



## 6<sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL CINEMA INVISIBLE (FCI) Proctors Schedule

**SATURDAY APRIL 22, 10:00 am – 9:00 pm**

### **Session One (10:00 – 11:45) Women In The Arts**

This screening features a satirical short about an actor in a casting session and a documentary on four female dancers in the primarily Muslim country of Tajikistan.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - *Zugzwang* (7 minute run time) (2015, Directed by: Perla Joe Maalouli, Lebanon) This satirical journey takes us through the mind of Maria Sikias, a Lebanese woman who's going through a casting session with a German casting director. With each emotion requested from the director, her subconscious is revealed as her imagination take over.

REGIONAL PREMIER - *After the Curtain* (1 Hour 10 minute run time) (2015, Directed by: Emelie Mahdavian, USA/Tajikistan) Four female dancers battle shifting cultural norms in the post-Soviet, predominantly Muslim nation of Tajikistan. This intimate portrait is seen through the performers' eyes as they weigh their love of art against economic hardship, loneliness, and social reproach. The film also celebrates the rich dance and music culture of the Central Asian country largely unknown in the West.

### **Session Two (12:00-1:45) Fighting The Patriarchy**

This screening features two films a short about a young woman attempting to start her own business and a documentary on a woman who survived an acid attack in Iran.

REGIONAL PREMIER - *Zaina's Cake* (17 minute run time) (2015, Directed by: Nada Almojededi, Saudi Arabia) Zaina, a new college graduate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is struggling to start her own cake baking business without her father's approval. When she meets Ma'an, she jumps at the opportunity to change her life.

REGIONAL PREMIER - *Masoumeh* (1 Hour 9 minute run time) (2015, Directed by: Sona Moghadam, Iran) Masoumeh Atae is brutally attacked with acid by her ex-father-in-law a year and a half after her divorce. Despite losing her sight and suffering severe burns, she seeks custody of her son. As the representative of other acid attack victims, Masoumeh tries to change the penal laws and to improve social conditions while trying to create a beautiful life with her son.

### Session Three (2:00 – 3:45) Twists And Turns

This screening features a series of short dramatic films with a common theme of things not being what they seem.

US PREMIER - **Parasol** (5 minute 48 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Youssef Ksentini, Tunisia)- A failed businessman tries to find himself again in this “Wes Anderson”-style tragi-comedy.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Tomorrow After Yesterday** (12 minute 25second run time) (2014, Directed by: Behzad Moloud, Iran) Filmed in one take, “Tomorrow After Yesterday” is a dynamic, fast-paced action short that follows a car thief after a hit-and-run accident.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Civil War** (1 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Masih Salehi, Iran) An extended metaphor on the heavy impact of a seemingly common occurrence.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Building No. 13** (11 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Amir Gholami, Iran) The denizens of an apartment building face a series of challenges in their day to day life.

**A Bottle of Milk** (25 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Amirreza Amjadi, Iran) WORLD PREMIER - Kianoosh is a twenty-seven year old author with suicidal thoughts. As he starts to put his plan in motion, he realizes that he has forgotten to write his last testament.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Caravan** (7 minute 13 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Suzannah Mirghani, Qatar) The term “Caravan” comes from the ancient Persian to describe a procession of travelers on camel back. This idea has evolved into the present day with long lines of modern vehicles stranded in traffic jams of consciousness of a cross section of Qatari society.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Lunar** (4 minute 31 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Alaa din Assem, Egypt) The storm and sea have shipwrecked a sailor and his son in the darkest place on the planet, the lunar land.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **About Arif** (12 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Hasan Kalender, Turkey) Arif, a man with Down Syndrome, has a very special relationship with his mother and an important goal: dancing with a woman.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Mask** (13 minute 46 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Özgür Can Uzunyaşa, Turkey) A man receives a gift box with a mask and it has a surprising effect on him.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **The Bone** (5 minute 24 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Volkan Güney Eker, Turkey) It’s an ordinary day in Turkey. The media outlets, which have a direct impact on society, provide discourse on the equality of men and women; and yet they still deny many realities.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **It's only three nails !! Saturn Devouring His Son** (6 minute 50 second run time) (2015, Directed by: Ahmad Al Hajj, Syria) - “It's only three nails !!” demonstrates the mechanism of transforming a man into an object, and how he is doomed by everlasting regulations that intersect with the values of social equity, injustice and tyranny.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Syria** (3 minute 43 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Halla Nejm, Belgium) Through body language and dance, a young and isolated man who joins a war in the name of a god.

