**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

2021-present Assistant Professor, Department of Film and Media Arts, University of Utah;

affiliated faculty of the Asia Center

2019-2021 Producer in Residence, Department of Film and Media Arts, University of Utah

**EDUCATION**

2017 Ph.D., Performance Studies with an emphasis in Film Practice as Research, UC Davis

2013 C.Phil. (equivalent to Ph.D. ABD), Comparative Literature, University of California, Davis

2008 B.A. with honors, Philosophy & Music Theory/History, Mills College, Oakland, CA

2003 Postgraduate Diploma, Filmmaking, The London Film School, London, UK

**AWARDS**

2022 Special Jury Prize, *Bitterbrush,* International Competition, Visions du Réel

2020 Best Current Affairs Documentary, News & Documentary Emmy Awards (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2020 Peabody Award, Documentary (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2020 “40 Under 40,” *DocNYC*

2020 Nominee, Best Cinema Documentary, British Documentary Awards (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2020 Nominee, Best Production (for *Midnight Traveler*), Cinema Eye Awards

2019 Nominee, Best Documentary, *Midnight Traveler,* IFP Gotham Awards

2019 Shortlist, Best Documentary, *Midnight Traveler,* International Documentary Association Awards

2019 Special Jury Prize, *Midnight Traveler,* Sundance Film Festival

2019 Second Place, Panorama Audience Award, *Midnight Traveler,* Berlinale

2019 Special Mention, Panorama Ecumenical Jury Prize, *Midnight Traveler,* Berlinale

2019 Special Mention, Peace Prize, *Midnight Traveler,* Berlinale

2019 True Life Award, *Midnight Traveler,* True/False Film Festival

2019 Special Jury Award, *Midnight Traveler,* Sheffield Doc/Fest

2019 Special Jury Award, *Midnight Traveler,* Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival

2019 Best Editing, *Midnight Traveler,* Salem Film Festival

2019 Audience Award, *Midnight Traveler,* Visions du Réel

2019 Orr Award for a woman in film, Thin Line Festival

2019 McBain Documentary Award, *Midnight Traveler,* San Francisco International Film Festival

2019 Special Jury Mention, *Midnight Traveler,* International Competition, DocumentaMadrid

2019 Audience Award for Best Feature Film, *Midnight Traveler,* DocumentaMadrid

2019 Special Jury Prize, *Midnight Traveler,* DocAviv International Documentary Film Festival

2019 Best International Feature & Category Winner, Best of Fest, *Midnight Traveler,* Documentary Edge Festival

2019 Best World Documentary, *Midnight Traveler,* Cinetopia

2019 LifeTales Award, International Competition, *Midnight Traveler,* Biografilm Festival

2019 Centaur Prize for Best Full-Length Documentary Film, *Midnight Traveler,* Message to Man Festival

2019 Fipresci Prize *Midnight Traveler,* Message to Man Festival

2019 Award of Excellence, *Midnight Traveler,* Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival

2019 Best Documentary, *Midnight Traveler,* Mendocino Film Festival

2019 Different Tomorrow Award, *Midnight Traveler,* Reykjavik Film Festival

2016 Best Picture (Documentary), *After the Curtain,* Sose International Film Festival

**FELLOWSHIPS**

2023 Faculty Fellow Award, University of Utah

2020 True/False Catapult Rough Cut Retreat (for *Bitterbrush*)

2017 Points North Fellowship, Points North Institute (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 National MediaMaker Fellow, Bay Area Video Coalition (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2014-2015 Provost’s Dissertation Fellowship, UC Davis

2014-2015 UCD & Humanities Graduate Research Fellowship (for *After the Curtain*)

2014 Margrit Mondavi Summer Fellowship, UC Davis (for *After the Curtain*)

2011-2012 Fulbright Scholar, Tajikistan, IIE/Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**GRANTS**

2023 Make Time for Research Grant, University of Utah

2022 Catapult Development Grant (for *Thwaites*)

2022 University Faculty Research Grant, University of Utah (for *Thwaites*)

2022 Make Time for Research Grant, University of Utah (for *Thwaites*)

2022 Sundance Institute Sandbox Fund (for *Thwaites*)

2022 Tangled Bank Studio/HHMI Development Funding (for *Thwaites*)

2022 Embedded team member, ITGC TARSAN project, funded by British Antarctic Survey and The National Science Foundation (for *Thwaites*)

