

## Document Citation

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A Film by Abbas Kiarostami

# Close Up

**A Real-Life Situation**

**Based on a Real Incident**

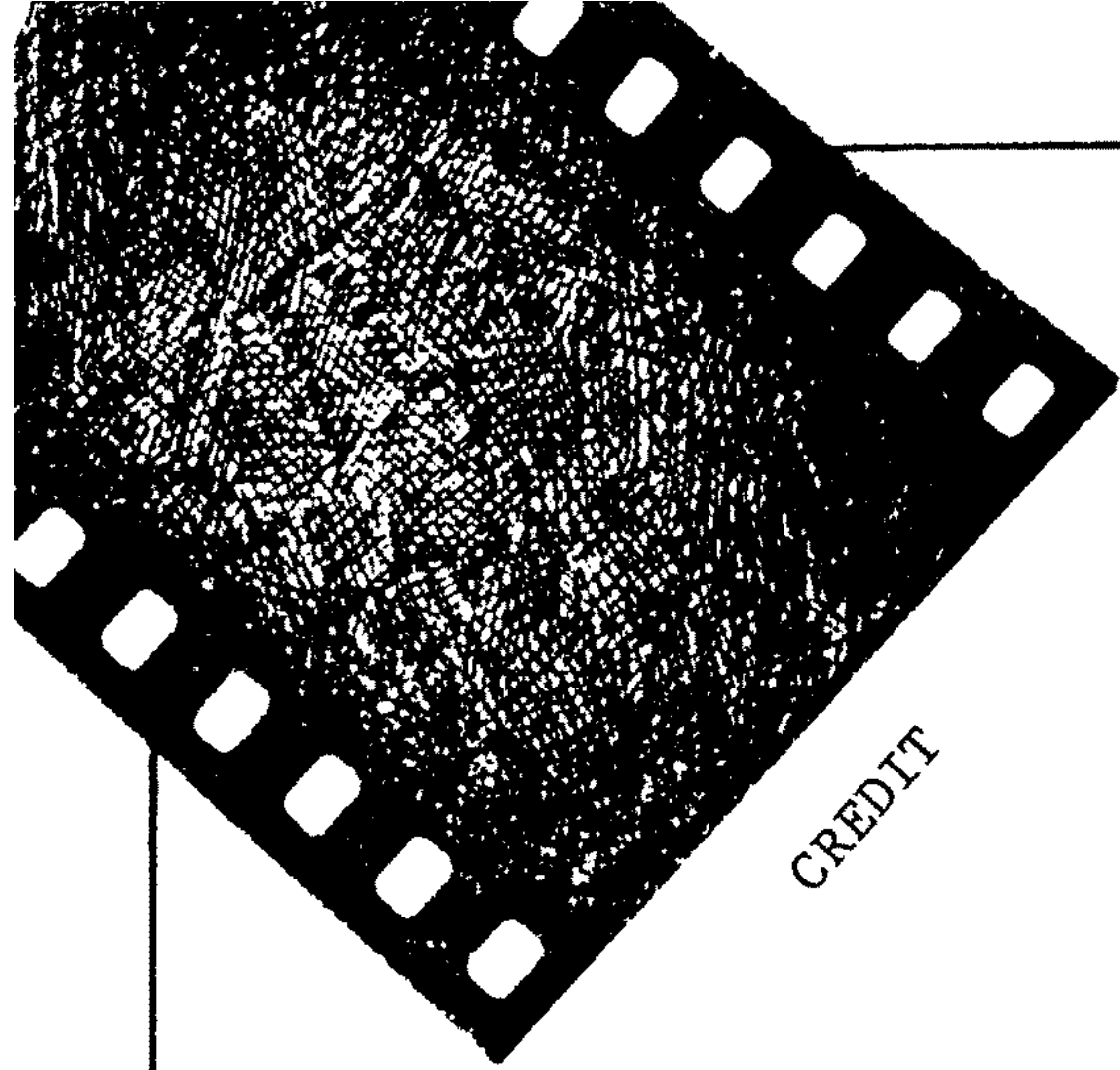
**in Actual Locations**

**With Actual People Involved**

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 Farabi Cinema Foundation

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CREDIT

DIRECTOR : Abbas Kiarostami

SCREENWRITER : Abbas Kiarostami

PHOTOGRAPHY : Alireza Zarindast

EDIT : Abbas Kiarostami

PRODUCTION MANAGER : Hassan Aghakarimi

PRODUCER : Institute for the Intellectual Development of  
Children and Young Adults.

