

by Gaile Irene on Mon 2009-12-07, 3:44

A new documentary, BAKHTIARI ALPHABET, takes the viewer to see the biannual migration of the Bakhtiari tribespeople of southwestern Iran. The difficult journey, involving moving whole families and all their livestock, over mountains and numerous streams and rivers, gives an understanding of a traditional way of life extending back centuries. The producer-director Dr. Cima Sedigh is a professor of education at Connecticut's Sacred Heart University (USA). She describes how tradition meets civilization in the education system. The children of the tribe are taught outdoors in nature or at dormitory boarding schools. Their lessons include learning about the mysteries of the city, including traffic signs and buses, although the children have little use for such knowledge. The children's real education occurs in the tribe, where they learn how to take care of their sheep, goats and chickens and how to live in harmony with nature. Ms. Sedigh points out that formal education system could be improved by teaching children information that would be better applicable to their real lives.

More information on the film, including clips, is at <http://www.bakhtiarialphabet.com>. For an excellent overview of the Bakhtiari migration, including many photographs, see London's School of Oriental and African Studies website at <http://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery/bakhtiari-kuch>.

Posts: 66
Joined: Fri 2009-07-24, 17:12
Location: Philadelphia



RE: PERSIAN FILMS AND TV SERIES

by kalemiye on Mon 2009-12-07, 12:17

“ Gaile Irene wrote:

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kalemiye

Posts: 2548
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Location:  Spain (España), Madrid, MAD
Blog: View Blog (10)



Wow its very interesting, do you know from where this documentary can be downloaded?



Native:  Fluent:  Upper intermediate:  Intermediate:  Beginner: 

Hiçbir şeye ihtiyacımız yok, yalnız bir şeye ihtiyacımız vardır; çalışkan olmak!

RE: PERSIAN FILMS AND TV SERIES

by Gaile Irene on Tue 2009-12-08, 2:14

I saw BAKHTIARI ALPHABET last Friday at Rosemont College, a Catholic college located just outside Philadelphia. Cima Sedigh gave a presentation beforehand about the Bakhtiari and described some of the difficulties she encountered in making the film. I do not know where you can watch the movie online yet - other than the clips available at the film's website.

You can see another complete movie about the Bakhtiari migration online. THE GRASS, dating from 1925, describes the tribe's incredibly difficult journey across the Karun River and the icy, snow-covered Zardeh Kuh in the pursuit of grass to feed their livestock. Go to Google Videos and search for "Bakhtiari".

A third movie PEOPLE OF THE WIND, from the 1970's, covers a similar topic. One website describing the movie is <http://www.milestonefilms.com/pdf/PeopleOfWindPK.pdf>. I don't know if the movie has been uploaded to the internet yet.

Gaile Irene

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Given the extensive film exposure of the Bakhtiari, I wonder if perhaps one day their traditional lifestyle might attract tourists. Some enterprising Bakhtiari could offer a \$6,995 per person adventure trekking package - complete with mule transportation, open air accommodations, lessons in goat milking, butter making, fire tending, etc. - the unique outdoor nature experience!