2021 Make Time for Research Grant, University of Utah (for *Consent*)

2021 Production Grant, Genuine Article Pictures (for *LINES*)

2021 University Faculty Research Grant, University of Utah (for *LINES*)

2020 Tribeca Film Institute/A&E Indie Films Story Lab (for *Bitterbrush*)

2020 Catapult Consultation Grant (for *Bitterbrush*)

2020 University Faculty Research Grant, University of Utah (for *Bitterbrush*)

2019 Make Time for Research Grant, University of Utah (for *Bitterbrush*)

2019 Catapult Film Fund Development Grant (for *Bitterbrush*)

2018 Sundance Documentary Fund, Sundance Institute (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Cinereach Publicity Grant (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Ford Foundation Just Films/IIE Grant (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Outreach Grant, Threshold Foundation (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Documentary Film Fund, SFFILM (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Documentary Production Grant, Fork Films (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Post-Production Grant, Doha Film Institute (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Tribeca All-Access, Tribeca Film Institute (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 ITVS Open Call Co-Production funding (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2018 Cinereach Film Production Grant (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 Bertha Doc Society Journalism Fund (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 HotDocs CrossCurrents Doc Fund – Theatrical Stream (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 Greenhouse Development Program (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 Ford Foundation Just Films/IIE Grant (for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 Impact Cinema Fund, Neda Nobari Foundation for *Midnight Traveler*)

2017 Points North Pitch Prize, Points North Institute for *Midnight Traveler*)

2015 ModLab Project Grant, UC Davis (for *Intangible Body*)

2014 Mellon Research Initiative in Digital Cultures Research Stipend, UC Davis

**ARTIST RESIDENCIES**

2022 Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY

2018 Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville, NY

2017 Belgrade AIR/Center424, Belgrade, Serbia

2016 Freehold Art Exchange, Freehold, NY

**FORUMS & PITCHES**

2020 Tribeca Film Institute Network (for *Bitterbrush*)

2020 IFP Week Project Forum (for *Bitterbrush*)

2018 CPH:Dox Forum selection (for *Midnight Traveler*)

**PRINT PUBLICATIONS**

“Gendered Nostalgia: Tajik Traditional Dance and the Logic of Nationalism,” *Asian Theater Journal*, University of Hawai’i Press*,* Fall 2018

“Proof of Loyalty” (film review), *Journal of Asian American Studies*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 22.3 (Fall 2019)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Video Art & Independent Film**

Director, Producer, & Cinematographer, *Consent* (working title)*,* non-fiction experimental film (in development)

Director, Producer, & Cinematographer, *Thwaites* (working title)*,* non-fiction feature (in edit)

Director, Producer, & Editor, *Movement* (working title)*,* non-fiction feature (in edit)

Editor, *Something About Time* (working title)*,* feature documentary(in edit)*,* dir. Tracy Droz Tragos

Editor, *Dear Mother, I Meant to Write about Death,* documentary feature,dir. Siyi Chen, 2022

Festival Screenings:

*Busan International Film Festival,* October2022

Luminous Program, *International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), 2022*

Editor, *What Comes Around,* narrative feature, dir. Amy Redford, 2022

Festival Screenings:

*Toronto Film Festival,* September2022

*Woodstock Film Festival,* September 2022

Director, Producer & Editor, *Bitterbrush,* documentary feature, with Concordia Studio/Wavelength, 2021

Distribution: Magnolia Pictures/Hulu (North America Theatrical & SVOD)

International Sales Agent: MetFilm (UK)

Festival Screenings:

*Telluride Film Festival* 2021

*Doc Fortnight,* MoMAMarch 2022

International Competition, *Visions du Réel,* Nyon, Switzerland*,* April 2022

*San Francisco International Film Festival* April 2022

*Milwaukee Film Festival* April 2022

*Sydney Film Festival,* June 2022

*Berkshires Film Festival,* June 2022

*Sedona Film Festival,* June 2022

*Almeira Western Film Festival,* Spain, September 2022

Special Screenings & Q&As (partial list):

Bozeman Doc Series, May 2022

“Pure Nonfiction” with Thom Powers Preview Screening/Q&A, IFC Center, NYC, May 2022

Emelin Film Club Pre-Release Film Screening & Q&A, Emelin Theater, Mamaroneck, NY

