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Author(s)	Dimitri Eipides
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Toronto IFF 1999

The Wind Will Carry Us

Abbas Kiarostami

FRANCE/IRAN, 1999

115 minutes ■ Colour/35mm
 Production Company: **MK2 Productions/Abbas Kiarostami**
 Executive Producer: **Marin Karmitz**
 Producer: **Abbas Kiarostami**
 Screenplay: **Abbas Kiarostami**
 Cinematographer: **Mahmoud Kalari**
 Sound: **Jahangir Mirshekari**
 Principal Cast: **Behzad Dourani and the inhabitants of the Siah Dareh village**

Print Source: **MK2 Diffusion,**
55 rue Traversière, 75012 Paris, France.
T (33-1) 4467-3011 F (33-1) 4341-3230
E ymarchet@mk2.com

Foreign Sales Agent: **MK2 Diffusion,**
55 rue Traversière, 75012 Paris, France.
T (33-1) 4467-3011 F (33-1) 4341-3230
E sales@mk2.com

Production: **MK2 Productions, 55 rue Traversière, 75012 Paris, France.**
T (33-1) 4467-3000 F (33-1) 4341-3230

The films of Abbas Kiarostami occupy a unique place in world cinema. Employing a rare simplicity of structure and method that belies the depth of his vision, Kiarostami consistently creates moving, unique and diverse works of art. At once stretching the boundaries of cinematic convention and challenging audience preconceptions about narrative and pacing, his is a counter-cinema with a warm, humanist heart.

Kiarostami's work continues to impress domestically and internationally. His previous film, *Taste of Cherry*, the Palme d'Or winner at the 1997 Cannes film festival, was an elegiac portrait of a man torn between life and death; characteristically, it shunned facile solutions to the profound questions it posed. It was one high point in a career that is certain to yield countless others.

Kiarostami relishes in placing his characters in surroundings alien to them; through their ensuing search for answers, identity or something as simple as the whereabouts of their friend's home, their experience of the exotic becomes an intimate canvas of universal truths.

His latest film is the next step in his formidable oeuvre, evoking the same sense of character and place that infuses much of his work, while delving into politically sensitive territory in understated, allegorical fashion. *The Wind Will Carry Us* revolves around the lives of four strangers who arrive from Tehran for a short stay at Siah Dareh, a village in Iranian Kurdistan. Ostensibly, the

strangers are looking for treasure. But, as in all Kiarostami's work, the resolution to their quest lies as much with the viewer as it does with the film.

Evocative and direct, constructed with his trademark, soulful serenity and refreshingly minimalist approach, *The Wind Will Carry Us* is another essential film from a master filmmaker.

■ **Dimitri Eipides**



Abbas Kiarostami was born in Tehran, Iran in 1940. From 1960 to 1968, he designed titles for fiction films. While working as a clerk at a police station, he enrolled in a fine arts school. In 1969, he co-founded the Cinema Department of the Institute for the

Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. Until 1991, many of the films he made dealt with the world of children. Feature films include: *The Traveler* (74), *The Report* (77), *First Graders* (84), *Where is the Friend's Home?* (87), *Homework* (90), *Close Up* (90), *Life and Nothing More* (92), *Through the Olive Trees* (94), *Taste of Cherry* (97) and *The Wind Will Carry Us* (99).

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