

*A NEW MOTION PICTURE*

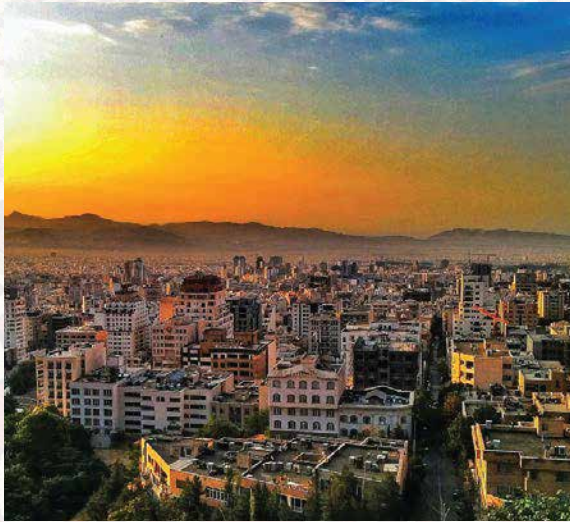
# SEARCHING *FOR* HASSAN

*based on the best-selling book*

In a time of maximum tension between Iran and the United States, an American family embarks on the journey of a lifetime in search of a lost friend.

*A NEW MOTION PICTURE*

# SEARCHING *FOR* HASSAN



In a time of maximum tension between Iran and the US, an American family embarks on a difficult journey, despite all arguments against it. The year is 1998. The Wards – an aging mother and her adults sons – return to Iran for the first time since its Revolution.

With no address and only a twenty-five year old photograph, the family begins their quest for Hassan, the man they had all grown to love during their expatriate life in pre-revolutionary Tehran. Hassan Ghasemi – caretaker, cook, and gardener for the Wards – once filled their lives with storytelling and humor, mesmerizing them with his culture and its rich history. Facing impossible odds, the Wards' road trip crosses deserts, ancient wonders, and spice towns from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea. Somewhere amidst the country's seventy million people, they hope to find their beloved friend.

The film, based on a true story, charts this improbable odyssey, delving into the mystery of love and the power of memory.

PRAISE FOR *Searching for Hassan*

"ASTONISHING AND DEEPLY POIGNANT!" —*THE WASHINGTON POST*

"THIS IS A LOVELY BOOK—PART MEMOIR, PART FAMILY ODYSSEY, BUT, MOST IMPORTANT, A WISE AND LYRICAL APPRECIATION OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT CULTURES. TERENCE WARD KNOWS IRAN AND LOVES IT IN A WAY THAT TRANSCENDS THE POLITICS OF THE MOMENT."

—*JOE KLEIN, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, THE NEW YORKER*

"WARD'S SYMPATHETIC AND HUMANE PORTRAYALS OF EVERYDAY IRANIANS CAN HELP US TRANSCEND TODAY'S POLICY PAPERS AND STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS IN ORDER TO FIND COMMONALITIES."

—*USA TODAY*



"A WONDERFULLY TACTILE, RICH BOOK ... WRITTEN FROM THE RIGHT PLACE (THE HEART), AND WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF SEARCH IN MIND (THE SEARCH FOR GRACE)."

—*ESQUIRE*

"DISCOVER THE NEW, THE ENDURING, AND THE COMIC IN AN ENIGMATIC COUNTRY SWEEPED BY SOME OF THE MOST STARTLING EVENTS IN RECENT HISTORY. READERS PRONE TO WANDERLUST BEWARE."

—*NEIL MACFARQUHAR, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, THE NEW YORK TIMES*

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY 0320

ISBN 978-1-9821-4277-3 \$26.99 U.S./\$35.99 Can.



9 781982 142773



52699

TERENCE  
WARD

*Searching for Hassan*



A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF IRAN

*Searching  
for  
Hassan*

*Terence Ward*

"A BEAUTIFUL, HEARTWARMING TALE ABOUT A FRIENDSHIP THAT TRANSCENDS CULTURAL DIVIDES. THIS IS PRECISELY THE STORY WE NEED RIGHT NOW."  
—*REZA ASLAN, AUTHOR OF GOD: A HUMAN HISTORY*

## The Book

The American edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2002) has enjoyed wide appeal among the Iranian-American community. Ward's book is a best seller in Iran, with two different translations by rival publishers (Ketabsaraye Tandis and Jayhoon). In February 2014, Ward was invited to Iran and feted for his book, which had two reprints during his visit. The Persian Center of Northern California honored him with their Global Recognition Award for "promoting peace through cultural awareness," as did the Iranian Muslim Association of North America in their annual Norouz gala in Beverly Hills.

