PERSIAN LANGUAGE FILMS IN THE UCSB LIBRARY COLLECTION

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Features

Adam-i barfi = The Snow Man
“A young Iranian man disguises himself as a woman in order to get an American visa as the wife of an American man.”
Media Collection PN 1997.A298 2002

Afsaid = Offside
“During the 2006 Iran-Bahrain match, the Tehran soccer stadium roars with 100,000 cheering men and, officially, no women. According to Islamic custom, women are not permitted to watch or participate in men’s sports. Many of the ambitious young female fans who manage to sneak into the arena are caught and sent to a holding pen, guarded by male soldiers their own age. Duty makes these young men and women adversaries, but duty can’t overcome their shared dreams, their mutual attraction, and ultimately their overriding sense of national pride and humanity.”

Afsanah-i Ah = The Legend of the Sigh
“According to legend, Ah is a handsome young man who materializes to succor those in need whenever he hears a heartfelt sigh. Milani’s protagonist is a woman novelist suffering from writer's block who, with the help of Ah, experiences the lives of four women unable to leave the house without their husband's permission.”

Akvariyum = Aquarium

’Arus-i farari = Runaway Bride
[Bita Films, 2005] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Bahram Kazemi
“Just before her wedding a woman finds out that the groom is already married. After the bride’s father rents a groom for her wedding night to prevent any family disaster, she leaves to get revenge with her unfaithful husband to be.”
Media Collection PN1997.A7656 2005
‘Arusi-i khuban = The Marriage of the Blessed
[Farabi Cinema, 2001] (70 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Muhsin Makhmalbaf
“Haji, a shell-shocked veteran of the Iran-Iraq war, struggles to find meaning in his life when he returns to his job as a photojournalist. Disturbed by the contrast between the soldiers sacrificing their lives and the indifference of the local population of Tehran, he sinks into depression. Mehri, his fiancee, hopes to speed his recovery by hastening their wedding, but they find they must defy the hypocrisies of their families and authorities as they strive to create a life together.”
Media Collection PN1997.A7858 2001

Ashk-i sarma
“The story of a soldier expert at defusing mines and a Kurdish shepherdess. Set in the chilly border zone of Kurdistan, the soldier keeps defusing mines while the girl keeps helping guerrillas lay them.”
Media Collection PN1997.A77 2006

Avaz-i gunjishk’ha = The Song of Sparrows
“After being let go from his job on an ostrich farm a man leaves his small village to find work in the big city. As a motorcycle taxi driver, he soon becomes consumed with his passengers’ lives, and is swept up in a world of greed. Now it is up to his family back home to help restore his caring and generous nature.”

Ayinah = The Mirror
"When a young girl becomes lost in the hustle and bustle of Tehran, her journey turns into a dazzling exercise on the nature of film itself."
Media Collection PN1997.A977 2005

Az Karkhah ta Rayn = From Karkheh to Rhein
[IranianMovies.com, 200?] Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Ebrahim Hatimikia
Media Collection PN1997 .A99 2000z

Baba ‘Aziz: the Prince Who Contemplated His Soul
"The story of a blind dervish named Bab’Aziz and his spirited granddaughter, Ishtar. Together they wander the desert in search of a great reunion of dervishes that takes place just once every thirty years. With faith as their only guide, the two journey for days through the expansive, barren landscape. To keep Ishtar entertained, Bab’Aziz relays the ancient tale of a prince who relinquished his realm. As the tale of the prince unfolds, the two encounter other travelers with stories of their own"
Media Collection PN1997.2.B323 2008
**Bachah’ha-yi asman = Children of Heaven**  
“A young boy, Ali, loses his sister Zahra’s school shoes. In order to stay out of trouble, the two come up with a plan to share Ali’s shoes, but they must keep it a secret from their parents.”  

**Bad Ma’ra Khvahad Burd = The Wind Will Carry Us**  
[Arab Film Dist., 2002; orig. release 1994] (118 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Abbas Kiarustami  
“A filmmaker from Tehran travels to a remote mountain village secretly planning to record a local ritual ceremony surrounding an old dying woman. Upon arrival, his crew is met by Farzad, a young boy from the town who at first becomes their guide but ultimately becomes their informant on the fate of the old woman. Convincing the locals that they are archaeologists looking for buried treasure, the filmmaker attempts to befriend them with mixed results. As the rustling wind, golden light and deep shadows of the village cast an alluring spell, the deathwatch drags on and the woman stubbornly clings to life, leaving the crew impatient.”  
Media Collection PN1997.B19575 2002

**Badkunak-i Safid = The White Balloon**  
“Simple and spare yet filled with observant detail, it’s a mild, beguiling movie about a 7-year-old girl's tenacious quest to buy a cherished goldfish for her family's New Year's Day celebration. With an almost miraculous ability to capture moments and reality unhindered by the presence of a camera and crew, Panahi handles this seemingly trivial story as a child’s emotional odyssey, set amidst the daily rhythms of Teheran as a city where kindness and cruelty can be found in close proximity.”  