Autry Museum of the American West Preview Screening/Q&A, June 2022

“The Future of Film isFemale”Preview Screening/Q&A, Nitehawk Cinema, Brooklyn, June 2022

Points North Institute Shotwell Drive-In, June 2022

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME, July 2022

Editor, *Dreams of Daraa*, TV-hour documentary, dir. Reilly Dowd, 2021

Broadcast: NETA/PBS, Sept 2021

Editor, *Singing in the Wilderness,* feature-length documentary*,* dir. Dongnan Chen, 2021

Festival Screenings include:

*Hot Docs*, 2020

International Competition, *Thessaloniki Film Festival* 2021

*Montreal International Documentary Film Festival* 2021

*DMZ International Documentary Film Festival* 2021

*International Film Festival Rotterdam* 2022

*New Directors/New Films,* MoMA, 2022

*Doc Edge Festival,* NZ, 2022

*Sydney Film Festival,* 2022

*Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival* 2022

Producer, Writer, & Editor, *Midnight Traveler*, 87m documentary, 2019

Distribution & Broadcast includes: Oscilloscope (US Theatrical); POV (US Broadcast); VPRO (Netherlands); Trigon (Switzerland); Marie Dulac (France); Non-Stop (Scandinavia); Dogwoof (UK/Ireland); Al Jazeera (Balkans/Middle East); EBS (South Korea); Globosat (Brazil) & others

Festival Screenings (over 100, including):

World Cinema Documentary Competition*, Sundance Film Festival* 2019

Panorama, *Berlinale,* Berlin, Germany, 2019

*True/False Film Festival,* Columbia, MO, 2019

*FICO Cartagena Film Festival,* Cartagena, Colombia, 2019

International Competition, *Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival,* Greece, 2019

International Competition, *CPH:Dox,* Copenhagen, Denmark, 2019

*Cleveland International Film Festival,* Cleveland, OH, 2019

International Competition, *Visions du Réel*, Nyon, Switzerland, 2019

International Competition, *San Francisco Film Festival,* San Francisco, CA, 2019

*Beijing International Film Festival,* China, 2019

*Fajr International Film Festival,* Tehran, Iran, 2019

*Moscow International Film Festival,* Moscow, Russia, 2019

*Ambulante Documentary Film Festival,* Mexico, 2019

*Hot Docs,* Toronto, Canada, 2019

International Competition, *Documenta Madrid,* Madrid, Spain, 2019

*Seattle International Film Festival,* Seattle, WA, 2019

*Sydney Film Festival,* Australia, 2019

*Doxa Documentary Festival,* Vancouver, CA, 2019

*DocAviv,* Tel Aviv, Israel, 2019

*Sheffield Doc Fest,* Sheffield, UK, 2019

*DocEdge,* New Zealand, 2019

*Biografilm,* Bologna, Italy*,* 2019

*Skip City International,* Japan, 2019

*DokuFest,* Kosovo, 2019

*International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA),* 2019

Special Screenings & Q&As (partial list):

Private Q&A, “The World @ Home,” Aug 31, 2021

*Human Rights Watch Film Festival* Panel Discussion, June 4, 2020

Private policy-maker screening hosted by Oxfam in Washington DC, June 19, 2019

Museum of Tolerance pre-release screening, Los Angeles, Sept 12, 2019

California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) Special Screening*,* CA, May 2019

*International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)* Special Screening*,* September 2019

International Cinema Program, Brigham Young University(invited talk/screening), Nov 2019

Brown University (Q&A/special screening), Nov 2019

Director, Producer, & Editor, *Intangible Body,* experimental motion-capture animation dance film, 2016

Exhibitions:

*Focus on Iran 2: Contemporary Photography & Video,* Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA, Jan 29-May 7, 2017; University of California, Irvine; Sept 16-Oct 13, 2017

*Time and Space,* Czong Institute of Contemporary Art, Gyeonggi, Korea, Feb 17-March 5, 2017

*Dallas Medianale,* Dallas Contemporary Museum, April 29, 2017

Festival Screenings:

*Greensboro Dance Film Festival,* Greensboro, NC,Sept 17, 2016

*Farhang Film Festival,* Los Angeles, CA,July-Sept, 2016

*40 North Dance Film Festival*, San Diego, CA, Oct 15-22, 2016

*Bideodromo International Experimental Film and Video Festival*, Bilbao, Spain, Sept. 9-26 2016

