Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

FARROKH GHAFFARI

INTERVIEWEE: MR. FARROKH GHAFFARI

INTERVIEWER: DR. AKBAR $E^{\mathbf{C}}$ TEMAD

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PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foundation for Iranian Studies by Akbar E^ctemad with Farrokh Ghaffari in Paris, France, in November of 1983 and July of 1984.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

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اینجانب مثن و نوار مصاحبه های انجام شده در ارتباط با برنامه "تاریخ شفا هی ایران" را به بنیاد مطالعات ایران هدیه میکنم تا در اجرای برنامه های آموزشی و تحقیقاتی بنیاد به هر نحو ی که مصلحت میدانند از آن استفاده نمایند.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Farrokh Ghaffari was born to a prominent family in 1921. Upon the completion of his early education Mr. Ghaffari studied cinema and art in Paris. Prior to his departure for Paris Mr. Ghaffari became active in journalism and politics as a member of the Tudeh Party. However lateron he became solely interested in film production and was one of Iran's pioneers in film direction and production.

After a number of feature film productions Mr. Ghaffari became involved with the activities of the Ministry of Culture and Arts. Upon the formation of the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization he left the Ministry for the new organization, first to serve as its deputy director, and later to run NIRT's infamous Shiraz Art Festival.

Mr. Ghaffari's reminiscences are rich with descriptions of the growth of Persian cinema, the gradual evolution of NIRT, the patterns of proliferation of the arts in Iran and the experience of the Shiraz Art Festival.

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<u>SUBJECT</u> <u>PAGE</u>

Family background and history; history of cinema in Iran; 1-6 reminiscences of the activities of the interviewee with various periodicals and his involvement with the Tudeh Party.

Formation of Jam^ciyyat-e Solh Party and the role of 6-12 Malekoshsho^cara Bahar therein; the beginnings of the interviewee's activities in Iranian cinema; first movie based on south of Tehran.

Remarks on the issue of censorship and the problems 13-20 surrounding Ghaffari's first film; cinematic activities at NIOC.

The climate and popular market of cinema in Iran; popular 21-26 reaction to artistic films; disjunctures between certain film productions and popular demands; the role of governmental bodies in furthering the cinematic culture of Iran.

Production of films in the Ministry of Culture and Arts; 27-32 censorship and its implementation via the Ministry; expansion of cinematic productions in Iran.

Concerning the formation of National Tranian Radio and 32-38 Television Organization; NIRT's subordinate organizations; theater in Iran.

The production of popular television serials; relations 39-44 between NIRT and the viewers; confrontations between SAVAK and NIRT.

NIRT's training school; concerning the influnce of 44-48 communism in NIRT; the first managers of NIRT, and the spirit of cooperation in that organization.

Reza Qotbi's management style; the objectives of Shiraz 48-58 Art Festival; the reflections of the Festival's activities.

Relations between NIRT and the Ministry of Culture and 58-73 Arts; changes in cinema in Iran and an overview of the works of its important directors; concerning the works of Parviz Kimiyavi.

Competition between NIRT and Ministry of Culture and 74-99 Arts; proliferation of culture and arts during the Pahlavi period; Tehran Film Circle; planning and organization in NIRT; government's reactions to NIRT's activities; Reza Qotbi's role as the defender of NIRT; other cultural activities of Mr. Ghaffari.

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