Recognizing the literary value and importance of this book, Simon & Schuster will launch a new edition in February 2020.



### **Terence Ward** – *Producer/Co-Writer*

Born in Colorado, Ward grew up in Saudi Arabia and Iran. For ten years he worked in the Middle East as a consultant for companies and governments in the field of cultural communication. His book *Searching for Hassan* has been published in English, Persian, Italian, French, German, and Indonesian. Ward recently produced the award-winning documentary *Black Africa White Marble* and the feature *Archaeology of Women*, starring the Academy Award-nominated Sally Kirkland. Ward's new book, *The Guardian of Mercy*, is a riveting account of Caravaggio's masterpiece "The Seven Acts of Mercy" and its guardian Angelo, in the heart of Naples. Ward is an International Trustee of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

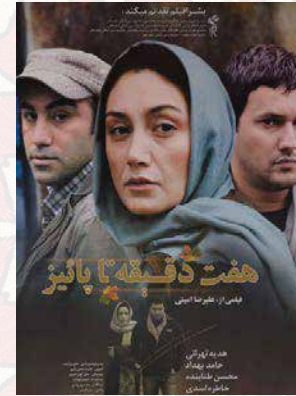
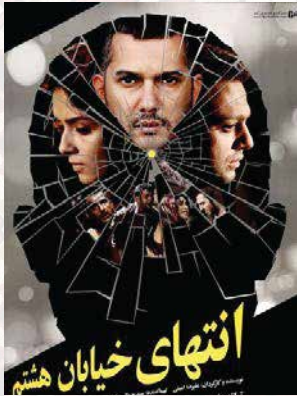




## Jamal Sadatian *Iranian Producer*

Jamal Sadatian established Boshra Film in June 1999. Today, Boshra Film is one of the most active and reputable film production companies in the Iranian entertainment industry. Boshra Film employs over 50 people and has produced and distributed over 15 films and television series in Iran and Europe. The films include: *Fireworks Wednesday*, *Tambourine*, *Days and Nights*, *Seven Minutes to the Fall*, *End of 8th Street*, *Snow on Pines*, and *Drive*.

Jamal Sadatian has produced the directorial debuts of Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi as well as Peyman Moaadi. (Berlin Silver Bear, Best Actor in Separation) whose *Snow on Pines* won many awards for Boshra Film. His latest award-winning film, *Just 6.5*, by 28-year-old Saeed Roustaei has broken all box office records for Iranian cinema and was recently premiered internationally at the Venice Film Festival in 2019 and garnered best director and best actor award at the Tokyo Film Festival.





## Andrew Muscato

*American Producer*

Andrew Muscato is currently producing the upcoming feature for 2019 Oscar-winner Peter Farrelly (*Green Book*) in collaboration with Paramount and Skydance Media based on a period Vietnam war drama whose title is yet to be announced.

Like *Searching for Hassan*, this film answers the question – how far would you go for a friend. He has produced numerous critically acclaimed feature documentaries such as *Ballplayer: Pelotero* and *Schooled: The Price of College Sports*. Most recently, Muscato was co-Executive Producer on MSNBC's documentary series *American Swamp* on political corruption. He is completing post-production on a feature concert film of Bill Murray's *New Worlds* project. Muscato is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



