

The Main Feature

Season 33 - Issue 3 (screening 11.10.12)



This is a joint presentation with Soroptimist International of Woking & District, and a warm welcome is extended to their members

Iran 2011 Cert PG 123 minutes

Director, Writer and Producer Asghar Farhadi
 Music Sattar Oraki
 Cinematography Mahmoud Kalari

Cast: Leila Hatami (Simin, the wife),
 Peyman Moaadi (Nader, the husband),
 Sarina Farhadi (Termeh, the daughter), Ali
 Asghar Shahbazi (Nader's elderly father).

"A Separation", directed and written by Asghar Farhadi, was released in February 2011. The film was made and is set in modern Iran. It has won many nominations and awards – including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2012; the



Golden Bear for Best Film and Silver Bears for Best Actress and Best Actor at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival; the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film.

Asghar Farhadi studied the dramatic arts at Tehran and Tarbiat Modares universities and began his career with short films, following by the writing of plays and screenplays. He also directed TV series before making his first feature film 'Dancing in the Dust' in 2003. This was followed by 'A Beautiful City' in 2004, 'Fireworks' in 2006 and 'About Elly' in 2009.

'About Elly' was an international success, winning Farhadi the Silver Bear for best director at the 59th International Berlin Film Festival. The film is about a group of Iranians whose trip to the Caspian Sea turns tragic. The director describes 'A Separation' as having developed logically from 'About Elly' and being based on some personal experiences.



'A Separation' is about a family at a pivotal point in their lives (the separation of the parents), a time when emotions run high and life is lived more intensely. Every decision, large and small, has major consequences, for what is happening now will determine how this family will live in the foreseeable future. We join the family for that brief but intense time. As in the novel, 'The Ambassadors' by Henry James, it is only during the

action that we glean some understanding of what has led to the current situation and we leave the family at the point at which their actions during the crisis begin really to shape their new life.

Alissa Simon of Variety magazine describes the film as 'tense and narratively complex, formally dense and morally challenging. The provocative plot casts a revealing light on contemporary Iranian society, taking on issues of gender, class, justice and honour as a secular middle-class family in the midst of upheaval winds up in conflict with an impoverished religious one'. In other words, the viewer has much to learn, understand and discuss – about Iranian society, about religion, truth, justice, traditional and modern values in general.

The film is being shown at WNCC in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Woking & District. Soroptimists are especially interested in ensuring that women and girls achieve their full potential. In that respect, 'A Separation' is a particularly good choice, because Simin says that she wants to leave Iran for a country that offers more opportunities for women generally and her daughter in particular.

'A Separation' will absorb you, challenge you – and keep you on the edge of your seat.

Barbara Hipkins Wilson

The printing of the notes for each film is undertaken by Repropoint free of charge



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Oscar success of A Separation celebrated back home in Iran

Iranians take to social media to praise Academy-award winning film condemned by Islamic Republic

A Separation has become the first movie ever to take an Academy Award to Iran after winning the best foreign language Oscar, prompting national celebration at a critical time in the country's history.

Millions of Iranians stayed up all night to watch the film's director, Asghar Farhadi, going up on the stage and delight his countrymen at a time when their lives are clouded with fear of war with Israel and crippling economic sanctions.

"At this time, many Iranians all over the world are watching us and I imagine them to be very happy," said Farhadi, while accepting the Oscar. "At the time when talk of war, intimidation, and aggression is exchanged between politicians, the name of their country, Iran, is spoken here through her glorious culture, a rich and ancient culture that has been hidden under the heavy dust of politics."

He added: "I proudly offer this award to the people of my country, the people who respect all cultures and civilisations and despise hostility and resentment."

With his acceptance speeches at various international awards, including a Golden Globe in January, Farhadi has become an ambassador for peace from Iran, making Tehran's regime - famous for its bellicose statements - infuriated with the film's success in countries hostile towards the Islamic republic.

Within few minutes of winning an Academy Award, Iranians took to the social networking websites such as Twitter and Facebook, congratulating themselves on A Separation's success at the Oscars.

"Imagine Iranians are now waking up to find the world is talking about its cinema, not its nuke, for a change," said Iranian journalist, Reza Asadi, on his Twitter account.

The Oscars was not broadcast live in Iran by the state media, but many Iranians watched it through illegal satellite dishes. Many online users shared Farhadi's comments and clips of his acceptance speech and news websites based outside the country liveblogged the event.

Despite generating patriotic sentiments among ordinary Iranians, Tehran leaders have been skeptical about the film's worldwide success, especially in the United States which they consider as a sworn enemy.

A Separation was originally produced with permission from the Iranian government. But in the face of its success, the regime has not publicly denounced the film but many of its supporters have publicly spoken against it. In a programme broadcast in the state-run television, Masoud Ferasati, an Iranian writer whose views are close to those of the Islamic regime, said: "The image of our society that A Separation depicts is the dirty picture Westerners are wishing for."

He added: "On one hand, they [the US] impose sanctions against us and on the other, they give award to our film, to send us a positive signal, I think this [the film's success] is an illusion. This is not a good film." Ferasati's remarks have been echoed by many other regime supporters.

