

# A window on Iran: Edinburgh Iranian Festival 2017 line-up is announced!

## For immediate release

Scotland's capital will once again be treated to a window into one of the world's most misunderstood cultures in February, as the Edinburgh Iranian Festival hits town for its fifth full season. The festival, now an established part of the city's festival calendar, will run from 9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with a diverse and interactive line-up.

The festival's organisers hope to address misconceptions about the country by shining a spotlight on some of the contemporary talent that Iran has produced - from musicians to photographers – while also highlighting the country's rich traditional heritage – such as its food and its poetry. Always keen to encourage collaborations across cultures, the Edinburgh Iranian Festival will also feature some exciting pairings between Scottish and Iranian artists and performers.

Highlights include:

- Music concert at the Assembly Hall with the **renowned Iranian soprano [Darya Dadvar](#), who will be accompanied by musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**. The orchestral arrangements have been composed specifically for this event by Glasgow-based conductor, Amin Keshmiri.
- **Persian cookery demonstration** at the [Edinburgh New Town Cookery School](#), with Chef Zohreh Shahrabi. Zohreh is part of the London-based [Mazi Mas](#) cooking collective.
- Iranian **film season** organised in collaboration with the [Filmhouse Cinema Edinburgh](#). Many of the films are Scottish, if not UK, premieres.
- Talk and guided show and tell of the [National Museum of Scotland's Iranian collection](#).
- **Photography exhibition** on the theme of "A window on my Iran", which will feature contemporary Iranian photographers, at the Filmhouse Cinema Cafe.
- Performance in collaboration with **Burns for Beginners** that pits the Scottish bard's works against those of Persian poet Hafez
- Showing of **award-winning play, Mimi's Suitcase**, on the theme of identity and homeland
- Other elements of the programme include a day of **tourism-related talks** at [Nomad's Tent](#) courtesy of [Persian Pursuits](#) and [PersiaPort](#), **traditional dance workshops** for both children and adults and a **curated book selections** at Blackwells.

Festival founder Sara Kheradmand said: "Iran is never far from the headlines, yet with tourism to the country beginning to pick up, we want to encourage Scots to see a different side to this country – one they might not have encountered through the news, and that might alter their perceptions of Iran and its people.

“By showcasing the best cultural talent that Iran has to offer, and by enabling collaborations between Iranian and Scottish artists to flourish, we’re confident there is something for everyone in this year’s festival line-up.”

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Edinburgh Iranian Festival is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number SC044795
2. Further information can be found at <http://www.ediranfest.co.uk>
3. For interview and filming requests, or to be sent photographs of previous festivals, please contact Mona Vaghefian at [press@ediranfest.co.uk](mailto:press@ediranfest.co.uk) / 07944 360 328
4. The Edinburgh Iranian Festival is entirely organised and run by volunteers and is affiliated to Edinburgh University Persian Society (EUPS).