

A Look at Ebrahim Hatamikia's Artistic Career



TEHRAN -- Ebrahim Hatamikia is an Iranian filmmaker who has made a significant impact on Iranian cinema.

He is known for his films that portray the effects of the Iraq war on Iran and are highly regarded in the Iranian war cinema. His work is particularly notable for its focus on the social changes brought about by the war.

One of Hatamikia's prominent themes is the trauma caused by the war, both for returning soldiers and those who anxiously await their loved ones' fates. He is recognized as one of the filmmakers of the new generation of Iranian cinema following the Islamic Revolution.

Born in Tehran in 1961 to Azerbaijani parents, Hatamikia began his directing career with short films and documentaries about the Iran-Iraq war. His works have received recognition in national film festivals, and films like 'The Glass Agency' and 'In the Name of Father' have earned him awards for best screenplay and directing at Fajr Film Festival.

Hatamikia's early works, such as 'The Scout' (1989) and 'The Immigrant' (1990), delve into the psychological and sociological impacts of the war on the home front.

In 'From Karkheh to Rhein' (1993), he explores the experiences of a disabled veteran on a medical trip to Germany, combining the war theme with tensions related to contact with the West and displacement to foreign lands.

His film 'The Red Ribbon' (1999) has been compared to later absurdist dramas by Fernando Arrabal and is known for its dense and highly metaphoric storytelling set in a tank graveyard between Iran and Iraq.

Hatamikia's television series, 'The Red Soil' (2002-2003), touches on the complexities of national identity and borderlines during the Iraqi occupation, highlighting the experiences of Iranian and Iraqi Arabs in the in-between spaces.

Hatamikia believes that no Iranian can escape the impact of the war, and his films provide a space for mourning by presenting the nation's losses in a poignant and artistic manner.

Particularly, Hatamikia's melodramas have become a hallmark of war films, and he has also included female characters with visible presences in his films, even if they are not always the central characters.

As we reflect on his remarkable career and the meaningful narratives he has crafted, we look forward to many more years of his creative brilliance. May he continue to inspire us with his storytelling, shedding light on the human condition, and contributing to the rich tapestry of Iranian cinema.

'Between the Barricades' Recounts Shattered Palestinian Dreams

TEHRAN -- 'Between the Barricades', a short film released in 2022, is the creative vision of UK-Palestinian filmmaker Jude Lucienne Elziq.

In just under 10 minutes, we get to see the life of a determined young Palestinian girl who dreams of becoming a famous soccer player. However, her dreams are held back because she's stuck at home due to the ongoing conflict in her area.

Lucienne Elziq, the film's director, shared her deep connection to the project in a 2023 interview with NYU Abu Dhabi University, explaining, "The film is near and dear to my heart. It's a very heavy subject."

Elziq's storytelling conveys a fundamental truth—there are certain aspects of a child's spirit that even the harshest conflict cannot extinguish, including their hopes and dreams. Through 'Between the Barricades', the young filmmaker's intention is to highlight this resilience.

'Between the Barricades' has already left its mark on the international stage, having been screened at 14 film festivals in nine countries.

Elziq aspires to use her work to ignite ongoing discussions about the importance



of safeguarding children's rights, and she remains committed to telling stories that raise awareness of critical human rights issues.

Growing up in nine different countries and spending many summers in Palestine, Elziq witnessed firsthand the struggles faced by children living in unstable places. Her film 'Between the Barricades' gives

viewers an up-close and moving look at what she saw during her early years, revealing the ongoing hardships that children face every day.

'Between the Barricades' is not just a short film; it is a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring hope that lives within the hearts of children even in the face of adversity.

Study Finds Chimpanzees Use Military-Style Tactics

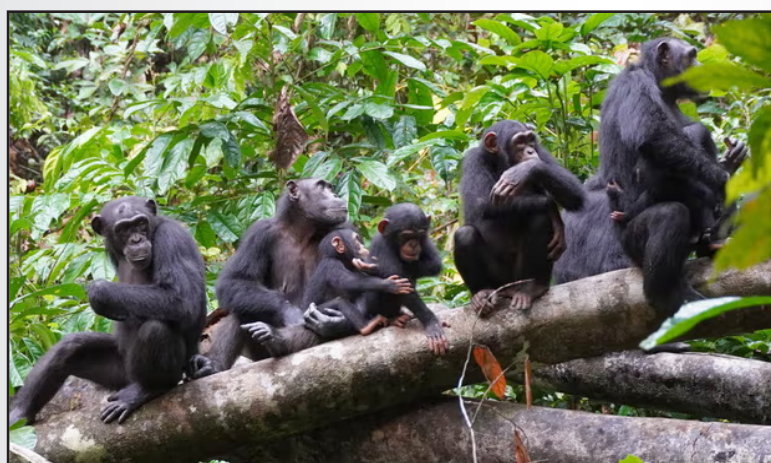
LONDON (Guardian) -- The tactic is so effective when the enemy is near that Sun Tzu recommends it in The Art of War: "He who occupies the high ground," the Chinese general declared in the ancient military treatise, "will fight to advantage".

But soldiers are not alone in having hit on the idea. Troops of chimpanzees in Ivory Coast have taken up the same strategy, researchers say, scaling hilltops for recon missions and advancing if the enemy is distant or outnumbered.

"These military tactics that we see in humans – the importance of high ground – is maybe something that's deeply rooted in our evolutionary past," said Sylvain Lemoine, a primatologist at the University of Cambridge and lead author on the study.

"The chimps go up the hill, stop there, and, based on the information they gather, either carry on or retreat," he said. "The high ground enables them to get information on their neighbors, especially the number, and how far away they are."

Lemoine and his colleagues tracked two neighboring groups of chimpanzees, each consisting of 30 to 40 adults, in the Taï national park in Ivory Coast



between 2013 and 2016. The groups have separate territories, roughly 5km (3 miles) by 7km, but they overlap, and the troops are constantly trying to expand the area under their control.

Rather than moving as a whole, the groups often break into smaller units that patrol the borders and carry out scouting missions in case a swift land-grab is on the cards. From more than 20,000 hours of recordings, the researchers saw that chimps were most likely to climb hills when they reached the edge of their territory and more likely to rest quietly at the top than on hills deep within their territory. This would make it easier to hear the calls of any nearby neighbors, and work out how well defended the land was, the scientists say.

The researchers found more evidence that the hilltop stops were a recon-

naissance tactic. When the chimps moved on from their vantage points, they took a route that minimized the risk of a scrap with their neighbors. If the other group was far away, or outnumbered, the

chimps tended to push on into the rival territory. But if the neighbors were near, or present in numbers, the recon unit retreated. After a hilltop recon, there was a 40% chance of advancing into enemy territory when rivals were 500 meters away, a 50% chance when they were a kilometer away, and a 60% chance when the neighbors were 3km away. The work is published in Plos Biology.

While meerkats and many other animals take to higher ground to keep watch for predators, and sound

the alarm if needed, the chimps' tactics are more complex. They appear to anticipate where conflicts may occur, use higher ground to assess the risk, and make collective decisions on how to proceed.

"They're going to the hills to get information they don't have and that is quite sophisticated," said Lemoine. By pushing into their rivals' territory, the whole troop fares better, as there is less competition for food and other resources. "It's all about securing space and increasing their territories," Lemoine said.

Picture of the Day



Farough, located 75 kilometers from Shiraz, is known as the city of pomegranates.

Photo by IRNA