documentary and fiction, Kiarostami demonstrates that truth in cinema is multifaceted.

Social Commentary

The film subtly critiques societal structures, perceptions of class, and the role of art and fame in Iranian society.

- Class and Aspirations: Sabzian's desire to escape his social reality through cinema highlights aspirations beyond his reach.
- Cultural Identity: The film examines how cultural icons (like Makhmalbaf) influence personal identity and aspirations.

Cinematic Techniques and Aesthetic Choices

Visual Style

- Minimalist Composition: Kiarostami often employs static shots and simple framing, focusing on faces and everyday environments.
- Natural Lighting: Use of natural light enhances the realism and intimacy of scenes.
- Close-Ups: The title itself emphasizes the importance of close-up shots, capturing emotional nuances.

Sound Design

- Sparse use of music allows natural sounds and dialogue to carry emotional weight.
- Voiceovers and interviews are integrated seamlessly, maintaining a documentary feel.

Editing and Pacing

- Slow, deliberate pacing invites viewers to contemplate each scene deeply.
- Juxtaposition of reenactments with interview footage creates a layered narrative texture.

The Role of Reenactments and Documentary Elements

Close Up is notable for its innovative approach to blending documentary and fiction.

- Reenactments: The film reconstructs events with the actual participants, blurring the line between reality and performance.
- Interviews: Real interviews with the family and Sabzian provide authenticity and multiple perspectives.
- Self-Reflexivity: Kiarostami includes himself in the film, discussing the filmmaking process, adding a meta-cinematic dimension.

This hybrid form challenges traditional documentary conventions, prompting viewers to question the nature of truth in storytelling.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Global Acclaim

Close Up received widespread critical praise for its inventive storytelling, philosophical depth, and emotional resonance.

- It is often regarded as one of the greatest films ever made, especially within Iranian cinema.
- The film's approach influenced documentary filmmaking and the broader art of storytelling.

Awards and Recognitions

- It won several awards at international festivals, including the FIPRESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival.
- The film was included in numerous "best of" lists and academic discussions.

Influence on Iranian and World Cinema

- Close Up helped elevate Iranian cinema on the global stage, showcasing its unique narrative style and thematic concerns.
- The film's blending of reality and fiction inspired filmmakers worldwide to experiment with hybrid cinematic forms.

Thematic and Philosophical Impact

Kiarostami's Close Up prompts enduring questions:

- What is truth in cinema?
- How do perceptions shape reality?
- Can identity be reconstructed through storytelling?
- What is the role of art in understanding human nature?

By engaging with these questions, the film remains relevant and thought-provoking decades after its release.

Conclusion

Close Up Iranian Film exemplifies the depth and ingenuity of Iranian cinema and Abbas Kiarostami's visionary filmmaking. Its innovative blend of documentary and fiction, profound thematic explorations, and poetic aesthetic make it a timeless masterpiece. The film challenges audiences to reconsider notions of truth, identity, and the power of storytelling, securing its place as a cornerstone of world cinema.

Whether viewed as a documentary, a drama, or a philosophical meditation, Close Up continues to inspire and provoke discussions about the nature of reality and the art of filmmaking. Its influence persists across generations, ensuring its legacy as a pivotal work in the history of Iranian and global cinema.

Close Up Iranian Film

close up iranian film: Close Up Hamid Dabashi, 2001-11-17 Arguing that Iranian cinema has emerged as the staple of cultural currency that defies the logic of nativism and challenges the problems of globalization, Dabashi (Iranian studies, Columbia U.) concentrates on the contributions on four key filmmakers, presenting critical readings of their work and interviews with a couple of his subjects. An introductory chapter seeks to place Iranian cinema in the context of modernity. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

close up iranian film: Close Up Hamid Dabashi, 2001 Abbas Kiarostami planted Iran firmly on the map of world cinema when he won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival for his film A Taste of Cherry in 1997. In this book Hamid Dabashi examines the growing reputation of Iranian cinema from its origins in the films of Kimiyai and Mehrjui, through the work of established directors such as Kiarostami, Beyzai and Bani-Etemad, to young filmmakers like Samira Makhmalbaf and Bahman Gholami, who triumphed at the Cannes 2000 festival. Dabashi combines exclusive interviews with directors, detailed and insightful commentary, critical cultural context, an extensive filmography, and generous illustration to provide an indispensable guide to a globally celebrated but little-studied cinematic genre. Book jacket.

