

wexner center
for the arts

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ABBAS KIAROSTAMI FILMS FEATURED AT WEXNER CENTER

ACCLAIMED IRANIAN DIRECTOR CANCELS VISIT DUE TO VISA DIFFICULTIES

Named “Director of the Decade” by a poll of international and American critics in 1999, Iranian filmmaker **Abbas Kiarostami** continues to produce works of astonishing subtlety and conviction—as a Wexner Center series, highlighted by *ABC Africa* and his remarkable new work *Ten*, demonstrates. Originally scheduled to appear at the Wexner Center to introduce *Ten*, Kiarostami has been denied a travel visa to this country. *Ten* will be screened at the Wexner Center October 3—the Midwest premiere of the film—but without a personal introduction by the director.

The series of Kiarostami films kicks off October 3. Unless otherwise noted, admission each evening is \$5 for the general public; \$4 for members, students, and senior citizens; \$2 for children under 12. Tickets available at the Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk.

Thursday, October 3 / 7 pm

Ten (2002)

Midwest premiere

Tickets: \$7 for the general public; \$5 for members.

Recently included in the Cannes and New York Film Festivals, *Ten* (94 mins.) is Kiarostami’s extraordinarily revealing look at the condition of women in present-day Iran. Set entirely within the confines of a moving car, it’s a private “road movie” where speech can be unrestrained behind closed doors. The story follows the divorced mother of a 7-year-old boy over the course of several days as she chauffeurs him as well as others—her sister, a pious elderly women, a streetwalker—on various errands. During each trip, conversations touch on the characters’ emotional lives no less than on life in Iran, with the woman’s annoyance at bad drivers providing a lightly comic refrain.

news release

Thursday, October 10 / 7 pm

ABC Africa (2001)

Preceded by *Kiarostami 101—Act 2: A Day in the Country* (Jamsheed Akrami, 2002), introduced by Jamsheed Akrami

“One of the five best films of 2001.”—Jonathan Rosenbaum on *ABC Africa*

ABC Africa (83 mins.) documents Kiarostami’s response to the plight of Ugandan children left orphaned in the wake of their continent’s ongoing AIDS crises and their nation’s civil war. Commissioned by the United Nations to draw attention to the efforts of women’s groups to help orphans, Kiarostami shot the film on digital video following compassionate rather than journalistic instincts. The optimistic and playful attitudes of the children filmed provide an almost lyrical tone to the director’s inquiry. Tonight’s program begins with *Kiarostami 101—Act 2: A Day in the Country* (30 mins.), an intimate look at Kiarostami as he goes about shooting photographs of the Irish landscape outside Galway.

Friday, October 11 / 7 pm

Through the Olive Trees (1994)

The third part of a trilogy including *Where Is the Friend’s Home* and *And Life Goes On*, *Through the Olive Trees* (102 mins.) continues Kiarostami’s exploration of correlations between reality and fiction. *Olive Trees* finds a film crew arriving in a small village recently devastated by a massive earthquake to shoot a film titled *And Life Goes On*.

Images of Kiarostami’s films available upon request; call 614-292-9923.

SEASON SUPPORT

The 2002-03 film/video season is presented with support from the **Rohauer Collection Foundation** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

International films, documentaries, and visiting filmmaker presentations are presented with support from the **Ohio Arts Council**.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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.

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