

PERSEPOLIS - UK Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZ22VyJ6n8>



CAST & CREW

Directed by: Marjane Satrapi

Written by: Vincent Paronnaud

Narrator: Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux, Simon Abkarian, Gabrielle Lopes

SYNOPSIS

Persepolis is the poignant story of a young girl coming-of-age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. It is through the eyes of precocious and outspoken nine year old Marjane that we see a people's hopes dashed as fundamentalists take power - forcing the veil on women and imprisoning thousands. Clever and fearless, she outsmarts the "social guardians" and discovers punk, ABBA and Iron Maiden. Yet when her uncle is senselessly executed and as bombs fall around Tehran in the Iran/Iraq war, the daily fear that permeates life in Iran is palpable. As she gets older, Marjane's boldness causes her parents to worry over her continued safety. And so, at age fourteen, they make the difficult decision to send her to school in Austria. Vulnerable and alone in a strange land, she endures the typical ordeals of a teenager. In addition, Marjane has to combat being equated with the religious fundamentalism and extremism she fled her country to escape. Over time, she gains acceptance, and even experiences love, but after high school she finds herself alone and horribly homesick. Though it means putting on the veil and living in a tyrannical society, Marjane decides to return to Iran to be close to her family. After a difficult period of adjustment, she enters art school and marries, all the while continuing to speak out against the hypocrisy she witnesses. At age 24, she realizes that while she is deeply Iranian, she cannot live in Iran. She then makes the heartbreaking decision to leave her homeland for France, optimistic about her future, shaped indelibly by her past.

Source: https://europeanfilmawards.eu/en_EN/film/persepolis.5232

Interview with Marjane Satrapi

Interview with Marjane Satrapi about the transition between Persepolis as a graphic novel and Persepolis the movie. This interview will allow students to see what Marjane Satrapi is like, allowing the reader/viewer to connect with the writer/director on a more personal level.

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9onZpQix_w



Things you should know before watching the film

Brief Iranian History explained by the film at the beginning

- 2500 years of ruling by kings known as Shahs
- In 1950, a democratically elected Mohammad Mosaddegh, who nationalized the oil industry.
- In 1953, however, Great Britain (Prime Minister Winston Churchill) and the United States (President Eisenhower) helped organize a coup d'état, which is a sudden and illegal seizure/overthrow of a government. They didn't want Iran to control their most valuable asset of oil, so they helped a military commander - Mohammed Reza Pahlavi - gain power.
- Reza was in power from 1953 until 1979. He was known for his opulence (ostentatiously rich and lavish), his ruthless internal police (terror and torture), and his westernization of Iran.
- The Islamic Revolution took place in 1979, and Ayatollah Khomeini took control as the Iran Supreme Leader; the revolution descended into torture, death squads, score-settling, and chaos.
- The Shah was given asylum (protection to a refugee from a different country) in the U.S. to undergo cancer treatments.
- Iranian people stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iran demanding that the Shah be returned to Iran for trial and to be hanged.

Source: <https://teachingpersepoliseng434.weebly.com/teaching-resources.html>

AFTER-WATCHING THE FILM

Part A - Pair/Think/Write/Share

1- How has the war affected Marjane? Refer to specific examples where she has been affected by war.

(You can read this article: Iranian revolution: Your memories)

Link: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7879434.stm

2 - The right to education is violated in Iran during the 1979 Iranian Revolution. How does this affect Marjane and what she wanted for her future?

Part B – Group/ Research/ Read/ Write/ Share

1. After the Iranian Revolution, women were forced to use the veil. This is still an issue in Iran, Mahsa Amini probably being the most recent and known case today.

Get in groups, read one of the news articles, do research if needed, sum up relevant/ striking ideas/ bits of information, and share it with your class.

2. This situation also influenced different artists to use their art to express what and how they feel about these issues. Analyse some of those artworks. Share your thoughts with your group and class.

3. Women's Rights are violated all over the world. You may:

- do research and find another example of a violation on Women's Rights;
- take action by using Amnesty International resource materials;
- watch and read about Feminism (*We should all be feminists*; *Dear Ijeawele or a feminist manifesto in 15 suggestions* – both by Chimamanda Adichie).