close up iranian film: Abbas Kiarostami and Iranian National Cinema Hossein Khosrowjahi, 2005-02-20 The films of Abbas Kiarostami (1940-2016) are at once ambiguous and singular, challenging easy categorisation in national, generic, and formal terms. In this insightful study, Hossein Khosrowjahi provides an in-depth exploration of Kiarostami's body of work, considering how his filmmaking confronts questions of cinematic representation, identity, and the myth of national unity. Challenging prevailing auteurist readings of Kiarostami's work, Hossein Khosrowjahi firmly anchors his filmmaking within the historical context of Iranian national cinema. Through a close reading of key films, including Close-Up (1990), Taste of Cherry (1997), The Wind Will Carry Us (1999), and 10 (2002), he explores Kiarostami's radically anti-allegorical representational strategies. He goes on to examine the national and global circulation of his films, considering the role of censorship within Iran and the intersection of art, politics and the complexities of creative freedom. He traces the continuing emphasis on partiality and the singularity of representations-of subjects, time, and location-across Kiarostami's films, arguing that it is through this intentional ambiguity that his cinema reshapes notions of nation and national identity, challenges conventions and broadens the scope for cinematic expression.

close up iranian film: Abbas Kiarostami Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, Jonathan Rosenbaum, 2018-03-01 Before his death in 2016, Abbas Kiarostami wrote or directed more than thirty films in a career that mirrored Iranian cinema's rise as an international force. His 1997 feature Taste of Cherry made him the first Iranian filmmaker to win the Palme d'Or at Cannes. Critics' polls continue to place Close-Up (1990) and Through the Olive Trees (1994) among the masterpieces of world

cinema. Yet Kiarostami's naturalistic impulses and winding complexity made him one of the most divisive—if influential—filmmakers of his time. In this expanded second edition, award-winning Iranian filmmaker Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa and film critic Jonathan Rosenbaum renew their illuminating cross-cultural dialogue on Kiarostami's work. The pair chart the filmmaker's late-in-life turn toward art galleries, museums, still photography, and installations. They also bring their distinct but complementary perspectives to a new conversation on the experimental film *Shirin*. Finally, Rosenbaum offers an essay on watching Kiarostami at home while Saeed-Vafa conducts a deeply personal interview with the director on his career and his final feature, *Like Someone in Love*.

close up iranian film: *Directory of World Cinema: Iran 2* Parviz Jahed, 2017-03-01 Working at the intersection of religion and ever-shifting political, economic and social environments, Iranian cinema has produced some of the most critically lauded films in the world today. The first volume in the *Directory of World Cinema: Iran* turned the spotlight on the award-winning cinema of Iran, with particular attention to the major genres and movements, historical turning points and prominent figures that have helped shape it. Considering a wide range of genres, including Film Farsi, New Wave, war film, art house film and women's cinema, the book was greeted with enthusiasm by film studies scholars, students working on alternative or national cinema and fans and aficionados of Iranian film. Building on the momentum and influence of its predecessor, *Directory of World Cinema: Iran 2* will be welcomed by all seeking an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to Iranian cinema.

close up iranian film: *Veiled Voices in Postrevolutionary Iranian Cinema* Raha Shojaei, 2025-06-09 This book examines the vocal presence of women in postrevolutionary Iranian cinema. The research explores the concept of the veiled voice, which conceals the bodily aspects of the voice and suppresses its discursive elements. Studying the veiling of women's voices in New Iranian Cinema, how they relate to authoritative voices, and their limitations in cinematic spaces, the book addresses the detachment of women's voices from their bodies in some films. The book argues that this detachment is often used as a feminist strategy to bypass constraints on female portrayal on camera. The book dissects how these voices are often marginalized within the cinematic space, either structurally, narratively, or due to patriarchal adherence. It also discusses the concept of the acousmatic voice, particularly in the context of Iranian cinema, where the female voice-off is used as a spatial veil, contributing to the marginalization of women. Although Michael Chion's concept of the *acousmètre* is based on classic Hollywood cinema, this book shows that the mere presence of an off-screen voice does not ensure a predictable impact in the filmic world. In New Iranian Cinema, influenced by factors like modesty rules, the off-screen voice untethered to a body can serve as a presentational strategy rather than just a cinematic narrational device. The book also investigates the unveiling of the female voice as a subject of aesthetic admiration and desire within the cinematic realm, navigating censorship through religious and cinematic elements and explores how cinematic spaces manipulate the presence and embodiment of the unveiled voice to avoid revealing its true source. The book is also informed by the author's experience as the first woman sound designer working in the Iranian film industry.

