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## NEW INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER-IN-RESIDENCE ANNOUNCED FOR JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

*Iranian Filmmaker chosen for Fellowship for International Understanding through Film*

**Pleasantville, NY – February 11, 2010** – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), a cultural arts institution with a dual mission of film and education, announced today that Iranian filmmaker Bahman Farmanara has been selected as the next International Filmmaker-in-Residence. Farmanara will arrive in late February, and will be featured in the upcoming film series “Bahman Farmanara and Iran,” scheduled to run at the JBFC Theater from February 25 through March 11.

“We had been looking for an Iranian filmmaker, and with a recommendation from filmmaker Jonathan Demme, we were excited to invite Mr. Farmanara as our next International Filmmaker-in-Residence,” said Susan Todd, director of the International Understanding through Film program. “The goal of the fellowship is to bring filmmakers from other countries to the JBFC so that our audiences can have a better understanding of what’s happening in the world. Having Bahman here can help us create a better understanding of Iranian culture.” During his stay Farmanara will be living at the JBFC International Filmmaker Residence.



Born in Tehran, Bahman Farmanara is one of the founding figures of the Iranian New Wave of the 1970s. He is best known for his films *Smell of Camphor*, *Fragrance of Jasmine*, and *A House Built on Water*. He studied at the University of Southern California earning a BA in Cinema. After returning to Iran and doing military service, he joined National Iranian Radio and Television where he produced and directed over 150 programs. After censorship in some of his films, he decided to leave Iran and move to Canada with his family in 1980, but it wasn't until 2000 that he was able to make another film. As well as being an acclaimed director, he is an influential screenwriter, producer, and distributor, responsible for bringing many key international films to our shores.

His classic film *A Little Kiss* will open the series “Bahman Farmanara and Iran,” followed by a Q&A with Farmanara and a reception in the Jane Peck Gallery. The series, presented with support from the Elaine Dannheisser Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, also includes *Tall Shadows of the Wind*, *Prince Ehtejab*, *A House Built on Water*, and *Earthbound*, as well as other films that explore Iranian culture. Following the March 4 screening of *Smell of Camphor*, *Fragrance of Jasmine*, there will be a Q&A with Farmanara and Academy Award winning director Jonathan Demme, followed by a reception in the Jane Peck Gallery. For more information on the series and to purchase tickets, please visit the JBFC website at <http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org/films/film-series/detail/28159>.

Bahman Farmanara's residency at the JBFC is made possible by the International Fellowship for Understanding through Film, developed through a grant from philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis and inspired by her lifelong efforts to create a more harmonious world. The fellowship brings established filmmakers from outside the United States to live, work, and teach on the JBFC campus in Pleasantville. Previous International Filmmakers include Fanta Régina Nacro from Burkina Faso, Namik Kabil from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and most recently, Ido Haar from Israel.

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 3,000 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. Media Arts Lab, the JBFC's state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

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Contact: Rob Sampogna ([rsampogna@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:rsampogna@burnsfilmcenter.org))  
Abby Popper ([apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org))  
914.773.7663, ext. 434/424