CAST : Hosein Sabzian.....Himself  
Hassan Frazmand.....Reporter  
Abolfazl Ahankhah.....Father  
Mehrdad Ahankhah.....Son  
Hushang Shahai.....Taxi Driver  
Mohsen Makhmalbaf.....Himself

IRAN, 1990

35mm., FRAME RATIO: 1:1/66

COLOUR, 93 MINS.



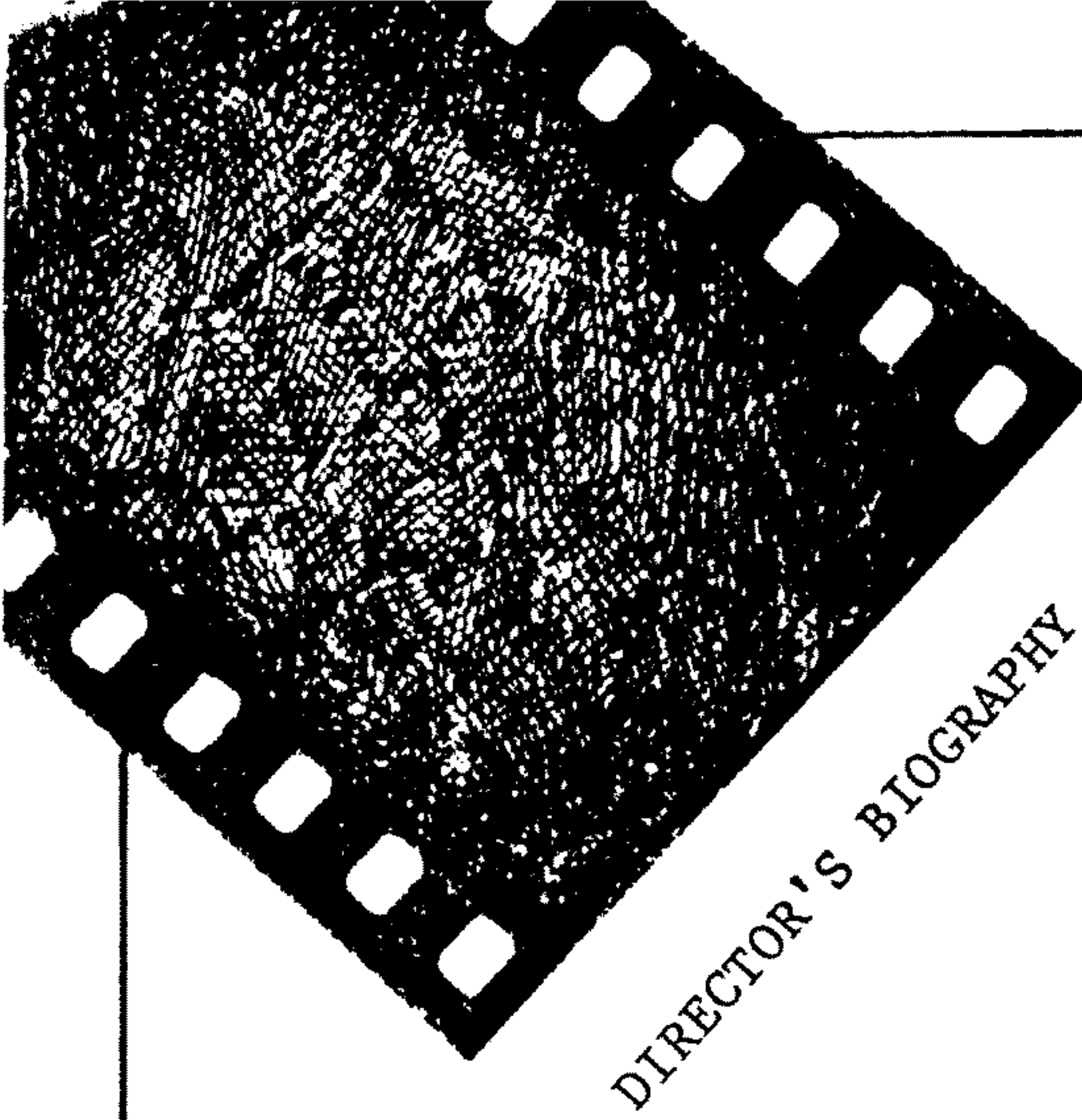
SYNOPSIS

"A frustrated young film buff, who had been posing as Mohsen Makhmalbaf, gets arrested".

