

KINO LORBER
i n c o r p o r a t e d

presents

JAFAR PANAHI'S TAXI

Written, Produced and Directed by Jafar Panahi



2015 Berlin Film Festival- Winner Golden Bear
2015 Toronto International Film Festival

Iran | 82 minutes | 2015 | In Farsi with English Subtitles

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Synopsis

Internationally acclaimed director Jafar Panahi (*This is Not a Film*) drives a yellow cab through the vibrant streets of Tehran, picking up a diverse (and yet representative) group of passengers in a single day. Each man, woman, and child candidly expresses his or her own view of the world, while being interviewed by the curious and gracious driver/director. His camera, placed on the dashboard of his mobile film studio, captures a spirited slice of Iranian society while also brilliantly redefining the borders of comedy, drama and cinema.

Director's Statement

I'm a filmmaker. I can't do anything else but make films. Cinema is my expression and the meaning of my life. Nothing can prevent me from making films. Because when I'm pushed into the furthest corners I connect with my inner self. And in such private spaces, despite all limitations, the necessity to create becomes even more of an urge. Cinema as an art becomes my main preoccupation. That is the reason why I have to continue making films under any circumstances to pay my respects and feel alive.

Director Biography

Jafar Panahi was born in 1960 in Mianeh, Iran. He is an award-winning director, writer and producer. After several short films and documentaries, he directed his first feature *The White Balloon*, which premiered in 1977 at Cannes' Directors Fortnight and won the Camera d'Or. *The Mirror* premiered in 2000 in Locarno and won the Golden Leopard. *The Circle* premiered in 2003 in Venice and won the Golden Lion. *Crimson Gold* premiered in Un Certain Regard in Cannes and won The Jury Prize. *Offside* premiered in 2010 in Berlin and won the Silver Bear for Best Director. *This is Not a Film* premiered in 2012 in Cannes Official Selection in Special Screening. *Closed Curtain* premiered in 2013 in Berlin and won the Silver Bear for Best Script.

Jafar Panahi's films are known for portraying realistic images of the Iranian society, causing them to be banned from the screen in Iran. In fact only his first film, *The White Balloon* has been granted the screening license in Iran.

Panahi was arrested twice; the second time for 86 days. The Iranian government released Panahi on bail following pressure from international film festivals, artists and well-known filmmakers and Panahi's own hunger strike.



According to the final judgment by the court, Jafar Panahi was condemned to a twenty-year ban on filmmaking, screenwriting, traveling outside of the country and giving interviews. He could be condemned to six years in prison if breaking these restrictions. That's why his past three films were made without authorization.

Panahi has won a number of human right prizes, such as the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and The Medal of Art for Freedom.

Filmography

Taxi (2015)

Closed Curtain (2013)

This is not a Film (2011)

Offside (2006)

Crimson Gold (2003)

The Circle (2000)

The Mirror (1997)

The White Balloon (1995)

Credits

Due to the restricted nature of *Jafar Panahi's Taxi*, there is no billing block and no credits for this film; only the name of Jafar Panahi as writer, producer and director.

There is no music cue sheet for this banned film; the music is original and gifted to the director. There is no clearance needed. There are no performance rights to be paid or declared.