**Banu-yi Urdibihisht = The May Lady**  
[Iranian Movies, 2003?] (95 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Rakhshan Bani-Eternad  
“A successful documentary filmmaker lives with her teenage son. Her family life is beset with problems, which become more complicated when she meets a man. At the same time, she is making a film on exemplary mothers. Finishing the film would seem to provide answers for her personal life.”  
Media Collection PN1997 .B368 2003

**Baran**  
“The story of illegal Afghan immigrants living and working at a construction site in Tehran, Iran. When one of the workers is injured, his daughter, posing as a man, becomes...
the breadwinner. But a hot-headed 17 year-old local youth also working at the site
discovers the secret.”
Media Collection PN1997.2 B37 2002

_Bashu, gharibah-yi kuchak = Bashu, the Little Stranger_
Bahram Bayza’i
“Little Bashu loses his home and family in an air raid and stows away on a truck going to
a region far away from the battle fronts. In this alien environment everything seems
strange to the boy. Nai, a woman whose husband has gone on a journey, finds Bashu in
her farm and gives him shelter. After Bashu tells her of his past life, Nai accepts him as a
son and tries to initiate him into the ways of life in the region. When Nai’s husband
returns home he approves of his wife’s decision and adopts Bashu.”

_Baysikilran = The Cyclist_
Dir. Muhsin Makhmalbaf
"A visually sophisticated film which deals with the themes of man's exploitation of man
and the inequities between rich and poor. The cyclist is Nassim, an Afghan refugee in
need of money to pay his wife's medical expenses. With work difficult to come by, a
sleazy promoter suggests he undertake a bicycle marathon. Touting him as the Afghani
superman, the huckster wagers that Nassim will circle a small area on the outskirts of
town, day and night, for a week. Gamblers, bookies and food vendors gather to watch the
desperate cyclist from the sidelines, turning his suffering to their own profit."

_Bihtarin’ha-yi Vahdat-Arham Sadr = 7 Arham and Vahdad Films_
Contains: 1. Vadang - - 2. Man mikhavam - - [3]. Yak dil va du dilbar - -
Tavalludat Mubarak

_20 angusht_
[IranianMovies.com, 2007] (75 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mania
Akbari
“Seven vignettes, featuring the same two actors as different characters, explore the
heartbreak and joy of relationships. Some problems are universal, while others reveal the
harsh realities of modern-day Iran, especially for women.”

_Chahar shanbah-i suri_
[Facets, 2008] (104 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Asghar Farhadi
“All of Tehran is preparing to celebrate the traditional New Year with the festival of fire,
which falls on the last Tuesday night before the official New Year begins. A young
woman named Rouhi is employed by a young couple to clean their house. Sweet and naive, Rouhi is engaged to be married, but her innocence is shattered when she finds her employers’ household in crisis over accusations of infidelity.”

Media Collection PN1997.C422 2008

_Dar shahr khabari nist, hast!_ [Javanah, 2000] (103 min) Persian with Iranian subtitles. Iran. Dir. Reza Khatibi

Media Collection PN1997 .D3136 2000


"Shockingly forthright in its view of the social and economic problems of the post-Shah era, this film uses a different cameraman and different style for each of three short tales set among the poor of contemporary Tehran. The first episode follows a kindly but naive couple who want someone to adopt their newborn daughter. The second, an astonishing mix of absurdist comedy and the supernatural, concerns a mentally unstable man who lives with his mother in a ramshackle apartment. The final section draws on the American gangster film to show the last hours of a peddler suspected of betraying his friends."

Media Collection PN1997.D3165 2000


"Various women struggle to function in the oppressively sexist society of contemporary Iran."

Media Collection PN1997.D337 2001


“A pretty but poor young girl gets into a fender bender with her father’s car. She solicits the help of her savvy friend who sells bootleg videos in an upscale condo building. Their adventures and misadventures with the residents are comedic.”

Media Collection PN1997 .D3373 2008

_Dirakht-i gulabi = The Pear Tree_ [Javaneh Pooya, 2004] (94 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Daryush Mihju’i

“Mahmud, a middle-aged poet and writer, travels to his birth place in the Bagh Damavand to write a book. The pear tree in the garden reminds Mahmud of his childhood and youth, while the old and nagging gardener keeps reminding Mahmud of the bitter fact that all trees in the garden have borne fruit, with the exception of the pear tree. But the writer’s attention is directed to other aspects of life, beyond such daily occurrences on the earth. The pear tree takes him back to his childhood years, and to his life and finally he discovers the secret of the tree’s silence.”
**Du Zan = Two Women**  
[Iranian Film Society, 1998] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani  
"Country girl Fereshteh and city girl Roya, schoolmates at Tehran University in the early '80s, become friends when the former tutors the latter to pay her way through architecture school. Their friendship and their innocent fun are clouded only by the presence of a young man who stalks the pretty Fereshteh demanding that she marry him."

Media Collection PN1997.D837 1999

**Dukhtari ba kafsh'ha-yi katani = The Girl in the Sneakers**  
[IrMovies.com, 1998] (88 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Rasul Sadr Amili  
“After some unhappy accidents and in protest against her living conditions, fifteen-year-old Tadaie runs away from home when her parents forbid her to see a boy she favors. She begins an unknown and mysterious journey to Tehran in order to explore the world around her. She goes everywhere in town - from the lush orchards of uptown to the dwelling quarters of the people who have come to dead-ends in their lives. A story of youthful rebellion and its consequence, including first love and its subsequent disappointment.”

Media Collection PN1997 .D846 1996

**Dunya = Donya**  
“Donya returns from USA to Iran and goes to Haj Reza Enayat (who owns a Real Estate Office) to rent a house. From the first look, the conservative Haj Enayat who has a wife and 3 children falls in love with Donya. In order to get his family out of the way, he send them on vacation to Karbala. Haj Reza falls inlove with Donya and marries her.”

