Parviz Kimiavi’s *The Mongols* (1973) is one of the most formally experimental films of pre-revolutionary Iran. It is a reflexive film about a filmmaker (played by Kimiavi himself) suspicious of technological change as television antennae broadcast foreign content further and further into remote regions of Iran. This meditation on media and empire juxtaposes discontinuous moments in the long history of these forces in the region. The film intercuts television broadcasts, found footage of nineteenth-century moving images, and a dream-like staging of the thirteenth-century Mongol invasion in a fascinated, but anxious, exploration of the effects of new media technologies as they gain traction around the world.

—Programmed by Kaveh Askari