

Chester Film Society presents

Winners

UK 2022 | 1hr 25m | Cert PG

Director: Hassan Nazer

Starring: Helia Mohammadkhani, Parsa Maghami, Hossein Abedini

Synopsis

9-year-old Yahya and his best friend, Leyla scramble over the local rubbish dump, foraging for recyclable plastics in exchange for a handful of change. Then he makes two discoveries: one is an Oscar statuette, mislaid on the outskirts of his village. The other is the secret cinema history of the owner of the recycling business, once a globally recognised actor.

Winners is showing with Chester Animation Festival winning entry 'Smile'.

Christmas reception sponsored by Vain Hair & Beauty

Critical acclaim

"The Persian-language film is set in Iran but is a British production – director Hassan Nazer lives in Scotland – and was the UK submission for the international category of the Oscars... Storywise it's a slip of a thing, but it gains considerable appeal from its young, non-professional cast." *The Guardian*

"Valiant and more than a little touching. [Nazer's] reverence for his country's considerable cinematic heritage courses through Winners, right through to the very fabric of his compositions.

In particular, there are moments of golden-hour joy in a gang of urchins running through this dust bowl brandishing what looks like colourful pillows in the squinting sun. When it turns out they're sacks in which to scrounge the plastic rubbish from the

dump which dwarves them, he gets his image to stand up with the best of them."

Screen Daily

"Winners is essentially a love letter to Iranian cinema, although one with an ambiguous edge of scepticism. The country's screen output, it's suggested, though feted and even sometimes internationally awarded, doesn't always receive the lasting credit it deserves – and the same goes for the players who appear in it.

BFI

"Using the Oscar statue as a prop and as a comment, essentially highlighting how secluded Iranian people can be on occasion, Hassan Nazer presents a movie that unfolds in a number of levels, retaining throughout, a very entertaining sense of somewhat bitter humor... the tribute to (Iranian) cinema is one that permeates the narrative... This love is everywhere to be found in the movie.

Asian Movie Pulse

Conclusion

Treading a similar path to Cinema Paradiso, this is a paean to Iranian cinema from a British-Iranian director who gets the very best out of his cast.

Our next film:

The Quiet Girl. Showing Jan 11th 2024

7.30pm (doors 7 pm)

At The Garret, Storyhouse

www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it ----- | -----I loved it ----- |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10