Media Collection PN1997 .D899 2003

**Gabbih = Gabbeh**  
[New Yorker Video, 2005] (75 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mohsen Makmalbaf  
“An elderly nomadic couple own a beautiful carpet (a **Gabbeh**) from which a young woman suddenly emerges. She tells the story of her clan, told through the carpet. A beautifully filmed look at life and love. Winner of numerous film festival awards.”

Media Collection PN1997.G22 2005

**Gav = The Cow**  
[First Run Features, 2004] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Dariyush Mihrjui  
“Hasan, a peasant, is the only one in his small and poor village lucky enough to own a cow. He spoils the cow like a child and lives in perpetual fear that the inhabitants of a neighboring and hostile village will steal his cow. One day, when Hasan is out of the
village at work, the cow dies. The villagers bury the cow and tell Hasan it wandered off. Hasan can’t believe it. In his sorrow and astonishment, he takes the place of his cow.”

**Hamishah pa-yi yak zan dar miyan ast**
Media Collection PN1997 .H33 2009

**Ham’nafas = Soul Mate**
“Recently released from an asylum, Bihruz meets Shirin and impulsively decides to marry her.”
Media Collection PN1997 .H343 2004

**Hamun**
[First Run Features, 2004] (117 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Dariyush Mihrjui
“The story of Hamid Hamoun, an executive in a large import-export business, who also works as a part-time English instructor. He feels alienated from Iranian society, bound by its conventions yet unwilling to abide by its rigid laws. His wife wants to divorce him but is unable to do so under Islamic law. Hamid’s refusal to accept reality, or grant his wife the divorce she longs for, is both character study and metaphor for the condition of modern urban life in Iran.”

**Hunarpishah = The Actor**
“A popular film actor, who longs to be a serious actor, has become wealthy making mindless comedies. His wife has become obsessed with her inability to have a child. Now he must deal with these two situations or go crazy.”
Media Collection PN1997.H873 2001

**Irtifa’-i past = Low heights**
[Irmovies, 2002] (115 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Ibrahim Hatimi’kiya
Based on a true story, this … is an action film filled with dark humor. Ghassem (Hamid Farrokhnezhad) is a man at his wit’s end and desperate to get his family out of Iran. Together with his pregnant wife, he hijacks a plane, but undercover officers onboard the flight will not let the hijacking go smoothly”
Media Collection PN1997 .I67 2002

**Istigah-i matruk = Deserted Station**
[First Run Features, 2002] (68 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. ‘Ali Riza Ra’isiyan
“A photographer and his young wife are stranded in a remote village after their car breaks down. The only adult inhabitant leaves with the photographer to find help, while the
woman takes over the duties of teaching the village children whose parents are nowhere to be found.”
Media Collection PN1997.1723 2002

Judayi-i Nadir az Simin
Dir. Asghar Farhadi
“A married couple are faced with a difficult decision - to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a deteriorating parent who has Alzheimer’s disease.”
Media Collection PN1997.2 .J83 2012

Kafih Sitarieh = Café Setareg
[IfMovies, 2007] (102 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman Muqaddam
“Three women who live in a poor neighborhood in Tehran actively seek a better life in this contemporary slice of Iranian life.”

Kafih-i transit = Border Cafe
[First Run Features, 2005] (105 min) Persian, Turkish & Greek with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Kambuziyah Partavi
“A young widow takes over her late husband’s truck stop café, keeping hidden in the kitchen so as not to cause a scandal.... But her brother-in-law, out of familial obligation, wants to take her as a wife and also take over the café. Meanwhile a Greek trucker who is a frequent ... customer is slowly entranced - at first by her sublime cooking ability, and then by her.”
Media Collection PN1997 .K295 2005

Kargan mashghul kardand = Men at Work
[Iran s.l., 2005?] (77 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mani Haqiqi
“A comedy about four old friends who, driving back from a failed ski trip, encounter a strange and enormous rock by the side of the road above a lake. The men’s frivolous attempt to dislodge the rock gradually disintegrates into a tale of betrayal, defeat and renewed hope.”
Media Collection PN1997 .K364 2005

Kasi az gurbah’ha-yi Irani khabar nadarah = No One Knows about Persian Cats
“Follows a pair of young Iranian musicians, recently released from prison, on a mission to take their rock band to Europe. Forbidden by the authorities to play in Iran, they plan their escape abroad with a fast-talking music promoter. Vowing to play one last show before leaving Tehran, their dangerous mission takes them on a free-wheeling journey through the city’s vibrant and diverse underground scene, home to an estimated 2,000 illegal independent bands.”
Media Collection PN1997.s .K379 2010
**Khanah-i Dust Kujast? = Where Is My Friend’s House?**

[Mongrel Media, 1989] (90 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. 'Abbas Kiarostami

"At the village school, Mohamed is told by his teacher that he'll be expelled if he doesn't do his homework in the required exercise book. But that evening schoolmate Ahmed realizes he's taken Mohamed's book by mistake so he sets off to find his friend's house in a neighboring village. However, Ahmed gets lost and none of the adults he meets will help him."

