

# Tehran: City of Love

A film by  
Ali Jaberansari



102 min / Iran / UK / Netherlands / Farsi with English subtitles / Cert tbc  
BFI London Film Festival UK Premiere 2018  
Rotterdam International Film Festival 2019  
Beijing International Film Festival – (Best Actress prize for Forough Ghajabagli)  
Sofia International Film Festival – Young Jury Award (Best Film)

**Release October 2019**

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## SYNOPSIS:

A triptych of love and yearning set in Tehran.

Mina is a secretary in a beauty clinic who is struggling with her weight but is addicted to ice-cream. Leading a double life, she catfishes her male clientele over the phone with a seductive voice, but she stands them up when they arrive to meet her on dates. Eventually she does meet a prospective partner, but things may not go smoothly.

Hessam is a three-time winner of bodybuilding competitions, who now trains affluent older men. He has also been cast in a film starring Louis Garrel, whom he is assured is the most famous of French actors, but whom neither he nor anyone else in Iran seems to know. However, he is willing to give up everything for a special new younger client.

Vahid is a funeral singer who has been dumped by his fiancée. He is urged to liven up his approach to life by trying a new career as a wedding singer. At one of these he meets the free spirited Niloufar, but is she a real long-term prospect?

Further information and downloads [here](#)

Photo set can be downloaded [here](#)



## CAST

Mina  
Vahid  
Hessam  
Niloufar

FOROUGH GHAJABEGLI  
MEHDI SAKI  
AMIR HESSAM BAKHTIARI  
BEHNAZ JAFARI

## CREW

Director  
Screenwriters  
Producers

ALI JABERANSARI  
ALI JABERANSARI, MARYAM NAJAFI  
BABAK JALALI (Here & There Productions)  
MARLEEN SLOT (Viking Film)  
MOHAMMAD AHMADI (Kavir Film)  
MARYAM NAJAFI

Director of  
Photography  
Editor  
Sound Design  
Music Composer  
Production Designer  
Costume Designer

MOHAMMAD REZA JAHANPANA  
ASHKAN MEHRI  
HOSSEIN ABOLSEDDGH  
HAMED SABET  
PAYAM FOROUTAN  
PAYAM FOROUTAN

Iran / UK / Netherlands 2018  
102 min  
2.35:1, Dolby 5.1



## **ALI JABERANSARI**

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1981, Ali moved to Vancouver in Canada in his teens. In 2008, after spending a year attending Abbas Kiarostami's filmmaking workshop back in Tehran, he decided to follow his real passion for making films by studying at the London Film School. His graduation short film, *AMAN* (2011), was awarded the Cine+ prize at the Premiers Plans Film Festival in Angers, France and the MEO Best Student Film prize at the Lisbon & Estoril Film Festival. His feature film debut, *FALLING LEAVES* (2013), premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival in 2013 and won the Federico Fellini Award for best international newcomer at the Tiburon International Film Festival in California, USA.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

2008 **THE SOUND OF DISTANCES** (short)

2011 **AMAN** (35mm short film)

2013 **FALLING LEAVES**

2018 **TEHRAN: CITY OF LOVE**



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A revolution, an ensuing eight-year war, a theocratic government, the harsh divide between the private and the public and religious rules and customs have all made social realism the cornerstone of popular contemporary Iranian films in recent years, especially those that have been internationally successful.

While socio-political issues remain at the heart of the Iranian way of life, I am fortunate enough to hold a slightly different perspective. Having lived outside of Iran for a number of years, while still maintaining strong ties to my country, has afforded me the liberty to retain a certain amount of distance from the harsh realities of life in Iran. This in turn has enabled me to have a darkly humorous point of view that runs at the core of this film and dictates my style as a filmmaker.

Lonely and disenchanted, the characters in my film are estranged from themselves and the society at large. Failing in their attempts to find meaningful relationships and truly connect to those around them, they face rejections they are not equipped to handle and are forced to find ways to persevere in a city that does not embrace them. While their predicaments may serve as the perfect context for a gritty social drama, I wanted to convey the hilarity and absurdity of their respective situations while still allowing the audience to identify with them.

My goal in making this film was to tell an emotionally engaging story, however minimal and absurdist, with a different slant on modern Iranian society.

