

Oscars carpet will not be red for first time since 1961



Many things about the Academy Awards have changed over the years, but for the past six decades there has been at least one constant: The red carpet. The hues have varied over the years, but it has always been some shade of red. Until this year.

On Wednesday outside the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, workers unspooled a champagne-colored carpet as Jimmy Kimmel, who is hosting the 95th Oscars on Sunday, presided over the occasion, AP reported. "I think the decision to go with a champagne carpet over a red carpet shows how confident we are that no blood will be shed," Kimmel said.

The decision to change the color came from creative consultants Lisa Love, a longtime Vogue contributor, and Raúl Ávila, the creative director for the glamorous Met Gala in New York.

This year the carpet will be covered, in part to protect the stars and cameras from the weather, but also to help turn the arrivals into an evening event. For Love, there has always been a disconnect between the elegant black tie dress code and the fact that it's mid-afternoon when people arrive to be photographed in the daylight. With a covered carpet, they could change that.

"We turned a day event into night," Love told The Associated Press. "It's evening, even though it's still 3:00."

The Oscars red carpet dates back to 1961, the 33rd Academy Awards held at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. It was the first televised ceremony, broadcast on ABC. The general public wouldn't see the red carpet in all its glory on television until 1966, when the Oscars were first broadcast in color.

There wasn't any debate over the change, Love said. They just knew they had the freedom to break from tradition. They tried some other colors too but they seemed too dark with the covered tent. "We chose this beautiful sienna, saffron color that evokes the sunset, because this is the sunset before the golden hour," Love said.

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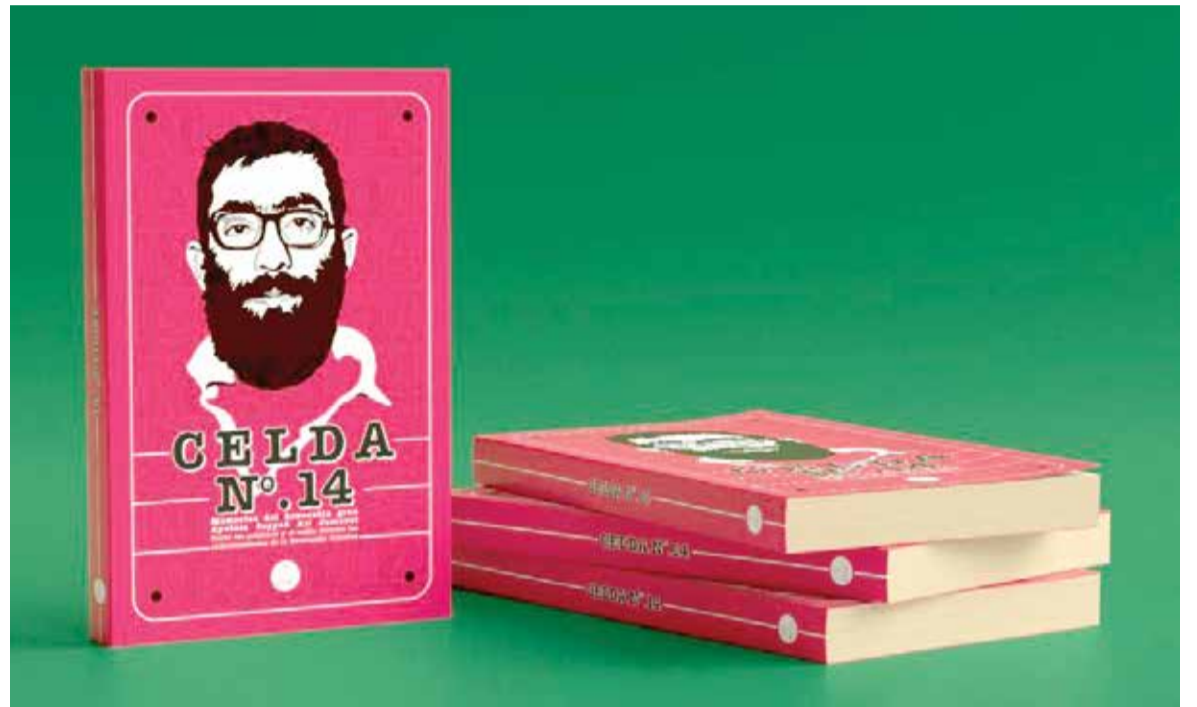
Leader sends message to Spanish speakers on book release

Ayatollah Khamenei urged all justice-seeking nations to become more familiar with each other and combine their efforts.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei sent a message to Spanish speakers on the release of the Spanish version of his book on the memories of his struggles.

