Iran Colloquium Presents

Re-sublimating the dancing body in 20th-century Iran:
From cabaret spectacle to the post-revolutionary theatrical stage

As a part of a historiographical and ethnographic study of dance in Iran, this lecture will examine the emergence of the popular entertainment cabaret scene and its (female) dancing body in light of twentieth-century domestic urban transformations and bio-politics; the socio-economics of the popular stage; the formation of cultural categories; and the ideological discourses on public performance. Of important note will be the discussion on the “enticing” presence (and affect) of the cabaret dancer as a sustainer of the private-sector entertainment industry of the Pahlavi era (1925-1979) vis-à-vis the simultaneous emergence of a sublimated dancing body on the national(ist) stage. Expounding upon these contexts, the lecture will then explore the re-configuration of the corporeal characteristics of the virtuous dancing body in the post-revolutionary theatrical genre of “rhythmic movements” (harikat-i mawzun).

Ida Meftahi
Penn State Institute for the Arts and Humanities

Ida Meftahi is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Penn State Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Through a transdisciplinary historiographical exploration of the dancing body and discourse on dance in the twentieth century Iran, Meftahi’s dissertation offered a genealogy of modern Iranian biopolitics and the political economy of public performance and entertainment. Meftahi has a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations from University of Toronto, and a Master’s in Dance from York University, Canada. She has presented and published in fields ranging from Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies to Dance Studies.

Friday, December 6, 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Luce 202, 34 Hillhouse Ave.
Light lunch will be provided

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