The above headline in Tehran daily papers was coupled with the following story:

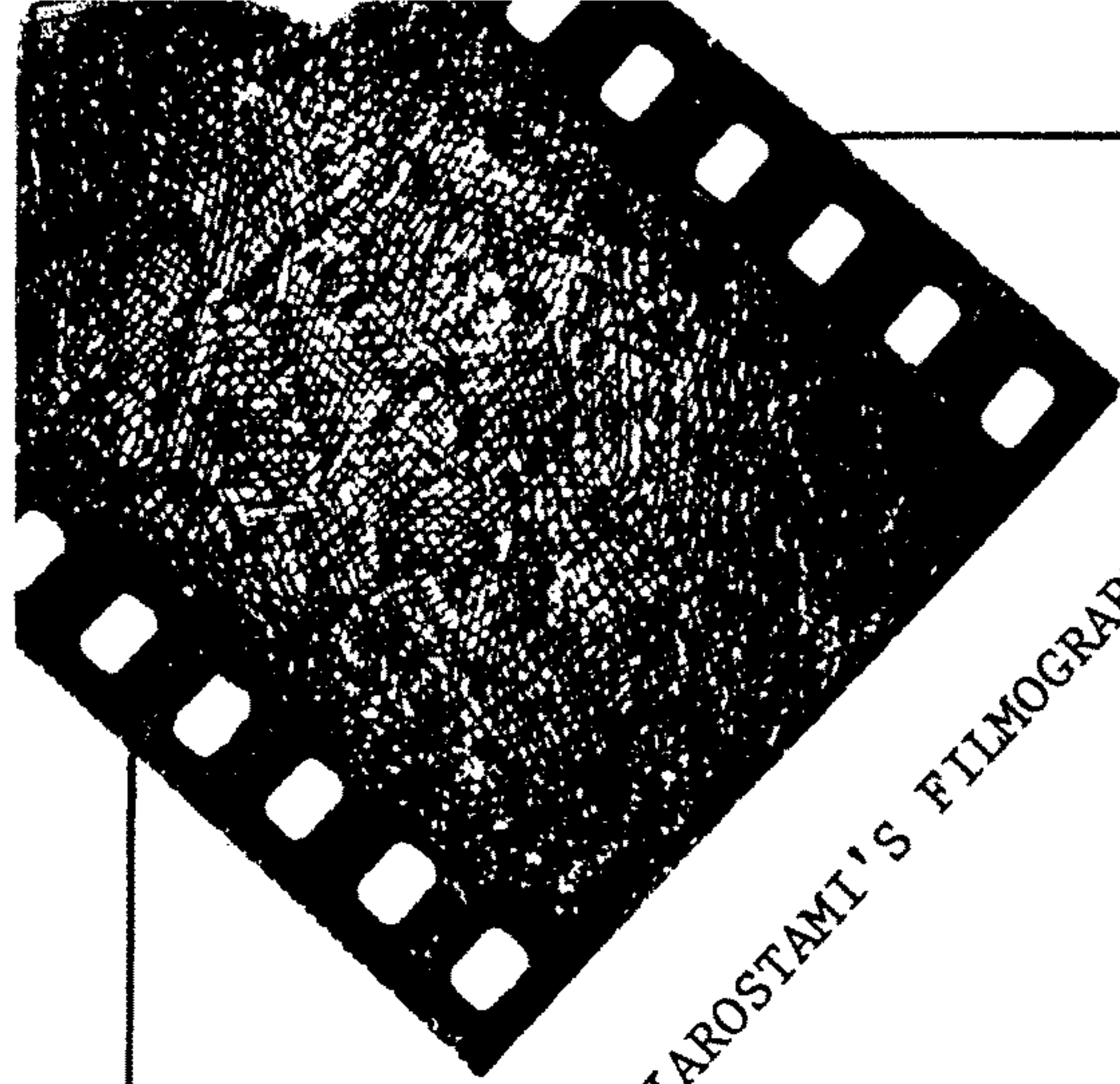
"The accused passing himself off as the celebrated film director, entered the life of a well-to-do family with the ostensible intention of wanting to make a film with their participation. All this has apparently been an excuse for exploring the family house and planning for burglary which was forestalled with the man's arrest."

