

In person [2022 UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema](#) screens eight film premieres

Free at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum April 29–May 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES (March 29, 2022) – Back in person, the UCLA Film & Television Archive continues its long tradition of celebrating the best cinema from Iran and the Iranian diaspora with the latest works by Iranian filmmakers past and present. This year’s UCLA Celebration of Iranian Cinema presents eight West Coast or U.S. premieres and multiple award-winners from festivals around the world including Venice, Busan and Cannes, plus prize-winning films from the annual Farhang Foundation Short Film Festival. Opens Friday, April 29 with the warm and humorous family road trip story, *Hit the Road* (2021), the directorial debut of Panah Panahi, son and regular collaborator of Jafar Panahi.

“Iranian filmmakers working around the world continue to be some of the most vital, urgent and inspiring voices on the international cinema scene,” said Paul Malcolm, film programmer at the UCLA Film & Television Archive, a division of UCLA Library. “Along with our partners at Farhang Foundation, the Archive is honored to provide a platform for their films in Los Angeles.”

“We are incredibly proud to continue our long partnership with the Archive in supporting this critical film series.” said Alireza Ardekani, Executive Director of Farhang Foundation. “After two years away, this year perhaps more than ever, we look forward to welcoming our dedicated audience back to the Billy Wilder Theater in person.”

All films from Iran and in Persian with English subtitles, except where noted.

- April 29, 7:30 p.m.
[Hit the Road \(Iran, 2021\)](#)
In an assured feature debut, writer-director Panah Panahi (son of Jafar Panahi) spins something wonderful from a typically dreaded activity: the family road trip. Driving across Iran, their destination mysterious, mom, dad and their two sons engage each other in well-worn affections and rivalries even as we sense a new anxiety percolating underneath. At each rest stop, Panahi reveals more of the thriller pushing them on but in the end it’s his intimate family portrait that remains.
- April 30, 3:00 p.m.
[Absence \(Iran, 2021\) North American Premiere!](#)
In his third feature as writer-director and star, Ali Mosaffa mixes family drama and political history with the air of a cold war thriller as a middle-aged son journeys from Tehran to Prague to better understand his father, a communist intellectual who started a new life in Eastern Europe in the wake of the 1953 coup.

- April 30, 7:30 p.m.

[**Titi \(Iran, 2020\) California Premiere!**](#)

Titi (Elnaz Shakerdoost) only gradually emerges into the center of co-writer-director Ida Panahandeh's moving, always surprising story of small lives and cosmic forces. A hospital cleaning woman, Titi accepts being overlooked, but when a physics professor (Parsa Pirouzfard) with a brain tumor confides in her, Titi sees destiny calling. Guided by visions, but beset by terrestrial troubles, Titi channels her mystical affinities to help this man of science and, maybe, just maybe, save the world.

Preceded by Farhang Foundation Short Film Festival—1st Prize Winner

Exam (Iran, 2019)

Director Sonia K. Hadad plunges us into the harrowing day of a teenage girl (rising Iranian star Sadaf Asgari) pressed into delivering illicit drugs on her way to school.

- May 1, 3:00 p.m.

[**Asteroid \(Iran, 2021\) U.S. Premiere!**](#)

In a remote Iranian village, 12-year-old Ebrahim (Ebrahim Zarozehi) works harder than some of the adults who tower over him to help his single mom care for his five siblings and to save for their own home. Through his eyes, writer-director Mehdi Hoseinivand explores the rhythms and relationships of small town life but at the film's center is always a warm, caring story of Ebrahim and his family as they quietly, determinedly make their way in the world.

Preceded by Farhang Foundation Short Film Festival—2nd Prize Winner

Light Sight (Iran, 2016)

Writer-director Seyed M. Tabatabaei orchestrates a dazzling display of color and design to depict a dream world that turns sinister when its lone inhabitant reaches beyond its horizons.

- May 1, 7:00 p.m.

[**The Majority \(Iran, 2021\) North American Premiere!**](#)

Hopes are raised in an economically depressed village in pre-revolution Iran when the return of a now wealthy former resident with the promise of much needed financial aid. When the woman (Hadieh Tehrani) reveals the terrible price of her support, however, co-writer-director Mohsen Gharaei begins an unflinching look at the nature of collective guilt, human weakness and revenge. As secrets are revealed, fingers are pointed and knives are sharpened tension mounts right up until the shocking finale.

- May 6, 7:30 p.m.

[**The Wasteland \(Iran, 2020\) U.S. Premiere!**](#)

When the owner of a brick factory announces its imminent closure to the families who work there, it's the beginning of the end for a whole way of life as many of them have labored there for generations. In his feature debut, writer-director Ahmad Bahrami channels Hungarian art house legend Béla Tarr into a powerful evocation of collapse, dispersal and doom that won the FIPRESCI Award for Best Film at the 77th Venice International Film Festival.

- May 7, 3:00 p.m.

[The Locust \(Iran/Germany, 2022\) California Premiere!](#)

In her second feature, writer-director Faeze Azizkhani captures the frenzy and frustration of a middle-aged dreamer watching their dream start to slip away. At the center of the whirlwind, Hanieh Tavassoli delivers a compelling and sympathetic portrayal of a woman struggling to maintain.

19 (Nouzdah) (Iran/Germany, 2021) U.S. Premiere!

The latest film from prominent producer and director Manijeh Hekmat (*Three Women*) may be one of her most personal, an impressionistic montage of achingly beautiful scenes and episodes that evoke the bittersweet course of a woman's life and the doubts of a generation.

- May 7, 7:30 p.m.

[Final Whistle \(Iran, 2011\)](#)

In her third feature, Karimi explores the sharp divisions in Iranian society from an explicitly personal perspective. *Final Whistle* tells the story of a well-known filmmaker (played by Karimi) who is suddenly confronted by her own privilege and the limits of fame when she becomes entangled in the personal struggles of a film extra hired to do reshoots.

- May 8, 7:00 p.m.

[Roshan \(Iran, 2021\) International Premiere!](#)

Middle-aged Roshan (Reza Attaran) watches old movies and daydreams while his life falls apart around him. Luckily, Roshan knows a trick: he uses his fingers to form a frame—like a movie director—to see only what he wants to see. Writer-director Rouhollah Hejazi deftly oscillates his own frame around Roshan as he stumbles through a series of, by turns, comic and troubling misadventures in this empathetic study of a man doing his best to keep reality at bay.

Preceded by Farhang Foundation Short Film Festival—3rd Prize Winner

Red Dress, No Straps (Iran, 2018)

In director Maryam Mohajer's poignant and beautiful animated collage of materials and memories, a young girl narrates the milestones of her life against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq War.

Program generously funded by Farhang Foundation.

For details, updates, registration information and important health guidelines, please visit cinema.ucla.edu.

About Farhang Foundation

Farhang Foundation is a member supported nonreligious, nonpolitical, and not-for-profit foundation with the sole mission to celebrate and promote Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community-at-large. For more information please visit Farhang.org

About the UCLA Film & Television Archive

A division of UCLA Library, the Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The Archive has over 450,000 film and television holdings conserved in a state-of-the-art facility at the Packard Humanities Institute Stoa in Santa Clarita, CA, that is designed to hold materials ranging from nitrate film to digital video at all preservation standards. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe.

The Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum is the home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's public programs. The theater is among a handful of venues nationwide able to exhibit an entire century's worth of moving images in their original formats. From the earliest silent films requiring variable speed projection all the way up to cutting-edge digital cinema, the Wilder can accommodate an array of screen technologies.

For more information, please contact Marisa Soto at (310) 489-6002 or msoto@cinema.ucla.edu.