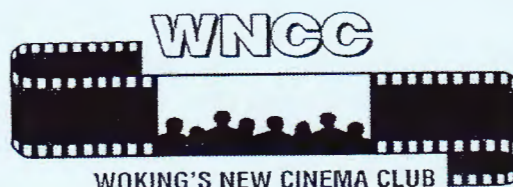


The Main Feature



Issue Number 4 – 25th October 2007

Tonight's double bill comes from Iran.

The Day I Became A Woman.

(Roozi Ke Zan Shodam) Farsi/Persian with English subtitles

Director: Marziyeh Meshkini

Writer: Marziyeh Meshkini, Mohsen Makhmalbaf

Starring: Fatemeh Cherag Akhar as Hava

Shahr Banou Sisizadeh as Mother

Shabnam Toloui as Ahoo

Hassan Nebham as Hassan

Country: Iran

Release: 28 December 2001

Length : 77minutes



Winner of a raft of awards from festivals as diverse as Oslo, Venice and Toronto, this is a fascinating film from Iranian Director Marzieh Meshkini.

This film challenges the religious and social restrictions that Iranian culture imposes on its women. Shot on Kish Island, this film fully exploits the scenic locations and the local tribal traditions, which are harsher towards women than in the city. It takes a poignant look at three generations of women. The first story tells of Hava (Akhar) who according to Islamic Law becomes a woman at the age of nine and has to come to terms with the fact that she must say goodbye to her friends and accept a life of seclusion. A poignant scene is one where she shares a lollipop with her friend Hassan, himself imprisoned in his house with homework. The second tale is one where a young woman enters a bicycle race. Against the wishes of her angry relatives she rides on and on and on with hundreds of young women competing for first place. The contrast between horse's hooves and bicycle wheels is crucial to the understanding of tradition confronted with modernity. Will she be able to transcend the moral dilemma of turning her back on her own tribe and brothers? The final tale concentrates on an older woman who goes on an absurd spending spree buying all the things she wanted and never had in her life. She arranges her purchased items on the beach "What will you do with all of these things? Ask some of the young women (who previously lost the race), "We could use these as dowries so that we may be married".


Meshkini has created warmly human works that are neither heavy handed nor overtly political. The film benefits from fine technical work from cinematographers Ebrahim Ghafari and Mohammed Ahmadi and editors Maysam Makhmalbaf and Shahrzad Poya. Folk music is used liberally to contribute atmosphere and feeling. "Breath taking reveries worthy of Fellini" "one of the strengths of this film is that it never pauses to explain" Los Angeles Times " In a simple and most convincing way, relying entirely on the strength of the images, a young woman directors first film gives a profound rendering of women's predicament in a patriarchal society" Oslo Film Awards

The second offering this evening is

Offside

<u>Sima Mobarak-Shahi</u>	First girl
<u>Shayesteh Irani</u>	Smoking girl
<u>Ayda Sadeqi</u>	Soccer girl
<u>Golnaz Farmani</u>	Girl with tchador
<u>Mahnaz Zabihi</u>	Female soldier
<u>Nazanin Sediq-zadeh</u>	Young girl

Writer/Director Jafar Panahi

 2006/Iran/93 mins



In the language of football, to be offside is to have gone too far, to have crossed an invisible line past which it is forbidden to go. As this exceptional Iranian film demonstrates, if you are a woman in Iran, just attempting to go to a men's football match puts you over that line and into territory that is completely out of bounds.

Iranian director Jafar Panahi returns to the issue of women's rights in his native country. It's a mark of the effectiveness of Jafar Panahi's films that they're generally banned in Iran and win prestigious awards in Europe. Offside has followed this pattern, forbidden release in its country of origin and winning the Silver Bear award at the Berlin Film Festival. This film was inspired by the occasion when his own daughter was refused entry to a stadium and spurred into action by Iran's successful qualification for the 2006 world cup. Panahi follows a day in the life of a group of girls attempting to watch a football match. They either fail to get in or are plucked from the crowd and are kept in a holding area just outside the stadium by a group of young soldiers. The game in question is Iran v Bahrain, the match that ensured Iran qualified for the finals in 2006. The audience is neatly placed in the girls' shoes as Panahi only shows fleeting glimpses of the match and most of the action is relayed by a soldier's incompetent commentary and later, a broken radio.

Offside is a charming character driven film that conveys enormous feeling for its people, the determined young women for whom football is "more important than food" and the soldiers whose heart really isn't in keeping them away from the match. Panahi's other works include "The White Ballon," "Crimson Gold" and "The Circle" and have won major awards and stood unmistakably apart from the work of his countrymen .

Ishret Mirza

BBC NEWS

Film archives get £25m cash boost

The government has pledged to give the British Film Institute (BFI) £25m to safeguard its extensive archive.

The announcement comes hours before the BFI launches the London Film Festival with crime thriller Eastern Promises. The funding package will help preserve its national archive, containing over 500,000 hours of film and TV material.