The news provided Kiarostami with the basic idea for a semi-documentary film entitled CLOSE-UP. Kiarostami visited the accused in prison, contacted people at the judiciary department and obtained permission to shoot the court proceedings. He set up two cameras at the court: one with wide-angle lens to record the trial, and the other one with a close-up lens to probe into the psychological truth of the case.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1940, Abbas Kiarostami is a graduate of the Painting department of Tehran University's Faculty of Fine Arts. He made tens of commercials before beginning to work for the center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in 1968. As a matter of the fact, he established the filmmaking department at the centre. Beside making films, he illustrated some books for children. Most of Kiarostami's films deal with children issues.



KIAROSTAMI'S FILMOGRAPHY

SHORT FILMS:

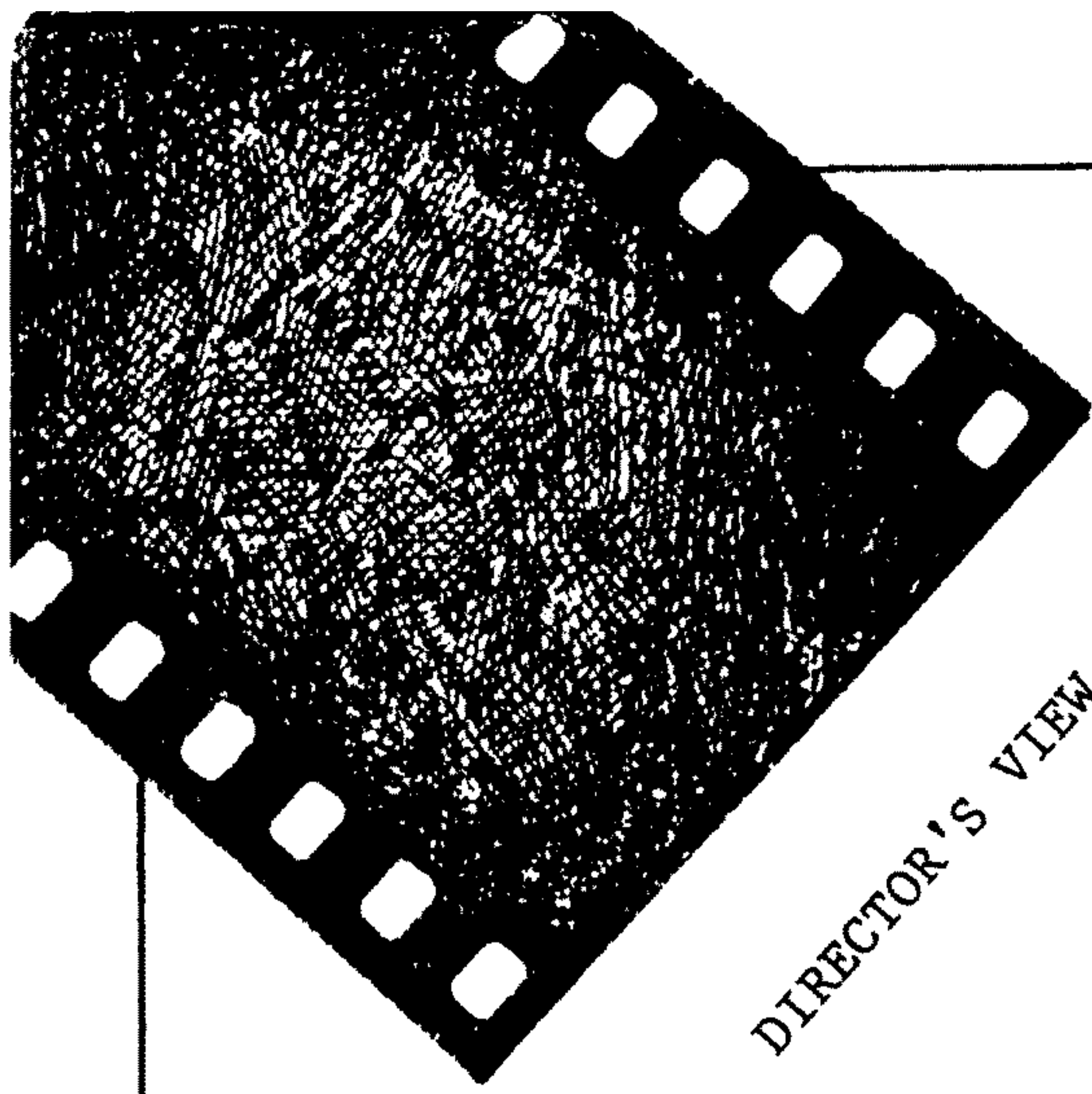
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1970	Bread and Alley
1972	The Breaktime
1973	The Experience
1974	Passenger
1975	Two Solutions for one problem
1975	So I Can
1976	A Suit For Wedding
1976	The Colours
1978	Solution I
1979	First case, Second case
1980	Tooth Ache
1981	Regularly or Irregularly
1982	The chorus
1983	Fellow Citizen

FEATUR FILMS:

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1977	Report
1985	First Graders
1988	Where is the Friend's Home ?
1989	Homework
1990	Close-Up
1992	And Life Goes On...



