

Googoosh . . .

Among the Iranian exile communities in Australia, Europe, and North America, copies of Googoosh's tape from the 1970s continue to be popular. Her most famous and beloved songs speak

cut is still called Googooshi. She sang in English also, although she did not know the language. Her ear for sounds was excellent and she was able to mimic the language to near-perfection. However, the song, "Bang, bang, you shot me down," came out, "Bang, bang, you shut me down." At her height, she was Billie Holiday and Madonna and Janis Joplin and Doris Day



Googoosh and her son.

of sadness and the difficulties of life. Googoosh's career as a performance artist began in 1955 when she was a three-year old girl dancing with her dad in his Azerbaijani folk dance troupe in Tehran. Within a year, Googoosh, whose full name is Googoosh Faegheh Atashin, was a regularly featured singer for the troupe. Many accused her father, a massively overweight man, of manipulating her. By the time Googoosh was 6, she was singing on a nationally broadcast radio program for children. In 1960, at the age of 8, she acted in an Iranian movie, "The Fear of Hope." By age 15, she was making recordings.

From the mid-60s until the revolution, Googoosh was by far the most popular female singer in Iran, and an idol to Iranian teen-aged girls of that era. The Iranian press followed her personal life closely, including her three marriages and the birth of her only child, a son who was born in 1970 and now lives in the United States.

She dedicated to him a haunting lullaby, "Lalai", that many Iranian can sing in their sleep. "Wake not from your dreams to the sadness of life. Sleep, my darling. Mother is awake. The wolf stays behind the door. Your kite has lost its tail and will never reach the clouds. But sleep, my darling. Mother will never leave you."

The country doted on her. When she sheared off her tresses for a short pixie cut, much of the country followed suit. The hair

all wrapped up in one. But overnight in 1979, she was propelled from star to memory.

The revolution killed Googoosh's career at the height of her popularity, even though she supported the revolution and even composed a song in honor of Ayatollah Khomeini. She found her shunned by conservatives in the government who considered her songs, and even the very notion of the singing female voice, as corrupting. The singer not only was forbidden to perform in public, but her passport was confiscated, an act that prevented her from leaving Iran, at least legally. Her passport was restored earlier this year.

This month she flew to Canada. She will give a concert Saturday, July 29, in Toronto. Tickets have gone on sale with prices ranging from \$45 to \$170.

Although Googoosh, now 49, has been isolated from fans for 21 years, this has not diminished the popularity of her songs. Googoosh's pre-revolutionary recordings have even found a new following in Tajikistan, where tapes of her songs have helped turn her into a cult star.

Recently, pop music has been allowed to return to the stage in Iran. Approved songs, however, are largely confined to religious and historical topics. It is thus a little like "Christian pop" in the United States. But women vocalists are allowed to sing only before all-female audiences.

Alizadeh: Those Who Have Slandered Officials Will Be Tried

The Tehran Times June 24, 2000

TEHRAN Head of Tehran Province's Justice Department, Hojjatolislam Abbasali Alizadeh, said on Friday that those who have slandered some officials of the Islamic Republic will be tried soon. He said Farshad Ebrahimi, who has slandered some officials in a video film, has confessed in court that some of his remarks are not true.

"Ebrahimi has admitted that he has done this under the influence of Shirin Ebadi, a lawyer," he further said. In a video film titled

"Confessions of a Member of Hezbollah", Ebrahimi has claimed that some officials and parties give financial aid to Hezbollah for its activities. Alizadeh added that four people have so far been identified in connection with preparing the video film. Touching on the release from prison of two women who had taken part in Berlin Conference, Alizadeh said that Shahla Lahiji and Mehrangiz Kar were detained temporarily because of insulting the Islamic system at the conference.