*Fem Tour Truck*, 13-city tour of Spain & Portugal, 2016

*Twisted Oyster Film Festival,* Chicago, IL, Nov 21-Dec 8, 2016

*Flipbook Animated Film Festival,* Little Rock, AR, Nov 28, 2016

*Códec Festival de Video y Creaciones Sonoras*, Cuidad de Mexico, Mexico, Dec 1-3, 2016

*Multiplié Dance Film,* Trondheim, Norway, Jan 25-29, 2017

*Festival de Cortometrajes “Jose Francisco Rosado,”* Cuidad Real, Spain, Dec 19, 2016-Jan 7, 2017

*45th Dance on Camera,* Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York, NY, Feb 3-7, 2017

*Boomtown Film & Music Festival,* Beaumont, TX, Feb 23-26, 2017

*Argenta Drafthouse Film Series,* Little Rock, AR, May 1, 2017

*Filmideo,* Index Art Center,Newark, NJ April 29, 2017

*GAZE #16: Frame by Haunted Frame -- A Screening of Animated Experiments*, Artists' Television Access, San Francisco, June 17, 2017

*Princeton University Film Festival,* Princeton, NJ, Nov 11, 2017

Director, Producer, Cinematographer, & Editor, *After the Curtain*, 70 min Documentary, 2016

Festival Screenings:

*44th Dance on Camera*, Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York, NY, Feb 12-16, 2016

*San Luis Obispo International Film Festival*, San Luis Obispo, CA, Mar 15-20, 2016

*Dance for World Community Festival*, Brattle Theater, Cambridge, MA, June 7, 2016

*FRAME: The London Dance Film Festival,* London, UK, June 9-12, 2016

*Dance Camera West*, UCLA Fowler Museum, Los Angeles, CA, June 18, 2016

*Avança Film Festival*, Avança, Portugal, July 27-31 2016

*TrueDoc Film Festival*, Ukraine, Sept 18 & 25, 2016

*Sose International Film Festival*, Yerevan, Armenia, Sept 28, 2016

*42nd EKOFILM,* Prague, Czech Republic, Oct 13-15, 2016

*Best of Festival Cinema Invisible,* Redding, CA, Jan 6-7, 2017

*Sofia Menar Film Festival,* Sofia, Bulgaria, Jan 12-29, 2017

*The Women’s Film Festival,* Philadelphia, PA, March 16-19, 2017

*Festival Cinema Invisible, Schenectady, NY*, April 1-3, 2017

Invited Screenings:

University of Wisconsin, River Falls Women’s History Month Special Screening, March 1, 2016

Co-Creator, *Haunt*, premiered at *Performance, Praxis, Document,* UC Davis,Nov 21-22, 2013

*Experimental work for three dancers and multiple cameras.*

Creator, *Forgotten by Time,* at *Jashne Aseman,* CSU Sacramento, June 2, 2013

*Experimental multimedia work with live dance exploring tradition, modernity, and memory.*

Production Designer, *Leila* (digital short), dir. Hanelle Culpepper, Los Angeles, 2004

Official Selection: *ReelWorld Film Festival, Hollywood Black Film Festival*

Nominee: “Best Short Film” at the *Pan African Film & Arts Festival*

Production Designer, *Coda* (digital short), dir. Zeresenay Mehari, Los Angeles, 2004

Official Selection: *Hollywood Black Film Festival, Pan African Film & Arts Festival*

2nd Camera Assistant, *My Name Is…*, dir. Don Handfield, Los Angeles, CA, 2003

*Grand jury prize, Atlanta Film Festival*

Production Designer, *Bit Parts* (Koch Vision/Cinema Epoch), Los Angeles, CA, 2003

**Entertainment Industry Experience**

Production Coordinator, *Budding Prospects* pilot (Amazon), dir. Terry Zwigoff, San Francisco, CA 2016

Music Editor, *Riptopia,* San Rafael, CA, 2008

Production Coordinator, *The Amazing Race All-Stars* (ABC),San Francisco, CA, 2006

Assistant Production Coordinator, *The Evidence* (ABC), San Francisco, CA, 2005

Production Secretary, *Rent* (Revolution Studios/Columbia), San Francisco, CA, 2004-2005

