

## About IFFA

Now in its eighth year, **Iranian Film Festival Australia** is the only nation-wide Australian festival dedicated to Iranian cinema. Our aim is to showcase a diverse range of the best and most interesting of current Iranian cinema, one of the world's most exhilarating national cinemas, and through cinema to introduce Iranian culture to other Australians, providing a better cultural understanding. IFFA commenced in 2011, opening with *A Separation*, straight from its Berlin Golden Bear win and before its Oscar win. It expanded from three to five Australian capital cities in 2012. In 2016, Perth was included in the main circuit of the festival to be covering six major capital cities of Australia. Many Iranians consider IFFA the key Iranian cultural event in Australia.

This year's program includes recent films from some of the most prominent Iranian directors such as Jafar Panahi's *3 FACES* (Winner of Best Script at Cannes 2018), Bahman Ghobadi's *TALE OF THE SEA* (2018 Moscow Film Festival) and Mani Haghighi's Black-Comedy, *PIG* (2018 Berlinale official competition) along with the work of new generation of filmmakers such as Abbas Amini's *HENDI & HORMOZ* (2018 Berlinale) & Mostafa Sayari's *AS I LAY DYING* (Venice Film Fest 2018).

Visit festival website for details [www.iffa.net.au](http://www.iffa.net.au)





## TALE OF THE SEA **FEATURES** ■■■ (Hekayat-e Darya)

**Drama, 97 min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Writer/ Director /Producer:** Bahman Farmanara

**Cast:** Bahman Farmanara, Fatemeh Motamed-Arya, Leila Hatami, Saber Abar, Ali Nassirian

**Director Bio:** Farmanara graduated from the University of Southern California with a BA in Cinema in 1966. In 80s he went back to Iran and started producing and directing his own films. He has produced numerous successful films such as Abbas Kiarostami's first feature, *The Report* (1977), Dariush Meherjui's *The Cycle* (1977) and Valerio Zurlini's *The Desert of the Tartars* (1977 co-pro with Italy and France). He directed and starred in *Fragrance of Jasmine* in 2000, which won several prizes internationally for him.

**Director's statement:** When it is forbidden to tell one's story in an open manner because of its political implications, one is obliged to use metaphors to communicate with one's audience. *Tale of The Sea* is the story of a well-known writer, driven to madness because of a tragic incident he witnessed. His personal story, with his wife and the daughter of his former lover, gives a twist to a tale that is as complicated as the sea, for the sea only tells the truth when a storm is raging.

Taher Mohebi, a well-known writer, breaks down after witnessing a violent murder and spends three years in a mental institution. After his release Taher is told that things are just as they were before, but his relentless hallucinations make him want to return to the institution.

### **Festivals & Awards:**

International Film Festival "East&West"  
Orenburg, Russia 2018. 'Official Competition'  
Fajr int'l Film Festival



## **AXING** (Darkoub)

**Drama, 92 min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Director :** Behrouz Shoaybi

**Writer :** Hossein Torabnezhad, Azita Irani

**Producer :** S.Mahmoud Razavi

**Cast :** Amin Hayaee ,Sara Bahrami, Mahnaz Afshar,Negar Abedi,Shadi Karam-rodii,Hadi Hejazifar,Tofan Meherdadian,Atiyeh Javid & Jamshid Hashempour

**Director Bio:** Born in 1979 in Mashhad, Iran, Shoaybi has been involved in many projects as writer, assistant director and actor working with veteran directors such as Mehrjui and Hatamikia. *Axing* is Shoaybi's third feature film. His previous films include *The Corridor* and *Ciyanide*. Shoaybi received Crystal Simorgh of Best Debut Feature at Fajr Film Festival for *The Corridor*.

The story of an addicted woman Mahsa who thinks that her girl is dead but when finds out that she is alive and lives by her father (Mahsa's ex-husband) decides to take her back. This put her to face her ex-husband and his new wife.

