CRIME AND PUNISHMENT ON FILM

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FEATURES

Ahlam Hind wa-Kamiliyah = Dreams of Hind and Camilla
[Arab Film Dist., 1989] (110 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Muhammad Khan
"Hind and Camilia are two housemaids who are abused both by their employers (who overwork them) and by their male relatives (who mistreat them). After many misfortunes and disappointments, they decide to strike out on their own."

‘Ajami = ‘Ag’ami
“Shakespearian in its scope and themes; revenge, loyalty, hope and despair, draws us into the lives of two brothers fearing assassination; a young refugee working illegally to cover his mother’s medical expenses; a cop obsessed with finding his missing brother. Through this dramatic collision of different worlds, we witness cultural and religious tensions simmering beneath the surface and the tragic consequences of enemies living as neighbors.”
Media Collection PN1997.2.A34 2010

Akvariyum = Aquarium

Ali Zaoua
[Arab Film Dist., 2000] (95 min) Arabic and French with English subtitles. Morocco. Dir. Nabil Ayouch
"A memorable and moving portrait of the lives of street kids living in Casablanca's abandoned lots. Ali, Kouka, Omar and Boubker, four young friends who are members of a gang, rebel against their cruel leader's oppressive rule and strike out on their own, running away from "home" a second time."
Media Collection PN1997.A32247 2000

Bab al-Hadid = Cairo Station
[Arab Film Dist., 199-?; orig. release 1958] (74 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Yusuf Shahin
"In this beautiful classic film from legendary director Youssef Chahine, Cairo's main railroad station is used to represent all of Egyptian society. We see a community comprised of luggage carriers and soft-drink vendors living in abandoned train cars. A
crippled newspaper dealer, Kinawi (played by Chahine himself), falls in love with the beautiful but indifferent Hanuma (Hind Rostom), a lemonade seller who only has eyes for the handsome Abu Sri’. Swept away by his obsessive desire, Kinawi kidnaps the object of his passion, with terrible consequences.

Media Collection PN1997.B133 1990z

**Bir erkegin anatomisi**

[Fanatik, 2007] (98 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Yavuz Ozkan

“An Istanbul lawyer, successful in his profession but not in his private life, takes on a client with underground connections. The client provides him with information about the connections between police and mafia and asks him to release it to the media if he ever disappears. After receiving threats in connection with his possession of this information, he decides that, at great personal risk, he needs to make the information public. His actions force him to flee for his life.”

Media Collection PN1997.2.B55 2005

**Cantique des Pierres**

[Arab Film Dist., 1990] (110 min) Arabic, English & Hebrew with English subtitles. Palestine & Belgium. Dir. Michel Khleifi

"Tells the story of two Palestinian lovers, now in their forties. They had barely fallen in love nearly twenty years earlier when he was imprisoned for political activity. She ran off to the United States to overcome her grief. Years later, she comes back to Jerusalem to study the Intifada's impact on Palestinian society only to find him released from prison. Against a backdrop of resistance and repression, they fall in love again."

Media Collection PN1997.C2757 1990b

**Dastfurush = The Peddler**


"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

**Les evades de la pluie**

[Fanatik, 200-?] (114 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Yavuz Ozkan

“A young man under a sentence of death escapes from prison and flees Turkey for France. There, in spite of the language barrier and the ever-present threat of deportation, he falls in love.”

Media Collection PN1997.E89 2000z

**Filler ve cimen = Elephants and grass**
“When elephants romp, the grass gets destroyed” is an old Turkish proverb that gives the film its name. Based on the Susurluk scandal of 1996, the film presents intertwined stories of 6 different individuals: a corrupt politician, a dishonest intelligence officer, a hit-man, a mafia leader and a marathon runner and his brother, a veteran of war in Southeastern Turkey.”

**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"

**Journey to the sun**

[Facets Video, 2004] (105 min) Kurdish & Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir Yesim Ustaoglu

“Mehmet is a cheerful young man from Western Turkey, and Berzan is a Kurdish rebel in the underground, who become fast friends while living in Istanbul. Mehmet is unjustly arrested, but the experience makes him aware of his country’s political realities. When the situation heats up, and Berzan is involved, Mehmet embarks on a sweeping, spiritual journey across Turkey to his friend’s Kurdish homeland.”

**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."

**Madrasat al-mushaghibin**
[Fine Art Film, 2000?] (252 min) Arabic. Egypt. Dir. Jalal al-Sharqawi
“This play is about a female teacher and how she transformed 5 rebellious students into model students.”
Media Collection PN1997 .M2538 2000

**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

**Mirsidis = Mercedes**
[Arab Film Dist., 1993] (106 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Yusri Nasrallah
"After being institutionalized by his mother for trying to donate his fortune to the Egyptian Communist Party, young Noubi emerges from the hospital to find a Cairo different from the one he knew before. When his uncle asks him to aid in the search for his cousin, Gamal, he descends into the city’s dark underworld of corruption and darkness. His search eventually leads him to find happiness and a people he can call family."
Media Collection PN1997.M4356 1993

**Le Mur = The Wall**
"A piercing allegory of Turkish life. It conveys a political message of revolution as an act of hope against the brutality suffered by the boys held in the Ankara prison."
Media Collection PN1997.M82827 1987

**Nargess**
[Facets Video, 1998] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Rakhshan Bani It'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."
Media Collection PN1997.N3296 1999
**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

**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

**Or = Mon tresor**
"Ruthie and Or, a mother and her daughter, live in a small Tel Aviv flat. Ruthie has been a prostitute for the last twenty years. Or has tried many times to get her mother to quit working the street, but without success. The daily routine of the 18 year-old Or is an endless succession of petty jobs: washing dishes in a restaurant, cleaning staircases and collecting deposit bottles while attending high school whenever she can. Ruthie's health is worsening. After an umpteenth visit to her mother at the hospital, Or decides that this time, things must change for good."
Media Collection PN1997.O62 2005

**Pardi-yi akhar = Last act**
“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.”

**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
al-Shabah
“In an attempt to rediscover himself and regain his identity, a young man struggles with himself, his past and his lost memory. He is accused of murder and chased by police. He has no way out except to search by himself about the real murderer. What if the criminal has power and is protected by people who help him and conceal all the facts about the crime? How will his circumstances change when he falls in love and finds besides him someone who trusts him and is willing to help him to end this endless struggle with uncertainty?”
Media Collection PN1997.2.S472 2000z

Tala-yi surkh = Crimson gold
“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.”
Media Collection PN1997.T23 2004

Uc maymun = Three monkeys
[Imaj, 2008] (104 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Nuri Bilge Ceylan
“A politician asks his chauffeur to help him cover up a deadly hit-and-run accident, which places significant strain on the chauffeur’s family.”
Media Collection PN1997.2.U36 2008

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

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
Zir-i pusht-i shahr = 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