Thursday, May 6th, Humanities and Social Science Building, Room 1174, 5:00 pm

“Shirin” By Abbas Kiarostami (2008)
A hundred and fourteen famous Iranian theater and cinema actresses and a French star are mute spectators at a theatrical representation of Khosrow and Shirin, a Persian poem from the twelfth century. The development of the text remains invisible to the viewer of the film; the whole story is told by the faces of the women watching the performance.

“Fireworks” By Asghar Farhadi (2006)
On the last Wednesday before the spring solstice ushers in the Persian New Year, people set off fireworks in an ancient Zoroastrian tradition. Rouhi, spending her first day at a new job, finds herself in the midst of a different kind of fireworks, a domestic dispute between her new boss and his wife.

Professor Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa is a filmmaker and an associate professor in the Film & Video Department of Columbia College Chicago.
She has written and lectured extensively on Iranian cinema. Her publications include Abbas Kiarostami co-authored with Jonathan Rosenbaum. She has also served as the artistic consultant to the Annual Festival of Films from Iran at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago.

This program was made possible with support from the Duncan and Suzanne Mellichamp Fund for Global Religion