### **Festivals & Awards:**

Winner Crystal Simorgh for Best Actress (Sarah Bahrami), Fajr Film Fest 2018

Winner Crystal Simorgh for Best Supporting Actor (Jamshid Hashemour), Fajr Film Fest 2018

**\*International Premiere at 8th Iranian Film Festival Australia**





## AS I LAY DYING (Hamchenan ke Mimordam)

**Drama, 73min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Director :** Mostafa Sayari

**Writer :** Behnam Abedi, Mostafa Sayari,  
Hamed Hosseini Sangari

**Producer :** Abbas Amoori ,Hosseini Sangari

**Cast :** Nader Fallah, Elham Korda, Majid  
Aghakarimi, Vahid Rad, Mohammad Rabbani

**Director Bio:** Born in 1989 in Mashhad - Iran,  
Mostafa Sayari is a graduate of Psychology. He  
has made many short films and documentaries.  
*As I Lay Dying* is his debut feature film.

To fulfil the last will of their recently departed father, three brothers, joined by their only sister, drive to a village in the middle of nowhere where he asked to be buried. The heat and the long journey make the experience unbearable, especially when the body begins to rot. This is the time for the eldest brother, exhausted and angry, to vent out the long- unspoken grudge against the youngest brother who has looked after the father for years.

### Festivals & Awards:

75<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival 2018 (Orizzonti Competition)

54<sup>th</sup> Chicago Int'l Film Festival 2018 New Directors Competition



## HENDI & HORMOZ (Hendi va Hormoz)

**Drama, 88 min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Director :** Abbas Amini

**Writer :** Hossein Farrokhzadeh & Abbas Amini

**Producer :** Abbas Amini & Pouria Heidary

**Cast :** Hamed Alipour, Zohreh Eslami,  
Asma Daneh-chin, Mohammad Banouj

**Director Bio :** Abbas Amini was born in 1983 in Abadan, Iran and started making short films at the age of 13. After moving to Tehran, he started making documentary films and became especially orientated towards social and child welfare issues. He has since directed a number of shorts and documentaries on social issues and the terrible consequences of the *Iran/Iraq war*. *Hendi and Hormoz* is Amini's second feature fiction film as a director.

On the island of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, according to local custom, thirteen-year-old Hendi is married off to sixteen-year-old Hormoz. Despite the fact that the young couple hardly know each other, they fully enjoy the beginning of their married life together. But when Hendi unexpectedly becomes pregnant, Hormoz is forced to make an ill-advised pact with a smuggler.

### Festivals & Awards:

68<sup>th</sup> Berlin Film Festival 2018 - Generation Competition

NETPAC Award at 36rd Fajr International Film Festival





## PIG (Khook)

**Comedy-Crime-Drama, 108 min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Writer/ Director / Producer :** Mani Haghighi

**Cast:** Hasan Majuni, Leila Hatami, Leili Rashidi, Ali Mosaffa, Parinaz Izadyar, Siamak Ansari

**Director Bio:** Mani Haghighi, born in 1969 in Tehran, comes from an artistic family. His grandfather, Ebrahim Golsetan is an author and one of the pioneers of Iranian New Wave cinema. His mother is a known translator/writer and his father was one of finest cinematographers of Iran. His second feature film, *Men at Work*, is considered a notable contribution to Iranian cinema as well as world cinema. Comedy in its absurd form is the essence of most of Haghighi's films. He is most known for *Men at Work* (2006), *Modest Reception* (2012), and *A Dragon Arrives* (2008). *PIG* is one of the few examples of comedies in Iranian cinema that has been received well at the international stage.

Banned from making films, Hasan is doubly frustrated that his muse, the actress Shiva, is working with other directors. His home life is faring no better. There are disagreements with his wife, and his aged mother is getting more and more detached from reality. But most galling of all, a serial killer is going about beheading Iran's finest filmmakers, yet Hasan remains unscathed. Why, when he is one of the greatest, is he being completely ignored? There is much to enjoy in this social satire. The hilarity and hijinks that follow are quite unlike anything in Iranian cinema.

