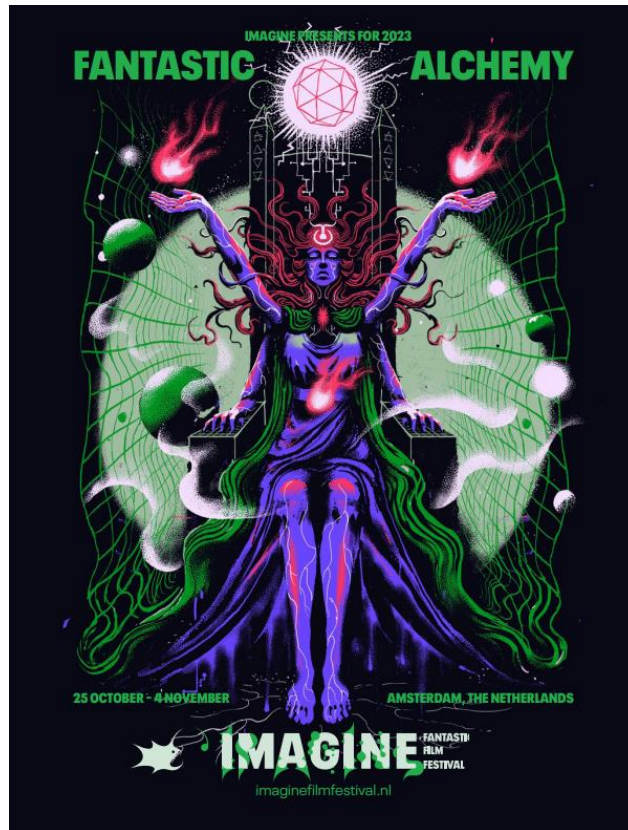




**Press release**  
22 August 2023

***The Unveiled Revolt.***  
***Monsters, Myths and Power in Iranian genre cinema***  
**Iranian focus Imagine Fantastic Film Festival announcement**



**From October 25 to November 4 in LAB111, the FilmHallen and Galerie Beeldend Gesproken, Amsterdam**

*Imagine Fantastic Film Festival* is proud to announce its annual Myths of the World theme program. This year, the festival will be focusing on Iran with *'The Unveiled Revolt. Monsters, Myths and Power in Iranian genre cinema'*. This program is inspired by the recent uprising in Iran, which was primarily fueled by the oppression of women in patriarchal Iranian society. Imagine's thematic program explores how female perspectives and experiences are depicted in Iranian genre cinema. It does so through a film program featuring four exceptional Iranian films which have not or rarely been shown in the Netherlands. *Imagine Fantastic Film Festival* will take place in LAB11 and FilmHallen Amsterdam from October 25 to November 4.

**Special guest: Dr. Zahra Khosroshahi**

A very special guest at the 2023 edition of Imagine is Iranian film scholar Dr. Zahra Khosroshahi, lecturer in Film and Television Studies at the University of Glasgow. Khosroshahi researches female activism and resistance in contemporary Iranian cinema. Her book "Iranian Women Filmmakers: A Cinema of Resistance" will be released this year through Edinburgh University Press. She is also the author of the article ["Vampires,](#)



["Jinn and the Magical in Iranian Horror Films"](#) in Frames Cinema Journal, University of St. Andrews. Dr. Khoshroshai will give a festival lecture at LAB111 on Saturday, Oct. 28, zooming in on the portrayal of women in contemporary Iranian genre cinema.

### **Panel with female Iranian artists**

On October 26, a panel of female Iranian artists will come together at the extra festival location OBA Oosterdok in Amsterdam. In addition to Dr. Zahra Khosroshahi, participants include director Nafiss Nia (*That Afternoon*) and photographer and filmmaker Tina Fariteh (*Kitten or Refugee?*). The panel will talk about their work in different parts of the world and their relationship to the recent Iranian uprising.

### **Collaboration with the Amsterdam Storytelling Festival**

In a unique collaboration with the Amsterdam Storytelling Festival, artistic codirector Sahand and Iranian-Dutch playwright Sahebdivani, four female storytellers are tasked with taking on the roles of extraordinary women from Persian mythology. At each screening of an Iranian film, one of the storytellers will give a short performance. The four storytellers will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at storyhouse/cultural center Mezrab in Amsterdam, as part of the Imagine and Amsterdam Storytelling Festival. Storytelling participants include storytellers and theater makers Ghazaleh Ghobadi, Soula Nots, and Farnoosh.

### **Films shown at this program include:**

[Subtraction](#) - Mani Haghighi - 2022 - Farsi - Thriller  
[180° Rule](#) - Farnoosh Samadi - 2020 - Farsi – Psychological drama  
[Under the Shadow](#) - Babak Anvari - 2016 - Farsi - Horror  
[Chess of the Wind](#) - Mohammad Reza Aslani - 1976 - Farsi – Drama

### **About Imagine Fantastic Film Festival**

Imagine is the largest film festival for fantastic films in the Netherlands, featuring the best in fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Imagine is all about imagination. Every year Imagine challenges its audience to think about the future of mankind and society through imagination. This involves using the power of Fantastic film, which allows you to discover future worlds, develop a different take on reality, explore the unknown, and thus broaden your view.

Imagine sees the fantastic genre as a rich source of mental experiments, which often anticipate or reflect on social and technological developments. In in-depth programs, the festival provides background, history, and context, and connects fantastic fiction to current developments in society.

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### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

#### **Press accreditations are now open!**

Would you like to report on a film or program at the festival? Apply via email: [stefan@triplepentertainment.nl](mailto:stefan@triplepentertainment.nl).

Images can be downloaded [here](#).

### **For more information and interview requests:**

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