FESTIVAL PREMIER - **Benjamin's brother - Story about a broken heart** (3 minute 36 second run time) (2015, Directed by: TSFM Noam Sharon/Tal Rosenthal, Israel) A man struggles to cope with his lover's rare disease.

## **Break (4:00 – 5:00)**

### **Session Four (5:00 – 6:45) Rural Tales**

This screening features two dramatic films where the protagonist faces intriguing challenges in a small town.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **The Bridge** (10 minute 53 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Reza Jamali, Iran) A young priest travels to an unusual and remote village to propagate Islam, but he encounters problems in the way.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Fairy Wellspring** (1 hour 14 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Jalal Nasiry Hanis, Iran) A man moves to a small village to work as a teacher and becomes entangled in an obsession with a fairy. In ancient Persian mythology, Pari (ie Faeries) are types of sorceresses or witches. In modern Persian epics (particularly seen in Ferdowsi's Shanameh), Parī are invariably represented as a benevolent or at least benign supernatural creature who sometimes visit the mortal realm.

### **Session Five (7:00- 9:00) Traditions and Transitions (Documenting The Arts)**

This screening features several documentaries on multiple artistic disciplines.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **The Apprentice** (21 minute 40 second run time) (2014, Directed by: Tayfun Belet, Turkey) Today there is only one master who can produce the parchment paper made from animal hides that was available in Bergama in 190 B.C.. Against tradition - his apprentice is a woman.

US PREMIER - **Meels and Felts** (20 minute 20 second run time) (2015, Directed by: Leila Khalilzadeh, Iran) Welcome to the daily routine of Akbar Pir Ahmadi, one of the few masters of felt-making in Shiraz, Iran. He balances the intensely physical process of felting with Zurkhaneh (traditional Persian gymnastics).

US PREMIER - **Kayeh** (15 minute 15 second run time) (2015, Directed by: Keivan Mohseni, Iran) Kayeh is a scarf traditionally worn by infants and small children. This documentary shows the painstaking process an old woman from Gerash, a small town southern Iran, engages in to make Kayeh.

US PREMIER - **A Whistle Comes From Far Away** (16 minute 20 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Burak Dogan, Turkey) For centuries the people of Kushkoy , a village in northeastern Turkey and the surrounding areas have communicated by whistling. Unfortunately this custom, a true form of language,

had started to die out. This documentary shows how "Uncle" Orhan, one of the villagers, has kept this age-old tradition alive by teaching it to the local children.

US PREMIER - **Skipper Soleiman** (25 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Sa'adat ali Saeed Pour, Iran) Lake Urmia in Iran was the largest lake in Middle East and the third largest saltwater lake on Earth. But it now holds only 5% of its original water and has turned into a vast salt land. The boats that had come and gone on Lake Urmia are stranded on the salt land. Soleiman is no longer able to work on a boat, and is now a farmer, but he still visits the salt land to reminisce. Skipper Soleiman portrays the landscape created by nature and human intervention, and people in it.

## **SUNDAY APRIL 23, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm**

### **Session Six (10:00 – 11:45) Visions and Voices**

This screening features a documentary on a woman working outside the established lines in Egypt and a documentary on two women in Jordan who are redefining journalistic norms there.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Zainab** (19 minute 14 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Morad El-Sayed, Egypt) Zainab is an Egyptian girl from the village Esna in Upper Egypt. This village imposes specific restrictions on girls by virtue of customs and traditions. Zainab refused to accept these restrictions and decides to change her life by working outside her hometown.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Voice of the Valley** (51 minute run time) (2015, Directed by: Leila Jarman, Jordan) With no formal journalistic training, Asma and Munira produce and broadcast a groundbreaking socio-political radio program called "Voice of the Valley." Their radio program calls attention to the issues facing this neglected area such as the water shortage, poverty, corruption within the local government, and neglect—problems which have not yet been addressed by governmental officials in Amman.

### **Session Seven (12:00 – 1:45) War Stories**

This screening features short documentaries and dramas with a common theme of war.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Siege** (1 minute 19 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Thaeer Al Shamali, Turkey) A short film based on the tragic reality lived by Syrians under siege.