Media Collection PN1997.K4325 2000

**Khvabgah-i dukhtaran = Girls Dormitory**


"Roya gets accepted to a recently founded university which is situated in a faraway province. Her parents are opposed to their daughter studying and living apart from them, but Roya manages to get their approval and leaves with her best friend, Shirin. When they arrive at the university, they find that dormitory is not ready. So they rent a room from Sakine, who tells them not to enter the abandoned building next to her house because jinns live there. The girls curiosity to see jinns takes them inside the building where they encounter a lunatic named Gobad, whom everyone believes is harmless. However, one rainy night, Gobad murders the land lady and attacks Roya. The police get involved and uncover the murders of many young girls. Gobad's only concern is to find Roya and kill her."


**Kluz Ap = Nama-yi Nazdik**

[Facets Video, 2001; orig. release 1986] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. 'Abbas Kiarostami

"In this brilliant meditation on the power of movies, master Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami turns the medium upside-down and back again, blurring the lines between documentary and narrative film. Inspired by the true story of a lonely film buff who impersonated Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Kiarostami reenacts some of the man's trial and incorporates some footage from the actual event, using the real people involved as "actors.""


**Layla = Leila**


"Reza and Leila, an attractive and affluent young couple deeply in love and recently married, discover that Leila is unable to conceive. Invoking tradition, Reza's mother convinces her daughter-in-law that Reza must, out of necessity, take a second wife to produce an heir. The heartbreak that follows is in a word, devastating."

Media Collection PN1997.L45 1997

**Mah'ha ‘ashiq mi’shavand = The Fish Fall in Love**
“Atieh’s singular passion is food, and her small but popular restaurant on the sleepy Caspian coast of Iran is her pride and joy. When her former fiance Aziz appears after a twenty-year absence, she and her friends believe he intends to close the restaurant. Atieh prepares his favorite dishes in a desperate effort to convince him not to go.”


**Maks = Maxx**
[IrMovies.com, 2005] (110 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman Muqadam
“An L.A. rapper is asked to participate in a music festival in Tehran. Upon arriving, Maxx is astounded by an overwhelmingly warm welcome, which was meant for a symphony conductor with a similar name. When authorities discover Maxx, chaos erupts.”

Media Collection PN1997 .M418 2005

**Marmulak = Lizard**
“This is a tale of a thief, who in his quest to escape from prison, discovers that the action of a man is important and not his garb, and even a thief can inspire people to do good for their fellow man.”

Media Collection PN1997 .M25984 2004

**Maryam**
[Wellspring, 2003] (89 min) English Dir. Ramin Serry
“It’s 1979 and Mary, an Iranian-American teenager, pursues fun and romance in the New Jersey suburbs. Her biggest problems are simply trying to fit in, and dealing with her strict father who forbids her to date and live life like a normal teenager. Mary’s world is radically transformed, though, when Ali, her fundamentalist Muslim cousin, comes to live with her family at the same time that Americans are taken hostage in Iran. American backlash against Iranians and Ali’s disclosure of the family’s dark history force Mary to come to terms with her own unique, culturally-divided identity.”


**Maryam Muqaddas = Saint Mary**
“..based on the life of the blessed Saint Mary according to the Koran and the Islamic traditions.”

Media Collection IN PROCESS

**Mujarrad’ha = Singles**
[Bita Films, 2005] (110 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Muhammad Riza Farutan
“A few single friends decide to migrate to Dubai to build a better life and find jobs. But their lifetime saving is being stolen by a thief. Therefore, in order for them to replace the
trip’s expenses, they get hired in a workshop whose manager is a woman. Having a woman as a boss for one of these fellows seems like a heavy toll.”

*Mutavallid- mah-i Mihr = Born under Librar*

[IrMovies.com, 2006] (95 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Ahmad Riza Darvish
“A romantic drama of youthful unrest and an allegory for Iran’s ongoing political turmoil, involving young people struggling to reconcile progressive attitudes with strict religious traditions of an older generation.”

*Musafiran = The Travellers*

"A daring mix of the traditional Iranian passion play and an experimental narrative style, this film is the story of a wedding ceremony which turns into a funeral wake when the bride's sister and her entire family are killed in a traffic accident."

*Nargess*

[Facets Video, 1998] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Rakhshan Bani Ist’imad
"A sharp-edged look at people who live outside the constraints of Islamic law. In her fourth feature, director Rakhshan Bani-Etemad tells the tragic story of a love triangle. Afagh, an aging thief who has lost her beauty, is on the verge of losing her young lover, Adel. When Adel meets the beautiful Nargess, he decides to go straight, but honest work does not come easily, and he decides to go back to the old life for one last job."

*Nasir al-Din Shah, Aktur-i Sinima = Once Upon a Time, Cinema*

"A wonderful, fairy tale-like comedy set during the Qajar dynasty, which is a condensed history of Iranian cinema and a love letter to the cinema in general. The film tells the story of a Charlie Chaplin-like cinematographer who introduces the magic of movies to the Persian court. The Shah has 84 wives and 200 children, but after a screening he falls desperately in love with the film's heroine."

*Nimah-i Panhan = The Hidden Half*

[Iranian Film Society, 2001] (108 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani
"Khosro is sent from the president's office on a fact facing mission to Shiraz. His mission is to hear the complaints of a female political prisoner, who is to be executed. Khosro's wife Fereshteh, being of the same generation as the woman in Shiraz decides to do
something. In order to help her, she writes her own account of the revolution which her husband has no knowledge of. Khosro, in his hotel room in Shiraz, begins to read his wife's memories the night before he is to see the prisoner."