In a ceremony announcing the official release of the Spanish translation of the book "Cell Number 14" in Caracas, Venezuela, Ayatollah Khamenei's message to all the Spanish speaking people of the world was published on his website, Tasnim New Agency reported. The book "Cell Number 14" (in Spanish "Celda n.º 14") contains Ayatollah Khamenei's memories of resistance from the periods he spent in prison and exile during his fight against the Pahlavi regime.

A part of the text message reads: "If I have been able to communicate with you



Spanish-speaking people by way of this book, I will be very pleased.

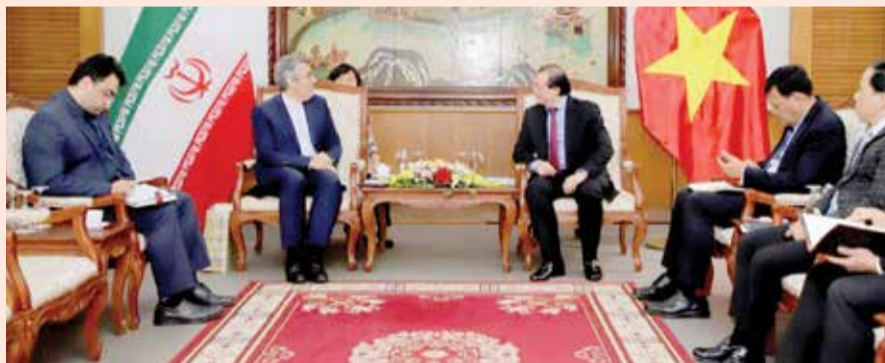
This covers a small part of my life. It is very good if all of us and you and all

justice-seeking nations are able to become more familiar with each other

and combine our efforts. I pray that God will grant you prosperity."

Vietnamese official hails Iran's cinema as inspiring

Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam Ta Quang Dong holds talks with Iran's Ambassador to Vietnam Ali Akbar Nazari in Hanoi, Vietnam, on March 10, 2023. ● IRNA



A Vietnamese official has hailed Iran's cinema as inspiring for people in the Southeast Asian country. Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam Ta Quang Dong welcomed an agreement for holding an Iranian film and music week in Hanoi, saying that Iran's cinema has been inspiring for people in his country.

Quang Dong made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Vietnam Ali

Akbar Nazari, IRNA reported. Dong also referred to important events in 2023 including marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Iranian ambassador referred to bilateral potentials including cultural, sports, and tourism fields, emphasizing that signing MOUs in these sectors could facilitate cooperation between the two countries.

French architect and activist Roland Castro dies aged 82

Architect and left-wing activist Roland Castro has died aged 82.

The French architect made his name through his design plans predicated on raising the standard of living for working class neighbourhoods and his involvement in the May 1968 Paris student protests, AFP reported.

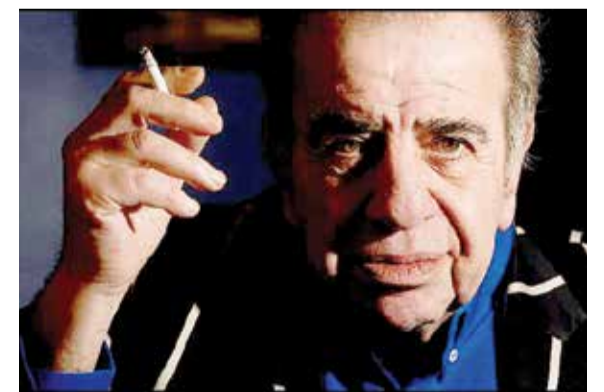
"Architecture, the suburbs, the causes have never

been lacking: Everything has been a pretext for settling this debt," he once said.

His ambition took him to the Paris Beaux-Arts architecture school in 1958 and joined the Union of Communist Students. Ever committed to his intellectual integrity, he was expelled from the union in 1965 for criticising Stalinism. In response,

he embraced Maoism, as was popular in French communist circles at the time.

He became a leading figure in the anti-capitalism protests that erupted throughout France during May 1968 bringing the country to a standstill. Castro became an architect and in 1983, and co-founded 'Banlieues 89' with his urbanist friend Michel Cantal-Dupart.



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