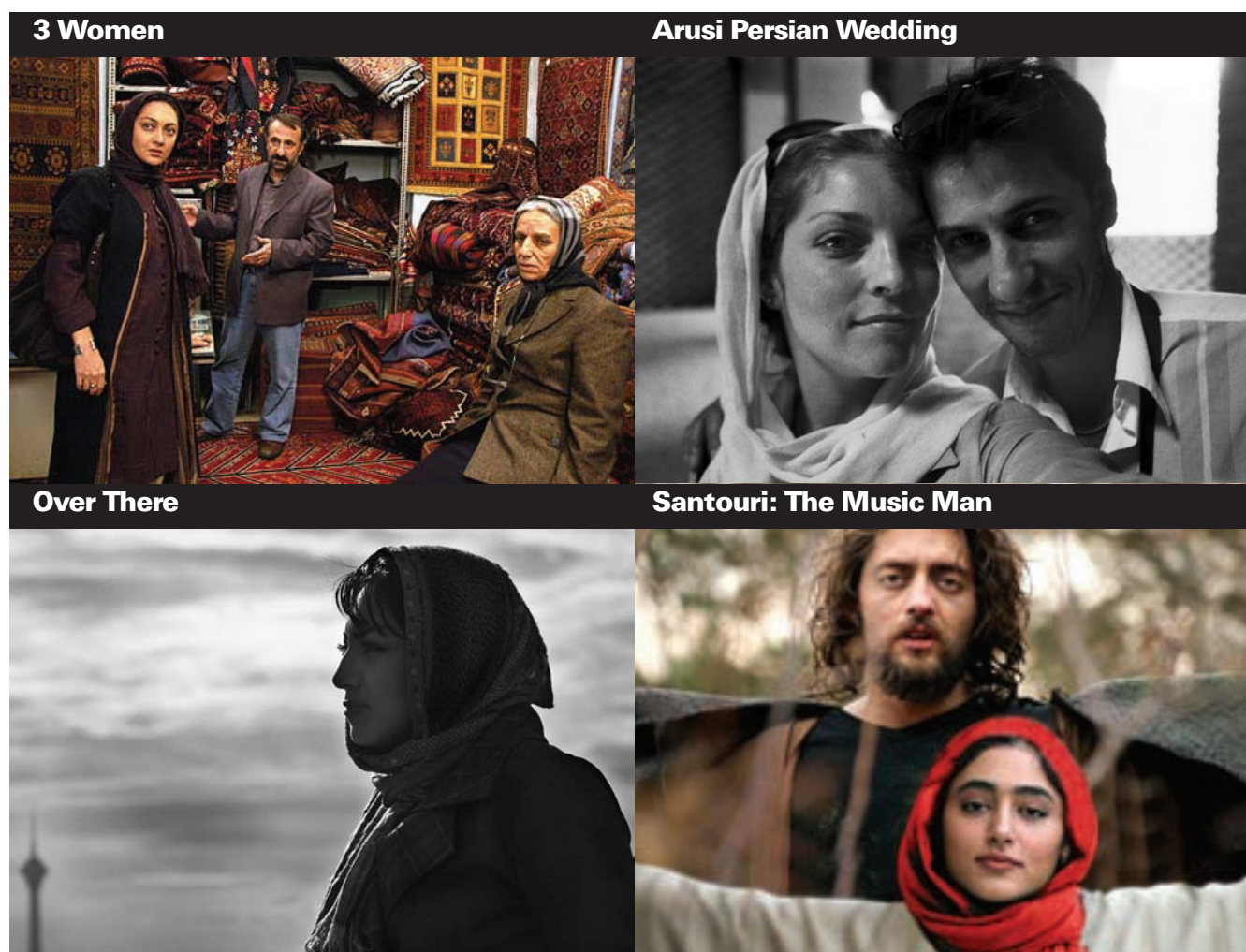


# 16th Houston Iranian Film Festival

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston,  
and Rice University

Two weekends:  
January 30–February 8, 2009



The popular annual showcase of the best in Iranian cinema returns! This year's selection includes six films released in 2007–08. Highlights include the acclaimed latest film by leading director Dariush Mehrjui, a new film starring Niki Karimi (who visited Houston to promote the 2007 festival), and the winner of the top prize at the Thessaloniki Film Festival in Greece.

Generous support provided by ILEX Foundation. Special thanks to Niloo Fotouhi of ILEX Foundation; Carter Long of MFA Boston; Barbara Scharres, Gene Siskel Film Center; Tom Vick, Freer and Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian Institution; Charles Dove, Rice Cinema; the Society of Iranian American Women for Education; and the Iranian Cultural Foundation.



**At the MFAH:**

**Santouri: The Music Man**  
Directed by Dariush Mehrjui  
(Iran, 2007, 106 min., subtitled)  
*Friday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.*  
*Saturday, January 31, 1:00 p.m.*

A heroin addiction takes its toll on a young musician in contemporary Iran.

**At the MFAH:**

**Head Wind (Baad-e-Daboor)**  
Directed by Mohammad Rasoulof  
(Iran, 2008, 65 min., subtitled)  
*Saturday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.*

An exploration of Iran's underground satellite, internet, and DVD culture.

*Cosponsored by the World Affairs Council of Houston. A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Garth Jowett (University of Houston) follows the film and includes participants Ms. Farnoosh Moshiri (award-winning writer and faculty member, University of Houston-Downtown), Dr. Reza Pondeb (scholar and faculty member, Texas Southern University), Lila Sharifian.*

**At the MFAH:**

**Arusi Persian Wedding**  
Directed by Marjan Tehrani  
(USA/Iran, 2008, 54 min, subtitled)  
*Sunday, February 1, 5:00 p.m.*  
*Free admission courtesy of Houston PBS and ITVS Community Cinema*

Filmmaker Marjan Tehrani chronicles the experiences of her brother and his American fiancée as they travel to Iran to have a Persian wedding ceremony.

**At the MFAH:**

**3 Women (3 Zan)**  
Directed by Manijeh Hekmat  
(Iran, 2008, 94 min., subtitled)  
*Sunday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.*

A museum curator (Niki Karimi) saves an ancient carpet from an unscrupulous dealer, only to lose the precious antique—and her mother—to a mysterious mission.

**At Rice Cinema:**

**The Banana Skin (Poost-e-moz)**  
Directed by Ali Atshani  
(Iran, 2008, 89 min., subtitled)  
*Friday, February 6, 8:00 p.m.*

This comedy finds workaholic Hamid reborn as a prankish spirit after he dies in a freak accident.

**At Rice Cinema:**

**7 Blind Women Filmmakers (7 Filmsaze zan-e nabina)**  
Various directors  
(Iran, 2008, 116 min., subtitled)  
*Saturday, February 7, 8:00 p.m.*

A year-long filmmaking workshop for blind women culminated in the remarkable short films compiled here. Each film was made with a compact digital camera and records a very personal aspect of its maker's life.

**At Rice Cinema:**

**Over There (Aan ja)**  
Directed by Abdolreza Kahani  
(Iran, 2008, 75 min., subtitled)  
*Sunday, February 8, 8:00 p.m.*

Newly divorced Payman has 10 days to return to the United States to renew his green card, but his ex-wife has the power to prevent him from leaving the country.

**MFAH Films**

Brown Auditorium Theater  
The Caroline Wiess Law Building  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
1001 Bissonnet Street  
713-639-7515 [www.mfah.org/film](http://www.mfah.org/film)

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

**Rice Cinema**  
University at Stockton Boulevard  
Entrance #8  
713-348-4853 [www.ricecinema.rice.edu](http://www.ricecinema.rice.edu)