Production Secretary, *Relative Strangers* (Equity Pictures), Los Angeles, CA, 2004

Production Office Assistant, *The Shield,* season 3 (FX), Los Angeles, CA, 2004

Production Assistant, HBO Promotional Content (HBO), Los Angeles, CA, 2004

Assistant to Salaam Coleman-Smith, Vice-President of Programming, Planning, and Acquisitions, E! Entertainment Network, 2003

Art Department Assistant, *Cold Case* (CBS), Los Angeles, CA, 2003

**Performance**

Assistant Director & Principal Dancer, Ballet Afsaneh, Berkeley, CA, April 2012-Jan 2015

*Festival of the Silk Road*, Mexican Heritage Plaza, April 27, 2014

*Festival of the Silk Road,* Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, May 18, 2013

*Ballet Afsaneh and Friends,* Bay Area Discovery Museum, March 9, 2013

Farhang Foundation Gala, Los Angeles, CA, Dec 1, 2012

*Partnership Walk,* a project of the Aga Khan Foundation, Fremont, CA, Oct 14, 2012

Partnership with Kabul Dance Studio (virtual exchange), Sept 2012

*Festival of the Silk Road*, Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose, CA, May 6, 2012

Video Editor, *Still Moving*, (performance documentation, dir. Kevin O’Connor) 2015

*Experimental bodywork project on long duration, stillness, and micro-motion*

Vocalist, Zaryab Ensemble, Neema Hekmat, Director, 2011- May 2014

*Festival of the Silk Road,* Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose, CA, April 27, 2014

*Jashne Aseman,* California State University, Sacramento, June 2, 2013

*Festival of the Silk Road,* Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose, CA, May 2, 2013

*East Meets West,* Ashkenaz Music & Dance Center, Berkeley, CA, Oct 28, 2012

*Festival of the Silk Road,* Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose, CA, May 6, 2012

*Roof of the World Festival*, Khorog, Tajikistan, July 25-26, 2011

VR Player, *Scoring Beckett: A Multi-Reality Performance Installation for Bodies,* UC Davis, May 1-3, 2014

Videographer/Editor, *Finding as Making/Singing No Songs* (performance documentation), dir. Gretchen Jude), UC Davis, 2014

Videographer/Editor, *The Space Between* (performance documentation), choreography by Brandon Gonzalez, UC Davis, 2014

Co-Director, Designer and Choreographer, *Jashne Aseman*, CSU Sacramento, June 2, 2013

*Sponsored by Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies at CSU Sacramento*

*Sabaa / Zephyr,* choreography, vocals & dance performance by Emelie Mahdavian; music for santur, cello, kemanche, and percussion by Emelie Mahdavian & Neema Hekmat; poetry by Hafez

*Festival of the Silk Road,* Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, San Jose, CA, May 18, 2013

*Jashne Aseman* (Celebration of the Sky)*,* Sacramento State University, June 2, 2013

*Karaan,* solo choreography, *East Meets West,* Ashkenaz Music & Dance Center, Berkeley, CA, Oct 2012

Company Member, Wan-Chao Dance, Wan-Chao Chang, Director

*Keep Her Safe, Please: Jakarta 1998*, Cowell Theater, San Francisco, Oct 16-17, 2010

“Follow the Footprints,” *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, June 25-27, 2010

*Nominated for two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards*

Principal Dancer, Ballet Afsaneh, Sharlyn Sawyer, Director; Berkeley, CA, 2009-2012

*Roof of the World Festival,* Khorog, Tajikistan, July 25-26, 2011

"Roya (The Dream)" *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, June 19, 2011

*Festival of the Silk Road*, San Jose, CA, May 7, 2011

*Jashne Norouz - Celebration of Persian New Year*, UUA Church, Fresno, CA, March 26, 2011

*Join Me on the Bridge*, International Women’s Day, San Francisco, CA, March 8, 2011

“A Central Asian Celebration: Ballet Afsaneh and Mongolian Masters,” *From the Steppes:* *Pan-Asian Music Festival*, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University, Feb 12, 2011

*Jashne Zamin: A Celebration of Planet Earth*, Sacramento State University, CA, Feb 5, 2011

*World on Stage*, Bay Area Discovery Museum, Sausalito, CA, Jan 15, 2011

*Encounters: New Moon on the Silk Road*, Cowell Theater, San Francisco, CA, Nov 20-21, 2010