### Festivals & Awards:

68<sup>th</sup> Berlinale (Berlin Film Festival 2018) – Official Competition  
Seattle int'l Film Festival 2018



## HAT-TRICK (Hatrick)

**Drama-Thriller, 92min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Writer /Director :** Ramtin Lavafi

**Producer :** Majid Motallebi

**Cast :** Amir Jadidi, Parinaz Izadyar, Mahour Alvand, Saber Abar

**Director Bio :** Born in 1972 in Abadan/Iran, Ramtin Lavafi studied film-making at IRIB University in Tehran. His first feature film, *Be Calm and Count to Seven* (2008) won the Tiger Award at the Rotterdam Intl Film Festival and took part in more than fifty international film festivals around the world. *Hattrik* is his third film.

It is midnight. Getting back from a party with his wife and two friends, Farzad hits something by his car. No one sees anything! After a long discussion, all confused and frightened, they leave the scene to one of friend's house to think it over and do the right thing. But primary talks about the accident are soon replaced by discussions about hidden secrets.

### Festivals & Awards:

21<sup>st</sup> Shanghai International Film Festival





Actress Behnaz Jafari receives an alarming video by a desperate provincial girl pleading for help. The girl's dreams are being crushed by her family, as they refuse to let her leave home to study at the prestigious conservatory in Tehran where she has been accepted. The video ends abruptly. Concerned for the girl's well-being, Behnaz and filmmaker Jafar Panahi travel by car to the rural northwest where they have amusing encounters with the charming folk of the girl's mountain village. But the city visitors soon discover that the protection of age-old traditions is as strong as local hospitality.

#### Festivals & Awards:

WINNER 71<sup>st</sup> Cannes Film Festival 2018 - Award for Best Screenplay  
Nominations: Palme d'Or, Cannes Best Actress

## 3 Faces (Se Rokh)

Drama, 100 min, 2018, Color, Iran

Writer/ Director / Producer : Jafar Panahi

Cast : Behnaz Jafari, Jafar Panahi  
Marziyeh Rezaei, Maedeh Ertheghaei

**Director Bio:** One of the most recognizable names in Iranian cinema both because of his films and also his political situation in Iran, Jafar Panahi, was born in 1960 in Mianeh, Iran. After several short films and documentaries and assisting Abbas Kiarostami, he directed his first feature *The White Balloon* (1995) which won Camera d'Or at Cannes Film Festival. He soon became one of Iran's most influential filmmakers and his films continued to win numerous award and international acclaim, including the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for *The Circle* (2000), and the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival for *Offside* (2006).



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
BEST SCREENPLAY



On the very last days of the Iraq-Iran War, a group of Iranian soldiers from three generations are returning home. The news of an Iraqi attack on a strategic boarder area forces them to make a tough choice. Should they return home for a long awaited family reunion or head to the battlefields.

#### Festivals & Awards:

WINNER Crystal Simorgh for Best Film - Fajr Film Festival, National Competition  
WINNER Crystal Simorgh for Best Actor (Amir Jadidi) National Competition  
Nominations: Crystal Simorgh for Audience Favorite Film National Competition

\* International Premiere at 8th Iranian Film Festival Australia

## The Lost Strait (Tangh-ye Abughorayb)

Action-Drama-Thriller, 95 min, 2018, Color, Iran

Writer /Director : Bahram Tavakoli  
Producer : Saeed Malekan

Cast : Amir Jadidi, Javad Ezati  
Hamid Reza Azarang

**Director Bio:** Bahram Tavakoli, winning numerous awards, is a well-established filmmaker of the new generation of Iranian cinema. One of his most successful works, which he directed and wrote, is *Here Without Me* (2011), a breathtaking adaptation of Tennessee Williams *The Glass Menagerie*.