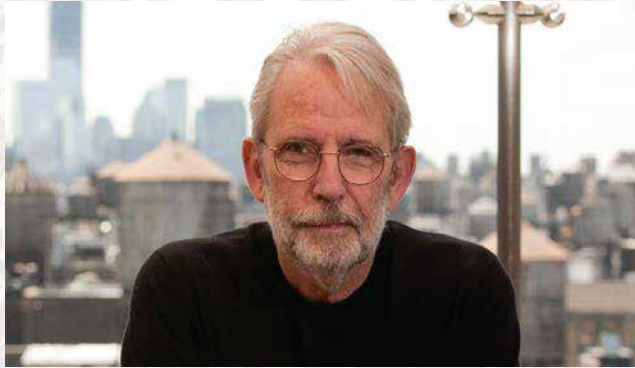
## Mahtab Mansour

*Co-Producer / Co-writer*

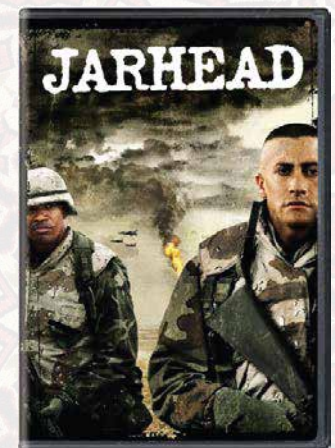
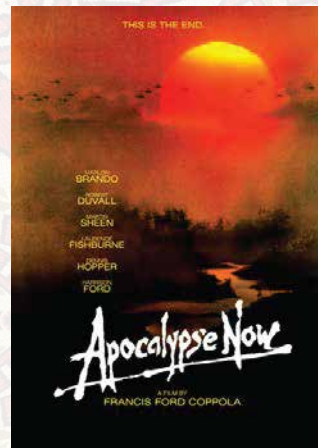
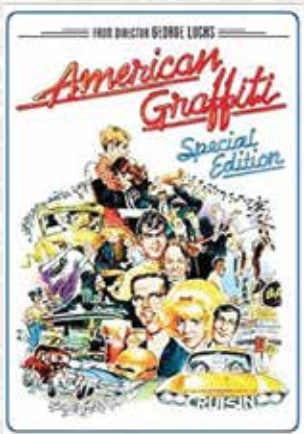
Mansour lived in Tehran until 1980, when she moved to Paris and began working as an assistant director for French television. Mansour returned to Iran in 1992 and taught film analysis at Tehran University. From 1995 to 1997, she was the Director of the Cinematography Research Institute and was responsible for the first documentary film festival held in Isfahan. Co-producer of over thirty documentaries and short films for Iranian television, she has directed documentaries on Iranian women, and co-wrote the screenplays *Iran Is My Homeland* and *Maybe One Day*. Her recent award-winning documentary *Talk Radio Tehran* based on the lives of three indomitable women battling gender-apartheid was aired on BBC for the International Day of the Woman in 2018.

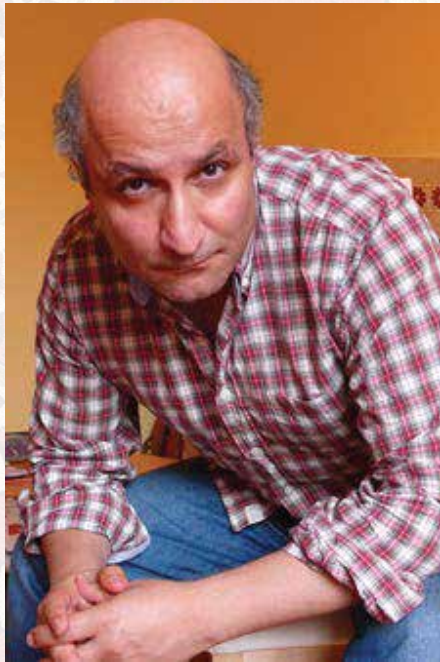
## Walter Murch

*Film and Sound Editor*



Walter Murch is an Oscar-winning editor who has been nominated for nine Academy Awards. Along with George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola, Murch was a founding member of the Northern California Cinema movement. He has edited *American Graffiti*, *The Godfather: Part II*, *The Conversation*, and won his first Oscar with *Apocalypse Now*. He then made history by winning an unprecedented double Oscar for Best Sound and Best Film Editing for *The English Patient*. Murch also edited *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *Julia*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Jarhead*. His most recent work, the award-winning documentary *COUP 53*, focuses on the Anglo-American coup in Iran that overthrew Prime Minister Mosaddegh in 1953.

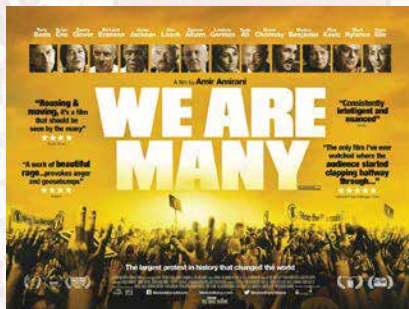




## Taghi Amirani

*Documentary Director of the "Making of the Film"*

Taghi Amirani is an Iranian physicist turned award-winning documentary filmmaker. He is the Director of Amirani Media, a London-based film and television production company with over 60 hours of programming produced for the world's leading broadcast networks, including the BBC, Channel 4, National Geographic, France 3, and Al Jazeera. In 2004 Amirani made his first film back home in Iran. Gaining exclusive access to *Shargh*, Iran's leading reformist newspaper, *Red Lines and Deadlines* was made for the PBS series "Wide Angle." His latest film *COUP 53* is a forensic documentary narrating the story of Operation Ajax, the CIA/MI6 staged coup in 1953 in Iran that overthrew Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. It was co-written and edited by multi-Oscar-winning Walter Murch. Amirani also produced *We are Many* and was named a TED fellow for his innovative filmmaking.





## US Department of the Treasury *Iranian Sanctions Regulation License*

This license authorizes Searching for Hassan Productions LLC to film in various locations in Iran, pay American actors, and re-import the film back into America. The expiry date is July 31, 2020. This is the first license issued by the US government for an Iranian-American international co-production feature to be shot in Iran.



