

The 7th Annual Presentation of
Invisible Cinema
of the Middle East and North Africa



www.freecultureinvisible.com

Oct. 18 (4-6pm, 6-8pm, 8-10pm)
Oct. 19 (2-4pm, 4-6pm, 6-8pm, 8-10pm)

Siena College
Key Auditorium

For tickets visit:
Siena.edu/CreativeArtsTickets

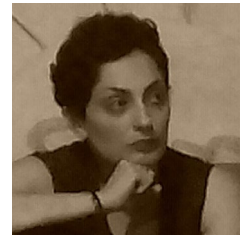
Photograph by Sheila Pinkel



Mahmood Karimi Hakak
FCI Founder & President

Every day the news reminds us that the universe we inhabit is not only a very unsafe place to live, but we are in danger of extinction. Destruction of the environment, economic, social and ethical injustice, and conflicts between the people of various cultures, religions, and nationalities, all cause us to live in an atmosphere of constant fears and threats. The greedy politicians have not been able to bring peace and tranquility to our lives, spiritual leaders have proven unable to bridge the social, economic and human divide, and most academics have limited their teachings to schoolbooks. It is left to the activists to oppose prejudice, youth to save the environment, and the artists to lead the way to collaborations, dialogues, negotiation, acceptance.

As a collective of international artists and educators, we believe in making use of the persuasive power of the arts to communicate shared principles of love and compassion, and to build bridges of understanding, reconciliation, and tolerance. It is with this principle in mind that Free Culture Invisible LLC <www.freecultureinvisible.com> was founded to help introduce the work of those artists, writers, and intellectuals who are trapped in labyrinths of political, social or economic censorship to a wider audience.



Roja Ebrahimi
Executive Artistic Director

Stressing human similarities and cultural congruencies, FCI offers an environment conducive to understanding of “the self” and “the other,” as well as a shared personal and cultural experience. Therefore, we hope to make a contribution, however minimal, to recognition, appreciation, and acceptance among people that may otherwise be conflicted. Cinema Invisible, now in its seventh season, aims to use this art as a way to open dialogue and cultural exchange among people and communities. FCI aspires to introduce film, video, music, and art that, in spite of high artistic and technical quality, has been deprived of public exhibition in the country of production.

It is certain that such ambition cannot be realized without your assistance and collaboration. To that end, we are thankful to Siena College’s support in providing the opportunity to reach you, our audience. We are also grateful to you for your enthusiasm and encouragement in fostering this much-needed artistic dialogue. We hope that with your help Free Culture Invisible grows to become a major platform for the artistic and intellectual exchange.

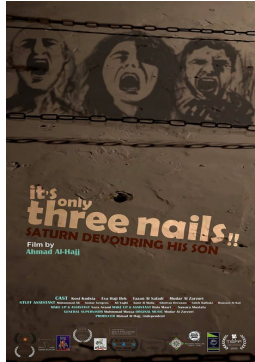
THE BEST OF FESTIVAL CINEMA INVISIBLE

Screening Schedule

Fri. Oct. 18 EXPERIMENTS INVISIBLE 4pm-6pm

IT IS ONLY THREE NAILS!

Directed by: Ahmad Al Hajj
Length: 7 minutes
Category: Short



Country: Syria
Year of production: 2015

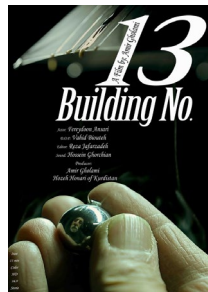
“It’s only three nails !!” demonstrates the mechanism of transforming a man into an object, and how he is doomed by everlasting regulations that intersect with the values of social equity, injustice and tyranny.

BUILDING # 13

Directed by: Amir Gholami
Length: 11 minutes

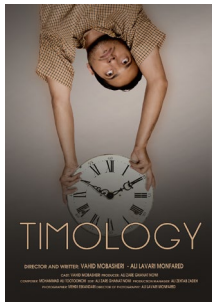
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016

The denizens of an apartment building face a series of challenges in their day to day life.



TIMOLOGY

Directed by: Vahid Mobasheri, Ali Lavari Monfared
Length: 4 minutes
Category: Short



Country: Iran
Year of production: 2015

Contemporary man’s bewilderment in time and space yield a fruitless effort in absurd circulation.

MASK

Directed by: Özgür Can Uzunyaşa
Length: 14 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2016

A man receives a gift box with a mask and it has a surprising effect on him.



THE FAMILIAR FRAME

Directed by: Pouria Jahanshad
Length: 3 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran



Year of production: 2010

This film tries to depict how media uses some codes to hide the reality behind the images and how it makes fabricated identity of people by repeating these images and categorize them in particular definitions.

TOMORROW AFTER YESTERDAY

Directed by: Behzad Moloud
Length: 13 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2014

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.



