



SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE

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The Saint Joseph College Art Gallery, Honors Program and The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities present:



“Women Without Men”

A film by Shirin Neshat in collaboration with Shoja Azari

Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**The Bruyette Athenaeum’s Hoffman Auditorium at Saint Joseph College
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, Conn. 06117**

<http://www.sjc.edu/arts>

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. - Saint Joseph College will present “Women Without Men” on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in The Bruyette Athenaeum’s Hoffman Auditorium on the College’s West Hartford campus. Admission: \$15 (all tickets); to purchase tickets, contact the Frances Driscoll Box Office at 860.231.5555 or place your order online at <http://tickets.sjc.edu>. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and one hour before performances.

“Women Without Men” (Germany, 2009) is Shirin Neshat’s independent film adaptation of Shahrnush Parsipur’s magical realist novel which chronicles the intertwining lives of four Iranian women during the politically cataclysmic summer of 1953 when an American led, British backed coup d’état brought down the democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, and reinstated the Shah to power.

Film Critic Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* notes, “Every frame of “Women Without Men” and every image within those frames attest to the background of its first-time director, Shirin Neshat, as a photographer celebrated for her explorations of Islamic gender issues. This

visually transfixing film, which originated as a video installation, has the feel of an exhibition of Ms. Neshat's work whose figures have stirred to life to play out a tragic female allegory.”

Ms. Neshat, who was born four years after the coup, left Iran in 1979, just before the Islamic Revolution that drove the Shah into exile. Her film, very critical of the coup, implies that it made the eventual revolution and subsequent turmoil inevitable. Ms. Neshat, who now lives and works in New York, continued to visit Iran until she was banned from the country in 1996 for the political content of her work. Since 1998, she has collaborated with her husband, Shoja Azari, a video artist and filmmaker, with whom she wrote the screenplay for “Women Without Men.” In Persian, with English subtitles; this film is not rated. Presented as part of the spring 2011 Bruyette Athenaeum Performing Arts Series at The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities, “Women Without Men” is sponsored in collaboration with the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery and the Honors Program.

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Saint Joseph College, founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education opportunities for women, is a comprehensive institution serving women from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. Responsive to the evolving educational needs of the community, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies also offers both women and men graduate degree programs in many fields, a Weekend Program for Adult Learners, professional certificate programs relevant to today's workforce, and other continuing education opportunities. In the fall of 2011, the Saint Joseph College School of Pharmacy, the first doctoral program in the College's 78-year history, will open at Hartford 21 on Trumbull Street in downtown Hartford. View our Web site at www.sjc.edu.

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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