## SLY (Marmouz)

Comedy, 90 min, 2018, Color, Iran

**Director :** Kamal Tabrizi

**Writer :** Aidin Sayar Sarie

**Producer :** Javad Nooruzbeigi

**Cast :** Hamed Behdad, Vishka Asayesh, Azadeh Samadi, Mani Haghighi.

**Director Bio:** Born in 1957 in Tehran, Kamal Tabrizi is internationally best-known for *Maternal Love*, which won many prestigious awards. A graduate of cinema from the College of Cinema and Theatre of Arts University, Tabrizi began his film career as cinematographer, screenwriter, editor and director of short films in 1979. Tabrizi directed his debut feature, *The Passage*, in 1988, but his *Leily Is With Me* established him as a successful cineaste in the national scene. His ground-breaking venture, *The Lizard*, was a domestic box-office hit and received the audience award in Fajr and the best Asian film award in Montreal 2004.

Ghodrat-Allah Samadi wants to become a member of the Iranian parliament, but he has a reputation for recklessness and taking arbitrary action. Deciding his best course of action is negotiating with assorted parties and politicians, none take him seriously until he's connected to a single, notorious incident.

### Festivals & Awards:

Busan international film festival 2018

Fajr International Film Festival 2018



**BUSAN**  
International Film Festival



## Rona; Azim's Mother

( Shekastan-e Hamzaman-e Bist Ostekhan )

Drama, 88 min, 2018, Color, Iran/ Afghanistan

**Writer /Director :** Jamshid Mahmoudi

**Producer :** Navid Mahmoudi

**Cast :** Mohsen Tanabandeh, Mojtaba Pirzadeh, Fatemeh Hosseini, Fereshteh Hosseini, Fatemeh Mirzaei, Alireza Ostadi

**Director Bio :** Jamshid Mahmoudi was born in 1983 in Afghanistan. He was hardly one-year-old when his family sought refuge in Pakistan, and then in Iran. In 2012 he directed his first feature, *A few Cubic Meters of Love*, inspired by a true story that took place in Kabul. The film was very well received by the international audience and was selected as the Afghan representative for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards. *Rona* is his second feature film as the director and scriptwriter.

Azim is an Afghan refugee living in Tehran along with his family. Being the head of entire family, he arranges for his brother Farooq and his family along with their mother to be smuggled into Germany. But at the last moment Farooq shamefully decides not to take their mother with him. Azim, who feels lonely and is furious, accidentally finds out that his mother is in dire need of a kidney transplant. During his search for a donor, he discovers that Iranians are not legally permitted to donate their organs to foreigners. Now he has to choose between his own life and his mother's, whom he has always claimed as the most important one in his life.

### Festivals & Awards:

Busan international film festival 2018



**BUSAN**  
International Film Festival



Amir, an introvert person who hardly ever smiles, is dealing with a lot of personal and family problems but still he is the kind of person who is always there for his family and friends. Amir goes to the airport to welcome his friend Ali, where he realizes that Ali's ex-wife Ghazal has taken their son Ardalan with her illegally and is trying to leave the country. Amir, Despite of all his personal problems, takes Ali to his home office to help him to find his ex-wife and son.

#### Festivals & Awards:

54<sup>th</sup> Karlovy vary Film Festival 2018 – East of The West Competition

## Amir (Amir)

**Drama, 106 min, 2018, Color, Iran**

**Writer /Director :** Nima Eghlima

**Producer :** Ziya Hashemi

**Cast :** Milad Keymaram, Seyd Mostafa Ghadiri, Behdokht Valian, Sahar Dolat Shahi

**Director Bio:** Nima Eghlima was born in 1982 in the North of Iran, Golestan Province. He studied edit & dramatic literature to the master's degree. Director of short films "*Rima*", "*Voice of the foot*", "*Root*", and "*passage*". Cinematographer of the short film "*being a woman*". *Amir*, his debut feature, was the only film selected from Iran at 54th Karlovy Vary FF.



