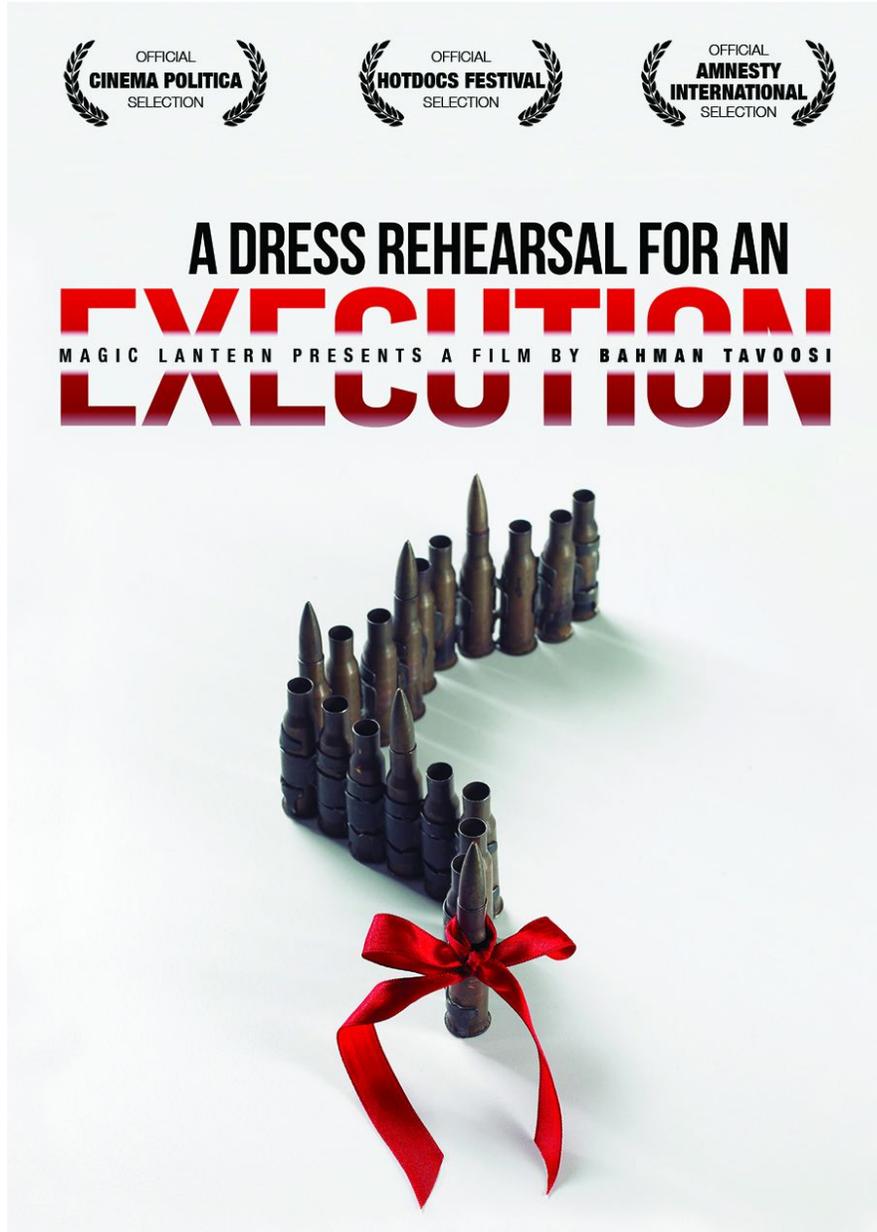




**A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR AN**  
**EXECUTION**  
MAGIC LANTERN PRESENTS A FILM BY BAHMAN TAVOOSI  
**EXECUTION**



**A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR AN EXECUTION**

A film by Bahman Tavooosi

*"Fascinating."* — Canadian Film Review

Canada | 47 minutes | 2013 | English

A Magic Lantern Release | [info@magic-lantern-films.com](mailto:info@magic-lantern-films.com) | (646) 926-7060  
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## **LOGLINE**

Visual artist and filmmaker Bahman Tavooosi uses actors to recreate Jahangir Razmi's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the execution of Kurdish political prisoners during the last days of the Iranian Revolution.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Since the Pulitzer Prize for journalism was established nearly a hundred years ago; only one winning photograph has ever had an anonymous creator. In 2006, after nearly three decades of fearing for his life, Jahangir Razmi at last revealed his identity as the photographer of the 1979 prize-winning photo of the execution of eleven Kurdish men in post-revolution Iran. The story of the photo alone would make a fascinating documentary, but Montreal-based director and visual artist Bahman Tavooosi's film is much more than an historical retelling of facts. Tavooosi records his process of restaging the photograph and meticulously seeks out a suitable location and cast. The source material becomes a muse, and a dramatic history is exposed and developed like a negative. Tavooosi dissects the role of documentary photography as art form and social commentary while questioning and highlighting creative license and political history in this ambitious, cinematic and riveting piece of filmmaking.

