The international success of Iranian cinema over the past decades has to some extent veiled the fact that Iranian filmmakers work under extremely harsh circumstances rarely seen in other national cinemas. Filmmaking in Iran is subject to tight government controls and strict censorship codes ranging from banning any criticism of the regime to highly restrictive codes on representation of women and their interactions with men.

*A Cinema of Discontent* explores censorship codes in Iran by way of analyzing dozens of clips from mainstream and art-house films. It also features interviews with twelve Iranian filmmakers, including the internationally-acclaimed directors Jafar Panahi, Bahman Ghobadi, and the Oscar-winning Asghar Farhadi (*A Separation*) The film also documents the brave efforts of the filmmakers whose defiance and subversion of censorship codes have been be punished by being banned from working, imprisonment, and forced exile.

**A Documentary by Jamsheed Akrami**

Jamsheed Akrami is a former editor of the Iranian film magazines *Film and Art* and *Film Quarterly*. Other than *A Cinema of Discontent*, he has also produced a number of other films, including two feature-length documentaries on Iranian cinema: *The Lost Cinema*, on political filmmaking under the Shah, and *Friendly Persuasion*, on Iranian cinema after the 1979 revolution. Jamsheed Akrami is currently film professor at William Paterson University and has also taught at Columbia University.

Followed by a Panel Discussion and Q&A with

**Jamsheed Akrami**
William Paterson University

and

**Abbas Amanat**
Yale University

Wednesday, February 19, 6:00 pm
Luce Auditorium, 34 Hillhouse Ave.

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