

**wexner center**  
for the arts

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## **WEXNER CENTER SCREENS KURDISH FILMS IN JANUARY**

Continuing its mission to bring the finest in international cinema to Columbus, the Wexner Center presents the series **New Kurdish Cinema** over three nights in January. More than 35 million Kurds continue to live in scattered populations under the politically repressive governments of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, whose assimilating policies have denied Kurds their own cultural identity. The New Kurdish Cinema series offers a rare opportunity for their voices to be heard.

The series kicks off January 9 with an evening of films introduced by director and series curator Jamsheed Akrami, a professor of film and television at William Paterson University in New Jersey and noted Iranian cinema expert. A free public reception with Akrami will precede the film at 6 pm in the Wexner Center Café; the reception is hosted by Ohio State's Middle East Studies Center, the New Diversity Initiatives Office of the Multicultural Center, and the Wexner Center.

Tickets for each evening's screenings are \$6 for the general public and \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens. All screenings take place in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. Call 614-292-3535 for advance tickets.

### **NEW KURDISH CINEMA SCHEDULE:**

#### **Friday, January 9 / 7 pm**

***Marooned in Iraq (Bahman Ghobadi, 2003)***

***A Talk with Bahman Ghobadi*** (Jamsheed Akrami, 2003)

***Good Kurds, Bad Kurds*** (Kevin McKiernan, 2001)

**Introduced by Jamsheed Akrami**

**Free reception preceding at 6 pm**

In *Marooned in Iraq* (97 mins.), an Iranian musician, Mizra, and his two sons search for Mizra's ex-wife, a singer stranded during Saddam Hussein's chemical bombings of Kurdistan in the 1990s. Jamsheed Akrami explores this film with the director in *A Talk*

with *Bahman Ghobadi* (20 mins.). *Good Kurds, Bad Kurds* (80 mins.) is journalist Kevin McKiernan's illuminating documentary on Kurdish struggles. Featuring an appearance by noted cinematographer and director Haskell Wexler.

**Friday, January 16 / 7 pm**

*Hejar* (Handan Ipekci, 2001)

*A Time for Drunken Horses* (Bahman Ghobadi, 2000)

*Hejar* (120 mins.), an involving story about a Turkish judge caring for an orphaned Kurdish child, sheds light on the situation of Kurds in Turkey, the country with the largest Kurdish population in the world. Co-winner of the top prize at Cannes in 2000, *A Time for Drunken Horses* (77 mins.) focuses on a family in rural Iranian Kurdistan: an adolescent and his five younger siblings struggling for survival.

**Friday, January 23 / 7 pm**

*Jiyan* (Jano Rosebiani, 2002)

*Blackboards* (Samira Makhmalbaf, 2000)

The story of a Kurdish American returning to Iranian Kurdistan, *Jiyan* (94 mins.) includes an account of the chemical bombing of Halabja and its devastating consequences. *Blackboards* (90 mins.), by one of Iran's most controversial female directors, focuses on a group of rural Kurds trapped in rugged terrain while under attack from Saddam Hussein's bombers.

**EVENT SUPPORT**

Support for the 2003–04 film/video season provided by the Rohauer Collection Foundation and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

Contemporary films, international films, and visiting filmmakers presentations presented with support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.