THE GLASS WALL

Directed by: Mahmood Karimi Hakak
Length: 50 minutes
Category: Documentary
Country: USA
Year of production: 2011



Unable to create a play with Israeli and Palestinian actors, a Fulbright scholar decided to tackle the obstacle; The Wall that separates the two people.

Fri. Oct. 18 ARTISTS INVISIBLE 6pm-8pm



DREAM INTERRUPTED

Directed by: Saeed Nori (Nouri)
Length: 39 minutes
Category: Documentary
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2001

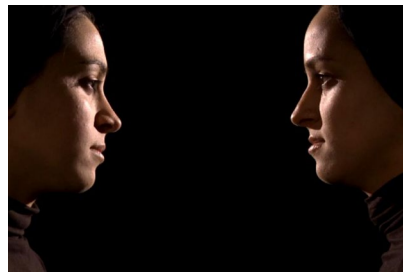
Three years after their production was raided, the cast and crew of A Midsummer Night's Dream gather review the events of that faithful night.

< Followed by a panel discussion on arts and censorship >

Fri. Oct. 18 RIGHTS INVISIBLE 8pm-10pm

IMPOSSIBLE DUALITY

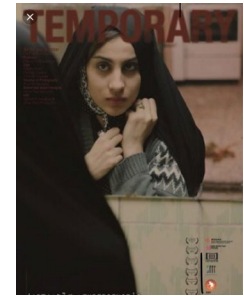
Directed by: Pouria Jahanshad
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2009



Two faces, two shapes, two sexes, but one origin!

TEMPORARY

Directed by: Behzad Azadi
Length: 15 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2013



A woman's unwilling submission to survive within a male dominated society.



THE BONE

Directed by: Volkan Güney Eker
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2016

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.

LET'S ROCK

Directed by: Younes Yousfi
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Morocco
Year of production: 2016



Maryya, a young Muslim girl, decides to attend a rock concert.



LADY MAN

Directed by: Sadegh Safaie
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran

The difficulties faced by people of different gender identities in

HIJAB MADE IN IRAN

Directed by: Omid Ghiaei

Length: 3 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2012



Same car, same seats, same people, different headwear!



VIDEO TAPE

Directed by: Hossein Shaeri

Length: 14 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2012

A man wants to make a personal interview with a person, but then ...

CAFÉ 469

Directed by: Atefeh Khademolreza

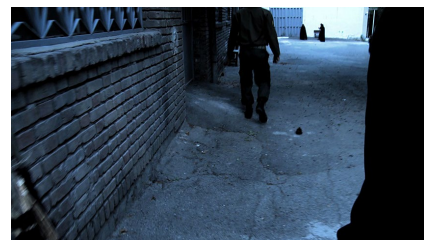
Length: 6 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2006

A girl goes to the café 469 with her hidden camera to witness customers of café 469 while they're eating their last food and she describes her point of view about their last food and when she leaves the café 469....



4 Min 47 Second Till...

Directed by: Elika Rezaee

Length: 6 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2012

Shot in real-time, this film shows what profound events can unfold in such a short time frame.

Sat. Oct. 19

HUMANITY INVISIBLE

2pm-4pm

OYAN – THE OTHER SIDE

Directed by: Esmael Monsef

Length: 19 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2010



A woman receives love letters from her husband, but did he write them?



I BREATHE YOUR HANDS

Directed by: Reza Khanlari

Length: 12 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

This poetic film follows the journey of an apple from one hand to another.

FISH

Directed by: Saman Hosseinpur

Length: 4 minutes

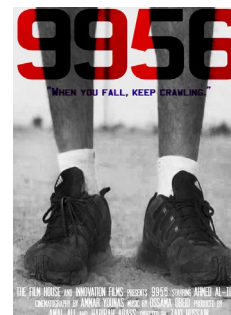
Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2016



An elderly couple find a creative solution for a small crisis.



9956

Directed by: Zaki Hussain

Length: 5 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Qatar

Year of production: 2016

Just as life, when you fall, you have to keep crawling.

COMING WEEK

Directed by: Ali Zare Ghanat Nowi
Length: 15 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2015



A documentary about a school in Iran for disabled children.



KITE

Directed by: Eiraj Afkar
Length: 1 minute
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016

unlikely hero.

A boy flying a kite becomes an



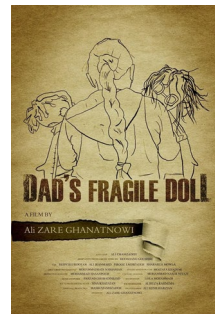
CARAVAN

Directed by: Suzannah Mirghani
Length: 8 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Qatar
Year of production: 2016

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.

