Gholam

A film by Mitra Tabrizian
Starring Shahab Hosseini
A British - Iranian feature film, 2017

Winner: Platinum Remi Award for First Feature
WorldFest - 50th International World Film Festival, Houston 2017
Gholam is the debut feature from award-winning Iranian artist and filmmaker Mitra Tabrizian, in collaboration with Cyrus Massoudi.

The film 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 conviction, he still gets involved in the conflict of a total stranger and carries it through to the very end.
Lead Actor
Shahab Hosseini received the Grand Jury prize for Best Actor at the Cannes International Film Festival in 2016 for Asghar Farhadi’s The Salesman, the academy award winner for Best Foreign Film (2017). Previously Hosseini received the Silver Bear Award from the Berlin International Film Festival for his supporting role in Farhadi’s Oscar winning A Separation (2013).

Hosseini has received several other nominations and awards from Iran’s House of Cinema, including Best Actor in a lead role in Fardadi’s About Elly (2009) and the Crystal Simorgh from Tehran’s 27th Fajr International Film Festival for his performance as Kourosh in Superstar.

Writer/Director
Mitra Tabrizian is an Iranian-British artist and filmmaker. Her photographic work has been exhibited and published widely and is represented in major international museums and public collections, including the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Smithsonian Institution, Washington and Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst others. Solo museum shows include Tate Britain (2008). She is a recipient of several photographic awards, including the Royal Academy 'Rose Award for Photography’ (2013) and exhibited at the Venice Biennale (Iranian pavilion, 2015). Tabrizian’s short films have been screened at premier festivals including, Berlin and Toronto. www.mitratabrizian.com

Co-Writer
Cyrus Massoudi is an Iranian writer and translator based in London. His first book, Land of the Turquoise Mountains: Journeys Across Iran, is published by IB Tauris (2014). He was the co-writer on Gholam. He is currently developing a number of film and television projects.

Producer
Zadoc Nava has produced Tabrizian’s three previous short films and Gholam. He is currently producing Mambo Man, a British feature film shot on location in Cuba through Tumi Productions.
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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