

Men at Work

A film by Mani Haghighi

"Sophisticated auds will enjoy this thoroughly modern spoof on masculine fixations, played out in frank, realistic dialogue."- Variety



From Iran, 2006, In Farsi w/English subtitles, 75 min.

**WINNER, Best Film, Traverse City Film Festival
WINNER, Best Screenplay, Fajr International Film Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION, Berlin, Tribeca and Singapore Film Festivals**

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SYNOPSIS

Set in the mountains outside Tehran, this film tells the hilarious story of four old friends who, driving back from a failed skiing trip, encounter a strange and enormous rock. The men become determined to dislodge the rock, attempting various ridiculous methods without success. When two female acquaintances arrive on the scene, the men become even more determined to move the rock. The men's frivolous attempt to dislodge the rock gradually disintegrates into a tale of betrayal, defeat and renewed hope. The heroes of the film are doctors, engineers and businessmen in the throes of mid-life crises. Their middleclass problems and the absurd phallic rock venture gives rise to great humor.

CAST

Mahnaz Afshar	Sahar
Ahmad Hamed	Mammad
Mamoud Kalari	Moshen
Reza Kianian	Jalil
Fatemah Motamed-Arya	Mina
Atila Pesyani	Morteza
OMid Rohani	Nadir

CREW

Director/Writer	Mani Haghighi
Idea by	Abbas Kiarostami
Produced by	Mohammad Reza Takhtkeshian
Director of Photography	Koohyar Kalari
Editor	Mastaneh Mohajer
Music	Dmitri Shostakovich
Art Director	Amir Esbati
Sound	Mohsen Roshan, Amin Mirshekari

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Mani Haghighi was born in 1969 in Tehran, Iran. He received B.A. in philosophy from McGill University, 1991, an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Guelph, 1997 and an M.A. in cultural studies from Trent University, 2000. He then returned to Iran to begin making films. He directed WATER (2000), a short film based on a story by Borges, and TO STAY (2001), a documentary about the lives of twelve Iranian painters during the Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran in the final days of the Iran-Iraq war. His first feature, ADABAN, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2004. MEN AT WORK is Haghighi's second feature film.

FROM DIRECTOR MANI HAGHIGHI

I was trying to make a straight story about four guys and a rock. I was sure that this way, it would inspire more interest and a more diverse set of interpretations, which it did, by the way.

I'm sort of bored and tired with the stories that have been told about poverty in the Third World. I think it ends up presenting an image that isn't very useful any more. It's crucial to show intelligence, affluence ... complex human dramas, not the simple stories about how we get the money for the well.

Shooting MEN AT WORK was hell. We were filming on a shoestring. We had cast movie stars next to nonprofessional actors. We had also cast a donkey --an aggressive and unruly animal. The weather seemed intent on driving us mad. The snow was melting even though the temperature was chilling us to the bone. What were we thinking, shooting a film that took place during the course of a single day, at a single location, in the middle of nowhere? When people ask me what is MEN AT WORK about, I just look at them in disbelief. Maybe it's about making a film in conditions that make you want to throw yourself off a cliff, tied to a huge rock and a donkey.

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Film Movement is an innovative film distribution company, created as a solution for millions of consumers across the nation whose access to outstanding film is limited. Film Movement has members in all 50 states and more than 1200 cities. Film Movement acquires award winning independent and foreign films from the world's top festivals, and distributes them to subscribers to its art-house DVD-of-the-Month club called The Film Movement Series.

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- Eric Khoo's *Be With Me*
- Ismael Ferroukhi's *Le Grand Voyage*
- Joseph Cedar's *Campfire*