

DAS FILMSEMINAR GEGEN AUSTRERITÄT ZEIGT

# COUP 53

OLD SECRETS CAST LONG SHADOWS



As an **open-air cinema** on the Von-Melle-Park campus.  
In case of bad weather, roofed over at the Rechtshaus (Schlüterstraße 28).

AMIRANI MEDIA PRESENTS COUP 53 MUSIC ROBERT MILLER ANIMATION MARTYN PICK ARCHIVE PRODUCER PAUL GARDNER

CINEMATOGRAPHY CHRIS MORPHET CLAUDIA RASCHKE TAGHI AMIRANI EDITOR WALTER MURCH A.C.E

ASSOCIATE EDITOR EVELYN FRANKS ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS FATEME AHMADI ALI AMIRANI IMMY HUMES POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR GISELA EVERT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GERRY OHRSTROM NEDA NOBARI JON WILCOX CO PRODUCERS AMIR AMIRANI AHMAD KIAROSTAMI

PRODUCER PAUL ZAENTZ WRITERS TAGHI AMIRANI WALTER MURCH PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY TAGHI AMIRANI

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31.8.2022, starting at 9 pm in front of the Philosophenturm (Von-Melle-Park 6)  
- with introduction by the director and follow-up discussion -

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## „Coups 53“

A film by Taghi Amirani  
(IRN, 2019)

What values are actually meant when the much-invoked "Western community of values" is once again called upon to defend freedom, democracy and human rights in "outlaw" foreign countries? The activities of Great Britain and the USA in Iran in 1953 provide a very clear answer. Iran became a constitutional monarchy after revolutionary upheavals in 1909, but for a long time it remained economically a de facto protectorate of Great Britain due to numerous concessions in raw materials and banking granted since the mid-19th century. Towards the end of the Second World War, progressive forces increasingly gained strength, struggling for an independent, sovereign, social and democratic development of the country - combined with the central demand to bring Iran's main source of wealth, the immense oil and gas deposits (the fourth largest and largest in the world), back under national control.

*"Our lords and our oppressors  
Gladly welcome our discord.  
As long as we remain divided,  
So long will they remain our lords."  
Bertolt Brecht, "Solidarity Song", 1931*

As a result, in May 1951, the Iranian parliament, with the support of the communist Tudeh Party, the social reformist National Front and the more progressive section of the nationalistic clergy, elected Mossadegh as prime minister by an overwhelming majority (99:3 votes). At that point Mossadegh, a Doctor of Law who had studied abroad had already gained widespread trust as a consistent advocate of the social interests and an absolutely incorruptible member of parliament. Immediately, Mossadegh introduced comprehensive social reforms in education, taxation and land ownership, massively curtailing the influence of the corrupt elites linked to the Shah and foreign "investors". He drove the nationalisation process of the Abadan oil fields, which until then had belonged to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (later BP) - with so much success against all the mean resistance of the British colonialists that he even received broad support for his measures in the legal dispute before the United Nations and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The Churchill administration then moved to defend its threatened values and not only imposed an oil embargo with a military blockade of Iranian ports, but also initiated "Operation Ajax" with the support of Eisenhower's US administration, the Mi6 and CIA intelligence services, the Shah, submissive military officers and paid thugs from fundamentalist religious circles, local clans and the Tehran lumpenproletariat. The operation began with the assassination of the Tehran police chief, General Afshartus, who was loyal to the constitution, and led, through the targeted investigation of violent uprisings, to the deposition, imprisonment and extrajudicial exile of Mossadegh, to the installation of a reactionary military regime under the leadership of the Shah, the brutal persecution of large sections of the progressive forces allied with Mossadegh by the US-trained torture police SAVAK and the sale of the oil reserves to an international consortium of Standard Oil (USA), Anglo-Iranian/BP (GB), Shell (NL) and CFP (F), thus laying the foundations for the clerical-feudalist "Islamic Revolution" of 1979, which has had an extremely negative impact on Iran to this day. In exemplary meticulous research and investigative and clarifying work, which includes the evaluation of current sources from the archives of the CIA, Taghi Amirani's film not only sheds light on the historical background of this coup, which has been largely concealed until today, and documents the enormous alliance-building commitment to finding the historical truth. It is also an impressive proof that the legacy of the progressive upheavals after 1945 can be brought to bear anew all over the world, by the many, realising peace, social progression, democratic participation and cultural emancipation for a humane world as common "values" of the global development - against those who always have only their own "values" in mind. Very instructive and highly relevant today. In this respect: International solidarity - end austerity!

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