

CLOSED CURTAIN

(PARDÉ)

a film by

Jafar Panahi and Kambozia Partovi



Silver Bear for Best Screenplay, Berlin Film Festival 2013

Iran / 2013 / 106 min / Farsi with English subtitles / Certificate 12A

Opens September 4th 2015

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SYNOPSIS

They are both on the run: the man with the dog that he is not allowed to own because Islamic law deems it to be unclean, and the young woman who took part in an illicit party on the shores of the Caspian Sea. They barricade themselves in a secluded villa with curtained windows and eye each other suspiciously. Why has he shaved his head? How does she know that he is being followed by the police? They are now prisoners in a house without a view in the midst of a hostile environment. The voices of police can be heard in the distance, but so too can the calming sound of the sea. One time they look at the night sky full of stars before again withdrawing behind their protective walls.

Are we looking at outlaws, or are the man and the young woman merely phantoms, figments of the imagination of a filmmaker who is no longer allowed to work?

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CREW

Directors	Jafar Panahi, Kambozia Partovi
Screenwriter	Jafar Panahi
Photography	Mohammad Reza Jahanpanah
Editing	Jafar Panahi
Sound & Special Effects	Javad Emami
Camera Assistant	Hadi Manouchehr Panah
Technical Support	Pooya Abbasian
Colour Correction	Hamid Fatourechian
Executive Producer	Hadi Saeedi
Producer	Jafar Panahi
Produced by	Jafar Panahi Film Productions

CAST

THE WRITER	Kambozia Partovi
THE GIRL (Melika)	Maryam Moghadam
JAFAR PANAHI	Jafar Panahi
GIRL'S BROTHER	Hadi Saeedi
GIRL'S SISTER	Azadeh Torabi
AGHA OLIA	Abolghasem Sobhani
YOUNGER BROTHER	Mahyar Jafaripour
WORKER	Ramin Akhariani
WORKER	Sina Mashyekhi
WORKER	Siamak Abedinpour
ZEYNAB KANOUM	Zeynab Kanoum
BOY (the dog)	Boy

JAFAR PANAHI and KAMBOZIA PARTOVI

Kambozia Partovi (b. 1956) graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Art of Tehran University. He started his cinema career as a scriptwriter. He made his first feature, *Mahi (The Fish)* in 1989. It won the Best Film Award at the Berlinale Generation 14Plus, as well as many other prizes. A few years later, *Café Transit* (2005) was nominated for the Oscars. He has also written screenplays for other directors, including Atiq Rahimi, Dariush Mehrjoui, Massoud Kimiai, Majid Majidi, Niki Karimi, as well as Jafar Panahi for *The Circle*. *Closed Curtain* is their first co-directed film.

Director, author and producer, **Jafar Panahi** (b. 1960) is one of the most influential filmmakers in Iran today. He attended film school after serving in the army during the Iran-Iraq War. While making short films and television documentaries, he contacted Abbas Kiarostami to offer his services in any capacity. Kiarostami became an enthusiastic mentor, helping to get Panahi's feature debut, *The White Balloon*, into Cannes, where it became the first Iranian film to win a major prize.

Like many Iranian directors, he began making films about children. The popularity of children as subjects stems in part from the existence of state funding for such films. They also serve to steer filmmakers clear of censorship problems that complicate the filming of any domestic or intimate scenes involving adult women. However, after his first two feature films, Panahi decided to tackle these complications head on by making *The Circle*, a devastating look at the strictures against women in contemporary Iran. This new tone of social critique continued in the unsettling *Crimson Gold*.

In the aftermath of the 2009 elections, Panahi was detained, sentenced to six years in prison, but then this was changed to being forbidden from travelling outside Iran, forbidden from interviews, with a 20 year ban on script-writing and directing. His sentence of six years in prison still stands, but *Closed Curtain* is the second film that has been made under these restrictions. Since *Closed Curtain* was shown in Berlin, both the co-director **Kambozia Partovi** and main actress **Maryam Moghadam** have been banned from travelling.

Jafar Panahi has since been able to make a 3rd film under these restrictions, *Taxi*, which won the 2015 Berlin Golden Bear. *Taxi* opens in the UK October 30th.

Select Filmography

Jafar Panahi

Features

2015	Taxi
2013	Closed Curtain (<i>Pardé</i>)
2011	This is Not a Film (<i>In film nist</i>)
2006	Offside
2003	Crimson Gold (<i>Talaye sorkh</i>)
2000	The Circle (<i>Dayereh</i>)
1997	The Mirror (<i>Ayneh</i>)
1995	The White Balloon (<i>Badkonake sefid</i>)

Kambozia Partovi

Features

2013	Closed Curtain (<i>Pardé</i>)
2005	Café Transit
1997	Naneh Lala Va Bacheharesh
1994	The Legend of Two Sisters (<i>Afsaneh Do Khahar</i>)
1992	Bazi-E Bozorgan
1991	The Fish (<i>Mahi</i>)
1990	The Singer Cat (<i>Gorbe-Ye Avaze-Khan</i>)
1988	Golnar

Filmmakers' Personal Statements

I wrote the screenplay while undergoing a depression that led me to explore an irrational world far from logical conventions. However, because I suddenly had recovered during the shoot, I had to try very hard to not let reason take over what my melancholic state had helped me to achieve.

Melancholy haunts this story, where each character reflects another and the line between fiction and reality is blurred. *Closed Curtain* uses shifting genres and stories-within-stories to highlight why filmmaking is a necessity in a filmmaker's life: it is the imperative need to show the reality of the world we live in.

Jafar Panahi

Difficult times! It's no longer enough for them to scrutinize our work. They scrutinize us to prevent us from getting any work done. Our inactivity makes them feel safer. But it is not a reason for us to stop working. On the contrary, it motivates us to work harder, and in any condition.

When my filmmaker friend, whose life was being destroyed by a twenty-year ban on work, decided to make a movie secretly and with a minimum of means, I decided to help him, as I believe that in these difficult times, one must stand by his side.

Kambozia Partovi