

MYSTIC IRAN: THE UNSEEN WORLD



Biography

Aryana Farshad, a Persian-born filmmaker began her higher education in Paris, majoring in French Literature at La Sorbonne, prior to receiving her degree from L' Institut Des Hautes Etudes Cinematographiques in Film Production and Editing. Aryana started work as a documentary editor in France, continuing in Iran, where she received the ABU Award for editing THE EMIGRANT BIRDS and worked with award-winning Iranian and European filmmakers, including the two time Oscar winner French director, Albert Lamorisse. Aryana was an Associate Professor at the Institute of Film and Television Higher Studies in Tehran where she taught Montage de Film.

In 1978, Ms. Farshad moved to the United States and continued film studies at USC. She joined the Editors Guild of America (I.A.T.S.E) and worked in post-production at major studios, including MGM and Columbia Pictures, while developing her own projects.

Mystic Iran: the Unseen World is Aryana Farshad's first full-length documentary premiered in 2003 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Synopsis

"Mystic Iran" is a modern woman's mystical journey deep into the heart of her native country Iran in search of spiritual rites and rituals hidden for centuries.

Despite risking confiscation of filming equipment and traffickers at the border of Iraq, documentary filmmaker Aryana Farshad gained access to underground locations and religious ceremonies that have never been captured on film.

From the women's chamber of the Great Mosque, to Mystics in trance and the sacred dance of the Dervishes performed secretly in the remote mountains of Kurdistan, Aryana uncovers cultural and religious practices few have seen.

Aryana is now producing a documentary titled "Kings and Myths", covering the legacy of ancient Persia and Cyrus the Great, and in preparation for "Longing for the Soul", based on the life and spiritual messages of 13th century mystic poet Rumi, and "People of the Wind", chronicling lifestyles in the Persian Gulf region.

Awards

InFACT Steering Committee. Selection For Documentary Oscar Admission. 2004. International Documentary Association.

A.C.E AWARD

Member of Jury for the best documentary editing.

Montreal World Film Festival

Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival.

Tiburon International Film festival.

Cinema Paradise International Film Festival.

Tehran International Film Festival.

Jury and film selection committee

Sepass Film Festival

Jury and film selection committee

ABU Award

Editing award for thirty minutes documentary film

Audience Choice Award

Los Angeles Film Festival

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Billie Achilles fund and
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