Biography of Mohsen Makhmalbaf

Born on 1957 in Tehran.
He spent four and a half years of his life in prison as a political activist from the age of 17 to 22. While in prison he became interested in writing. Currently there are 27 books published from Mohsen Makhmalbaf as a ground-breaking writer.

In 1994, he participated with two of his films “Time Of Love” & “Salam Cinema” in official section of Cannes Film Festival. He returned to Cannes in 1995 with his next film “Gabbeh”. At the same time his other film “A Moment Of Innocence” was premiered in Locarno film Festival in 1995. He took part in Venice film festival in 1996 with his film “The Silence”.

One year before the September 11th incident took place with his film “Kandahar”, premiered in Cannes film festival 2001, he put Afghanistan into the map before any other media. After making Kandahar he halted his filmmaking activities for two years in order to help and support Afghan Children thorough some of his Human Right activities. Mohsen Makhmalbaf managed to change a law in Iran, during the presidential period of the former democrat president of Iran Mr.Khatami, which resulted in the education of half a million Afghan Children refugees in Iran. He took charge of executing 82 projects in a 2 year period on education, building schools, teaching cinema and hygiene within Afghanistan as well as Iran to improve the living conditions of Afghan people.

Mohsen Makhmalbaf is the winner of more than 30 prominent international awards including the Legion d’honneur Medallion form France as well as The Best Asian Filmmaker of the world award from Pusan International Film Festival. He became the Dean of the Asian Film Academy in 2007.

All members of his family are filmmakers. His older daughter the celebrated Samira Makhmalbaf with her films The Apple, The Blackboards & At Five in The Afternoon (all premiered in Cannes Film Festival). His younger daughter Hana Makhmalbaf with Joy of Madness (premiered in Venice Film Festival) & Buddha Collapsed Out Of Shame (screened in Berlin international film festival). His son Maysam Makhmalbaf with “How Samira Made The Blackboard” and his wife Marziyeh Meshkini the director of “The Day I Became A Woman” & “Stray Dogs” premiered at Venice Film Festival.
Mohsen Makhmalbaf filmmaking is not limited to his country. He has the experience of shooting films in different regions including: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Iran.

Many of Mohsen Makhmalbaf’s works among them his films and writings are in ban in Iran. Since 2004 he has left Iran in protest to the extreme pressure of censorship and return of fascism to the country.

(Taken from: www.makhmalbaf.com)