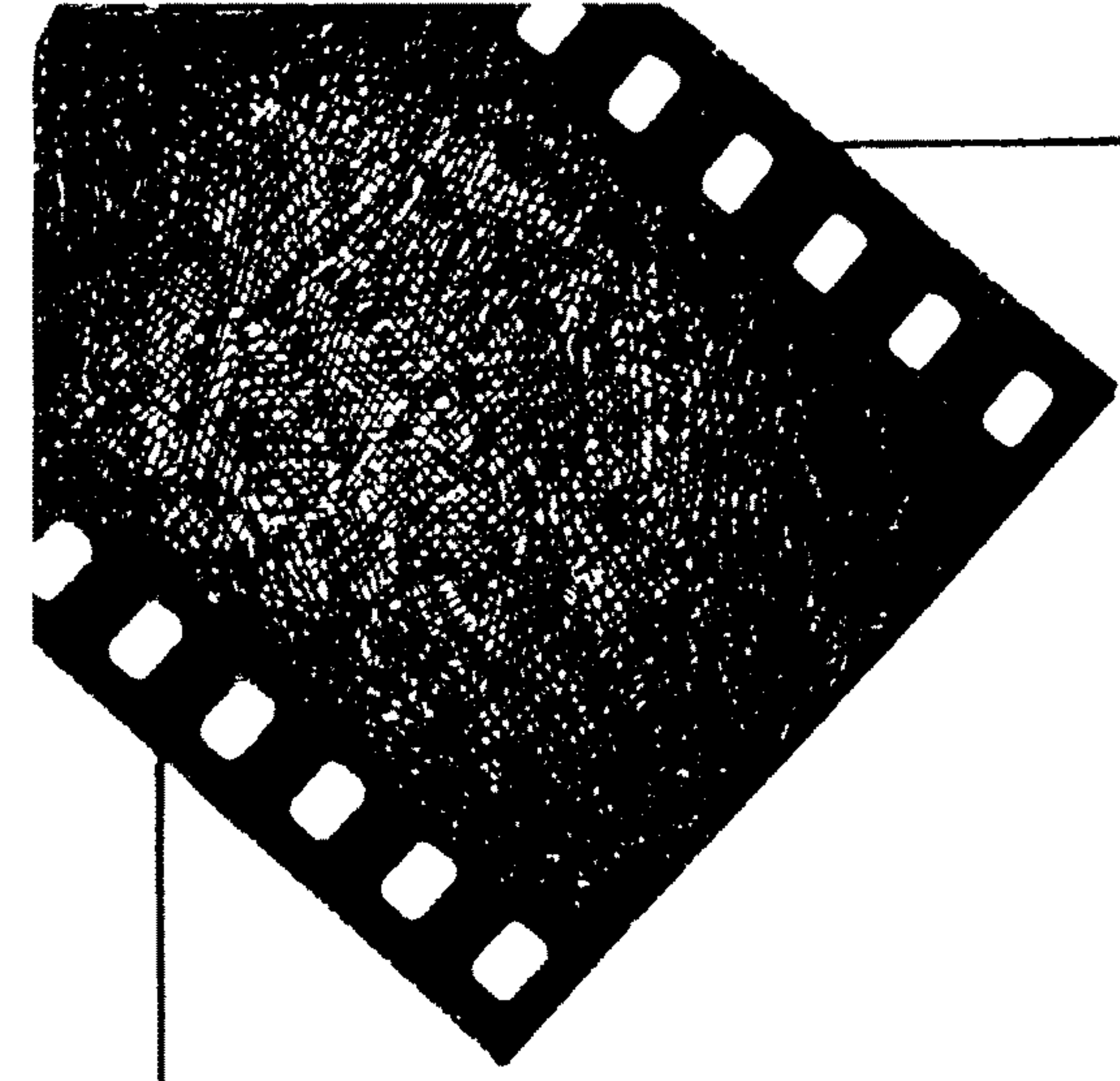
DIRECTOR'S VIEW

I read the story in a weekly magazine and it fascinated me so much. To quote Marquez, one is more chosen by a subject than choosing it. The first point that struck me was that the guy was not a fraud. He was rather infatuated by an image. That is why he went to the extreme of contriving a plot that could not be taken but as a hoax. What a filmmaker could do for him was to rehabilitate him, portray him as a young man who is in love with cinema, with the movie people.

