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IRAN – EVERYTHING FORBIDDEN, ANYTHING POSSIBLE: FOUR CORNERS Monday 26th February 2018

Iran – Everything Forbidden, Anything Possible: Dancing, drugs and rebellion in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“People think that a lot of things are forbidden here, but in fact as you can see, you can find anything!” Young woman

Secret parties, sly booze and slinky cocktail dresses are a long way from the conservative images usually associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“Prohibition is fun, doing things in secret is much more exciting.” Young man

For decades the Republic’s morals police have enforced strict rules that seem to cover just about everything, from dog ownership, which is banned, to clothing. Drinking alcohol is punishable with 40 lashes. Repeat offenders can face the death penalty.

“The problem with alcohol is that other people can smell it and there are alcohol tests. So, to get high, most young people prefer to use drugs such as cannabis.” Young man

Despite the rules, many young people in Iran are rebelling. They’re taking their lives in their hands and defying the regime to party in secret.

“If they catch me I can go to jail.” Young woman

Filming covertly in Iran, a French film team gained access to a hidden world where “everything is forbidden (but) anything is possible.”

“Here you can find every style of dress... like this one here, a bit sexy... Or that one there, a bit more feminine.” Young woman

Young Iranians reveal how they outwit the regime to live the kind of life they want at private parties and clandestine beauty salons.

“For women, this is freedom.” Young woman



These young people like to party but they're trying to escape their deep frustration with the governing regime.

"Iranian people don't like the government and the rules of the government but, we can't do anything." Young woman

With their cost of living soaring and few jobs to apply for, the young must battle against their sense of hopelessness about the future.

"The more pressure they put on us, the more we must rebel." Underground activist

Iran - Everything Forbidden, Anything Possible, from film maker Jacques Dubois and presented by Sarah Ferguson, goes to air on Monday 26th February at 8.30pm. It is replayed on Tuesday 27th February at 1.00pm and Wednesday 28th at 11.20pm. ABC iview and at abc.net.au/4corners.

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