



Iraj Anvar, born in Tehran, has an extensive background of directing and acting in Italy, Iran and the US. He studied acting and directing with Alessandro Fersen (Studio di Arti Sceniche) in Rome. When he returned to Iran he soon became one of the lead figures in the avant-garde theater in Tehran. He was a cofounder of the Tehran Theater Workshop, where he translated, adapted and directed several plays, including adaptations of the ancient literary Persian material such as Shahnameh of Ferdowsi. After a distinguished career, in 1978 he traveled to the USA, having obtained a scholarship to attend NYU. After the Iranian Revolution he decided to remain in this country and while teaching Persian Language and Literature at the department of Near Eastern Studies (NYU) he worked toward a degree and received his PhD from NYU in 1991. His last accomplishment is his English translation and publication of forty-eight ghazals of the renowned Persian thirteenth century poet, Rumi. His recent activities include several musical performances and poetry readings in New York and other cities of US. For the past three decades he has been teaching Persian Language and Culture at NYU, Harvard, Columbia and University of Wisconsin. He joined Brown in the fall of 2008 and have been teaching Persian Language and Culture. Iraj recently played a lead role in large production of life of prophet Mohammad in Iran.

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