### Locations



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

LICENSE No. IA-2014-314877-3

### IRANIAN TRANSACTIONS AND SANCTIONS REGULATIONS

#### LICENSE RENEWAL

(Granted under the authority of one or more of 21 U.S.C. §§ 2394a-9, 8501-51, 8701-85, 90 U.S.C. §§ 1601-51, 1701-06, Executive Orders 12957, 12959, 13059, 13099, and 13628, and 31 C.F.R. Parts 501 and 560.)

To: Searching for Hassan Productions LLC  
c/o Berliner Corcoran & Rowe LLC  
1101 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20036  
Attn: Babak Hoghooghi, Esq.

1. Based upon the request dated March 7, 2018 to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (the "Application"), the transactions and activities delineated herein are hereby authorized. This License supersedes License No. IA-2014-314877-2 in all respects.
2. This License is subject to the condition, among others, that the Licensee(s) comply with its terms and with all regulations, rulings, orders, and instructions issued under one or more of the authorities cited above.
3. This License expires on the earlier of the completion of the authorized transaction(s) or July 31, 2020, and is not transferable. The transactions described in this License are subject to the authorities cited above and any regulations and rulings issued pursuant thereto. This License may be revoked or modified at any time. If this License was issued as a result of willful misrepresentation it may be declared void from the date of its issuance or from any other date.
4. This License does not authorize transactions prohibited under any law or regulation (including reporting requirements) administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control other than those listed above.
5. This License does not excuse the Licensee(s) from the need to comply with any law or regulation (including reporting requirements) administered by any other agency or the need to obtain any required authorization(s) from any other agency.

Issued on behalf of the Secretary of the Treasury:

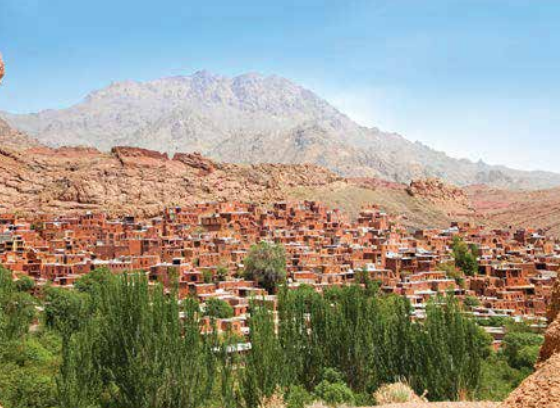
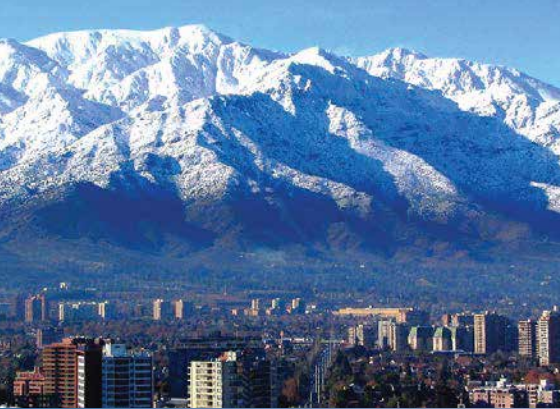
OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

By Jeanette A. Miller 07/30/2018  
Deputy Assistant Director for Licensing Date

Attention is directed to, *inter alia*, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 50 U.S.C. § 1705, and 31 C.F.R. § 560.701 for provisions relating to penalties.

## Iranian Permission and Licenses

The Ministry of Culture of Iran fully supports the film. Boshra Film will secure all filming permits from the Ministry of Culture, which will directly approve and process all visas.



## Locations



The great majority of the film will be shot on location in Iran. The natural landscape as well as the ancient historic landmarks from the backdrop of this “road movie” – from Persepolis and Shiraz to the Fin Garden in Kashan and legendary Isfahan with its turquoise domes. A likely location for the Ward family home is the residence of the Italian Ambassador in Tehran, a 19th century villa set in a classic Persian garden.



# The Ward and Ghasemi Families



Vaz and the travelers, en-route



Donna finds Khorshid,  
Hassan's mother-in-law,  
with just a photo



Fatemeh and Donna reunited



At last, Donna and Hassan  
meet after 29 years



The Ward and Ghasemi families reunited



In 2016, Natalia Grosvenor, Duchess of Westminster, traveled to Iran following the itinerary of the story that guided her to Hassan's home. The Duchess will speak with any Western actress who may be hesitant about traveling to Iran. She writes:

“We had the most incredible magical time imaginable!  
It certainly changes something inside you.”