



MANUSCRIPTS DON'T BURN (Dast-neveshtehaa nemisoosand)

Spring
Season
2015

Release: 2013
Cert (UK): 15
Language: Persian
Runtime: 124 mins
Director: Mohammad Rasoulof
Writer: Mohammad Rasoulof
Cinematographer: Uncredited
Cast: Uncredited



This might be a first for the club; all the cast and crew have had their names removed from the credits for their protection. The director, Mohammad Rasoulof, is the only one named and in making this film he is defying a 20 year ban from the Iranian government.

After his 2nd film ('Iron Island', 2005) he began to have trouble with the censors. He has now produced five films, none of which have been shown in Iran, most of which he produced despite being banned. Until now he has produced subtle, metaphorical films to attempt to hide the meaning ('The White Meadow', 2009, and 'Goodbye', 2011), but this time he has taken off the gloves and gone

straight for the jugular.

The result, 'Manuscripts Don't Burn', is a tense thriller, based on an 'allegedly' true event in the 1990s: the Iranian government was so frightened by the writings of a group of dissidents that they attempted to remove the problem by driving them all of a cliff in a coach. One man has written a manuscript about the event, which also implicates an ex-dissident, now state executioner who, to protect himself, attempts to prevent the document being printed...



The film has done well at festivals, winning the FIPRESCI prize at Cannes in 2013, and had good reviews from the critics; 'Putting aside the worthiness of its politics, this is also a crackling, tense thriller, graced with beautifully measured performances, that explores with wisdom and sorrow the best and worst in human nature' – Leslie Felperin, Guardian