

ALSO ON TORONTO SCREENS THIS WEEK

Iranian allegory and a wave of horror

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

IRANIAN CINEMA AT HARBOURFRONT: Among the many events at the Tirgan Iranian Festival at Harbourfront Centre is the Canadian premiere of a masterwork by Iranian filmmakers who've suffered greatly at the hands of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime.

Like many artists, Mohammad Rasoulof and Jafar Panahi were arrested as part of the suppression of the Green Movement, the tide of protests sparked by the disputed results of the 2009 presidential election.

Following several periods of detention, both were eventually sentenced to six-year prison terms and 20-year bans from filmmaking. Already being well-skilled at evading government censors, they still managed to complete new movies that debuted at Cannes in May, a provocation that incurred further repercussions.

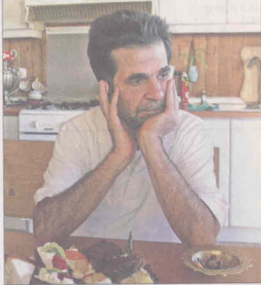
Since his movies are better known internationally, Panahi's situation drew the larger outcry from the international film community, but neither Rasoulof nor his work should go overshadowed.

Directed, written and produced by Rasoulof with his friend Panahi serving as editor, *The White Meadows* was originally released in 2009.

The visually stunning story of an old man who travels among desolate islands in order to perform strange rituals (including the collection of tears), it's an unmistakably bitter allegory about the persecution suffered by Iranians.

Screening Sunday at 4 p.m., it's one of three Iranian films playing at the York Quay Centre's Studio Theatre. (Tehran-born Bahman Farmanara, who moved to Canada in the 1980s and whose work has also been the subject of censorship and bans, presents his 1979 film *Tall Shadows of the Wind* there on Saturday at 5 p.m.)

CAVALCADE OF HORROR: Things get plenty freaky at the city's movie houses this week. Due to the Bloor Cinema's renovation, two of the theatre's wilder regular events have migrated to the Revue (400 Roncesvalles). On July 28 at 9 p.m., *Fangoria* editor Chris Alexander's Film School Confidential series marks its arrival in the west end by presenting the Canadian premiere of *Eaters*, a new addition to the venerable (and gory) tradition of the Italian zombie movie. Then on July 29 at 11:30 p.m., *Excited Mental State* stake out fresh terrain for their highly interactive presentation of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, long a favourite at the Bloor.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

The White Meadows, an allegorical film directed by Mohammad Rasoulof and edited by Jafar Panahi, screens this Sunday at York Quay Centre.

of the Book Revue, the theatre's ongoing look at screen adaptations. Up for scrutiny is the 2002 version of Graham Greene's 1956 novel *The Quiet American*.

MISSISSAUGA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL: Now four years old, Mississauga's very own showcase of Canadian indie film runs to Sunday at the AMC at Winston Churchill and the QEW. Over 30 films are set to play, ranging from the relatively big-budget likes of *Casino Jack* to *Feature Presentation*, the full-length film debut by Michael and Dan Palermo, Collingwood-bred brothers whose 2008 short *Being Humar* made the cut for the Tribeca film festival. Works by many more young Canuck filmmakers get their first chance, too.

OUTDOOR CINEMA IN THE GTA AND DURHAM COUNTY: Take advantage of the weather at the many outdoor screenings both in Toronto and at Durham's most unique movie event. Local offerings include *Megamind* (Friday at Downsview Park), *Amal* (Tuesday at Harbourfront Centre's WestJet Stage), *West Side Story* (Tuesday at Yonge-Dundas Square), *The Sound of Music* (Wednesday at David Pecaut Square) and *Waste Land* (Thursday at the Open Roof Festival).

Thursday also marks the beginning of the Fabulous Festival of Fringe Film, an annual showcase of experimental film, many of which are screened at the Hanover Drive-In. Nearby barns also come into use for a program that includes a screening of Walter Ruttmann's silent classic *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* with live musical accompaniment. The forces of fringe film rule over Durham until Aug. 1.

In the east end, at the newly opened Projection Booth (1035 Gerrard St. E.), *Rue Morgue* magazine and production company Unstable Ground team up to present "Little Terrors," a compilation of horror shorts that screens Tuesday at 7 p.m. And no true genre fan can miss this week's instalment of "The Best of Midnight Madness" at TIFF Bell Lightbox. Screening Saturday at 11 p.m. is *Wild Zero*, indisputably the greatest of all Japanese rock 'n' roll zombie apocalypse flicks.

WEST SIDE STORY AND MORE IN GLORIOUS 70MM: That rivalry between the Sharks and the Jets kicks up once again when the 1961 screen version of Leonard Bernstein's classic musical begins a week-long run on July 28 as part of TIFF Bell Lightbox's "Summer in 70mm" series. A continuation of last winter's popular program of much-cherished movies presented in rarely

seen widescreen versions, the new season includes a return engagement for *Lawrence of Arabia* (starts Aug. 4) and *Spartacus* (Aug. 12).

SANDALS, YOUTUBE AND ARIAS AT CINEPLEX: Speaking of *Spartacus*, Stanley Kubrick's swords-and-sandals epic can also be seen on not-quite-as-big screens at eight GTA Cineplex theatres on Sunday.

In other special events at Cineplex, audiences can catch a preview of *Life in a Day* — a documentary created from footage shot by thousands of people worldwide and submitted to YouTube — at the Varsity Cinemas on Sunday at 7 p.m. Then on Wednesday, the Metropolitan Opera's 2009 production of *Tosca* returns as part of a summer encore for "The Met: Live in HD."

THE QUIET AMERICAN ON PAGE AND SCREEN: On Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. at the Revue Cinema, Philip

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