But, the film is not about the cinema. It neither defines, nor praises the cinema. At least, the film's main subject is not the cinema itself. As a matter of fact, the film is like a prism of which praising the cinema is one of the aspects. The film's main point is man's need for social esteem and recognition, apart from the basic necessities of life.

Of course, there are some other aspects of the film which deserve consideration. Naturally the cinema itself, its nature and its rightfulness, are minor aspects of the film. Take, for example, the trial scene, where "Sabzian", the sham "Makhmalbaf", talks of photography. Pay attention to his hands' movements, to listners' look. Cinema attracts everything and everybody...

I seek to keep reminding the viewer that he is watching the filmed version of a real story. I am not a fan of narrated adventures. The excitement of an adventure does not allow the viewer to delve into the depth of the things



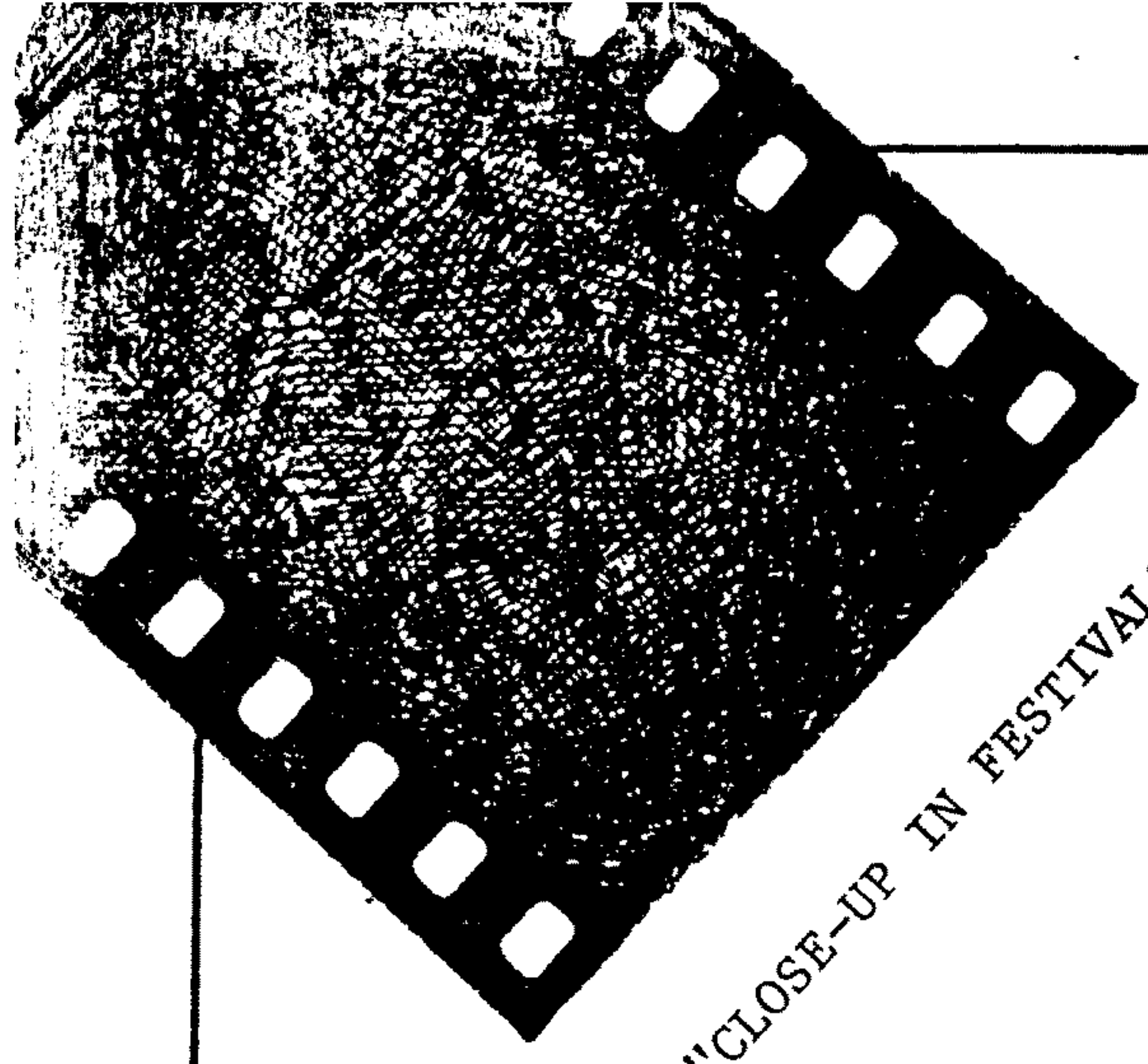
running on the screen. That is why I miss no chances to remind the viewer that the footage is the reality replayed, not a fictional adventure. Film is the story of the distance between an ideal self and a real one. The more the distance between the two, the less a man's mental balance. Every one keeps trying to bring the two closer to each other to attain sort of balance.