DAD’S FRAGILE DOLL

Directed by: Ali Zare Ghanat Nowi
Length: 16 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2015

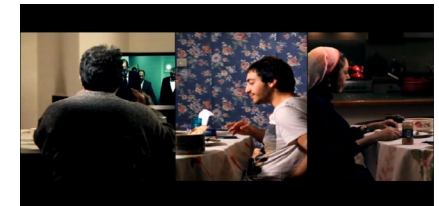


A girl reconstructs the events leading to her father’s imprisonment and execution using dolls her mother made.

Sat. Oct. 19 **WOMEN INVISIBLE** 4pm-6pm

DINNER FOR THREE

Directed by: Ramin Parvin
Length: 3 minutes
Category: Experimental
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2012



Shot on three different screens this film shows a family dinner when each member of the family is trapped within his/her own world.



A PERFECT DINNER

Directed by: Pouria Jahanshad
Length: 8 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2005

A seven-course meal as metaphor for male domination.



THE SWITCHMAN

Directed by: Mehdi Khoramian
Length: 10 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016



An old man waits for his long-gone sweetheart in a train station.

WHEN THE KID WAS A KID

Directed by: Anahita Ghazvinizadeh
Length: 17 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2011

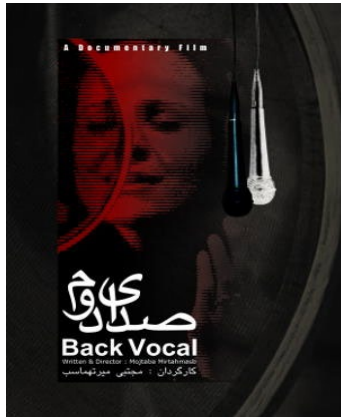
Living with his divorced mother, Taha understands new things about his mom by playing her role.



Sat. Oct. 19

WAR INVISIBLE

6pm-8pm



BACK VOCAL

Directed by: Mojtaba Mirtahmasb

Length: 40 minutes

Category: Documentary

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2004

24 years after the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and the legal prohibition against female solo singing in Iran, rumors about females being permitted to sing as duets has encouraged female singers to take initiatives for recording and release.

GAZA: A GAPING WOUND

Directed by: Anne Paq

Length: 14 minutes

Category: Documentary, Short

Country: Palestine, Poland

Year of production: 2016

An intimate tale of sudden loss, pain, and the life in the aftermath of the 2014 Israeli military offensive.



LAND OF THE LOST

Directed by: Hawraz Mohammed

Length: 11 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iraq, Kurdistan

Year of production: 2016

A man who lost his wife and children during the mass exodus of Kurds in 1991 spends his life searching for them.

JUNK GIRL

Directed by: Mohammad Zare

Length: 16 minutes

Category: Animation, Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2015

“Junk Girl” is an adaptation of a poem found in Tim Burton’s 1997 book, The Melancholy Death Of Oyster Boy & Other Stories.



AFTER THE CLASS

Directed by: Fereshteh Parnian

Length: 11 minutes

Category: Short

Country: Iran

Year of production: 2012

On the same day that Mrs Ansari , a high school teacher is promoted to be the school’s principle , her young daughter shows up to inform her of her unexpected decision.

GOOD MORNING

Directed by: Alhasan Yousef

Length: 12 minutes

Category: Documentary, Short

Country: Syria

Year of production: 2016

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.



UNIDENTIFIED

Directed by: Vedat Oyan
Length: 9 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2016



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.



TEHRAN, KHANIABAD, 1987

Directed by: Seyyed Emad Hosseini
Length: 10 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2012

It is the last year of the Iran-Iraq war. A day like any other, a crowded neighborhood in Tehran, a camera placed in stationary position, and then the bombs...

SIEGE

Directed by: Thae Al Shamali
Length: 2 minutes
Category: Documentary, Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2016



A short film based on the tragic reality lived by Syrians under siege.

EYES IN QAAH

Directed by: Tamim Kalash
Length: 26 minutes
Category: Documentary, Short
Country: Syria
Year of production: 2015



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 life those who are displaced have to endure.

SYRIA

Directed by: Halla Nejm
Length: 4 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Belgium
Year of production: 2016

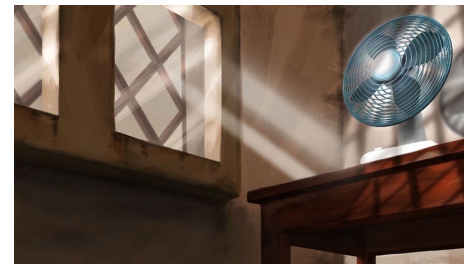


Through body language and dance, a young and isolated man who joins a war in the name of a god.

Sat. Oct. 19

LIFE INVISIBLE

8pm-10pm



THE FAN

Directed by: Shirin Sohani
Length: 7 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2014

Threatened by the latest model, a circular fan is afraid of becoming obsolete.