close up iranian film: *Reform Cinema in Iran* Blake Atwood, 2016-11-08 It is nearly impossible to separate contemporary Iranian cinema from the Islamic revolution that transformed film production in the country in the late 1970s. As the aims of the revolution shifted and hardened once Khomeini took power and as an eight-year war with Iraq dragged on, Iranian filmmakers confronted new restrictions. In the 1990s, however, the Reformist Movement, led by Mohammad Khatami, and the film industry, developed an unlikely partnership that moved audiences away from revolutionary ideas and toward a discourse of reform. In *Reform Cinema in Iran*, Blake Atwood examines how new industrial and aesthetic practices created a distinct cultural and political style in Iranian film between 1989 and 2007. Atwood analyzes a range of popular, art, and documentary films. He provides new readings of internationally recognized films such as Abbas Kiarostami's *Taste of Cherry* (1997) and Mohsen Makhmalbaf's *Time for Love* (1990), as well as those by Rakhshan Bani, Masud Kiami, and other key Iranian directors. At the same time, he also considers how filmmakers

and the film industry were affected by larger political and religious trends that took shape during Mohammad Khatami's presidency (1997-2005). Atwood analyzes political speeches, religious sermons, and newspaper editorials and pays close attention to technological developments, particularly the rise of video, to determine their role in democratizing filmmaking and realizing the goals of political reform. He concludes with a look at the legacy of reform cinema, including films produced under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose neoconservative discourse rejected the policies of reform that preceded him.

close up iranian film: Abbas Kiarostami and Iranian National Cinema Hossein Khosrowjah, 2025-02-20 The films of Abbas Kiarostami (1940-2016) are at once ambiguous and singular, challenging easy categorisation in national, generic, and formal terms. In this insightful study, Hossein Khosrowjah provides an in-depth exploration of Kiarostami's body of work, considering how his filmmaking confronts questions of cinematic representation, identity, and the myth of national unity. Challenging prevailing auteurist readings of Kiarostami's work, Hossein Khosrowjah firmly anchors his filmmaking within the historical context of Iranian national cinema. Through a close reading of key films, including *Close-Up* (1990), *Taste of Cherry* (1997), *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999), and *10* (2002), he explores Kiarostami's radically anti-allegorical representational strategies. He goes on to examine the national and global circulation of his films, considering the role of censorship within Iran and the intersection of art, politics and the complexities of creative freedom. He traces the continuing emphasis on partiality and the singularity of representations-of subjects, time, and location-across Kiarostami's films, arguing that it is through this intentional ambiguity that his cinema reshapes notions of nation and national identity, challenges conventions and broadens the scope for cinematic expression.

close up iranian film: The Movie Critic's Guide to the Best Films Pasquale De Marco, 2025-07-15 In the world of cinema, where dreams take flight and stories come to life, there exists a guide that unlocks the secrets of cinematic excellence. Welcome to *The Movie Critic's Guide to the Best Films*, the ultimate companion for film enthusiasts, aspiring critics, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the art form that has captivated generations. Within these pages, you'll embark on a cinematic odyssey, exploring the elements that elevate a motion picture from mere entertainment to enduring art. You'll learn how to analyze story structure, character development, cinematography, editing, and music, and discover the techniques that filmmakers employ to weave their cinematic spells. You'll traverse the vast landscape of genres and subgenres, from the heart-pounding thrills of action and adventure to the side-splitting laughter of comedy, the poignant depths of drama, and the chilling suspense of horror. You'll venture beyond the borders of Hollywood, exploring the rich tapestry of international cinema, uncovering hidden gems from around the globe that offer unique perspectives and challenge your preconceived notions of storytelling. You'll delve into the intricate relationship between film and society, examining the profound impact that movies have on culture, politics, and education. You'll explore the delicate balance between artistic expression and societal norms, and gain a deeper understanding of the role that film plays in shaping our world. You'll also venture into the future of film, pondering the implications of new technologies, the rise of streaming services, and the ever-changing landscape of cinematic consumption. You'll gain insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the film industry, and explore the ways in which film continues to evolve and adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing world. Whether you're a seasoned film buff or just starting to explore the world of cinema, *The Movie Critic's Guide to the Best Films* is your essential guide. With its engaging writing style, insightful analysis, and comprehensive coverage of all aspects of film, this book will enrich your understanding and appreciation of the art form that has captured the hearts and minds of millions. If you like this book, write a review!

