



UNDER THE SHADOW

Spring
Season
2017

Release: 2016

Cert (UK): 15, F

Language: In Persian with English subtitles.

Runtime: 1 hr 24 mins

Director: Babok Anvari

Writers: Babok Anvari

Cinematographer: Kit Fraser

Cast: Narges Rashidi, Avin Manshadi, Bobby Naderi



“Under the Shadow’ deftly blends seemingly disparate genres to deliver an effective chiller with timely themes and thought-provoking social subtext’ – Rotten Tomatoes.

The cleverness of this movie is to wrap the poltergeists and djinns up so well in the problems a woman faces in Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war that it is hard to tell what more

there is to fear.

Left alone with a daughter and banned from completing her medical training (as a woman), Shideh struggles to keep her humanity alive – watching Jane Fonda workout videos alone, dashing to the doctor with her sick child. So when a bomb lands on her building, and the lights go out for no reason, is she dashing to the underground to confront a bogeyman, or to avoid the bombs? Is the darkness caused by the arrival of an unwanted spirit, or just a power cut?...

There are strong feminist undertones here too, as we see Shideh trying to deal with the male dominated world around her. ‘Iranian women always fight back. There are so many restrictions in Iranian society, but they never sit back and just accept them’ – interview with the director Babak Anvari in the Guardian.

Babak Anvari, lives and works in the UK, but made this film based on his memories of Tehran where he grew up. He has won several awards for this film, including a BAFTA for outstanding debut film.