Hushang Golshiri Brave Iranian writer who stood against tyranny Books Unlimited Sadeq Saba

Tuesday June 20, 2000

Across more than three decades, Hushang Golshiri, who has died aged 63, produced some of the finest novels and short stories in recent Iranian history. In turbulent times, he was also pulled, unwillingly, into politics, organising writers against the Shah's censorship - and that of the current Islamic government. As a result, he was persecuted by both regimes. Golshiri was born into a working-class family in the historical and industrial city of Isfahan. Two events in his early 20s channelled his interests into literature. He met a group of young people in Isfahan who were fascinated by the post-war new wave in French literature, and he had a love affair with a British woman in the city, a teacher of English language and literature. His other major influence was to be his wife, the literary critic and translator Farzaneh Taheri. Golshiri wrote his first collection of short stories, Like Always - about the dull, repetitive life of small-town office workers - in the late 1960s. His most famous novel, Prince Ehtejab (1968), later became an internationally acclaimed film. He became one of the first Iranian writers to apply modern literary techniques in his books and to depict the demise of the Iranian aristocracy. His style, storytelling ability and command of Persian language and classical literature attracted general readers, as well as the literary elite. In 1975, political prisoners provided the theme of his short story collection, My Little Prayer Room, which showed how despotism alienates both the oppressed and the oppressor. In other works, he questioned the integrity of intellectuals who had put themselves at the service of the Shah's regime. Critics suggest that, a year before the 1979 Islamic revolution, Golshiri's novel, The Shepherd And The Lost Sheep, anticipated the advent of fundamentalism in his country. The new religious rulers were deeply hostile to independent literature, and Ayatollah Khomeini declared that pens which did not

write for Islamic values must be broken. Most of Golshiri's fiction was banned and, until a few years ago, he was not allowed to publish new works. A social and gender censorship was added to the Shah's draconian measures; writers were even banned from writing about ordinary relationships between men and women. Golshiri temporarily abandoned fiction, and focused on campaigning for freedom of expression. He also set up private classes to nurture a new generation of writers. Harassed by the authorities, he was interrogated about his efforts to found an independent writers organisation, and accused on television of being in the pay of foreign powers, while newspapers probed his private life and charged him with links to foreign embassies. Life under such conditions took an appalling toll on Golshiri's health and literary output. Writing under constant threat of death became a struggle on its own. He left Iran several times to finish his last great work, The Book Of Genies, which was published abroad. In 1990, he smuggled his novel, King Of The Benighted, to the United States to be published in English under a pen-name - his authorship of it was only confirmed after his death. In his last works, Golshiri depicted the lives of fictional religious fanatics, who wanted to return to the middle ages. Two years ago, Iran's secular writers paid the price for defending freedom and human rights; two dissident authors were murdered by security agents. Golshiri's eloquent and moving speech at their graveside is regarded as one of the most defiant statements by an Iranian writer in recent years. Yet Golshiri never allowed anger to turn his literary work into sloganeering. He had a strong sense of humour, and kept his spirits up. He was awarded Germany's Erich Maria Remarque prize last year for his efforts to fight oppression and promote democracy and human rights. He leaves his wife Farzaneh, a son and a daughter.

Rahami-Arrest Rahami, Ebadi receive arrest warrants

Tehran, June 28, IRNA -- Tehran's Public Court here on Wednesday afternoon issued arrest warrant for two reformist lawyers Mohsen Rahami and Shirin Ebadi.

Rahami was the defense lawyer of the students in the case of last July Tehran University dormitory incident and former interior minister Abdullah Nouri and Shirin Ebadi is a lawyer.

"The two have been detained on charges of disturbing public opinion in connection with taped remarks against some officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a press release issued by the Tehran Justice Department said. It added that on the basis of confessions made by Amir Farshad Ebrahimi who made the remarks in the video cassette, Rahami and Ebadi had a role in insinuating all those fabrications and in distributing the video cassette.

Rahami has been detained on the basis of Article 15 of the by-law of the justice department and the Special Clerics Courts. It said that they would stand trial in an open court. Previously the deputy head of Tehran University told IRNA by phone that

Rahami, a professor at Tehran University was arrested on Tuesday afternoon on the order of the Judiciary.

پاسخ جدول شماره ۱۰۹

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