

غلام

Gholam

A film by Mitra Tabrizian

Starring Shahab Hosseini

A British - Iranian feature film, 2016

Gholam is the debut feature from award-winning Iranian artist and filmmaker Mitra Tabrizian, in collaboration with Cyrus Massoudi, author of *Land of the Turquoise Mountains: Journeys Across Iran*. The film explores the insular lives of Iranian migrants, trapped in the void between the world they left behind and the one they struggle to find their place in, an outsider in both.

The first UK-Iranian production to explore the lives of the London-based Iranian diaspora brings together two of the most prominent Iranian actors from before and after the 1979 revolution, Behrouz Behnejad and Shahab Hosseini, the recipient of the grand jury prize for best actor at Cannes, 2016.

Inspired by a real character, an enigmatic Iranian exile featured in Mitra's 2006 Award winning photographic series, Border, on Iranians in exile, Gholam is the story of one man's search for a sense of purpose in the alien environment – a man with no expectations who has been through a revolution, a war and a change of landscape.



Synopsis

Set in London in 2011, *Gholam* is the story of an enigmatic Iranian cab driver, who works at night and doesn't like to talk about his past.

He has two jobs, yet seems not to be interested in the money. He eats at his uncle's café every day, yet is fully aware of being betrayed by him. He agrees to the arrangement his mother makes for his return home, yet has no intention of going back. We learn that he was once a war hero, and yet disappeared from the battlefield without a trace.

A man with no past, no future, no 'convictions', he still gets involved in the conflict of a total stranger and carries it through to the very end.



Shahab Hosseini received the grand jury prize for best actor at Cannes, in 2016 for his role as a husband shaken by an attack on his wife in *The Salesman* directed by Asghar Farhadi. Previously he received the Silver Bear Award from the Berlin International Film Festival for his memorable role as Hodjat in Asghar Farhadi's internationally critically acclaimed film, *A Separation* (2011) - Academy Award for Best Foreign Film (2013).

Hosseini won the Crystal Simorgh from Tehran's 27th Fajr International Film Festival for his performance as Kourosh in *Superstar*. He has also received several nominations and awards from Iran's House of Cinema including Best Actor in a Lead Role for his performance in Asghar Fardadi's film, *About Elly* (2009).



Mitra Tabrizian was born in Tehran, Iran and lives and works in London. Her photographic work has been exhibited and published widely, and is represented in major museums and public collections. Solo shows includes Tate Britain (2008). She is a recipient of several photographic awards, including the Royal Academy 'Rose Award for Photography' (2013).

Tabrizian has made three short films. International film festival screenings include Berlin, Toronto and Tiburon amongst others.

Critical reception

'Mitra Tabrizian is, by any standards, a major artist and an important player on the UK arts stage. Her Tate Britain exhibition of 2008, This is That Place, which I was proud to host as the gallery's then director, was an exceptional critical and public success... She was selected to join a group of artists representing Iran at the 2015 Venice Biennale, where her work was, again, widely praised and admired in its exploration of cross cultural currents...A cultural and cinematic milestone, Gholam is the first British film to spotlight an Iranian community...It is a mesmeric and important film...'

Stephen Deuchar, Director, Art Fund

"The film script, direction and the performance of the main character are excellent. The unique style of the filmmaking produced a mesmerizing film - honest and beautifully photographed."

Joram ten Brink, producer of the BAFTA award-winning and Oscar-nominated documentary, *The Act of Killing*.



Director	Mitra Tabrizian
Producer	Zadoc Nava
Screenplay	Mitra Tabrizian and Cyrus Massoudi Based on an original idea by Mitra Tabrizian

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