

Blackboards

(original title unknown) [Takhté siah]

Iran / Italy : 2000 : dir. Samira Makhmalbaf :

: 84 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ≠ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5253	½	1	1	270	- - - - -	No	Unseen

Barbican Screen Guide - January 2001 -
review:

“Winner of the Grand Jury prize at the last Cannes Film Festival, twenty year old Samira Makhmalbaf's second feature tells the story of a group of teachers on the remote Iran-Iraq border, who scour the hills and villages in search of pupils. Most of their efforts are scorned by the locals, for whom necessity dictates that their children work, rather than enjoy the luxury of learning to read and write. Beautifully composed images and astonishing photography of the bleak, mountainous landscapes complement a bold, confident work, further proof that Iranian cinema is emerging as one of the most accomplished forces of the international film scene today.”

No further information currently available, but it sounds as though it may be a worthwhile corrective to the prevailing western attitude on child labour vs schooling in underdeveloped countries. Implicit, if rarely articulated, is the recognition that for many parents around the world – as has always been the case – children are still primarily a means to augment one's personal wealth and security. The latterday vision of parenthood as a selfless and philanthropic bequest to the future is a self-deception the poor can rarely afford.

See subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST, OSCAR WINNERS / AWARD WINNERS, SCHOOL** and **WORKING BOYS / WORKING GIRLS** .