*Beneath the Persian Sands*, Ashkenaz Music & Dance Center, Berkeley, CA Sept 19, 2010

“Parwaz: Fly Free,” *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, San Francisco, CA, June 25-27, 2010

*Festival of the Silk Road*, San Jose, CA, May 8, 2010

*Afghan Culture Show*, Hayward, CA, April 18, 2010

Private donor Dinner for Norooz, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, March 18, 2010

“Re-Orient Festival Forum,” *Re-Orient Festival*, Theater Artaud, San Francisco, CA, Dec 6, 2009

*Tamejavi Festival*, Fresno, CA, Sept 19, 2009

*Festival of the Silk Road*, San Jose, CA, May 2, 2009

*Afghan Culture Show: Past, Present and Future of Afghanistan*, UC Berkeley, April 26, 2009

*MATCHA Series: Afghanistan*, San Francisco Asian Art Museum, CA, Nov 6, 2008

Virtual Dancer, *The Moby Dick Variations***,** Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, UC Davis, May 2011

Dancer,*Miriam’s Well*, created by Miriam Peretz

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, June 18, 2010

Julia Morgan Theater, Berkeley, CA, June 12, 2010

Jewish Community Center, Palo Alto, CA, May 22, 2010

Dancer,*Tribes-the Unified Field*, Choreography: Sara Shelton Mann, UC Davis, Nov 18-23, 2009

Company Member, *Omega West*, Berkeley, CA, 2008-2009, Carla De Sola, director

Composer, *Trio Sonata for Trumpet, Viola and Cello*, premiered at Hofschule für Musik, Köln, Abteilung Aachen, Germany, 2002

“Mrs. Lovett,” *Sweeny Todd*, All-for-One Ensemble, New Haven, CT, 1998

**PANELS & PAPERS DELIVERED**

2021 “Cinematographer and Director Collaboration,” *DocNYC*, Nov 13

2020 “*Midnight Traveler*: Uncertain Journeys Through and to the EU,” *Unsettling Borders* Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Oct 16

2019 *A Conversation with Emelie Mahdavian* moderated by Rodrigo Reyes, BAVC, April 18

2019 Editing *Midnight Traveler* (Adobe moderated panel), Film House, *San Francisco International Film Festival,* San Francisco, April 17

2017 “Impact: the new measure of political cinema?,” *Visual Practices: Practice as Research in Film, Video and Intermedial Visual Arts,* UC Davis, April 14

2015 “Independence Films: Political Documentary in the Post-Soviet Era,” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Chicago, Il, March 26-29

2013 “Mapping Professional Dance in the Post-Soviet Tajik Capital,” *Congress on Research in Dance/Society for Dance History Scholars Joint Conference*, Riverside, CA, Nov 14-17

2013 “Dancer, Public Woman and Icon of Femininity: Tajik Professional Dancers,”

*Campus Community Book Project Lecture Series*, UC Davis, Oct 28

2013 “Gender, Patronage, and Traditional Dance in Tajikistan,” *Performance Studies International 19,* Stanford University, June 26-30

2010 “Persian as ‘Source’ Literature: Interrogating the Story of Translation,” *Annual Conference on South Asia*,University of Wisconsin-Madison, Oct 15

2010 “The Rhetoric of Fanaticism: William Blake and John of Patmos,” *Religion, Literature, and the Arts*, UC Davis, March 5

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

University of Utah, Department of Film and Media Arts

Graduate Film Production Seminar (Fall 2022)

Graduate Seminar: Representation in Film and Media (Fall 2021)

Approaching the Subject of Documentary (Fall 2019)

Producing Indie Film (Spring 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Advanced Documentary Filmmaking (Spring 2020)

Editing (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2023)

Sound for Film and Digital Media (Spring 2021, 2022)

Documentary History (Fall 2020)

University of California, Davis, Film Studies Program & Departments of Cinema and Digital Media, Comparative Literature, & Theatre and Dance

Film Genres: The Musical (Winter 2018)

Introduction to Film Studies (Spring 2017)

Filmmaking Foundations (Summer 2017)

Digital Video (Summer 2017)

Digital Sound (Summer 2017)

Filmmaking Foundations (Summer 2016)

Digital Video (Summer 2016, 2015, 2014)