Media Collection PN1997.2.N563  2001

**Niwemang = Half Moon**


“Mamo is an iconic Kurdish musician in the twilight of his life and failing health, must lead a dozen of his sons to Iraq for a concert to celebrate the fall of Saddam Hussein and the end of his repression of Kurdish music. Their plan is to drive across the border between Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan, but the road will be long and winding and the local wise man has predicted calamity. The men will encounter the most sublime visions alongside the most horrendous brutality. First they must pick up Hesho, Mamo’s exiled singer and muse. Her voice represents a divine, transformative power, and Mamo is left in a state of grace no one could ever have anticipated.”


**Nun va guldun = A moment of innocence**

[New Yorker Films, 2005] (75 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Muhsin Makhmalbaf

"...a poetic and often comic re-construction of the incident that dramatically affected the lives of two people. In 1974, director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, then a 17-year-old rebel against the Shah’s regime, stabbed a young policeman during a botched attempt to steal the cop’s gun. Makhmalbaf spent five reflective years in prison, and was freed after the Islamic Revolution. While making an earlier film, Makhmalbaf again met the policeman, who wanted to be an actor. The director would use this reunion as a springboard to ‘A Moment of Innocence’. In re-creating their violent encounter for film, it becomes clear that each man had a unique perspective on the events of that fateful day."

Media Collection PN1995.N935  2005

**Panj-i asr = At five in the afternoon**


“Film by internationally acclaimed young Iranian director Samira Makhmalbaf is the first to be made in the ruined city of Kabul. It tells the story of Noqreh, a young woman eager to take advantage of the new freedoms and opportunities afforded to women.”


**Pardi-yi akhar**


“The action takes place in 1930’s Tehran where a sinister brother and sister plot to dispose of their recently widowed sister-in-law in order to obtain her inheritance.”


**Pul-i sīzdahum = The 13th Bridge**

[Javanah, 2008] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Farhad Gharib
“Seven year old Nergis is coming to Tehran with other children accompanied by their guardian, Davar. Nergis escapes and ends up in the home of Mr. Dukhan, an antique collector. Mr. Dukhan's daughter decides that she wants to become Nergis' guardian, and in doing so she changes Nergis' destiny.”

Media Collection PN1997.P85 2008

**Rang-i Khuda = The Color of Paradise**

"Mohammad is an energetic 8-year-old boy who is much like the other children in his small, Iranian village except in one regard, he is blind. But Mohammad doesn't let his lack of sight hinder him, indeed, his heightened remaining senses make him even more receptive to the world around him. Young Mohammad's optimism, however, is not shared by his widowed father, a bitter man who sees the boy's condition as nothing but a liability, especially as it pertains to his desire to marry the village beauty."

Media Collection PN1997.R236 2000

**Rastigari dar hasht va bist daqiqah = Salvation at 8:20**
[S.n., 2004?] Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Sirus Alvand

Media Collection PN1997.R26 2004

**Ruzi kih zan shuda = The day I became a woman**

“Three portraits of women at three stages of life in Iran: a nine-year-old girl is told she can no longer play with boys because she is now a "woman", a young wife who enters a bicycle race against her husband’s wishes, and an elderly woman who gains money and the freedom to do what she wishes with it.”

Media Collection PN1997.R89 2005

**Safar-i Qandahar = Kandahar**

"After an Afghani-born woman who lives in Canada receives a letter from her suicidal sister, she takes a perilous journey through Afghanistan to try to find her."

Media Collection PN1997.2.S243 2003

**Salad-i fasl = Garden salad**
[Bita Film, 2005] (106 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Faridun Jayrani

"Leila, a girl from a poor family, ... has no choice but to pick pockets in order to make ends meet. Leila Meets Hamid Doostar, an investor businessman, ... [and] falls in love with Hamid.... There is only one thing on [sic] their way, Hamid’s wife. She plans her murder by using Leila’s ex-lover ..., but the story takes a completely different turn.”

Media Collection PN1997.S129 2005

**Santūrī = Santouri the music man**
[IrMovies, 2008] (106 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Dariyus Mihrju’i
“A musician who plays an ancient instrument finds his life taking a tragic turn when his addiction to heroin causes him to lose his job and his wife.”
Media Collection PN1997.S177 2008

Sara
“Based on Ibsen’s classic play A doll’s house has been adapted and set in modern Iran. Sara is the perfect young housewife, eager to serve. When husband Hessam requires an expensive emergency operation abroad, it is she who arranges the funds. For the next three years Sara labours secretly to pay the shady loan and save Hessam’s manly pride. Then the truth is revealed and with it, the reality of her marriage.”
Media Collection PN1997.S28 2009

Sarbaz’ha-yi Jum’ah = Friday’s soldiers
[Irmovies.com, 2004] (91 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mas’ud Kimiyayi
“Four soldiers go on leave in Tehran. They are accompanied by their commanding officer and experience a life-changing adventure. One that reveals the sights and sounds of modern-day Tehran.”
Media Collection PN1997.S1782 2004

Sham-i akhar = The last supper
[Iranian Film Society, 2002] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Faridun Jayrani
“A woman divorces her husband after 26 years of marriage and moves to her father’s house with her daughter and old nanny. She meets a young man who causes turmoil in her life.”
Media Collection PN1997.S3842 2002

