

Document Citation

Title	The traveller
Author(s)	Alissa Simon
Source	<i>Art Institute of Chicago. Film Center</i>
Date	1996 Jun 01
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	6
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Mossafer (The traveller), Kiarostami, Abbas, 1974

Film Center 1996



THE TRAVELLER, June 1, 2

CLOSE-UP: ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

THE TRAVELLER

(MOSAFER)

1974, Abbas Kiarostami, Iran, 74 min.

SO I CAN

(MANAM MINTUNAM)

1975, Abbas Kiarostami, Iran, 4 min.

**REGULARLY OR
IRREGULARLY**

(BE TARTIB YA BEDUNE TARTIB)

1981, Abbas Kiarostami, Iran, 17 min.

6:00

THE TRAVELLER, the first feature Kiarostami wrote and directed during his time at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, highlights his skill at working with young performers, a talent refined through numerous short works. The traveller of the title is Qasem, a willful youth who prefers playing soccer to completing his school work. When he learns that the Iranian national team will be playing in Tehran, he is determined to go. In order to get money for the trip and a ticket, Qasem sneaks cash from his parents, swindles his classmates, and even sells his school's soccer equipment. Worn out by his preparations and the long bus journey, he reaches the soccer field with little time to spare.

Qasem's quest ends with poetic justice thanks to a final ironic twist. Elliott Stein of *The Village Voice* wrote, "This fine little black-and-white movie reminded me of another memorable first feature—THE 400 BLOWS." THE TRAVELLER will be preceded by the shorts SO I CAN and REGULARLY OR IRREGULARLY. The former focuses on two little boys watching a cartoon about animals, while the latter demonstrates the axiom that a sense of order makes for good social organization. (AS)