

WE IRANIAN WOMEN



A FILM BY
SABINA FEDELI & ANNA MIGOTTO

57 mins / 2023 / English, French, Farsi, Italian, English Subtitles / Italy



EPF MEDIA GROUP, LLC
324 S. Beverly Drive, PMB 437
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
(323) 301-3663

Website: www.epfmedia.com

Email: larry@epfmedia.com

Best Documentary - Cinema d'iDEA, Italy

SYNOPSIS

Through exclusive testimonies and clandestine videos, *We Iranian Women* gives voice to courageous women in Iran who risked their lives to share their stories. Many prominent women in culture, art and academia, who were forced to leave their beloved country, explain through their perilous and often tragic experiences. The film chronicles their ongoing battle against patriarchy, economic crisis, corruption, and rigid religious and ideological beliefs.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Many are forced to wrap their cell phones in foil to avoid being intercepted by censors. This revolution, as one of our interviewees says, cannot be ignored by the West, because it is a revolution driven by smartphones. The cell phone, while being a tool used by the Islamic Republic and President Ebrahim Raisi to control citizens, also serves as the most direct means of exposing the abuses committed by the regime, particularly against women, and disseminating these accounts beyond Iranian borders.

Since the moral police arrested and killed twenty-year-old Mahsa Amini for wearing her veil improperly, the women of the 1980s generation have been fighting for human rights. The wave of protest continues today, despite the countless arrests and killings of young people, journalists, artists, students, and children.

Unlike our previous documentaries that we filmed on location, we told the story of the Iranian revolution without being able to work in the field. This "remote" documentary used amateur videos and live testimonies. We had to gain the trust of these women, who wanted to understand our motives. We decided to give them the freedom to tell their stories and explain the root of their anger. In addition to the challenges posed by the physical distance between us and the subjects, we had to manage the raw material. Technically, it was even more complex due to censorship, which hindered our ability to conduct interviews. Above all, because we couldn't be there, most of the testimonies were filmed by the women themselves. We struggled to obtain these interviews, but they became the heart of our documentary.

We used the smartphone footage as a narrative device in the documentary. Numerous supporters of the protest are shown in sequence, including veiled women. The revolution focuses on the struggle for a society and government that respects everyone's rights. With the cry of "women, life, freedom," young women challenge the regime, cut their hair, dance, and block traffic. Iranian society is revealed for what it truly is: youthful, eager to have fun, and therefore to lead a double life. The surface level is made up of rules and obedience, with veils worn to leave the house and work; the secondary level is lived within the home. It consists of private parties, underground art exhibitions, fun, and freedom.

A lot of anger emerges from this research, anger that we also felt during the editing of the film. It touches us deeply, even when we rewatch it months later. It is a story that impacts you first as a human being, then as a woman, because there is physical violence and there is rape - which spares no one, not even men. We received many videos shot in prison. Clearly, we could not show everything, one of these videos included the rape of a man: the physical pain adds to the moral pain.

The history of Iranian women concerns us all, just like the battle for rights carried out by women in other countries.

Anna Migotto & Sabina Fedeli

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Sabina Fedeli has been a television journalist since 1986. As a special correspondent for Mediaset, she covers national and international news events with newscasts and reports. She follows the war in the former Yugoslavia, the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, the coup in Moscow, the Algerian crisis of the 1990s, and revolutions in North Africa. Various investigations on violence against women, environmental pollution, ecomafias. Particular focus on immigration and Islamic fundamentalism. Contributes to Enzo Biagi's programs "Spot" and "Linea Diretta" and to Indro Montanelli and Paolo Granzotto's in-depth weekly "Contro Corrente." She edits in-depth programs such as Link "Cronache dell'era digitale" and "Mission" with Mimmo Lombezzi. She collaborates with various newspapers, including "Panorama" and "D Donna." For Vanity Fair she produces an exclusive interview with Giovanni Falcone and publishes unpublished letters from prison by Adriana Faranda. She was part of the editorial staff of "Terra!", the weekly in-depth magazine of Tg5, then of Rete 4, edited by Toni Capuozzo. As a freelancer, she collaborated in the production, as screenwriter and director, of several documentaries for film and television: I am Yoav (Rai, 2015), Hitler v. Picasso. The Nazi obsession with art (Sky Arte and cinema, 2018), Il museo del Prado la corte delle meraviglie (Sky Arte and cinema, 2019), Venezia infinita avanguardia (Sky Arte and cinema, 2021), "Picasso. Un ribelle a Parigi. Storia di una vita e di un museo (Picasso. A Rebel in Paris. The story of a life and a museum ") (with Didi Gnocchi and Arianna Marelli). She wrote and directed, together with Anna Migotto, the movie "#AnneFrank Vite Parallele", the story of Anne Frank's life intertwined with that of five Jewish girls who, like her, went through the horror of the Holocaust but, unlike Anne, survived. The film's narrator is Oscar-winning actress Helen Mirren. The Witnesses to the tragedy of the Holocaust who tell their stories are Andra and Tatiana Bucci, Sarah Montard, Helga Weiss, and Arianna Szörenyi (Sky Art and Cinema, 2019). She wrote and directed with Anna Migotto the documentary Noi donne afgane (Sky documentaries, 2021) and Noi donne iraniane (2023). She wrote the book "The Glasses of Feeling. Ida Bonfiglioli. A Century of History in the Memory of a Ferrara Jewess" (Giuntina, 2017), "#AnneFrank. Vite parallele" (Feltrinelli, 2023). In 2003 she won "Alpi Prize" for the in-depth special Focus and Run. In 2007 "" for the reportage The House of Horror- Honor killing in Palestine. In 2011 "Alpi Critics' Award" for the reportage The Persecuted.