Many of its reels are deteriorating and need restoring. The BFI's Amanda Nevill said the cash would "bring into view much more of our precious heritage". "This level of investment will mean we can once again set a world standard in conservation and preservation." Culture secretary James Purnell said the archive, held in Hertfordshire, was "a national treasure" that constituted "a visual history of Britain since the moving image again".

"From the earliest newsreels to CinemaScope to 3D, the BFI archive is one of the greatest collections of film and TV in the world. It's vital that we safeguard its future." Started in 1935, the collection includes over 275,000 films, 210,000 TV programmes, seven million photographs and 15,000 posters.

The BFI's holdings also include more than 46,000 books, 5,000 periodical titles and more than two million newspaper cuttings. Money will also be made available to protect regional collections like the Yorkshire Film Archive. Its holdings include a reel of nitrate film showing a visit Queen Victoria made to Sheffield in May 1897.

BBC NEWS

British actress Kerr dies at 86

British actress Deborah Kerr, known to millions for her roles in *The King And I*, *Black Narcissus* and *From Here To Eternity*, has died at the age of 86.

Born in Scotland in 1921, the actress made her name in British films before becoming successful in Hollywood. Nominated for the best actress Oscar six times, she was given an honorary award by the Academy in 1994.

Kerr, who had suffered from Parkinson's disease for a number of years, died in Suffolk on Tuesday, her agent said. The actress, who was made a CBE in 1997, had lived in Switzerland but returned to England to be near her family when her illness worsened.

She leaves a husband, the novelist and screenwriter Peter Viertel, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Kerr began her career in regional British theatres and entertained the troops during World War II. Her first major screen role came in 1941's *Major Barbara*, while her last came in 1985's *The Assam Garden*. Between them she appeared alongside such Hollywood icons as Burt Lancaster, Cary Grant and Robert Mitchum.

Notable British films include *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, in which she played three roles, and *Black Narcissus*, which saw her as a nun in the Himalayas. She remains best known, however, for her torrid sex scene with Lancaster in *From Here to Eternity* and for dancing with Yul Brynner in *The King and I*.

From the late 1960s onwards she concentrated on theatre and television roles. Kerr always played down her success, attributing it to her having had "an awful lot of luck". Her honorary Oscar came in recognition of "an artist of impeccable grace and beauty, a dedicated actress whose motion picture career has always stood for perfection, discipline and elegance". "I must confess, I've had a marvellous time," she said as she collected the statuette.

BBC NEWS

Curtain falls on 23-seat cinema

The final credits have rolled at a 23-seat cinema housed in an old railway carriage that has been entertaining film lovers for more than 50 years.

La Charrette, which stands in the back garden of a house in Gorseinon, near Swansea, was once officially recognised as the smallest cinema in Wales. But wear and tear means it has become too costly to maintain. The last screening - *Ocean's 13* - was followed by a compilation of clips from films shown over the last 54 years. The cinema was founded by electrician Gwyn Phillips, who fell in love with the silver screen while working in local cinemas as a teenager. He built La Charrette in his back garden and invited family and friends to screenings.

Although he died in 1996, his family continued to allow the 70-strong members to screen films there, and seven years ago Lottery funding helped pay for a new video projection system and Dolby surround sound. The chairman of the club, Ron Williams, has been visiting the cinema for the last 47 years. He said he was "extremely sad" to watch his final film there as many members had also become close friends. "The cinema has outlasted many of its commercial rivals," he added. "Now sadly, because of structural problems with the building and an ageing membership, the committee and manager of the club have decided to call it a day. "A survey has revealed that it is no longer economically viable to maintain the building - which will be demolished in the near future."

Shortly after Mr Phillips died, the British Film Institute recognised La Charrette as the smallest cinema in Wales.

Reactions to

The Lives of Others- 11th October 2007

Score 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Votes ~ ~ ~ 1 1 ~ 2 10 8 18 8

Total Votes - 48 Average Score - 8.23 Position in Season - 1ST

Last Season Average - 6.714

Film	Score	Position
The Lives of Others	8.23	1 st
Notes on a Scandal	7.73	2 nd
Pans Labyrinth	6.88	3 rd

Your views

Gripping and absorbing film with excellent direction and stunning performances.

A brilliant, disturbing + gripping expose of a totalitarian state- like Burma

Hard to watch but a brilliant film

A fascinating story, very well acted. A fine film. No wonder it got an Oscar

A very moving film, lovely music

An unlikely memorial to a truly pernicious regime

Thoroughly absorbing

When are we going to have a laugh?

Next Time

8th November 2007 - The Prestige

A story of two magicians in the late 1890's whose intense rivalry leads them on a life-long battle for supremacy -- full of obsession, deceit and jealousy with dangerous and deadly

consequences.  USA/2006/130 mins



Repropoint

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