RABBIT BLOOD

Directed by: Yagmur Altan
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2015

Just an ordinary day at an old mysterious Turkish country house where its demanding resident prefers an extraordinary way of brewing tea.



LITTLE THING

Directed by: Or Kantor
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Israel
Year of production: 2016

A tiny creature searches for companionship in an empty city. His music transforms the space around him and calls to others.



GOLDEN SHOT

Directed by: Gökalp Gönen
Length: 9 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2015

In a dark world, machines keep watch in their small houses and imagine the sun will one day return and take them to the sky. Small lights barely keep them alive and dreaming, but one machine takes matters into its own hands.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PRESENCE

Directed by: Yaser Moinfar
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2012

An allegorical tale of a man whose faith creates conflict both real and imagined.



LILOU

Directed by: Rawan Rahim
Length: 8 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Lebanon
Year of production: 2015

Lilou is extremely sensitive and curious, but also crippled by an unbearable shyness. She receives the power to see into people's past, which forces her out of her introversion.



THE SUIT

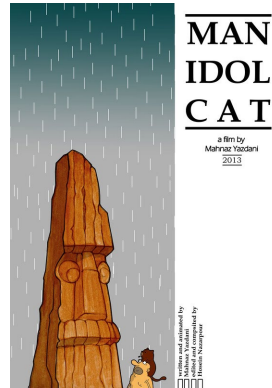
Directed by: Moreno Nour
Length: 3 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran, USA
Year of production: 2016

The point-of-view of an outsider looking into a world he does not understand.

MAN IDOL CAT

Directed by: Mahnaz Yazdani
Length: 2 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2013

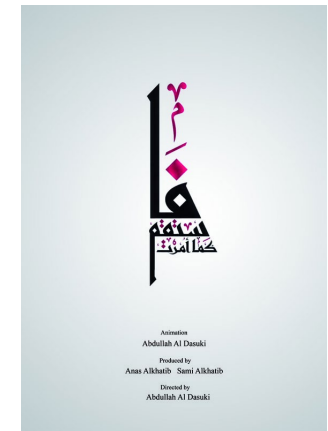
A man running away from a flood asks an Idol to save his life, but his cat has another idea.



MOUSE AND CAT

Directed by: Ahura Shahbazi
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016

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.



FASTAQIM

Directed by: Abdullah Al Dasuki
Length: 3 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Syria, Turkey
Year of production: 2016

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.



SO WHAT

Directed by: Jasim Mohammed
Length: 3 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iraq
Year of production: 2010

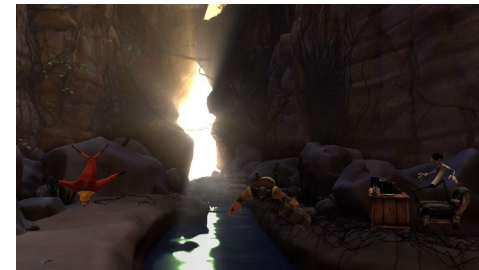
When occupation becomes “freedom” and political corruption is called “democracy” there is only hope in finding a new home outside of the country’s borders.

LIGHT SIGHT

Directed by: Seyed M. Tabatabaei
Length: 8 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016



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.



THE EMPTY PAGE

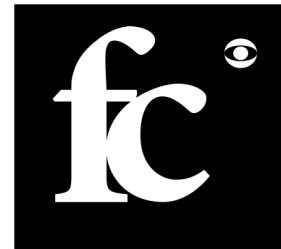
Directed by: Siavash Khodaei
Length: 13 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iran
Year of production: 2016

Writer’s block sends one man on a fantasy that quickly spins out of his control.

ARKHE

Directed by: Batuhan Köksal
Length: 11 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Turkey
Year of production: 2016

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.



Free Culture Invisible LLC is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to celebration and promotion of films and other artistic and cultural expressions produced within or about the Middle East, North Africa and beyond, which may be problematic and challenging within the country of production or focus. By introducing authors, artists, and filmmakers who may not have access to other venues, FCI provides a forum for dialogue and exchange of ideas. Through nurturing purposeful communication and meaningful cultural exchange, FCI aims to help artists learn and grow by exhibiting their creative works, while encouraging the international public to expand their understanding and knowledge of the works of art they may not otherwise experience.

Too many recent films from the Middle East, North Africa and beyond are unable to achieve entry into the channels of distribution and the wider audiences that they deserve. The Annual Festival Cinema Invisible (AFCI) creates visibility for endangered cinema of the region, giving filmmakers the opportunity to develop and grow while bringing their work to the attention of viewers who are eager to broaden arena for cultural exchange and diverse visions.



THE BLACK LAND

Directed by: Daby-Zainab Faidhi
Length: 5 minutes
Category: Animation, Short
Country: Iraq
Year of production: 2015

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.

with SPECIAL THANKS to

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