close up iranian film: *Media, Culture and Society in Iran* Mehdi Semati, 2007-09-24 By exploring topics such as the Internet, print press, advertising, satellite television, video, rock music, literature, cinema, gender, religious intellectuals, and secularism, this unique and wide-ranging volume explains Iran as a complex society that has successfully managed to negotiate and embody

the tensions of tradition and modernity, democracy and theocracy, isolation and globalization, and other such cultural-political dynamics that escape the explanatory and analytical powers of all-too-familiar binary relations. Featuring contributions from among the best-known and emerging scholars on Iranian media, culture, society, and politics, this volume uncovers how the existing perspectives on post-revolutionary Iranian society have failed to appreciate the complexity, the paradoxes and the contradictions that characterize life in contemporary Iran, resulting in a general failure to explain and to anticipate its contemporary social and political transformations.

close up iranian film: Allegory in Iranian Cinema Michelle Langford, 2019-07-25 Iranian filmmakers have long been recognised for creating a vibrant, aesthetically rich cinema whilst working under strict state censorship regulations. As Michelle Langford reveals, many have found indirect, allegorical ways of expressing forbidden topics and issues in their films. But for many, allegory is much more than a foil against haphazardly applied censorship rules. Drawing on a long history of allegorical expression in Persian poetry and the arts, allegory has become an integral part of the poetics of Iranian cinema. Allegory in Iranian Cinema explores the allegorical aesthetics of Iranian cinema, explaining how it has emerged from deep cultural traditions and how it functions as a strategy for both supporting and resisting dominant ideology. As well as tracing the roots of allegory in Iranian cinema before and after the 1979 revolution, Langford also theorizes this cinematic mode. She draws on a range of cinematic, philosophical and cultural concepts - developed by thinkers such as Walter Benjamin, Gilles Deleuze, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Christian Metz and Vivian Sobchack - to provide a theoretical framework for detailed analyses of films by renowned directors of the pre-and post-revolutionary eras including Masoud Kimiai, Dariush Mehrjui, Ebrahim Golestan, Kamran Shirdel, Majid Majidi, Jafar Panahi, Marziyeh Meshkini, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Rakhshan Bani-Etemad and Asghar Farhadi. Allegory in Iranian Cinema explains how a centuries-old means of expression, interpretation, encoding and decoding becomes, in the hands of Iran's most skilled cineastes, a powerful tool with which to critique and challenge social and cultural norms.

close up iranian film: Iranian Cinema in a Global Context Peter Decherney, Blake Atwood, 2014-09-15 Iranian films have been the subject of much critical and scholarly attention over the past several decades, and Iranian filmmakers are mainstays of international film festivals. Yet most of the attention has been focused on a small segment of Iranian film production: auteurist art cinema. Iranian Cinema in a Global Context, on the other hand, takes account of the wide range of Iranian cinema, from popular youth films to low budget underground films. The volume also reassesses the global circulation of Iranian art cinema, looking at its reception at international festivals, in university curricula, and at the Academy Awards. A final theme of the volume explores the intersection between politics and film, with essays on post-Khatami reform influences, representations of ineffective drug policies, and the representation of Jewish characters in Iranian film. Taken together, the essays in this volume present a new definition of the field of Iranian film studies, one that engages global media flows, transmedia interaction, and a heterogeneous Iranian national cinema.

close up iranian film: *Iran* Hamid Dabashi, 2007

close up iranian film: *Women in the Cinemas of Iran and Turkey* Gönül Dönmez-Colin, 2019-07-19 This volume compares the cinemas of Iran and Turkey in terms of the presence and absence of women on both sides of the camera. From a critical point of view, it provides detailed readings of works by both male and female film-makers, emphasizing issues facing women's film-making. Presenting an overview of the modern histories of the two neighbouring countries, the study traces certain similarities and contrasts, particularly in the reception, adaption and representation of Western modernity and cinema. This is followed by the exploration of the images of women on screen with attention to minority women, investigating post-traumatic cinema's approaches to women (Islamic Revolution of 1979 in Iran and the 1980 coup d'état in Turkey) and women's interpretations of post-traumatic experiences. Furthermore, the representations of sexualities and LGBTI identities within cultural, traditional and state-imposed restrictions are also discussed. Investigating border-crossing in physical and metaphorical terms, the research explores

the hybridities in the artistic expressions of 'deterritorialized' film-makers negotiating loyalties to both vatan (motherland) and the adopted country. This comprehensive analysis of the cinemas of Iran and Turkey, based on extensive research, fieldwork, interviews and viewing of countless films is a key resource for students and scholars interested in film, gender and cultural studies and the Middle East.