## **SELECTED FESTIVALS**

Cinematheque Quebecois, Montreal, Canada  
Innis Town Hall, Toronto, Canada  
Edinburgh International Film Festival, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Les Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, Montreal, Canada  
Hot Docs, Toronto, Canada  
Cinemateca Boliviana, La Paz, Bolivia  
Human Rights Human Dignity International Film Festival, Burma, Myanmar  
Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, U.S.A  
Hollywood Film Festival, U.S.A  
Show me Justice Film Festival, Missouri, U.S.A  
Columbia Gorge Film Festival, Washington, U.S.A  
Cape Cod Film Festival, U.S.A  
Global Vision Film Festival, Alberta, Canada  
Amnesty International, Toronto  
Cinema Politica, Montreal, Canada  
Montreal International Documentary Festival, Montreal, Canada  
Oakville Festivals of Film and Art, Ontario, Canada  
Ridgewood International Film Festival, New Jersey, U.S.A  
CBC, Canada  
BBC, U.K  
Voice of America, U.S.A

## IN THE PRESS

“Clocking in at roughly an hour, *A Dress Rehearsal for an Execution* is a thought-provoking meditation on art imitating life, a documentary that offers a short viewing time, but hours of debate.”—**Sam Cooper, *Pretty Clever Films***

“*A Dress Rehearsal For An Execution* leaves you thinking of more than what you thought Tavooosi’s doc was about. It may be one of the shorter films at the festival, but its messages are just as dominant.”—**Addison Wylie, *Wylie Writes***

“It is the magnificent narration that carries the film through, helped by the music; together these two elements effortlessly weave together the dramatic news footage of war and the lengthy footage of auditions and rehearsals on site. ...Tavooosi has succeeded in performing a masterful ritual: by pushing the limits of documentary cinema he has baptized the photograph with the music of Chopin and Verdi, the strains of Maria Callas, and the poetry of Vallejo, and elevated Razmi’s “Firing Squad in Iran” among greatest icons of the 20th century.”—**Vincenzo Pietropaolo, *Point of View Magazine***

“Creating the ambiance of the revolution tension with the presentation of original clips, the film perfectly involves its audience in the emotions of the victims... They say a photo is worth a thousand words but it is this film that fully speaks to the injustices that took place in this turbulent time in Iranian history.”—**Marc Olivier Laramée, *The Concordian***

“*A Dress Rehearsal for an Execution* reveals both accurate depictions of history, and also the darkest moments of war and revolution. The importance of image, and its indelible imprint on our cultural, social, and political psyches, is the basis for this exceptional film.”—**Oakville News**

“Why it’s on our Watchlist: Tavooosi meticulously searched for an appropriate location and cast to recreate the image with. He worked with revolutionaries and those affected by rebellions around the globe for his re-staging.”—**CHCH**

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



Bahman Tavooosi is an award winning Canadian Iranian director, writer, and producer. He began his career as a journalist and screenwriter in Iran at the age of 18. Soon after, he was making short films for both TV channels and theatrical release. He moved to Canada in 2006 where he completed a few short films before directing *A Dress Rehearsal for an Execution*, his first feature length documentary. *A Dress Rehearsal for an Execution* unfolds the process of remaking one of the most controversial images of our time. The film has gained much attention from the international public, media, and festivals. Press has called the film a "masterpiece," "the most original dissection of a famous photograph," and "similar to Oscars nominee *Act of Killing*." Newspapers such as Toronto Star and National Post named the documentary one of the 10 must-watch films of the year.

## FILM CREDITS

Director:	Bahman Tavooosi
Producer:	Farrah Assadi
Editor:	Matheo Lemay
Executive Producer:	Peacock Films Production
Writer:	Bahman Tavooosi
Cinematographer:	Vlad Horodincea
Sound:	Anthony Piazza

More information on *A Rehearsal for an Execution*, including trailer and downloadable publicity images: [www.magic-lantern-films.com](http://www.magic-lantern-films.com).