**Karlovy Vary  
International Film Festival  
East of the West – Competition**



In rural Iran, tomato factory owner Rasul Rahmani is widowed and still saddened by the loss of his wife. Meanwhile, poor factory worker Nobar works for a low wage while caring for her family. The two strike up a friendship when Rasul learns of Nobar's struggles, and this closeness eventually becomes a romance. But with differences in class and age worrying his tradition-bound family, Rasul might not be able to pursue his newfound love.

#### Festivals & Awards:

Winner Bronze Leopard at Locarno International Film Festival, 1995

Nominee Golden Leopard at Locarno International Film Festival, 1995

## THE BLUE VEILED RETROSPECTIVE ■■■ ( Rusari Abi)

**Drama/Romance, 85 min, 1995, Color, Iran  
Restored Version**

**Writer /Director :** Rakhshan Banietemad

**Producer :** Majid Modarresi

**Cast :** Ezzatollah Entezami, Fatemeh Motamed Arya, Golab Adineh, Afsar Asadi Jamshid Esmailkhani

**Director Bio:** One of today's most prominent female Iranian directors, Rakhshan Banietemad, Graduated film directing from The Faculty of Dramatic Arts and joined the Iranian TV in 1973. Later on, she made a number of short documentaries and directed her first feature '*Kharej az Mahdudeh (1986)*'. Her next films are '*Zard-e Ghanari*', '*Pul-e Khareji*', '*Nargess and Rusari Abi*'. Her film *Tales (2014)* won best script at the 71st Venice International Film Festival. She was also selected the jury member of Venice FF Orizzonti section in 2017. With a collection of films that combine absolute honesty with extraordinary subtlety, Banietemad offers an analysis of the current cultural pressures shaping Iranian women's lives. She is widely recognized among Iranian audiences and critics as one of Iran's most prominent filmmakers, and has also enjoyed international popularity.



## Lunch Time (Vaght-e Nahar)

SHORT FILMS ■■■

Short-film/Drama, 15 min, 2017, Color, Iran

Writer/ Director / Producer : Alireza Ghasemi

Cast : Khorshid Cheraghipour, Amir Taghdiri, Roya Bakhtiari

A 16 years old girl has come to the hospital to identify the body of her mother. The people in charge at the hospital – due to her young age – won't let her into the morgue and ask her to bring her guardian instead. However, the girl insists that most of her family is in jail for criminal activities. Finally, after her insistence they agree to let her into the morgue.

### Festivals & Awards:

70<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival 2017



SHORT FILM  
competition  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES



## Bubble (Hobab)

Short-film/Drama, 18 min, 2017, Color, Iran/  
Australia

Writer/ Director / Producer : Ronak Taher

Cast : Melissa Zakeri , Pedram Sharifi , Mahyar Rahattalab

Bubble introduces a couple on holiday visiting family. Having recently discovered that his father has cancer, Payam must decide whether to return to his adopted country with his wife, or stay and care for his Father.

### Festivals & Awards:

Sydney Film Festival 2018 – Nominated for Dendy Award for Best Australian Shortfilm  
WINNER of Master of Film and TV Best Production script Award



## Staircase (Pagard)

Short-film/Drama, 20 min, 2018, Color, Iran

Writer/ Director /Producer: Mohsen banihashemi

Cast : Sara bahrami, Toomaj daneshbehzadi,  
Faezeh yousefi, Kamelia ghazali

Saideh is sepearting from her husband (Ahmad Reza). She wants transforming her heuse to other place befor starting court about wardship of her son.

