

Iran's 'Paper Dreams' wins at Black Hat Film Festival



MEHR – At its 43rd international experience, Iranian drama 'Paper Dreams' won the Best Film Award at the Black Hat Film Festival in Budapest, Hungary.

Directed by Ali Atshani, the film tells the story of a young man who has been out of public view because of his being an albino. A young girl takes advantage of his pure heart and makes him a social media influencer; meanwhile, he falls in love with the girl.

Kamran Tafti, Amir-Hossein Mousavi, Mina Vahid, Bitā Atshani, Zeinab Malaki, Ayeh Qobadian, Majid Mahindoost, Amirhossein Rezazadeh, and Negar Mallaki are among the cast members.

The film has already participated in various festivals including Bridge Film Festival in Vancouver, World Film Carnival Singapore, and Newark International Film Festival in the US.

It grabbed the Best Director Award at the South Texas International Film Festival in the US city of Edinburg.

The festival's goal is to showcase and support works that show the true potential of the filmmaker; it wanted to create a space where creatives don't have to worry about all the criteria Hollywood has created, there are no limitations only your imagination.

Iran's composer Saket writes Bach, Mozart notes for tar



ISNA – Iranian composer and player of *tar* and *setar*, Kaivan Saket, published his new book entitled, 'Picking the Grape Clusters of the Neighbor,' which includes 23 Western compositions from the Baroque to the Romantic period.

Saket said that these works are composed by great Western musicians such as Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Chopin, Paganini, to name a few. During these years, these works have been performed with both *tar* and the piano.

He added, "Some time ago, I decided to provide the musical notes of these songs for my fans. We prepared the notes for both piano and *tar* instruments."

Saket concluded that although oud (short-neck lute) players can use the book, too, it is mainly for the advanced students of *tar* and *setar*.

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Iran's oldest Islamic inscription discovered

Arts & Culture Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Darreh Gazeh is a strange valley holding the oldest Islamic inscription discovered in Iran.

Ahmed bin Rostam wrote on a half-black stone about 1,240 years ago in Kufic script. The words on the first and second lines are "In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate". From the third line on, the writ-



er professed the unity of God and the apostleship of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The engraving is not, of course, the oldest one discovered from the Islamic period. The oldest one, which is about 60 years older than this one, is kept in Russia's Dagestan.

Darreh Gazeh, in Yazd Province, is surrounded by beautiful gardens. It is located near Turan posht and Dehshir, and was once the access road from Fars to Khorasan Province.

Aside from the 1,240-year-old inscription, there are several others, one of which was written around 90 years later. It was decorated with two verses (88 and 89) of the Ash-Shura chapter of the Holy Qur'an.

Another discovered in-

scription bears a poem written in Persian, which is an important historical document. Due to the fact that the inscription was written before the publication of the poetry collection of the Persian poet and mystic Awhad al-Din Kermani, the engraving can be an authentic source for the precise words of the poet.

Darreh Gazeh is full of inscriptions from the Islamic Period, most of which are covered with Qur'anic verses, though some are broken, or the written patterns have faded. On some others, you can find motifs of shepherds, goats and pastures. Unlike many ancient inscriptions, some of them are written in neat handwriting.

It is crystal clear that for many years several trav-



elers had passed through this route. Researchers believe that one of these passengers was the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, Imam Reza (PBUH), who was on his way to Khorasan. The presence of a resort in Turan posht supports this hypothesis. Several inscriptions were once kept at this resort; however, they are now kept in the Freer Gallery

of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C.

This small valley houses a significant part of the Islamic inscriptions of Iran. It is possible that even the stones that are broken or fallen might have included some inscriptions. Thus, archaeological excavations can add to the treasure trove of Islamic inscriptions in Iran.

Iranian reciter comes in first, wins top prize in Saudi Arabia's Qur'an competition

A distinguished Iranian reciter of the Holy Qur'an finished in first place and won the top prize in an international Qur'anic competition in Saudi Arabia.

Younes Shahmoradi secured first place in the recitation category in the second edition of the Qur'anic contest Etr al-kalam, the perfume of words in English, and was awarded a prize of \$800,000 (three million Saudi Arabian Riyals) on Fri-

day, Press TV wrote. Shahmoradi, who was among the four Qur'an reciters advancing to the final round of the Qur'anic event, outperformed Abdulaziz al-Faqih from Saudi Arabia in second place, who won \$500,000 (two million SAR). Moroccan contestants Zakariya al-Zirak and Abdullah Al-Dughri came in third and fourth.

In the call to prayer category, contestants from Saudi

Arabia, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Britain respectively won the top four titles.

The televised competition was organized by Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Entertainment in 2019 to celebrate exceptional vocal talents in Qur'anic recitation and the call to prayer.

The second edition of the Qur'anic contest was launched on the first day of the holy fasting month of

Ramadan on March 23.

This year's competition attracted 50,000 Muslim entrants from more than 100 countries at the qualifying stage. Of the 2,116 contestants who made the cut, 36 participants (18 in Qur'an recitation section and 18 specializing in the call to prayer) advanced to the final stages.

The Qur'anic event, one of the most popular Ramadan programs in the kingdom with a huge following in



the Muslim world, had a total prize pool of \$3,000,000.