Digital Sound (Summer 2016, 2015, 2014)

Advanced Digital Sound (Summer 2014)

Feminism & Film Curation (cross-listed in Sociology & Gender Studies) (Winter 2016)

History of Cinema 1895 to 1945 (Fall 2015)

Asian Theater (Summer 2013)

The Modern Crisis (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Winter/Spring/Fall 2013, Winter 2014)

**Master’s Advisement**

Chair, MFA Committee, John Sutter, Film and Media Arts, University of Utah, 2022

Member, MFA Committee, Parker Rawlins, Film and Media Arts, University of Utah, 2022

Member, MFA Committee, Eden Buxton, Film and Media Arts, University of Utah, 2021

**Other Film/Media Teaching & Mentorship**

MediaMaker Connect Mentor, Bay Area Video Coalition, 2021-2022

Editing Mentor, Documentary Lab, Gotham Film and Media Institute, 2021

Pitch Mentor, National MediaMaker Fellowship, Bay Area Video Coalition, 2021

**Dance Teaching**

2012-2014 Dance Instructor, Afsaneh Dance Academy, Berkeley, CA

classes taught: Beginning Persian Dance, Tajik and Uzbek Dance, Shash Maqam—Poetry in Motion, Cultural Immersion Workshop – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

2011 Dance Instructor, DanceVersity, Berkeley, CA

classes taught: Ethno-Contemporary Dance, Persian and Central Asian Dance

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**University of Utah**

2022-2023 Search Committee Member, Morales Postdoc Fellowship

2021-2022 Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor of Fiction Film Production

2021-2022 College of Fine Arts College Council

2021-2022 Faculty Counsel Committee, College of Fine Arts

2021-2023 Curriculum Committee, Department of Film and Media Arts

2021-2022 Graduate Admissions Committee Department of Film and Media Arts

2021 Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor of Sound

**Other Service**

2022 Panelist, Sundance Institute NEH Sustainability Fellowship

2022 Reader, ITVS Open Call

2021 Selection Committee, National Media Maker Fellowship, Bay Area Video Coalition

2018-2019 Programmer & Arts Council Co-Chair, Mackay Main Theater, Mackay, ID

*Revived a rural Art Deco cinema as a community-run indie film and art space.*

2016-2018 Program Note Writer, *Mill Valley Film Festival,* Mill Valley, CA

2016-2018 Screener, *Ethnografilm,* Paris, France

2017 Judge, *48-Hour Film Project*, San Francisco, CA, August 28-29

2015; 2017 Programmer & Advisory Board Member, *Davis Feminist Film Festival,* Davis, CA

2015-2016 Panels Coordinator, *38th & 39th Mill Valley Film Festival*, Mill Valley, CA

2015-2016 Director, *11th Davis Feminist Film Festival,* Davis, CA

2015 Screener, *San Diego International Film Festival,* San Diego, CA

2014 Co-Organizer, *The Contours of Algorithmic Life,* funded by the Mellon Research Initiative in Digital Cultures, UC Davis, May 15-16

2013 Co-Organizer, *Performance, Praxis, Document,* UC Davis, Nov 21-22

2013 Chair, Panel “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow,” *Performance Studies International 19,* Stanford University, June 26-30

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

2003 Art Direction Training Course with Terry Ackland-Snow, Film Design International, Pinewood Studios, London, UK

2000-2001 Undergraduate Study, Vocal Performance, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston

1999 Undergraduate Study, Acting & Musical Theatre, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London, UK

1997-1999 Acting & Musical Theater courses, HB Studios, New York, NY

**PRESS/INTERVIEWS FOR THE MEDIA (partial list)**

# *Westdoc Online* Podcast Episode #104 with Chuck Braverman

# *Vanity Fair,* “How *Bitterbrush* Captured a Rarely Seen Side of the American West,” by Yohanna Desta, June 29, 2022

*48Hills,* “Embodied knowledge under the big sky: Emelie Mahdavian’s perceptive ‘Bitterbrush’” by Alex Arabian, June 29, 2022

*FabTV,* “Director Emelie Mahdavian ‘Bitterbrush,’” June 27, 2022

*Variety doc/dreams,* “’Bitterbrush’ Director Emelie Mahdavian Reveals How Her Pregnancy Informed Her Sprawling Documentary,” with Angelique Jackson, June 2022