### Festivals & Awards:

75<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival 2018 (Horizons short films section)





\* The program is subject to change. Please check the final schedule online at [IFFA.NET.AU](http://IFFA.NET.AU)

### Sydney - Event Cinemas Top Ryde, 18-22 October

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
THU	18 OCT	7:00pm	Sly	90	Opening Night + Afterparty
FRI	19 OCT	7:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	Q&A - Guest in Attendance
		9:30pm	Hattrick	92	
SAT	20 OCT	4:00pm	Hendi & Hormoz+Bubble (S)	88+18	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	3 Faces	100	
		9:00pm	Amir	106	
SUN	21 OCT	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	PIG	108	
		9:00pm	Axing	92	
MON	22 OCT	7:00pm	The Lost Strait	95	

### Sydney - Dendy Cinemas Newtown, 19-23 October

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
FRI	19 OCT	7:00pm	3 Faces	100	
		9:30pm	Axing + Staircase (S)	92+20	Shortfilm before the feature
SAT	20 OCT	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	The Blue Veiled (1995)	85	Retro Title - Guest in Attendance
		9:00pm	PIG	108	
SUN	21 OCT	4:00pm	As I Lay Dying	73	
		6:30pm	Hendi & Hormoz+Bubble (S)	88+18	Shortfilm before the feature
		9:00pm	Hattrick	92	
MON	22 OCT	7:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	
TUE	23 OCT	7:00pm	Amir	106	Closing Night Drinks

### Melbourne - ACMI, 25-30 October

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
THU	25 OCT	7:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	Opening Night + Afterparty Q+A - Guest in Attendance
FRI	26 OCT	7:00pm	Amir	106	
		9:30pm	Sly	90	
SAT	27 OCT	4:00pm	Hendi & Hormoz+ Bubble (S)	88+18	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	3 Faces	100	
		9:00pm	Axing + Staircase (S)	92+20	Shortfilm before the feature
SUN	28 OCT	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	PIG	108	
		9:00pm	The Lost Strait	95	
MON	29 OCT	4:30pm	As I Lay Dying	73	
		7:00pm	Hattrick	92	
Tue	30 OCT	3:30pm	The Blue Veiled	85	Retrospective Title

### Perth - Luna Cinemas Leedervill, 2-7 Nov

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
FRI	2 NOV	7:00pm	PIG	108	Opening Night + Afterparty
SAT	3 NOV	4:30pm	Amir	106	
		7:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	
SUN	4 NOV	4:30pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		7:00pm	Sly	90	
MON	5 NOV	7:00pm	Hendi & Hormoz+ Bubble (S)	88+18	Shortfilm before the feature
TUE	6 NOV	7:00pm	Axing + Staircase (S)	92+20	Shortfilm before the feature
WED	7 NOV	7:00pm	Hattrick	92	

### Brisbane - Elizabeth Picture Theatre, 8-13 Nov

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
THU	8 NOV	7:00pm	PIG	108	Opening Night + Afterparty
FRI	9 NOV	7:00pm	3 Faces	100	
		9:30pm	Amir		
SAT	10 NOV	4:00pm	Hendi & Hormoz+ Bubble (S)	88+18	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	Axing + Staircase (S)	92+20	Shortfilm before the feature
		9:00pm	Sly	90	
SUN	11 NOV	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	Hattrick	92	
		9:00pm	TBA		
MON	12 NOV	7:00pm	The Lost Strait	95	
TUE	13 NOV	7:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	

### Adelaide - Mercury Cinema, 16-18 Nov

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
FRI	16 NOV	7:00pm	PIG	108	Opening Night + Afterparty
SAT	17 NOV	4:00pm	Hattrick + Bubble (S)	92+18	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	Axing + Staircase (S)	92+20	Shortfilm before the feature
		9:00pm	Sly	90	
SUN	18 NOV	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	3 Faces	100	
		9:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	

### Canberra - NFSA ARC Cinema, 17-18 Nov

Day	Date	Time	Film	Runtime	Event
SAT	17 NOV	4:00pm	Tale of The Sea	97	
		6:30pm	PIG	108	
SUN	18 NOV	4:00pm	Rona + Lunch Time (S)	88+15	Shortfilm before the feature
		6:30pm	3 Faces	100	