Shawkaran = Hemlock
[Iranian Film Society, 2001] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Behrooz Afkhami
"Small-town factory manager Mahmoud travels to Tehran to visit his injured partner. There he meets and falls for Sima, a modern Iranian woman who is much different than Mahmoud’s servile wife. He asks Sima to join him in a “temporary marriage,” but the relationship does not turn out like he envisions."
Media Collection PN1997.S5653 2001

Shirin = My Sweet Shirin
"Ostensibly an adaptation of a 12th century Persian poem about a young princess courted by two men, a nobleman and an artist, Kiarostami never shows us the film in question. Instead, we are invited to reconstruct the narrative from dialogue and sound, as well as the emotions that flash across the faces of a rapt, mostly female audience."
Siyavash = Siavash
[Irmovies.com, 2007] (88 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman Muqaddam
“Rock musician Siavash is set to play in his band’s first live show, when he decides to visit the tomb of his father -- killed in the Iran-Iraq War -- to seek his blessing. Afterwards it is revealed that his father is still alive and has returned to Tehran.”
Media Collection PN1997.S538 2007

The Suitors
“A well-to-do Iranian arrives in Manhattan with his new bride. His friends hold a traditional feast, slaughtering a sheep in the apartment. When blood seeps through the floor into an apartment below, a SWAT team unleashed against the "terrorists" kills the bridegroom, leaving behind a beautiful widow and her four zealous suitors.”
Media Collection PN1997.S7998 2005

Sukut = Silence
[Iranianmovies.com, 200-?] (90 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Muhsin Makhmalbaf
"This resonant fable centers on Khorshid, a blind boy who works as a tuner of musical instruments. On the verge of losing his job and his home, the otherworldly, hyper-alert boy is constantly led astray from mundane matters by the siren call of a pretty voice or a skilled musician. Khorshid is a holy fool in search of a pitch-perfect vibration that will bring cohesion and harmony to a world out of tune. Shot in Tajikistan, this deceptively simple tale is a deeply personal statement on Makhmalbaf’s continuing fight for artistic freedom."
Media Collection PN1997.S829 2000z

Supir istar = Superstar
[Iranian Film Society, 2009] (110 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahmineh Milani
“A spoiled egotistical movie star allows a young women who claims to be his daughter from a brief affair, to live with him until paternity tests results are known. She brings out the best in him and his meaningless lifestyle begins to change for the better.”
Media Collection PN1997.S884 2009

Tala-yi surkh
“This is a story of Hussein, a humble pizza deliveryman who feels continually humiliated by the injustices he sees all around him. When his friend Ali finds a receipt for a stranger’s necklace purchase, Hussein is stunned by its exceptionally high cost. He knows that his pitiful salary will never be enough to afford such a luxury. Soon after, he and Ali are refused entry to an uptown jewelry store because of their scruffy appearances; his
rage over this slight sets off a series of events. But, Hussein will taste the luxurious life for one night before his deep feelings of humiliation push him over the edge.”

*Ta'm-i Gilas = A Taste of Cherry*
[Home Vision, 1999] (95 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. 'Abbas Kiarostami
"An emotionally complex meditation on life and death. Middle-aged Mr. Badii drives through the hilly outskirts of Tehran--searching for someone to rescue or bury him."

*Media Collection PN1997.T23 2004*

*Tangsir*
[Chihrah Nama, 200-?] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Amir Nadiri
"An emotionally complex meditation on life and death. Middle-aged Mr. Badii drives through the hilly outskirts of Tehran--searching for someone to rescue or bury him."

*Media Collection PN1997.T33545 1999*

*Vakunish-i panjum = The fifth reaction*
[Arta Film, 2004] (107 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani
"A young woman, Fereshteh who teaches in one of Tehran high school has lost her husband recently. According to law and tradition, she must leave the fate of her two sons (9 and 7 years old) and the wealth of her husband to her father in law who is traditional minded man."

*Media Collection PN1997.V238 2004*

*Zamani bara-yi masti-i asbha = A time for drunken horses*
[S.n., 200-?] (80 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Bahman Qubadi
"Just off the Iraqi border in the cold and stark mountains of Iranian Kurdistan, a boy is forced into the smuggling trade in order to raise money to get medical treatment for his older brother."

*Media Collection PN1997.Z345 2000z*

*Zan-i ziyadi = Unwanted woman*
[Irmovies.com, 2005] (103 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani
"Searing tale about the struggles of women in modern-day Iran. Poor Sima puts up with her philandering and abusive husband, Ahmad. He is so blatant with his indiscretions that he asks Sima to cover for him when he plans a trip with his girlfriend Saba. In an Iran where unmarried couples can be arrested for fraternizing in public, Ahmad needs Sima to pretend that Saba is her cousin. Sima and the couple’s young daughter accompany Ahmad and Saba on their trip - a humiliating situation for the devoted wife and mother. But, a surprising turn awaits the trio when they stop in a town where a man has just murdered his wife for her alleged affair."