I create the reality before the camera and then I pull the truth out out of it. What I seek to arrive at, in this affair is that Hossein Sabzian is a martyr, is a man in love, while many people are convinced that he is a sheer impostor. The truth I am eagerly trying to pull out of this reality is that man is good at the bottom of his self.

Abbas Kiarostami.

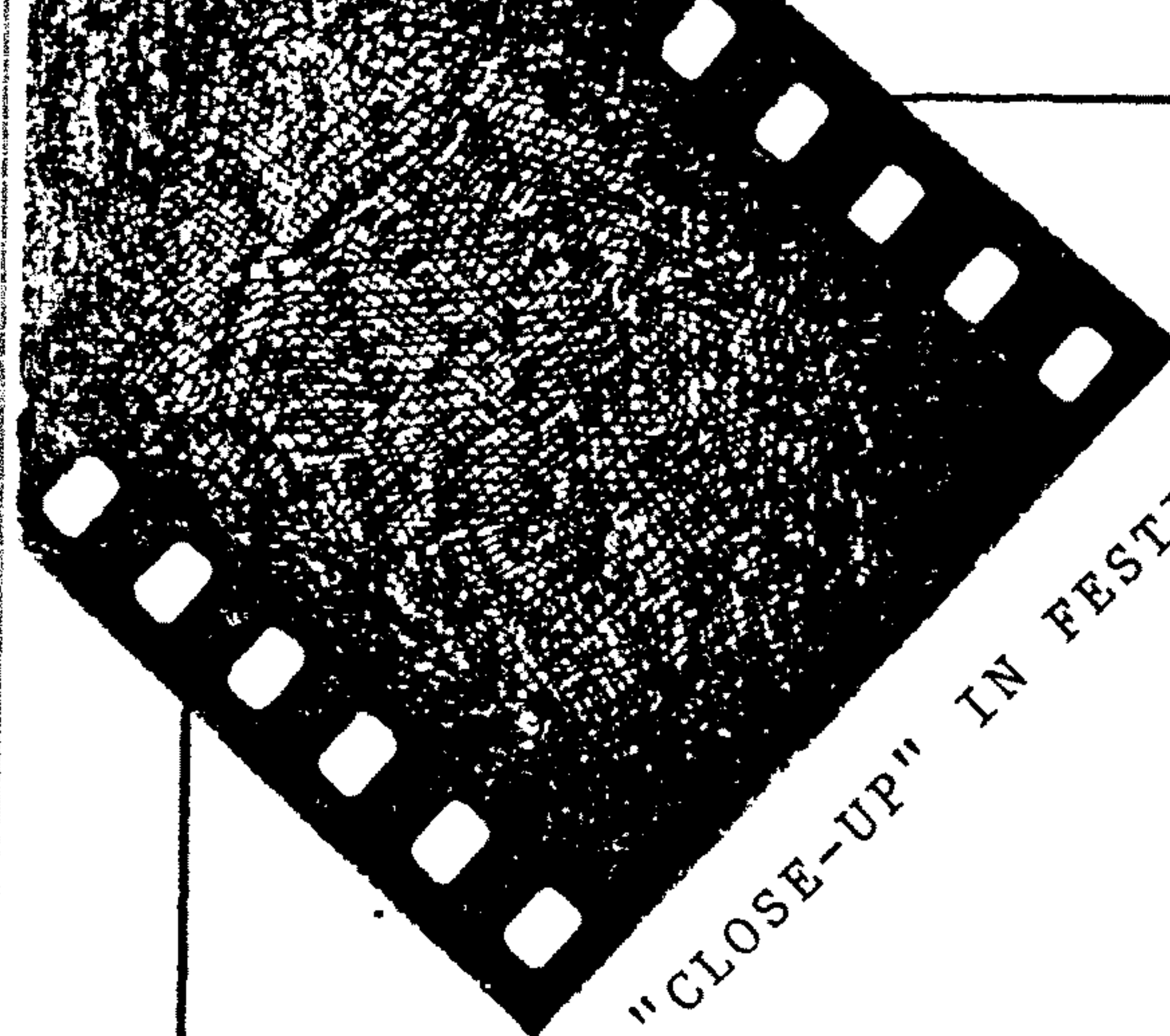
*A. Kiarostami*





"CLOSE-UP IN FESTIVALS"

