

MY FAVOURITE CAKE

Iran (2024) 97 minutes

Director/Screenplay: Maryam Moghaddam and Behtash Sanaeeha

Cast: Lily Farhadpour (Mahin)
Esmail Mehrabi (Faramarz)



Screening 3rd September 2025 at Swindon Arts Centre

Synopsis

Since her husband's death and her daughter's departure for Europe, 70-year-old Mahin has been living alone in Tehran, until an afternoon tea with friends leads her to break her solitary routine and revitalise her love life. But as Mahin opens herself up to new romance, what begins as an unexpected encounter quickly evolves into an unpredictable, unforgettable evening...

Reviews



Peter Bradshaw says that as well as everything else, this wonderfully sweet and funny film will contribute to the debate about whether repressive regimes are the nursery of artistic greatness.

He praises the performance of the lead pair and concludes his review by saying that there is something quietly magnificent in it as moments like these in life are poignantly brief – but many never have them at all

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.

The Iranian government has not supported the film, banning Moghaddam and Sanaeeha from travelling to Berlin for its premiere, and accusing the film-makers of 'crossing several red lines', by depicting Mahin drinking alcohol and without her hijab.

What's even more subversive, however, is Mahin's sense of agency. Moghaddam and Sanaeeha frequently depict her alone at the centre of the frame, whether enjoying an affogato in a posh hotel lobby, waiting for a cab outside the market, or sitting at a park bench overlooking the city. In each setting, Mahin's independence is presented as a fact rather than pitied.

Too often, later-in-life romances are presented as 'cute', neutered, shorn of desire; however, here that desire is suggested, rather than shown. A scene in which the couple take a shower fully clothed risks reading as twee but in the event is simply tender, as they vulnerably acknowledge their long bouts of celibacy. There's sensuality to be found elsewhere anyway, in Mahin's night-blooming jasmine, and the promise of an orange blossom cake.

Simran Hans, Sight and Sound

Film Facts

- *My Favourite Cake* was nominated as the *Official Selection* in numerous film festivals during 2024 including the Edinburgh Festival.
- It was the winner of the *Jury Prize 2024* at the Berlin International Film Festival.
- In total it received 7 wins and 6 nominations at numerous film festivals during 2024.

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