



FICTIONVILLE STUDIO in association with SUNDANCE CHANNEL present

THE GLASS HOUSE

A film by Hamid Rahmanian and Melissa Hibbard

Iran/USA, Documentary; 92 minutes, ©2008

In Persian with English subtitles

Original Format: Standard Definition DV

Screening Format: HDCAM, Digibeta, Beta SP, DVD (NTSC/PAL)

Official Website: www.fictionvillestudio.com/the-glass-house

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Synopsis:

The fringes of Iranian society can be a lonely place, especially if you are a teenage girl with few resources to fall back on. *The Glass House* follows four girls striving to pull themselves out of the margins by attending a one-of-kind rehabilitation center in uptown Tehran. Forget about the Iran that you've seen before. With a virtually invisible camera, the girls of *The Glass House* take us on a never-before-seen tour of the underclass of Iran with their brave and defiant stories: Samira struggles to overcome forced drug addiction; Mitra harnesses abandonment into her creative writing; Sussan teeters on a dangerous ledge after years of sexual abuse; and Nazila burgeons out of her hatred with her blazing rap music. This groundbreaking documentary reflects a side of Iran few have access to or paid attention to: a society lost to its traditions with nothing meaningful to replace them and a group of courageous women working to instill a sense of empowerment and hope into the minds and lives of otherwise discarded teenage girls.

Synopsis (Short)

The girls of *The Glass House* take us on a never-before-seen tour of the underclass of Iran as they strive to pull themselves out of the margins of society by attending a one-of-kind rehabilitation center in uptown Tehran.

Team:

Thanks to the participants who bravely shared their lives and stories with us

Samira Babai

Sussan Najafi

Nargess Najafi

Mitra Salimi

Nazila Tayebi

Nooshin Tayebi

Shot, Edited & Directed by Hamid Rahmanian

Written & Produced by Melissa Hibbard

Original Music by David Bergeaud

Sound Editing & Re-Rerecording Christopher Harvegt & Paul Longstaffe

Post Production Sound High Voltage Sound

Add'l Post Production Sound Todd-AO

Todd-AO Mixer Aaron Levy

Additional Editing and Camera Ebrahim Saeedi

Post Production Services LEVEL3 POST

Colorist Ron Nichols

Technician Joshua A. Baca

Titles Ian Camb

Digital Effects FlickerLab

Effects Animator Nikolay Nachev

Legal Services Zubi Rosner, LLP

World Wide Sales The Film Sales Corp.

Filmmakers' Biographies:

(Joint Bio)

Filmmakers Hamid Rahmanian and Melissa Hibbard have created three documentaries on video: BREAKING BREAD (2000), SIR ALFRED OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT (2001) and SHAHRBANOO (2002). In 2003, they co-founded a non-profit organization – ARTEEAST - its mission statement to promote the arts and cultures of the Middle East and it's worldwide diasporas in the United States. In 2005, Hamid Rahmanian made his directorial début with the narrative feature DAY BREAK (Dame Sohb), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and went on to win several awards at festivals around the world. THE GLASS HOUSE is their latest narrative documentary, which will premiere in the Fall 2008.

(Individual Bios)

Hamid Rahmanian holds a B.F.A. from the University of Tehran in Graphic Design and earned a M.F.A. in Computer Animation in 1997 from Pratt Institute. He received “The First Place College Award” (a student Emmy) from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and was nominated for a Student Academy Award for his animation, THE SEVENTH DAY, among other awards in 1997. In 1998, he was hired by Disney Feature Animation Company as a Look Development Artist where he worked on “Tarzan”, “The Emperor’s New Groove” and “Dinosaur”. His first 35 mm film, a 19 minute short, AN I WITHIN (1998), received Kodak’s “Best Cinematography Award” and “Best American Short” from the LA Int’l Short Film Festival. Mr. Rahmanian has made three documentaries on video: BREAKING BREAD (2000), SIR ALFRED OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT (2001) and SHAHRBANOO (2002), all of which have been well received by the media and worldwide audiences. In 2003, Mr. Rahmanian co-established the non-profit organization ARTEEAST - its mission statement to promote the arts and cultures of the Middle East in the United States. He completed his first feature length fiction film, DAY BREAK (2005) which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and has received a special prize at the Fajr Film Festival in Iran, the Jury Award at Annonay International Festival of First Films and “Best of the Middle East” from the Indianapolis International Film Festival. He has recently completed his latest feature-length documentary in Iran, THE GLASS HOUSE.

Melissa Hibbard is a photographer and filmmaker. She earned her BA in Moving Image Arts in 1996 from the College of Santa Fe where she studied documentary filmmaking. Upon graduation, she moved to Los Angeles and worked in the film industry as an art director on feature films for five years. Her photographs have been exhibited in the US and abroad over the past 6 years. She has produced four documentaries on video: BREAKING BREAD (2000), which premiered on PBS and SIR ALFRED OF CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT (2001). Both have been well received by the media and worldwide

audiences. SHAHRBANOO (2002) premiered on PBS where it received among the highest ratings for an independently produced documentary. Her latest documentary, *THE GLASS HOUSE* will be released in the Fall 2008. She also co-produced the feature film *DAY BREAK* (2005) that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and has won several awards around the world. In 2003, she co-established a non-profit organization – ARTEEAST - its mission statement to promote the arts and cultures of the Middle East and it's worldwide diasporas in the United States; she was a board member and the ArteEast Online Director through 2007. She is currently writing a visual memoir entitled *CATCHING STONES*.

David Bergeaud (coming)

About Omid e Mehr:

Omid e Mehr was established in 2004 in Iran to strengthen the social, emotional, and economic competencies of disadvantaged young women (aged from 15 to 25), and provide them with a sense of self-worth and with the opportunities to experience a full range of life options through self-empowerment, education and training. Our clients have typically either been put into care from an early age, or run away from abusive homes, or live in extreme poverty. They often suffer from severe mental health and emotional difficulties, mostly stemming from their experiences of neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and exposure to drugs and violence. Despite their past difficulties, and the obstacles still facing them, our young clients have dreams. They yearn to participate in life, and to make meaningful contributions to the world around them. Omid's holistic approach provides these young clients with the opportunities to realize such dreams. They are offered the tools, structure and support to help them succeed. And, above all, we offer them the chance to be heard. The cornerstones of this approach are self-empowerment, education and training, supplemented by effective work placement, counseling and assistance.

To learn how you can make a difference in the lives of the girls of Omid e Mehr visit:

<http://www.omid-e-mehr.org/>