*Media Collection PN1997.Z3432 2005*

*Zanan bidun-i mardan*
[IndiePix, 2011] (95 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Shirin Neshat
"Set against the political turmoil of Iran’s 1953 coup d’etat, ‘Women without men’ tells
the story of four disparate women whose lives converge in a mystical orchard on the outskirts of Tehran"
Media Collection PN1997.Z346 2011

**Zinat**
Dir. Ibrahim Mukhtari
"A riveting drama about the attempts of Zinat, who runs a health clinic in a remote part of Southern Iran, to break free of the male-dominated rules and regulations that govern life in rural Iran. When Zinat becomes engaged to Hamed, his disagreeable mother demands that she quit her job. Zinat tries to be a satisfied wife and daughter-in-law, but when a medical emergency develops in the village, she is forced to choose between her duty to her family and her commitment as a health care provider."
Media Collection PN1997.Z555 1990z

**Zindan-i zanan = Women's prison**
[First Run Features, 2002] (106 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran.
Dir. Manizhah Hikmat
“Banned in Iran, this taboo-breaking film uses the claustrophobic life of women behind bars as a metaphor for Iranian society since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Mitra, in prison for killing her violent stepfather, confronts new warden Tahereh on the eve of a riot, fearlessly challenging her dogmatic views - which, over time, began to change.”
Media Collection PN1997.Z58 2002

**Zindigi va digar-i hich = Life and nothing more**
Dir. Abbas Kiarostami
After the earthquake of Gilan, the film director and his son Puya travel to the devastated area to search for the actors of the movie the director made there a few years before. In their search, they find out that people who had lost everything in the earthquake still have hope and try to live life to the fullest. The film investigates the aftermath of a devastating 1990 earthquake which killed some 50,000 people in northern Iran.

**Zir-i dirakht-i hulu = Under the peach tree**
[Bita Film, 2006] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran.
Dir. Iraj Tahmasb
“'A man from a family whose members dream about their own death shortly before it occurs puts a condition on his will that his butler-who has grown to become the man’s most devoted friend-must be found a wife before the family can claim their inheritance.”
Media Collection PN1997.Z63 2006

**Zir-i dirakhtan-i zaytun = Under the Olive Trees**
[IranianMovies.com, 200-?] (85 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran.
Dir. Abbas Kiarostami
Media Collection PN1997.Z62 2000z
Under the moonlight

Seyyed Hassan is preparing to rise to cleric when his vestments are stolen by a young thief. Seyyed tracks the boy to a poor and distant suburb where he’s treated to an eye-opening view of the gulf between religious teachings and harsh, everyday life.
Media Collection PN1997.Z635 2001

Under the skin of the city

“Tuba is a factory worker and the matriarch of a raucous family. Her older daughter is pregnant and married to an abusive husband. The younger daughter is a high school student and is consumed with worry over a neighbor girl who suffers abuse at the hands of her father. Tuba’s youngest son is caught up in political radicalism and is in danger of derailing his college aspirations. Her older son, Abbas wants to move to Japan to help support the family. After losing all his money in a scam, Abbas’ desperation gets the better of his judgement and he becomes involved in a drug deal that nearly costs him his life.”
Media Collection PN1997.Z64 2004

Documentaries

Alone in Tehran see Tanha dar Tihran

Enemies of Happiness
"In September 2005, Afghanistan held its first parliamentary elections in 35 years. Among the candidates for 249 assembly seats was Malalai Joya, a courageous, controversial 27-year-old woman who had ignited outrage among hardliners when she spoke out against corrupt warlords at the Grand Council of tribal elders in 2003. Enemies of happiness is a revelatory portrait of this extraordinary freedom fighter and the way she won the hearts of voters, as well as a snapshot of life and politics in war-torn Afghanistan"
Media Collection HQ1735.6 .E54 2006

Images From The Qajar Dynasty
[Facets, 2005] (18 min) Persian with English subtitles.
The Qajar (aka Ghajar) family ruled Iran from 1785 - 1925. The film shows rare photos and early film shot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century at the Shah's court, along with family portraits and fabulous tile mosaics.
Media Collection RA644.L3 K52 2005

Inside out
[First Run/Icarus, 2006] (39 min) Persian with English subtitles
“Documents the daily activities of three individual who are coming to terms with their transgender identities and the related emotional and physical transformations while living in the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Jerry and me
"In her intimate documentary "Jerry & Me," filmmaker Mehrnaz Saeedvafa examines the significant role that Hollywood movies played in her life, both as a young film lover growing up in pre-revolutionary Iran, and as an adult working as a filmmaker and educator in both Iran and the USA. Of particular focus in "Jerry & Me" is the intimate relationship young Mehrnaz develops with the image of Jerry Lewis, the iconic American film auteur who delighted audiences around the world with hilarious portrayals of outcasts and misfits in popular Hollywood comedies of the 1950s and '60s. As illustrated through a variety of Lewis’ film clips, the shifts in the comedian’s on-screen persona reflected the twists and turns of Saeedvafa’s own life, providing her much needed comfort and companionship during a time that was tumultuous and chaotic. Mehrnaz’s illusion of Lewis as an empathetic fellow outsider is ultimately shattered, however, by the stark reality of a real-life encounter with the star”

Khanah siyah ast = The House is black
[Facets, 2005] (22 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Forough Farrokhzad
This film about the leprosy colony in Tabriz, Iran is a compassionate portrait of forgotten people. Straightforward yet sympathetic, the film affords dignity to its subjects, particularly through Farrokhzad’s striking poem read by the poet herself. The House Is Black has heavily influenced the modern Iranian cinema of such great filmmakers as Abbas Kiarostami and Mohsen Makhmalbaf, who called it "the best Iranian film." It provides, in the film’s own words, "a vision of pain no caring human being should ignore.”

