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San Francisco Bay Area Filmmaker Captures Iran from a Different Angle

Camera Cinemas and Golden Gate Cinema Announce the Special Movie Premiere of
Iran: Hot Tea, Cool Conversations on September 14, 2008 in Downtown San Jose

San Jose, California (September 05, 2008) – The political ping-pong between the governments of Iran and the United States seems to be bouncing everywhere but on target, but for one man the match isn't hopeless. Director, Brenden Hamilton, sidesteps sanctions and political back-and-forth, using the power of film to dispense his own brand of diplomacy.

"When official diplomacy fails, citizen diplomacy is our only hope." This mantra drove Hamilton to embark on the life-changing journey to Iran as a film rebel armed with little more than a camera and a mission to uncover the truth about the culture and people of a nation isolated by the West.

"So long I had sat at the television, watching and listening to biased news coverage aimed at isolating Iran as part of the 'Axis of Evil,'" Hamilton writes. "This portrayal of Iran was difficult for me to believe. The media's antagonism inspired me to set out on a journey that's scope was far greater than I could have ever imagined. That once-in-a-lifetime trip blossomed into *Iran: Hot Tea, Cool Conversations*"—the feature documentary with the purpose of getting to the truth and inspiring citizen diplomacy on a global scale.

The film chronicles an American college student's eye-opening travel to Iran. A testament to citizen diplomacy in action, the film highlights unscripted, touching interviews with the numerous individuals the filmmaker encounters from all walks of life during this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. The human scale of the film cuts through the political rhetoric of the day, unveiling a country full of warm and compassionate people who desire peace and friendship with America and the West.

Hamilton joined forces with Silicon Valley business veteran, Mehdi Ghafourifar, to form Golden Gate Cinema, the feature documentary's production company. Ghafourifar and Hamilton created the film with the firm belief that people of any background can help unite others across the globe, especially at times when official diplomacy fails to deliver peace and prosperity. "The goal is simple—increase awareness of citizen diplomacy, its global impact, and its future potential so that more people can recognize the importance of their individual role in improving foreign relations," says Ghafourifar.

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Golden Gate Cinema and Camera Cinemas announce the special movie premiere of *Iran: Hot Tea, Cool Conversations*.

Showtime: Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Location: Camera 3 Cinema

Downtown San Jose

288 S. Second Street, San Jose, California

Parking: Free Validated Parking

Tickets: Online at www.IranTheMovie.com or Camera 3 Box office

For additional information about the film visit www.IranTheMovie.com, or to schedule an interview email your request to info@IranTheMovie.com.

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