

The Baktiari Alphabet

From the outset, this unusual documentary, directed by Reza Ghadyani and Cima Sedigh presents an ambiance of purity, innocence and “joie de vivre” in a remote and geographically isolated corner of the world. The sights and sounds depict the flow of life of a nomadic people and the brilliance of their colorful culture. What is so appealing about this film is the very personal view of families as they perform the daily tasks that sustain their existence through the yearly cycle.

As we move with them from their winter habitat at the base of the mountain to the lush greenery and clear flowing streams of the spring and summer highlands, we become a part of their day to day existence. What is most apparent is how they make what seems like a good life for themselves in this rugged terrain. As an educator, I am moved by the authenticity with which this film depicts how parents transmit their culture and heritage in the context of their migratory lifestyle and at the same time supports expanding their children’s exposure to lifestyles and knowledge beyond their immediate experience.

The narration and background music clarifies and enhances the rich visual experience of both the beautiful landscape and the enthusiasm and energy of the people. The Baktiari Alphabet is a multicultural study that truly reveals cultural universals with which we can all identify.

Submitted by: Dr. Velma Heller
Assistant Professor of Education
Sacred Heart University