close up iranian film: Culture on Two Wheels Jeremy Withers, Daniel P. Shea, 2016 Bicycles have more cultural identities than many realize, functioning not only as literal vehicles in a text but also as vehicles for that text's themes, ideas, and critiques. In the late nineteenth century the bicycle was seen as a way for the wealthy urban elite to reconnect with nature and for women to gain a measure of personal freedom, while during World War II it became a utilitarian tool of the French Resistance and in 1970s China stood for wealth and modernization. Lately it has functioned variously as the favored ideological steed of environmentalists, a means of community bonding and aesthetic self-expression in hip hop, and the ride of choice for bike messenger-idolizing urban hipsters. *Culture on Two Wheels* analyzes the shifting cultural significance of the bicycle by examining its appearances in literary, musical, and cinematic works spanning three continents and more than 125 years of history. Bringing together essays by a variety of cyclists and scholars with myriad angles of approach, this collection highlights the bicycle's flexibility as a signifier and analyzes the appearance of bicycles in canonical and well-known texts such as Samuel Beckett's modernist novel *Molloy*, the Oscar-winning film *Breaking Away*, and various Stephen King novels and stories, as well as in lesser-known but equally significant texts, such as the celebrated Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky's film *Sacrifice* and Elizabeth Robins Pennell's nineteenth-century travelogue *A Canterbury Pilgrimage*, the latter of which traces the route of Chaucer's pilgrims via bicycle. --

close up iranian film: Cinematic Homecomings Rebecca Prime, 2016-05-19 The history of cinema charts multiple histories of exile. From the German émigrés in 1930s Hollywood to today's Iranian filmmakers in Europe and the United States, these histories continue to exert a profound influence on the evolution of cinematic narratives and aesthetics. But while the effect of exile and diaspora on film practice has been fruitfully explored from both historical and contemporary perspectives, the issues raised by return, whether literal or metaphorical, have yet to be fully considered. *Cinematic Homecomings* expands upon existing studies of transnational cinema by addressing the questions raised by reverse migration and the return home in a variety of historical and national contexts, from postcolonialism to post-Communism. By looking beyond exile, the contributors offer a multidirectional perspective on the relationship between migration, mobility, and transnational cinema. 'Narratives of return' are among the most popular themes of the contemporary cinema of countries ranging from Morocco to Cuba to the Soviet Union. This speaks to both the sociocultural reality of reverse migration and to its significance on the imagination of the nation.

close up iranian film: Women Screenwriters Jill Neldes, Jule Selbo, 2015-09-29 *Women Screenwriters* is a study of more than 300 female writers from 60 nations, from the first film scenarios produced in 1986 to the present day. Divided into six sections by continent, the entries give an overview of the history of women screenwriters in each country, as well as individual biographies of its most influential.

close up iranian film: Historical Dictionary of Middle Eastern Cinema Terri Ginsberg, Chris Lippard, 2020-09-15 To a substantial degree cinema has served to define the perceived character of the peoples and nations of the Middle East. This book covers the production and exhibition of the cinema of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, and Bahrain, as well as the non-Arab states of Turkey and Iran, and the Jewish state of Israel. This second edition of *Historical Dictionary of Middle Eastern Cinema* contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 500 cross-referenced entries on individual films, filmmakers, actors, significant historical figures, events, and concepts, and the countries themselves. It also covers the

range of cinematic modes from documentary to fiction, representational to animation, generic to experimental, mainstream to avant-garde, and entertainment to propaganda. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Middle Eastern cinema.

close up iranian film: A Social History of Iranian Cinema, Volume 4 Hamid Naficy, 2011
In the fourth and final volume of A History of Iranian Cinema, Hamid Naficy looks at the extraordinary efflorescence in Iranian film and other visual media since the Islamic Revolution.

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