US PREMIER - **Eyes In Qaah** (26 minute 26 second run time) (2015, Directed by: Tamim Kalash, Syria) This documentary follows the life of two young girls, Katia and Fatima living in "Qaah," a refugee camps inside Syria near the Turkish border. Through the eyes and voices of Katia and Fatima, their heartbreaking story narrates the agony of the Syrians who were forced to leave, and the new way of life those who are displaced have to endure.

WORLD PREMIER - **Dar Al-Harb** (5 minute 25 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Rene Colling / Jan Fabi, Germany) After an Arabic father hosts a western journalist, a heavy fight between father and mother flares up when the mother discovers the intentions of her husband.

US PREMIER - **Gaza: A Gaping Wound**. (13 minute 57 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Anne Paq, Poland / Palestine) - "Gaza: A Gaping Wound" tells the stories of families from the Gaza Strip whose lives were shattered during the Israeli military offensive in 2014. It stands as an intimate tale of sudden loss, pain, and the life in the aftermath. For the survivors, once the war ends, the struggle really begins. The film is part of a long-term project and web documentary "Obliterated Families".

**\*\* Special note: "Gaza: A Gaping Wound" directors Anna Paq and Ala Qandil will be in attendance to discuss the film and talk about updates about the subjects of the film\*\***

REGIONAL PREMIER - **NGO** (5 minute 25 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Sam Christie, UK/Iraq) NGOs, or Non Governmental Organizations take many forms, but the term NGO has recently come to mean groups such as the UNHCR that help the needy in troubled parts of the world. Shot in both Iraq and the UK, "NGO" seeks to raise questions about who really helps who and more importantly how.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Dyab** (20 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Mazin M Sherabayani, Iraq) 12-year-old Dyab is a Kurdish Yazidi boy living at Arbat refuge camp after the attacks by the Islamic States on their villages at Shingal Mountains (Sinjar). Dyab's dream is to become a filmmaker and actor and tell the stories and sufferings of his people to the outside world.

WORLD PREMIER - **Good Morning** (12 minute 8 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Alhasan Yousef, Syria) Each ordinary Syrian family faces a series of daily dilemmas - the lack of gas, electricity, fuel, food and money. And yet every new morning that comes is inherently a "good" morning.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Hope** (1 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Salar Pashtoonyar, Afghanistan/Canada) A Canadian soldier "B.Pos" and his friend "Faisal" an Afghan kid sit on a barren ground hopeful for a better future.

## **Session Eight (2:00 – 3:45) Actions and Decisions**

This screening features a series of short dramatic films with a common theme of actions and decisions leading to unexpected endings.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Temptation** (3 minute 33 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Armin Mahmoudi, Iran) What (or "who") tempts people to go too far?

REGIONAL PREMIER - **South Pole** (5 minute 8 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Emin Akpınar, Turkey) Muhsin is a retired, simple man, but one day he sees a disturbing report on the television and his world is forever changed.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Unidentified** (8 minute 43 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Vedat Oyan, Turkey) In the 1990s, approximately 17,000 unsolved murders were committed in Turkey. The perpetrators of these murders were organizations called "JITEM" and counterinsurgency, whose existence was proven, but who were not recognized by the state. The murderers drove "Renault 12"s – also named Renault Toros in Turkey, which became a symbol for unidentified murders. The film compares the production purposes of the vehicle in France and its uses in Turkey.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Six O'Clock** (8 minute 55 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Keivan Mohseni, Iran) In this action short, everything happens at six sharp.

WORLD PREMIER - **The Fountain Pen** (10 minute 15 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Armin Keshvaripour, Iran) A girl has only a few hours left to buy the crucial drugs necessary for her father, but she faces a different bureaucracy with each step forward.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Let's Rock** (4 minute 41 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Younes Yousfi, Morocco) Marya, a young Muslim girl, decides to attend a rock concert.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIER - **Stains** (31 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Sara Koozehchian, Iran) "Stains" is the story of a woman in her early thirties who has followed the expected path that has been set out for her as a woman in Iran. Stuck in a difficult situation, a common household problem provides an unlikely answer to her questions.

WORLD PREMIER - **All The Things Father Had** (6 minute 32 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Vahid Alimardani, Iran) A wordless rumination on family, memory and the steps needed to move on.

FESTIVAL PREMIER - **Kite** (1 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Eiraj Afkar, Iran) A boy flying a kite becomes an unlikely hero.

## **Break (4:00 – 5:00)**

### **Session Nine (5:00 – 6:45) Animation**

This screening features a series of some of the best new short animated films from the Middle East.

