

Member and guest feedback for *There is No Evil*

An excellent film, which will stay long in the memory. A philosophical treatise on the "Banality of Evil" theme, it is essentially a film about moral responsibility and I suspect most people would fall well short. It started off slowly and got better with each episode, although to contradict myself the third was actually my favourite, partially because the landscape was greener and the relationships somehow livelier. My random thoughts on each piece are as follows: *There Is No Evil* was for the most part mundane (and intentionally so) until Heshmat presses the button. So impersonal it made me think it is easily something the robots could do in the future. *You Can Do It* plays on the double entendre which led me to think Tamineh was urging Pouya either to get a transfer or bribe another conscript to "kick the stool away" but an escape certainly did not cross my mind. What the director shows us is how, unlike in the first part where the executioner makes the choice to do this work but does not see his handiwork up close and personal, the conscripts are forced into complicity when they just want to get through to the end of their military service as painlessly as possible; only they have no real choice in the matter without facing severe consequences. Incidentally, the 50 million Toman the other recruit says he will exchange places for is the equivalent of £480. Life is cheap. In *Birthday* what struck me most was how incompatible the engaged couple were when it came to sharing moral values: they don't know much about each other after all. Then again, to volunteer to kick a stool away for a three-day pass to spend with your nice-looking fiancée would prove a dilemma for most hot-blooded young men, or maybe they wouldn't give the matter any thought. *Kiss Me* is all about loss: by making his own moral choice all those years back, Bahram loses everything; his career as well as his daughter and to add to his suffering, he has to live with Darya's adverse reaction to his decision to tell her the truth about who her biological father is before succumbing to the ultimate loss.

I liked the format of four stories with different perspectives on the dreadful practice of capital punishment. I thought the film could have been cut by 15 or 20 minutes, especially the last episode but am still giving it top marks despite that.

A story displayed in four different squares. It creates confusion. But the interest about life in Iran kept me focused from the bureaucrat that executes prisoners like fishing, to the doctor with such a complex life that he should have dedicate it fully to the honeybees. The four squares, places for violence. Love is frustrated.

An interesting idea to combine four short stories with different aspects of the same theme. After a shock start (the first one) one gradually became aware of what State execution involved (in Iran), and the pointlessness of it and how it affected different people in different ways. Brilliant direction, photography (stunning) and editing.

What an excellent film, in spite of the gruesome subject. It constantly had us making assumptions about how a scene was going to pan out - only to be very wrong.

It could have done with some trimming but a powerful and well-crafted film, with excellent performances.

What a fantastic film. I can really see how the film explores Hannah Arendt's 'banality of evil' but for me I thought the film explored what it is to be human.

Sorry yes, not for me at all

Extraordinary insight into Iran and moral dilemmas.

I was unsure about the format of four sections to the film when I read about this in advance but it really worked in this case. It served to underline the human impact in a range of settings of this phenomenon where members of the public are expected to participate in capital punishments while undertaking military service. One single story would not have conveyed this as well. Such an interesting but disturbing, film.

More a glut of evil than a taste but necessarily so; a vital lesson in the politics of horror. It could have been more sharply edited and was a bit too long but it gets the top grade from me for its stark exposure of a truly detestable practice - forcing decent citizens into complicity in the evils of the regime. The RFS at its essential best.

Powerful film which was hard to watch but made a big impact. Amazing that it was actually filmed in Iran.

I particularly liked the first segment, showing the banality of life and the everyday kindnesses of a man whose job it is to press the lethal button. An insight into the Catch-22 of the system that makes ordinary people into the agents of death, or else significantly limits their lives. Worth thinking about in the context of our own realities, in the interconnected world we live in.

I was unsure about the prospect of a two-and-a-half-hour film on such a distressing subject but it had me gripped from start to finish. I liked the four-story construction and that it left some of the stories unresolved.

Maybe an Excellent if the last part hadn't lingered for 10-15 minutes too long. All stories were very poignant and thought provoking, the first three were brilliant I thought. We must appreciate the risks taken and sacrifices made by all Iranians involved in the making of the film. Deserved a full house.

Both horrific and incredibly touching. The film opened with an unexpected bang and the image of the quivering hanging feet will remain with me for a long time. The apparent mundanity of the first character's job and quiet servitude belied his inner turmoil as shown by his haunted expression throughout and him feeling immobilised at the traffic lights. The film gave us some hugely important philosophical questions and dilemmas - how far one can compromise one's own moral values for the sake of a nation or basically for one's own benefit. This was very well conveyed by the second film in the prison cell with the conversations back and forth. The link between the films was a little more tenuous and I presume the beautiful, gentle faced man in the last film was in just fact the main character from the second film. I felt strongly affected by this film.

Interesting to see the different responses and consequences when faced with the decision to carry out the death penalty imposed by the State.

On my previous viewing it was at a festival where it had been a long day, so I was very indifferent about it. This time being fresh I was up for it. As with all episodic films some episodes stronger than others but on the whole a great film enlightening us to the dilemmas/reality faced by a selection of ordinary Joes in enforcing capital punishment. One can't get it out of your mind that that's what's going on today...

A slow burning film which slowly exposes the horrors of a regime which makes young men doing mandatory service and carry out State executions. From the matter-of-fact nature of the first story, through stories of personal and family horrors and loss the film asks you to question how you yourself would respond to the moral dilemma. This question has stayed with me for days. I found the scenery breathtaking and the acting so convincing. It was even more powerful when I learned that it was shot secretly inside Iran and smuggled out.