

VHS Diaries

VHS Diaries is the tale of adventurous world of illegal video tapes in post-revolution Iran. A story of passionate love of cinema, a generation of youth in search of films, the film dealers, friendships and the prices paid.

Documentary-70 minutes-Iran/UK 2020



Director Niyaz Saghari

Cast Mr.J

Editor Niyaz Saghari
Pershang Shafigh

Laleh alavi
Yousef Sellers
Makan
Sorena

Camera Yousef Sellers
Niyaz Saghari
Super8 Pershang shafigh
Niyaz Saghari

Narrators Sh-Balalian
A-Mahmoudi
R-Shahdi
A-Jafary
A-Behbahani
P-Shafigh
B-Avand Amini
R-Radbeh
I-Talebi
R-Sharghi

Scan Guage Film

Sound Mix Kayvan Jahanshahi
Music Kayvan Jahanshahi
GachPaj
Blue dot sessions

Producer Niyaz Saghari
with support of Mikey Price

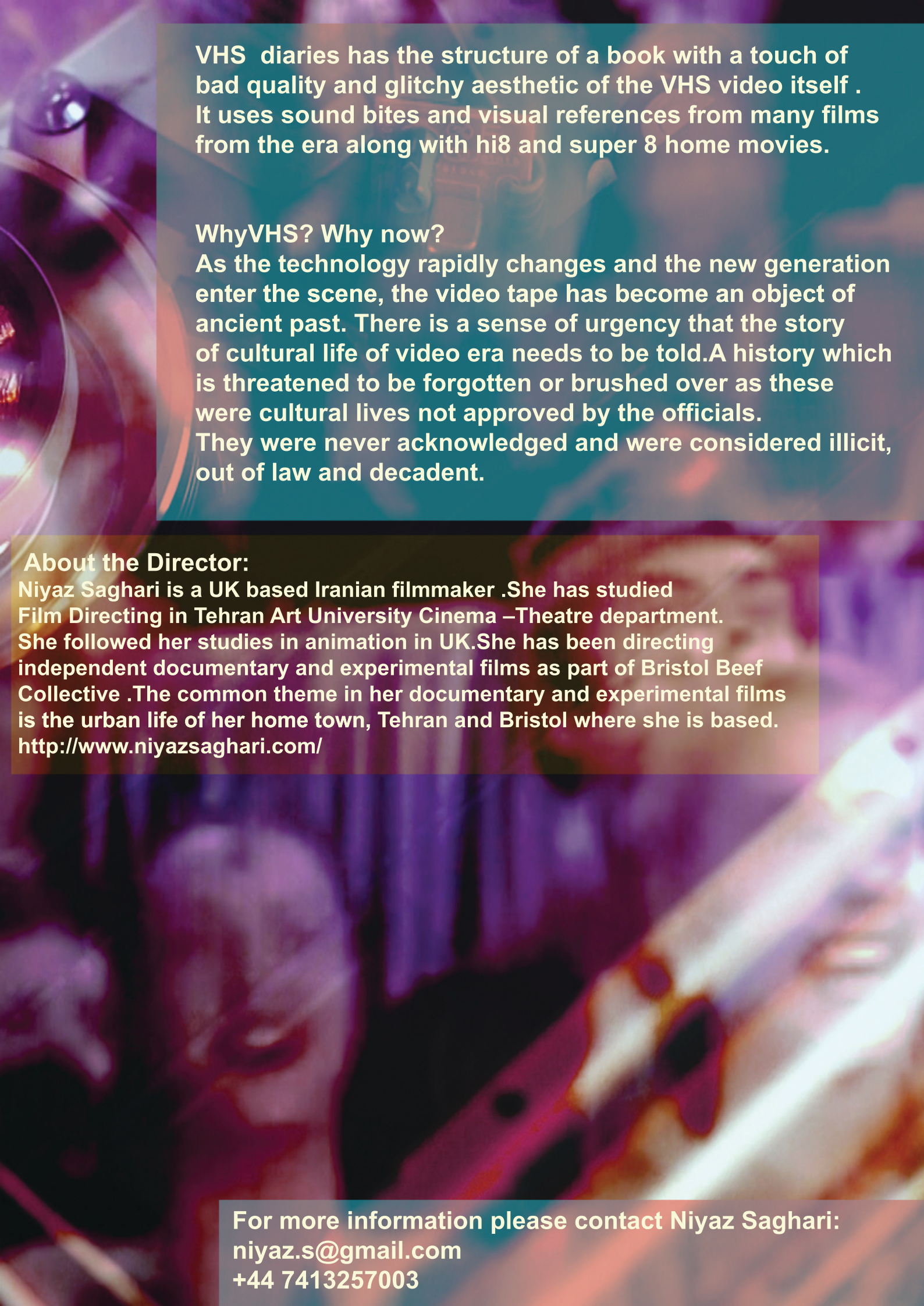




The filmmaker, Niyaz Saghari goes through her diaries, finding the notes and memorabilia of the years when video was banned in Iran . She takes a personal approach using her own archive from the era and audio interviews with film historians, film buffs and those involved in the black market.

This is the story of the cinephilia of the first post revolution youth who created communities while facing restrictions and some times facing the consequences of their love of cinema.

The main character of the film is Mr.J ,one of well known film dealers (They were called *Filmi*) of the era with a great archive of mostly rare art house films.His arrest and imprisonment, coincided the end of video era.The age of internet was starting.



VHS diaries has the structure of a book with a touch of bad quality and glitchy aesthetic of the VHS video itself . It uses sound bites and visual references from many films from the era along with hi8 and super 8 home movies.

WhyVHS? Why now?

As the technology rapidly changes and the new generation enter the scene, the video tape has become an object of ancient past. There is a sense of urgency that the story of cultural life of video era needs to be told.A history which is threatened to be forgotten or brushed over as these were cultural lives not approved by the officials. They were never acknowledged and were considered illicit, out of law and decadent.

About the Director:

Niyaz Saghari is a UK based Iranian filmmaker .She has studied Film Directing in Tehran Art University Cinema –Theatre department. She followed her studies in animation in UK.She has been directing independent documentary and experimental films as part of Bristol Beef Collective .The common theme in her documentary and experimental films is the urban life of her home town, Tehran and Bristol where she is based.
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