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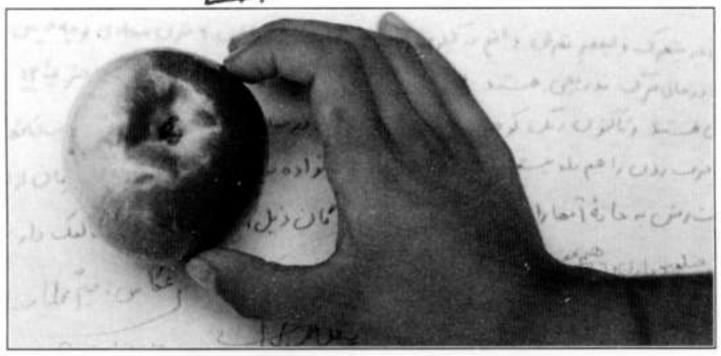
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The Apple



The flourishing Iranian cinema has been built on stories about children, so it makes perfect sense to find the child of one of Iran's greatest filmmakers behind the camera. Samira Makhmalbaf, the 18-year-old daughter of Moshen Makhmalbaf, brings a youthful exuberance to the tale of a family stuck between tradition and modernity. A willful father and his blind wife are forced to let into public their twin daughters, who have been locked inside for all of their 11 years. From this tiny premise emerges a wondrous tale of discovery, as the girls wander beyond their home and begin the awkward process of interacting with contemporary society. The impact of Moshen is evident here—he wrote the screenplay and edited the film. But THE APPLE, with its keen understanding of girlhood and its unadorned, charming sense of humor, is clearly his daughter's work. (Iran, 1998, 86m) Also 'TIL DEATH DO US PART (D: Cindy Kleine, U.S., 1998, 20m) In person: Samira Makhmalbaf.