A Separation had managed to obtain government blessing although permission for its production was briefly removed in 2010 when Farhadi voiced support for imprisoned film-maker Jafar Panahi at the Iran Cinema Celebration festival. After its nationwide release, it attracted an unprecedented audience for an independent film inside the country and even won government-sponsored awards.

A Separation's popularity in Iran left no choice for the regime but to put its name forward for the Oscars.

Reactions to **My Week With Marilyn** 27 September 2012

Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Votes	~	~	~	~	2	3	14	15	6	1

Total received – 41 Average Score – 7.56

Your Comments

Excellent – thoroughly enjoyed

Another really good film

A very entertaining film, most enjoyable

What an enjoyable evening

Another excellent choice - a fine start to the season

An interesting fairy tale!

Enjoyed film very much – great music very atmospheric

Very enjoyable

Well cast and well acted – entertaining , amusing and interesting

Excellent

Again, seen this before, but good to see again – it still works

A lightweight but very enjoyable film, well acted and directed

Quite forgot it wasn't Marilyn and Sir Laurence – Colin (Eddie Redmayne) was perfect

Michelle Williams was superb as MM and Kenneth Branagh could have been Olivier, but Colin Clark scenes seemed more fiction than fact.

The sound was excellent (which I learnt after the film was due to the blu ray format)

Locations named by the only respondent to have a stab (thank you!):

Polsdon Lacey, Windsor, Eton, Runnymede

Others used in the making of the film included Hatfield House, New Bond Street, White

Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead, Saltwood Castle, Kent and the obvious one; Pinewood Studios,

Iver Heath. Interestingly the Director also used the same studio in which The Prince and the Showgirl was shot in 1956.

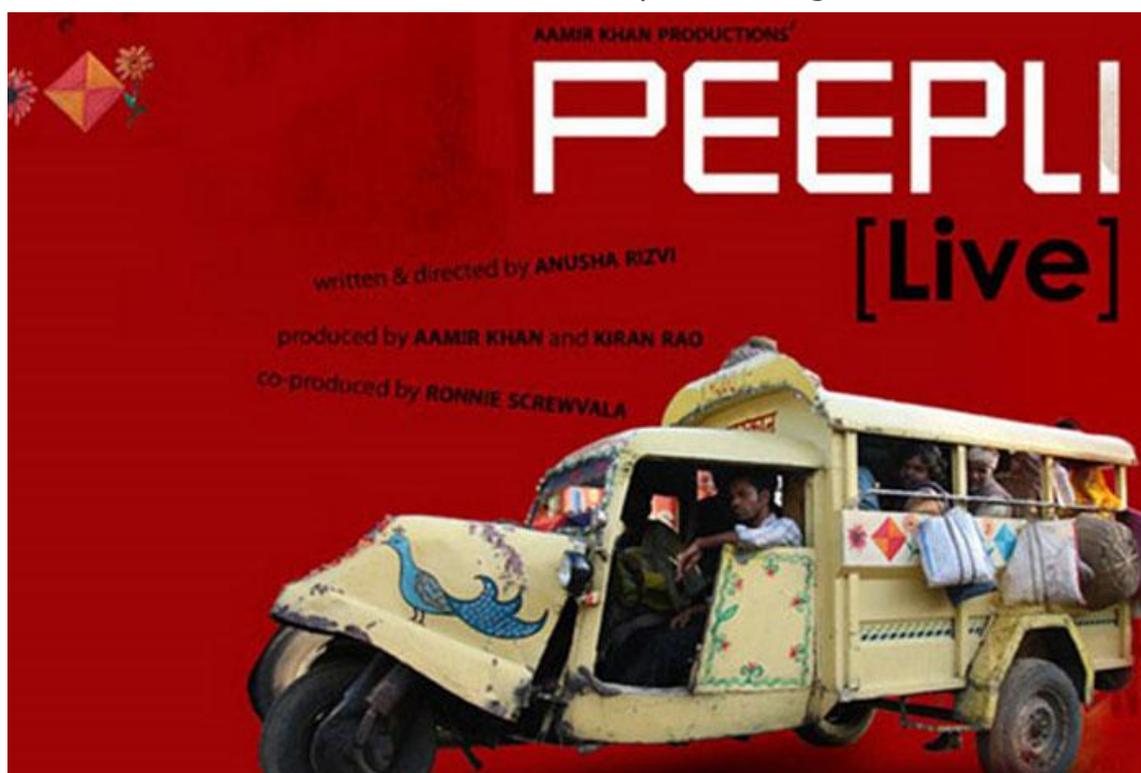
Our next film

8pm on Thursday 25 October 2012

Our film to mark One World Week:

In the India village of Peepli, poor farmer Natha (Das) discovers that his family will benefit from his suicide thanks to a loophole in a government scheme.

Soon Natha's plan to exploit this becomes the focus of a media circus that descends on the village.



Drawing on India's rural-versus-urban divide, this is a dynamic, enjoyably-acted yarn that balances farcical humour with a satisfying seriousness.