FESTIVAL PREMIER - **Genesis** (1 minute 34 second run time) (2016, Directed by: Onur Senturk, Turkey) "Genesis" is about death and re-birth, exploring how both concepts are connected with one another.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Little Thing** (5 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Or Kan Tor, Israel) A tiny creature searches for companionship in an empty city. His music transforms the space around him and calls to others.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **The Empty Page** (13 minute run time) (2016, Directed by: Siavash Khodaei, Iran) Writer's block sends one man on a fantasy that quickly spins out of his control.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **The Suit** (3 minute 3 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Moreno Nour, USA/Iran) The point-of-view of an outsider looking into a world he does not understand.

WORLD PREMIER - **Fastaqim** (2 minute 40 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Abdullah Al Dasuki, Syria / Turkey) This film deals with the issue of terrorism, and the radical and extremist groups that guide young people towards a path of fanaticism and terrorism.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Light Sight** (7 minute 28 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Seyed M. Tabatabaei, Iran) M.E., a character imprisoned in a room is attracted to a hanging light. M.E. tries to catch it but the room itself becomes an obstacle in his way.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **The Switchman** (9 minute 51 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Mehdi Khoramian, Iran) An old man waits for his long-gone sweetheart in a train station.

WORLD PREMIER - **The Black Land** (4 minute 57 second run time run time) (2015, Directed by: Daby-Zainab Faidhi, Iraq) The city of Baghdad has long been referred to as Ardh Al Sawad (the Black Land) by muslims. The dense palm trees that cover the city appear as black matter from above; since recent wars occupied the city the title has taken on a new meaning where "Black Land" refers to death, blood, religious flags and their Islamic enforcement on the people of Baghdad. This fairy tale animation, is a metaphorical story. The beautiful woman has lost not only her children to the wars and destruction, but her soul. Starting in the present day, the woman, in black, attempts to find an answer for her future but revisits the past, told through coffee reading (a traditional fortune-telling method in the Middle East). This classic love story also challenges stereotypical gender roles of the Middle East and shows the resemblance between the woman and the city of Baghdad in surrendering to the wrong powers.

**\*\* Special note Featured director Daby-Zainab Faidhi will be in attendance to discuss her film "The Black Land". \*\***

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Arkhe** (10 minute 43 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Batuhan Köksal, Turkey) The bright light draws two spirits to a dystopian world. In this dark world, the spirits start to make a solid body for themselves with human parts they find.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **Junk Girl** (15 minute 22 second run time run time) (2015, Directed by: Mohammad Zare, Iran) "Junk Girl" is an adaptation of a poem found in Tim Burton's 1997 book, The Melancholy Death Of Oyster Boy & Other Stories.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **So What** (2 minute 52 second run time run time) (2010, Directed by: Jasim Mohammed, Iraq) When occupation becomes "freedom" and political corruption is called "democracy" there is only hope in finding a new home outside of the country's borders.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **For Freedom** (3 minute 20 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Ahmad Khoshniat, Iran) "FOR FREEDOM" imagines the last moments in the life of Iranian poet and journalist Mohammad Farrokhi Yazdi. In the 1930s, he published the newspaper "Toufan" (Storm) and gained fame for both his poetry about freedom and his constant attacks against the government. He was arrested and eventually executed at Tehran's Qasr prison by Dr Ahmadi. (While employed at the prison, Ahmad Ahmadi was ordered to kill numerous political prisoners, typically by air injection. Ahmadi was eventually tried and executed in 1944.)

FESTIVAL PREMIER - **Man Idol Cat** (1 minute 40 second run time run time) (2013, Directed by: Mahnaz Yazdani, Iran) A man running away from a flood asks an idol to save his life, but his cat has another idea.

REGIONAL PREMIER - **In Other Words** (5 minute 55 second run time run time) (2015, Directed by: Tal Kantor, Israel) A man recalls a moment of a lost opportunity to communicate with his daughter. Their brief meeting after years undermines his world and renders his words meaningless.

US PREMIER - **Mouse and Cat** (4 minute 23 second run time run time) (2016, Directed by: Ahura Shahbazi, Iran) Based on a 14th-century political fable by the Persian poet Ubayd Zakani, this story highlights the moral dilemma of the oppressed who face the problem of their own powerlessness.

**Closing Statements (6:45- 6:55)**

**Film stills, festival images, select film screeners and press passes available upon request.**

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