

Cinema Guild Presents



About Elly

A Film by Asghar Farhadi

118 minutes / Scope 1.1:85 / DCP / SR / 2009

In Persian

with English, French or German subtitles.

NYC Press Contact:

Susan Norget Film Promotion

Susan Norget <susan@norget.com>

Rob Scheer <rob@norget.com>

The Cinema Guild, Inc.

115 West 30th Street, Suite 800

New York, NY 10001-4061

Tel: (212) 685-6242, Fax: (212) 685-4717

www.cinemaguild.com

Synopsis:

From the acclaimed director of A SEPARATION (Oscar, Best Foreign Language Film) and THE PAST comes this mystery-thriller, set among a group of Iranian college friends visiting the Caspian Sea for a holiday weekend. As with Farhadi's better known films, ABOUT ELLY concerns the affluent, well-educated, cultured, and only marginally religious members of Iran's upper-middle-class. "Yet as in A SEPARATION, it's not hard to detect a subtext: a critique of the lies and evasions that permeate Iranian society." (Philip Kemp, Sight & Sound) Elly, invited as a possible romantic interest for one of the newly single men, disappears from the group without a trace. The festive atmosphere quickly turns frantic as friends accuse one another of responsibility. Plot-wise, Farhadi's drama has been compared to L'AVVENTURA; but the film is less concerned with Elly's disappearance per se than with exploring the intricate mechanisms of deceit, brutality, and betrayal which come into play when ordinary circumstances take a tragic turn.

Director's statement

by Asghar Farhadi

Cinema audiences have grown more mature and directors can no longer be content with force feeding them a set of preconceived ideas. Rather than asserting a world vision, a film must open a space in which the public can involve themselves in a personal reflection, and evolve from consumers to independent thinkers. Cinema has no other choice but to take up this approach, as I did when I made *About Elly*.

About the Filmmaker

Asghar Farhadi was born in Isfahan, Iran in 1972. Whilst at school he became interested in writing, drama and the cinema, took courses at the Iranian Young Cinema Society and started his career as a filmmaker by making super 8mm and 16mm films.

He graduated with a Master's Degree in Film Direction from Tehran University in 1998. During his studies, he not only wrote and directed student plays, but also wrote plays for national radio and directed for television with such shows as the hit series *Tale of a City*. In 2001, Farhadi wrote the screenplay for Ebrahim Hatamikia's box-office and critical success *Low heights*.

His directorial debut was with 2003's *Dancing in the Dust*. This film went on to participate in the Moscow Film Festival, where it won both the Best Leading Actor and Film Critics awards. Farhadi made his second feature film, *Beautiful City*, in 2004 which won the Best feature film award at the Warsaw Film Festival 2004, the India International Film Festival and Moscow's Faces of Love Film Festival.

Chahar shanbeh souri / Fireworks Wednesday, his third feature, award winner at the Locarno International Film Festival 2006, has also been successful in other international festivals. The film has been released in both Europe and the USA.

2009's *Darbareh Elly / About Elly* is his fourth feature film.

Asghar Farhadi
Feature Filmography

The Past	2013
A Separation	2011
About Elly	2009
Fireworks Wednesday	2006
Beautiful City	2004
Dancing in the Dust	2003

A note on the film

ABOUT ELLY was produced just prior to A SEPARATION, but due to rights issues, remained unreleased in the US until now. This is the film's U.S. premiere theatrical release.

Credits

Cast

Golshifteh Farahani.....Sepideh
Taraneh Alidousti.....Elly
Shahab Hosseini.....Ahmad
Merila Zarei.....Shohreh
Mani Haghighi.....Amir
Peyman Moadi.....Peyman
Rana AzadivarNazy
Ahmad Mehranfar.....Manucheher
Saber Abar.....Alireza

Production

Iran: Simaye Mehr: Asghar Farhadi & Mahmoud Razavi

Director

Asghar Farhadi

Screenwriter

Asghar Farhadi

Cinematography

Hossein Jafarian

Editing

Hayedeh Safiyari

Sound

Hassan Zahedi

Music: “Song for Eli”

Composed & Performed by Andrea Bauer

Mix

Mohammad-Reza Delpak

Set Design

Asghar Farhadi

Costume Design

Asghar Farhadi

Make-Up

Mehrdad Mirkiani

International Sales:

DreamLab Films

14, chemin des chichourliers

06110 Le Cannet – France

A Cinema Guild Release

The Cinema Guild, Inc.
115 West 30th Street, Suite 800
New York, NY 10001-4061
Tel: (212) 685-6242, Fax: (212) 685-4717
www.cinemaguild.com