- 1) 8th Fajr International Film Festival, 1990  
(Winner of the Jury's special Award)
- 2) Munich Film Festival, 1990
- 3) Locarno Film Festival (1990)
- 4) Riminacinema International Film Festival 1990  
Winner of the second prize, Silver R
- 5) Umea Film Festival, 1990
- 6) 26th Chicago International Film Festival, 1990
- 7) 19th International Festival of New Cinema & Video, Montreal 1990  
The Award of "Quebec Critics Association" For the  
Best Feature Film
- 8) Toronto International Film Festival, 1990
- 9) Iranian Filmweek in Utopia Cinema, Paris 1990
- 10) 14th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 1990
- 11) Iranian Filmweek in Cinematheatre Desmet, Amsterdam 1990
- 12) 12th Festival of 3 Continents, Nantes 1990
- 13) Brussele International Film Festival, 1991
- 14) Cinema du Reel, 13<sup>e</sup> Festival International de Films Ethnographique  
et Sociologiques, 1991
- 15) Festival of Iranian Films In Gent, Belgium 1991
- 16) Festival of Iranian Films In Lovanium, Belgium 1991
- 17) Festival of Iranian Films In Australian Film Institute, 1991



"CLOSE-UP" IN FESTIVALS

- 18) Hong Kong International Film Festival, 1991
- 19) 34th San Francisco International Film Festival, 1991
- 20) 5th Washington, D.C. International Film Festival, 1991
- 21) Festival of Iranian Films in Vienna, Austria 1991
- 22) 23th Auckland International Film Festival, 1991
- 23) 20th Wellington Film Festival, 1991
- 24) 10th Vancouver International Film Festival, 1991
- 25) Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, 1991
- 26) 5th Dunkerque International Film Festival, France 1991  
Awarded the prize of the city of Dunkerque  
Awarded the prize for the best director  
Awarded the prize of the press  
Awarded the prize given by the sixth-form pupils
- 27) 11th Hawaii International Film Festival, 1991
- 28) 15th Cairo International Film Festival, 1991
- 29) India's 23rd International Film Festival, Bangalore 1992
- 30) 11th Istanbul International Film Festival, 1992  
Awarded the International Film Critics Prize
- 31) 4th Izmir International Film Festival, Turkey 1992
- 32) Festival of Iranian Films at London's National Film Theatre, 1992
- 33) 15th Asian-American Film Festival, New York 1992
- 34) 17th Toronto International Film Festival of Festivals, 1992
- 35) Festival of Iranian Films at the Film Center of the Art School of Chicago, 1992
- 36) Screened at The International Home Cinema of Philadelphia, 1992
- 37) 33rd Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 1992
- 38) Festival of Iranian Films at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York 1992
- 39) Festival of Iranian Films in Marseil, France 1992
- 40) 10th Brugge International Festival of 3 Continents, Belgium 1993  
Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films



"Close Up" In Festivals

- 41) A Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films in Cinema Du Sud-Jean Renoir, France 1993
- 42) The 21st La Rochelle International Film Festival, France 1993
- 43) The 6th Riminicinema International Film Festival, Italy 1993  
Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films
- 44) The 5th Rio De Janeiro International Film Festival of Banco Nacional, Brazil 1993
- 45) Festival of Iranian Films in Paris, France 1993
- 46) The 30th Valladolid International Film Festival, Spain 1993  
Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films
- 47) Taipei Golden Horse International Film Festival, Taiwan 1993  
Tribute to Abbas Kiarostami
- 48) A Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films in the Filmoteca de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona 1993
- 49) A Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films in the Filmoteca Spanola, Madrid 1993
- 50) A Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films in the Espace des Arts, Chalon Sur Saon, France 1994
- 51) A retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's Films at the Hong Kóng's Art Centre, 1994
- 52) The 18th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, Brazil 1994  
Retrospective of Abbas Kiarostami's films
- 53) Festival of Iranian Films at the Autonoma University of Madrid, Spain 1994



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