

STOP THE WAR COALITION FILM NIGHT



Welcome to Tehran - a journey by Rageh Omaar

12th OCTOBER 2008—7.30pm

THE BEDFORD

Bedford Hill, Balham, SW12,
one minute walk from Balham Station

Film introduced by:

Linda Heiden WSTWC & Iran Fact & Fiction Project

Following the film showing - a Q&A session hosted by
WANDSWORTH STWC :

Elahe Rostami Campaign Iran

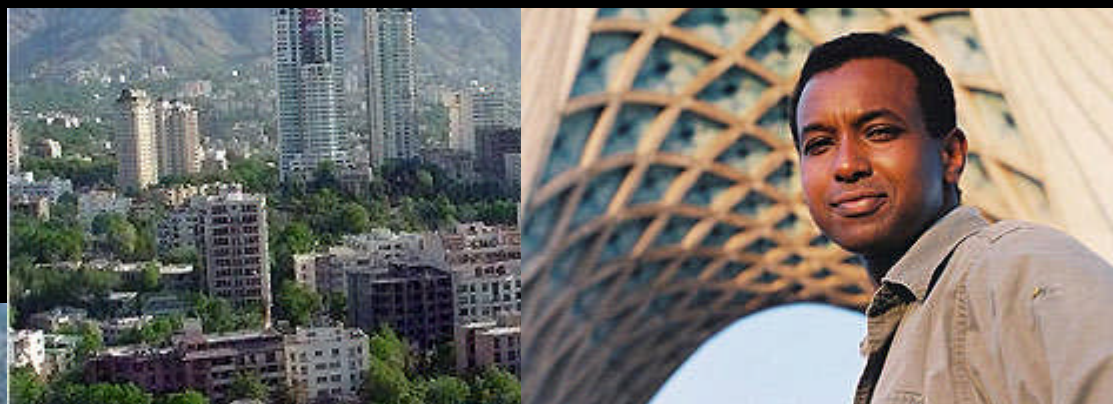
Golriz Kolahi Iranian film maker will answer questions on the film & Iran today

Chris Nineham Stop the War Coalition

WANDSWORTH STOP THE WAR COALITION

Contact WANDSWORTH StWC info@wandsworth-stopwar.org.uk
www.wandsworth-stopwar.org.uk

An investigative and insightful documentary - Rageh Omaar's unique journey inside Iran.



Rageh Omaar began his career in journalism in 1990 as a trainee at The Voice newspaper in Brixton. He reported from Baghdad for seven years on Saddam Hussein's Iraq before becoming BBC News' Africa Correspondent. He is now based in Johannesburg where he reports on conflict situations around the world. Rageh is also a high profile presenter and has fronted special programmes for BBC Panorama and Everyman strands. He was voted EMMA's best media correspondent in 2003.

Welcome to Tehran is a documentary that examines Iran and its people not by interviewing politicians and analysts but through the eyes of ordinary Iranians living and working in the capital. This refreshing approach shows us a dynamic society very different from that portrayed by most current affairs coverage of what George Bush calls the 'axis of evil'.

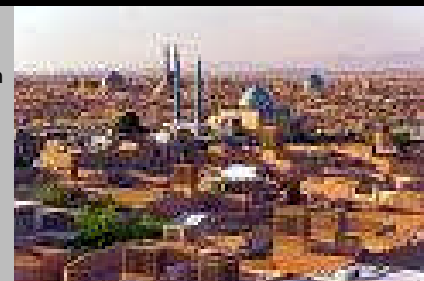
Omaar visited Tehran once before as a news reporter, filming demonstrations and recording the uncompromising statements from officials following the Islamic Revolution of 1979. He says: "There is an energy and vitality to the place that is completely different from the usual images we in the West have of it. And that's why I wanted to return."

Omaar and Producer/Director Paul Sapin struggled for a year to get the right kind of access which gave them the freedom to fully explore these rarely filmed areas. The film is told as a journey through Tehran but also as a very personal essay by Omaar as he digs deeper into this complex and fascinating society.

In making the film, Omaar tried to see Iran from the inside by visiting people's homes and travelling through a rich variety of neighbourhoods and districts of the city. He meets with local people who share with him their personal stories and feelings about the current state of affairs in Iran. There are stories of taxi drivers; wrestlers; business women; people working with drug addicts and the country's leading pop star and his manager who drove Omaar around Tehran in his Mercedes-Benz.

Paul Sapin says: "It is a real challenge to produce a genuine documentary in this region due to problems with access for Western journalists, but wherever we went, we were met with warmth and hospitality.....Iran is not the austere, humourless place we're led to believe."

Come see the Tehran Rageh Omaar reveals. After the film, a panel with first-hand experience of life and work in the Islamic Republic will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues raised by the film.



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