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## Gladiolus

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## Gladiolus

### Abstract

This is a film review of *Gladiolus* (2022), directed by Azadeh Navai.

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### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



**Gladiolus (2022), dir. Azadeh Navai**

This film is a brief history of Iran, as told by the Gladiolus flower. Gladiolus came to Iran in the 1950s. They were mostly red and white. They became a very popular flower in Iran. They would stay fresher than other flowers in the dry deserts of the country. As the flower puts it:

“I always stand tall with an upright stem and fully opened flowers. I was popular for ceremonies and celebrations. I was dyed different bright colors.

“As time moved on, I disappeared from celebrations. The people stopped dying me with bright colors. Instead the people began taking me to funerals. I still stay fresh in the dry deserts of the country and I still stand tall with an upright stem and fully opened flowers, but now this is at funerals and gravesites. I have become the perfect mourner.”