Anna Migotto has been a television journalist since 1987. As a special correspondent for RTI-Mediaset, she has covered national and international news events in in-depth newscasts and weeklies. She has covered the conflicts in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and the uprisings in North Africa. She has worked extensively on organized crime and mafias. She has made many reports on the phenomenon of migration, modern slavery, and radicalization. She was a member of the editorial staff of Channel 5's "Matrix" program and the weekly in-depth

news program of Tg5 and then Rete 4's "Terra!" She signed the world exclusive of the lynching of Israeli reservists in a Palestinian police barracks in Ramallah on October 12, 2000. As a freelance journalist, she collaborated on several TV documentaries as scriptwriter and director: The Happiest Age (Mediaset, 2014), I am Yoav (Rai, 2015), Father Lenin and His Brothers (Rai, 2019), Citizen Rosi (Francesco Pasinetti Prize at the 76th Venice International Film Festival, 2019). In 2019, she also made the documentary "Piazza Fontana. The funerals that saved democracy" (Sky Arte). In 2021 she made the documentary Scalfari, a sentimental journey (Rai 3). She wrote and directed, together with Sabina Fedeli, the movie "#AnneFrank Parallel Lives" the story of Anne Frank's life intertwined with that of five Jewish girls who, like her, went through the horror of the Holocaust but, unlike Anne, survived. The film's narrator is Oscar-winning actress Helen Mirren. The Witnesses of the Holocaust tragedy who tell their stories are Andra and Tatiana Bucci, Sarah Montard, Helga Weiss, and Arianna Szörenyi (Sky Art and Cinema, 2019). She wrote and directed with Sabina Fedeli the documentary "Noi donne afghane" (Sky documentaries, 2021) and "Noi donne iraniane" (2023). She is coauthor of the book "Don't Expect Me Alive. The banality of horror in the voices of jihadi boys" (Einaudi Stile Libero). With Sabina Fedeli she wrote "#AnneFrank. Parallel Lives" (Feltrinelli, 2023). Among the journalistic awards received: "Premiolino - Journalist of the Month" (2001), "Saint Vincent" (2001), "Ilaria Alpi Prize" (2001) for coverage of the lynching in Ramallah; "Ernest Hemingway Award" (2001) for coverage of the Middle East; "Ischia Award" (2003) for coverage of the war in Iraq; "Ilaria Alpi" Critics' Award (2011) for the reportage "Le Perseguitate." On November 3, 2003, she was awarded the honor of Knight of the "Ordine al merito della Repubblica Italiana" by President of the Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. She worked as an author of the in-depth journalistic programs "Via delle Storie" and "SetteStorie" aired on Rai1, Italian Public Television.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

PRODUCED BY
DIDI GNOCCHI FOR 3D PRODUZIONI

MIC DIREZIONE GENERALE CINEMA E AUDIOVISIVO

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
PINA ANTOGNINI E GIOVANNA SACCHETTI

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
SABINA FEDELI & ANNA MIGOTTO

ART DIRECTION
SIMONA RISI

EDITED BY
ELENA LUCHETTI

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
LORENZO GIROMINI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
GLORIA BOGI

WITH
SARAH DORAGHI
NARGESS ESKANDARI – GRÜNBERG
MINA KAVANI
AZADEH KIAN
BITA MALAKUTI
MAHNAZ SHIRALI

3D PRODUZIONI
CEO
DIDI GNOCCHI

HEAD OF FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
ALESSANDRA PRINCIPINI

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT
NATALIA SANGALLI

ARCHIVE PRODUCER
PAOLA VILLA

CAMERA OPERATORS
LORENZO DALLE DONNE
SOFFIAN DESRAYAUD
IVAN GNANI
NATALIA LOMATSKA
MATEUSZ STOLECKI

EDITORIAL STAFF
GIOVANNI FOSSATI
DARIO ROMANO

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH
VALENTINA PORCELLI

MOTION GRAPHICS
ANDREA COVINO

COLOR GRADING
GIULIA ROSSINI

SOUND MIXER
ERICH SERTORI

POST PRODUCTION
3D PRODUZIONI
DATA MANAGEMENT
AGNES AQUILECCHIA

FINALIZATION
SARA RAVAGNANI

MUSIC
©&© FLIPPER SRL - FLIPPERMUSIC

AUDITOR
MAURIZIO GATTI

SPECIAL THANKS TO
LEILA ENTEKHABI
ASSOCIAZIONE CHIAMALE STORIE
MARYAM ZELLI
ANGELICA SUTERA
ROYA HEYDARI
FRANCA AND FRANCESCO MONALDI