

## Maani Petgar

Born in Tehran, Iran, November, 1959.

After running a Photography Studio, (1980-82), he started working in the film industry with Amir NADERI, in *The Runner* (1982-83) and *Water, Wind, Dust* (1985) as stills photographer, assistant director and assistant editor.

After working in *The Key* (Dir. Ebrahim FOROUZESH-1986), he migrated to Australia and between 1988 to 1990 worked in the Australian Film Industry in various positions, until he made his first experimental short, *Reverse Angle* in 1991.

In 1994, he returned to Iran to make a documentary on Iranian cinema for SBS TV in Australia and *Farabi Cinema Foundation* in Iran, but for some reasons, that project was never executed, and instead *Cinema Cinema* was made and *Film Lovers*, were initiated.

He has returned to live and work in Iran since 1997 and planned two feature films in Iran. The first project: *Looking Through*, is recently completed.

He has established his own production houses; *Reverse Angle Productions*, between 1996-2002 in Australia and *Unexposed Films* in Iran- since 2004-

Also;

Part time film critic and collaborator on *Film Monthly* magazine (in Farsi), and *Film International* (Quarterly in English, published in Iran), since 1986.

Co- Programmer;

- A retrospective of "Australian Films" at Fajr Film Festival 1998

- *A Week of Recent Documentary Films*, at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art Cinematheque, May 2000

Jury Member;

1994) Australian Short Competition –EAC Award, Sydney Film Festival

1999) "The House of Cinema" Prize –Best Documentary, Tehran

2002) Forough Film Week -Tehran

2007) "The House of Cinema Prize": Best Short & Feature Documentary Tehran

2008) "Documentary Fund" - as part of '2<sup>nd</sup> CINEMA VERITE International Documentary Film Festival' - Tehran

Filmography;

### **1991- Reverse Angle**

(zaaviye ye moghaabel)

Australia- Video 8- B&W+Col- 28 min

Experimental- (Camera, Director, Editor, Producer)

The visual in this film is from the backstage of a British/Australian TV series-*Leaving of Liverpool*- but the sounds, music and the narrations, are excerpts from the different films and some director's comments on cinema. They are juxtaposed in order to build an "essay" and a tribute -to my favorite kind of- cinema.

**1992- Point of View**

(Noghte ye did)

Australia- Video 8, B&W, 10 min

Experimental- (Ca, Dir, Ed, Pro)

Music: Kronos Quartet

Composers: Kevin Volans, Auliss Sallinen

Cast: Hussain Mozayyani

People are waiting at the bus station...

**1994- Station To Station**

Australia- S-VHS, B&W 10 min

Experimental-(Ca, Dir, Ed)

Produced by: Claude Gonzales

Music: King Crimson

Cast: Hussain Mozayyani

A train driver always moves at work, but in his personal life...

**1995-Happy Ends**

(Paayaan haaye khosh)

Australia- TV news footage- B&W- 4 min

Experimental- (Dir, Ed)

Three disasters with three happy ends.

**1995 - Brothers**

(Baraadarhaa)

Australia-Iran, S-VHS, B&W+Col-25 min

Experimental- Documentary- (Ca, Dir, Ed, Pro)

***Reverse Angle Production***

Music: Malcolm Harrison, David Hykes,

Miles Davis, Simon Fisher Turner

The similarities and the differences of two painter brothers, Nami and Nima Petgar.

### **1994-96, Cinema Cinema**

Australia-Iran, S-VHS & Hi-8, B&W+Color, 70 min

Documentary-Experimental (Ca, Dir, Ed)

Pro.Claude Gonzales-Vahid Vahed

for ***Reverse Angle Production***

Assistant Director: Mahmoud Aidin

French Co-ordinators: Mamad Haghghat,

Nader Takmil Homayoun

Original Music: Davood A.Tabrizi

Additional music; Majid Entezami

2<sup>nd</sup> Camera: Mohsen Delshakib

This is a film about the making of *Salaam Cinema* by *Mohsen Makhmalbaf* in Tehran and its eventual screening in Cannes Film Festival. Viewers are introduced to the personal and professional sides of *Makhmalbaf* and also to the uncontrollable passion for the cinema, held by the Iranian youth.

### **1998-99- the Needle & the Thread**

(Nakh va souzan)

An episode from a TV series

"*Iranian Women and Art*",

Iran-Mini DV- Color-30 min

Experimental- Documentary- (Ca, Dir, Ed)

Produced by: Ali Reza Raissian, (Iranian TV, Channel One)

Executive producer: Hasan Najm

Production Manager: Morteza Johari

Assistant Director: Bita Khoshnudi

Music: Jamshid Chemirani- Robert Rich

This film is about Ms. Eshrat Badr. She has completed an extensive research on traditional women costumes of different Iranian ethnic groups. Based on that research, she has combined and redesigned these costumes, in order to revive their vivid colors and presence, in the old -becoming modern- city of Shiraz.

### **2000- An Eclipse Which Dropped From the Sky**

(Kosoufi ke az aasemaan be zamin oftad)

Iran- mini DV- Color-21 min

Experimental- (Ca, Dir, Ed, Pro)

***Reverse Angle Production***

"In Aug.10, 1999 the last eclipse of the century took place and about 2 billion people in the world viewed it through the TV. I understood that Iranian TV is going to have a simultaneous report from five major eclipse locations...just out of curiosity; I sat down voluntarily in front of the TV, to watch the coverage of the event, and at the same time I took my camera just to shoot the reflections of light in my yard. While I was switching between the TV and the yard, I noticed that..."

**2002 - Film Lovers: Unexposed** (50 min)

**Exposed** (52 min)

(Oshshaagh e Cinema)

Iran-Australia- S-VHS & mini DV- Color

Documentary-(Cam. Dir. Edit.)

Produced by: Liz McKenzie

Original Music: Davood A.Tabrizi

Assistant Director:Mahmoud Aidin

**Reverse Angle Production**

Two parts documentary on Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Tahmineh Milani and Niki Karimi.

**Unexposed:** Tahmineh Milani makes *Two Women* (with Niki Karimi)

**Exposed:** Niki Karimi, as the 1<sup>st</sup> female post-revolution superstar, becoming the filmmaker.

Rakhshan Bani-Etemad makes *The May Lady* (1998)

**2007 - Looking Through**

(Negaah)

Iran-Australia- DV- Color-81 mins

Fictional Documentary-

(Writer, Dir, Sound Mix & Editing)

Produced by: Bahram Badiee, (**Marishan Films**)

Maani Petgar, (**Unexposed Films**)

Camera: Maani Petgar, Anahid Saaber,

Executive producer: Toradj Aslani

Associate producer: Kambiz Safari

Music: Klaus Schulze

Cast: Anahid Saaber, Danesh Shavi,

Ali Tavassoli, Farnaz Badiee, Mehdi Rusta

Synopsis:

The main female character:

‘I was studying Media in London and part of our subject was concerned with the camera and cinema. I remember once our teacher said; “there are about 40 original films in the cinema, all the rest is remaking of the same stories and concerns. And at the end, like the real life, we’re all just looking for happiness”...later on, when we had to choose a project, some of the students brought up the idea of happiness, which became the main subject of our homework.

Now, we just started our journey. Maani is researching for his next film and I’m also wondering what I can do for my own happiness.’

(Excerpt from the film)