

Diaspora Cinema, Now and Then **Shahram Tabe-Mohammadi**

A brief overview of the diasporic cinema around the world. In this talk the roots of diaspora cinema will be discussed and major trends and directors will be introduced. Indian, Latin American, and Arab diaspora cinemas will be touched. The focus of the talk is, however, on the Iranian diasporic films. The works of Sohrab Shahid-Saless will be reviewed as the first modern time Iranian filmmaker from diaspora. Other major Iranian cineastes working outside Iran will be introduced, including Amir Naderi, Reza Parsa, Houshang Allahyari, Reza Allameh-Zadeh, and few others.

Diaspora Film Festival III

The third edition of Diaspora Film Festival is coming to Toronto from 17 to 20 July 2003. Unlike the previous years, the third edition is not limited to the works of Iranian filmmakers. Instead, 21 films made by cineastes from 7 countries of origin and 10 countries of production will be screened. The films and directors participating in the third edition of Diaspora Film Festival will be introduced in this talk.

My Name is Rocky (Synopsis)

Bahman Moshar

Canada, 2001, 56 min

My Name is Rocky was screened in the “Iranian Underground Cinema” section of the Iranian Diaspora Film Festival II and became the most popular film of the festival.

This documentary follows the court cases of five runaway girls in Iran. Maryam, 19, has runaway from home more than seven times. Gelayol, also 19, ran away because of domestic abuse. She is sentenced to prison for premarital sex. Zeinab, 20, was married at age 13, divorced at 14 and beaten by her father. Batool, 18, was beaten by her parents and raped while wandering the city. Leila, 16, ran away from home after failed two school courses. She was raped while alone in the city. Two runaway girls are interviewed in the park and a young man discusses the beating of women.

Shahram Tabe-Mohammadi

Shahram Tabe-Mohammadi is one of the founders and the director of Diaspora Film Festival. He is also a film critic, writer, translator, and a scientist. More than one hundred of his articles have appeared in *Shahrvand* (Canada), *Film Magazine* (Iran), *Adabiat va Farhang* (Germany), *Peivand* (Sweden), as well as banned Iranian newspapers such as *Neshaat*, *Toos*, and *Fat’h*. Before coming to Canada, he produced two popular TV programs in Iran: “Fanoos-e Khial” and the comedy mini-series “Akvaan-e diiv”.

As a scientist, Shahram holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and has completed his Post-Doctoral in the field of Membrane Separation. He has taught as a professor or worked as a research scientist at institutions such as University of Ottawa, National Research Council Canada, and University of Quebec in Montreal. He has published or presented more than thirty papers in scientific journals and international conferences.