

## Love Marriage in Kabul

To help an orphan and his star-crossed lover, a strong-willed woman challenges tradition to make magic



NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — Mahboba Rawi is a strong-willed Afghan-Australian who dedicates her life to helping orphans in Afghanistan. With one month and limited resources, Rawi must challenge traditions to make a marriage of love happen in Kabul— the fate of two star-crossed lovers rests with her. *Love Marriage in Kabul* screens at MASS MoCA on **Thursday, March 10, at 7:30pm**, in the third installment of MASS MoCA's annual documentary series, *Love is Complicated*.

Through her work in her non-governmental organization, Mahboba's Promise, Rawi acts as a mother figure to thousands of orphans and widows in Afghanistan. *Love Marriage in Kabul* follows her extraordinary quest to secure the marriage of Abdul, an orphan she saved, and Fatemah, the girl he loves, whose father demands a large dowry that Abdul cannot pay. Fighting against all odds, Rawi challenges time and tradition to prevent an arranged marriage. This compassionate film utilizes understated editing to tell a raw, realistic story that allows Rawi and her passion for advocacy and justice to take center stage. While Abdul and Fatemah's love story drives the film, *Love Marriage in Kabul* offers a look at the realities of daily life in Afghanistan, the financial and emotional struggles Rawi faces maintaining her nonprofit, and the extent of her selfless commitment to the women and children of Afghanistan.

The director of *Love Marriage in Kabul*, Amin Palangi, is an Iranian-born Australian director, writer, and producer, and the founder of Palangi Productions. His mission as a filmmaker is to break down Western stereotypes of the Middle East and humanize its people through film. *Audiences Everywhere* praises Palangi's portrayal of Afghanistan in *Love Marriage in Kabul*, calling it "refreshing to see a side of the country outside of news clips that would try to make you believe it is a place filled only with violence. There's a lot of love in this film, and while there are setbacks and some uncomfortable moments where tradition trumps freedom, *Love Marriage in Kabul* is a positive depiction of Afghanistan and its people."

*Love Marriage in Kabul* screens in MASS MoCA's Club B10 on **Thursday, March 10, at 7:30pm**.

Following the screening, director Palangi will join via Skype for a Q+A. A full bar serves Berkshire Brewing Company beers and Berkshire Mountain Distillery spirits. Tickets are \$5 for students and members, and \$9 general admission. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays through June 25, 2016. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 x1 during box office hours or purchased online at [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org).

## **Images**

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA's spring 2016 events are available through this link: [bit.ly/1NL6mgv](http://bit.ly/1NL6mgv).

## ***Love is Complicated: A Documentary Series***

Young love, forbidden love, love of country, love of dog — however you look at it, love is never simple. This edition of MASS MoCA's annual documentary film series explores the many sides of the human heart. The 2016 lineup includes *Heart of a Dog*, *Above and Beyond*, *Love Marriage in Kabul*, and *How to Dance in Ohio*. These four installments of *Love is Complicated* screen on January 21, February 11, March 10, and April 21, at 7:30pm, respectively.

## **About MASS MoCA**

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19<sup>th</sup>-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays through June 25, 2016. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is seasonal and reopens April 30, 2016. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit [massmoca.org](http://massmoca.org).