*Killer Movie Reviews,* “Bitterbrush – Emelie Mahdavian Interview,” with Andrea Chase, June 27, 2022

*LRM Online,* “Bitterbrush | Emelie Mahdavian Interview [Exclusive]” June 24, 2022

*Cowboys and Indians,* “From the *C&I* Studio: *Bitterbrush* Director Emelie Mahdavian,” by Joe Leydon, June 24, 2022

*Movieweb,* “Exclusive: Bitterbrush Director Emelie Mahdavian Disucsses Her Gorgeous New Documentary,” by Matthew Mahler, June 22, 2022

*KCRW Press Play with Madeline Brand, ‘Bitterbrush’* shows life as a modern-day cowgirl in Idaho,” June 21, 2022

*ScreenRant,* “Emelie Mahdavian Interview” Bitterbrush,” by Brad Curran, June 20, 2022

# *Hollywood Reporter,* “’Bitterbrush’ Director Discusses Why the Observational Documentary Required ‘A Leap of Faith’” by Katie Kilkenny, June 17, 2022

*Forbes,* “Filmmaker Emelie Mahdavian Documents Life On The Range In ‘Bitterbrush’” with Angela Dawson, June 17, 2022

*Entertainment Voice,* “’Bitterbrush’ Profiles the Lives of Two Female Cattle Ranchers With Immersive Detail,” by Alci Rengifo, June 17, 2022

*Film Forward,* “Bitterbrush,” by Kyle Mustain, June 17, 2022

*SF Chronicle,* “Ex-Bay Area filmmaker finds cheap land in Idaho rich in stories,” by Jessica Zack, June 16, 2022

*Film School Radio,* “Bitterbrush – Director Emelie Mahdavian” June 16, 2022

*Top Docs,* “’Bitterbrush’ With Emelie Mahdavian,” with Ken Jacobsen, June 14, 2022

*Movie Magazine International,* “Bitterbrush Emelie Mahdavian,” April 28, 2022

*Bitch Talk* Podcast Episode 683, April 2022

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# *Rogerebert.com,* “Bitterbrush” Peter Sobcynski, June 17, 2022

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# *The New York Times,“*‘Midnight Traveler’ Review: A Refugee Family’s Search for Safe Harbor” by Manohla Dargis, Sept 17, 2019

*The New Yorker, “*Midnight Traveler” Expands the Narrative of the Refugee Documentary” by Doreen St. Felix, September 17, 2019

*Forbes,* “In ‘Midnight Traveler’ One Refugee Family Documents Their ‘Journey To The Edge Of Hell’” by David Alm, September 11, 2019

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*Slant Magazine,* “Review: Midnight Traveler Is a Harrowing Document of a Family’s Escape” by Pat Brown, September 16, 2019

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*Screen International*, **“***Midnight Traveler*: Sundance Review,” Wendy IdeJan 27, 2019

*Solzy at the Movies*, “Midnight Traveler,” Danielle Solzman, Jan 27, 2019

*The Playlist* “’Midnight Traveler’: Refugees Reclaim Their Story in Harrowing Documentary,” Gary

Garrison Jan 28, 2019

*Hyperallergic*, “In *Midnight Traveler,* a Refugee Family Documents Their Journeys,” Dan Schindel, Jan 28,

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*The Hollywood Reporter*, “Midnight Traveler Review,” Caryn James, Jan 27, 2019

*Cineuropa*, “Review: Midnight Traveler” by Kaleem Aftab, February 9, 2019

*Hammer to Nail* / *Film Festival Today*, “Midnight Traveler,” Christopher Llewellyn Reed, Jan 27, 2019

*Docs/Ology*, “Midnight Traveler,” by Elijah Davidson, Jan 30, 2019

*Eye for Film / Sunday Mail*, “Midnight Traveler,” Amber Wilkinson (UK), Jan 28, 2019

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*Boston Globe*, “Two Dance Films that will Move You,” by Peter Keough, June 3, 2106

*The Black Book* (bbook.com),“From Iconic Witches to Otherworldy Dancers: The 12 Best Films Playing in New York This Week,” Feb 16, 2016

**LANGUAGES**

Farsi/Dari/Tajik (Persian): fluent speaking; excellent writing and speaking (Arabic & Cyrillic scripts)

French: excellent reading; good writing and speaking

**MANAGEMENT**

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