Mirror of the Soul: the Farough Farrokhzad trilogy
[Chicago: Facets Video, 2007] (152 min) Persian with English subtitles
Contents: Sard-i sabz = The green cold; Jām-i jān = The mirror of the soul; Awj-i mawj, Furūgh Farrukhzād = Summit of the wave
“In this three part documentary, Farrokhzad's life, work, and very soul are laid bare so the world can discover this remarkable artist. It digs deep into her personal and professional life to uncover information about this outspoken poet who pushed the boundaries of Iranian society.”

Ruzgar-i Ma = Our Times
Facets Video, 2005] (75 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Rakhshan Bani-Etemad
"Documenting events surrounding the 2001 Iranian presidential election, director Rakhshan Bani-Etemad works with two groups of women, one old and one young, to contrast divergent political attitudes across the generation gap. At one end of this spectrum is the director’s daughter and a group of her friends who form a committee to support the incumbent, President Khatami. On the other end is a group of forty-eight older women running for office on a reform party ticket, despite being thrown off the ballot by an all-male government. The two stories are linked by the story of Arezoo Bayat and her daughter who are simply trying to scratch out a living amid the headier issue of the elections."
Media Collection HQ1236.5.I7 R89 2005

School blown away by the wind
[Facets, 2005] (8 min) Dir. Mohsen Makhmalbaf
The School blown Away By The Wind: The school for nomad children seen in Gabbeh is the subject of this heartwarming short that includes a humanist twist worthy of an O. Henry story."
Media Collection RA644.L3 K52 2005

Stardust Stricken: Mohsen Makhmalbaf, a Portrait
[Facets, 2001] (70 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Houshang Golmakani
"This video documentary is a perfect introduction to the works of controversial Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf...as well as an insightful look at his life experiences for those already familiar with his films. In this portrait by the respected Iranian film critic Houshang Golmakani, Makhmalbaf speaks about his life, his work, and his beliefs about art, cinema, violence, kindness, God, religion and death."
Media Collection PN1998.3.M3377 S73 2001

Tanha dar Tihra = Alone in Tehran
[Arab Film Dist., 2005?] (25 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Piruz Kalantari.
"Behnaz Jafari is a young, aspiring actress in Tehran who wants to live a carefree and creative lifestyle. This lifestyle is not easy to obtain for a modern 24 year-old woman who lives alone in contemporary Iranian society. In this interesting documentary, the old is contrasted with the new as Behnaz considers the traditional advice she receives from well-meaning friends while still following her dream to lead a free life and become one of Iran's leading actresses."
Media Collection HQ1735.2.Z76 J34 1999

Ten
[Zeitgeist Films, 2002] (94 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Abbas Kiarostami
"A deceptively simple work—shot on digital video within the confines of a single vehicle—that brings the intricate nature of Iran’s sexual and social politics into sharp focus. Seen through the eyes of a beautiful, chador-clad divorcée, the film catches her impromptu conversations with various female passengers (and her imperious young son) as she navigates Tehran’s congested and vibrant streets over the course of several days."
As Kiarostami’s “dashboard cam” eavesdrops on these extraordinary and moving stories of sex, divorce, love and religion, an entirely original and fascinating portrait of modern Iran emerges."

Media Collection HQ1735.2.K53 2004

*Tihran anar nadarad = Tehran has no more pomegranates*

[Iranianmovies, 2009] (68 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Massoud Bakhshi

"Blends satire with history to paint a portrait of the metropolis and its transformation into a megapolis of increasing urban mess, pollution, inadequate housing, class gaps, and the fatal destiny of its once delicious pomegranates. Aided by never before seen archival footage from the past 100 years and mock interviews with city officials, the film explains the complex life of Tehran’s inhabitants as they live side by side [with] the past, begging the question of whether anything has changed at all"

Media Collection DS325.T3 T54 2004

*Two Films by Reza Haeri*

[Icarus Films, 2010] (62 min). Dir. Reza Haeri

All restrictions end: "An experimental documentary dealing with contemporary Iranian history, focusing on the evolution of clothes and fashion. ... uses collage, archival footage from Iranian cinema, imagery from various stylistic epochs in the history of Persian painting, graphics from the period of the Islamic Revolution, and works provided by various artists. Clothing remains the point of departure in stories about Iran, a land that has tottered for centuries between East and West, the present and the past, freedom and repression"--Container. Final fitting: "Follows Mr. Arabpour, the master tailor and craftsman, and the proprietor of the most famous tailor shop in Qom (Iran’s most important religious center). A spry octogenarian, for the last several decades he has been the official tailor to the most important religious leaders of the country, starting with the late Ayatollah Khomeini to the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, as well as for the former president, Mohammad Khatami ... showcases the changing cultural styles of Iran and its clerical elite through its portrait of one man and his time-honored craft"

Media Collection GT1420.T86 2010

*Zananah = The Ladies’*


"Directed by the acclaimed Iranian actress Mahnaz Afzali and filmed entirely inside a ladies washroom in a public park in Tehran, this absorbing documentary shatters Western preconceptions of Iranian women. Populated by addicts, prostitutes, runaway girls and others who simply enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere, the ladies room becomes one of the few places where women feel comfortable enough to smoke cigarettes, discuss taboo subjects and remove their veils."

Media Collection HQ1735.2. Z34 2003

*Zanha-yi misl-i ma = Women Like Us*

Filmmaker Persheng Sadegh-Vaziri returns to Iran after 20 years as an expatriate to present this intimate and revealing portrait of five ordinary Iranian women: a nurse, a journalist, a rice farmer, a religious college graduate and a piano teacher. An important and timely look at contemporary Iran.