

Tahmoures Pournazeri to stage concert in Tehran



IRNA - Iranian musician Tahmoures Pournazeri will stage a musical performance titled 'I Came Back' on May 2 and 9. The music of the performance is based on authentic Iranian music, music of *tanbur* (a long-necked fretted lute), and contemporary music in combination with classical music and electronic music. The story of each piece will be performed by a 16-member ensemble, designed by Pegah Niyaei. Orchestra conductor Bardia Kiaras, Mehdi Monadi, Makan Khouinejad, and Ramin Darostani will accompany Pournazeri.

'Through Skin', Iran's sole representative at Cannes



IRNA - Iranian short film 'Through Skin' will have its first international debut at La Cinef Section of the 76th Cannes Film Festival, slated from May 16 to 27. Co-directed by Shafagh Abusaba and Maryam Mahdieh, the 16-minute film is Iran's sole representative at the event. The synopsis of this short film reads: "An unexpected confrontation brings Ali's image of himself closer to reality." For its 26th edition, La Cinef selected among 2000 films submitted by film schools from all around the world, 14 short fictions and 2 animated short films, among which 10 films are directed by women and 7 films by men. 13 countries are represented including Morocco, for the first time in selection. The Jury chaired by Ildikó Enyedi will give out three La Cinef awards, during a ceremony that will be followed by the screening of the awarded films, Thursday, May 25, in the Buñuel theatre. AtoZinema company, managed by Azadeh Masihzadeh, is responsible for the international distribution of the film.

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'Ardabil 2023' event to open today



Arts & Culture Desk

The event of 'Ardabil 2023' will begin its programs today, said Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami. "In fact, it is the beginning of a year of efforts to introduce Ardabil tourist attractions and promote the province on an international scale," he added. In 2019, Ardabil, along with

Sari, the capital of Mazandaran Province, were selected as the tourism capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Tourism capacities, historical attractions and handicrafts of Ardabil all make the province distinguished at the national and global level, Zarghami noted.

It is necessary to make the most of the opportunity to introduce the province internationally and to build infrastructure in the province, the minister said. Stating that the Republic of Azerbaijan was the second country to bring tourists to Iran in the past few years, closing land borders, especially the Bileh Savar border crossing, created some problems for Azerbaijani tourists willing to visit Iran.

A total of 1,200 tourists arrive in Iran annually through this border, he said, expressing hope that the problem would be resolved as soon as possible.



The minister also proposed providing unfiltered SIM cards for foreign tourists to get minimum services.

It is possible that our domestic messaging platforms could also

be activated at the international level, he said.

He concluded that every single opportunity must be seized to promote Iran's tourism industry.

Iran, China stress expanding cultural, tourism cooperation

Iranian and Chinese cultural officials in a meeting stressed the expansion of Tehran-Beijing cooperation in the field of tourism and cultural heritage. Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali Darabi met and held talks with China's Vice Minister for Culture and

Tourism Li Qun during his visit to Beijing, which was aimed at attending the General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, Mehr news agency reported. Referring to the old history of Iran and China, Darabi called for the development of Tehran-Beijing relations.

Li Qun, for his part, expressed appreciation to the Islamic Republic for announcing its readiness to hold a museum exhibition and considered such events as an effective step for the development of cultural diplomacy. If the level of tourism interactions increases, many problems in

other cooperation areas will also be solved, he said.

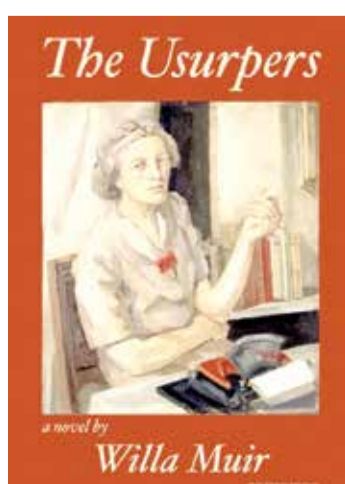
Li noted that China has played a positive role in cross country cultural heritage protection.

Within the framework of the alliance, China is willing to work with all Asian countries to strengthen experience

sharing on cultural heritage preservation, promote international cooperation in the cultural heritage sector, and establish a network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, said President Xi Jinping in a letter addressed to the assembly, according to Global Times.



Lost Willa Muir manuscript finally published



A 'lost' novel by 20th century Scottish writer and translator, Willa Muir, was published almost 70 years after she wrote it. 'The Usurpers' is set in Prague in the late 1940s as Czechoslovakia was just starting to recover from German occupation during the Second World War. The characters in the novel are mainly based on real people and real situations and the insidious influence of the Communist Party which culminated in the coup of February 1948. Essentially a comic novel, political infiltration, intimidation

and violence, restrictions on freedom of speech, and the crushing of dissent all feature in the story.

Fifty-three years after the death of the renowned feminist author, 'The Usurpers' has now been published thanks to Colenso Books and the University of St Andrew's Special Collections team, Fine Books Magazine wrote.

Two typed versions of the manuscript for the novel have been in the university's Special Collections since the 1970s, along with the rest of Willa's papers, and remained unpublished until

now.

Willa Muir was a student at the University of St Andrews from 1907-1911, when Minnie Anderson - as she was then known - was awarded a first-class degree in Classics. She married the poet Edwin Muir in 1919 and the couple led a peripatetic life around Europe, subsisting by teaching, writing, and translating. Their translations included works by Franz Kafka, which they brought to a British audience for the first time. 'The Usurpers' is set in Prague at the time when Edwin was Director of the British Institute there,

from 1945-1948.

While 'The Usurpers' is published more than 50 years after her death, Willa also published two novels during her lifetime, 'Imagined Corners' (1931) and 'Mrs Ritchie' (1933). Her first, 'Imagined Corners', is set in the fictional town of Calderwick, modelled on Willa's hometown of Montrose and tells the story of the fictional Elizabeth Shand who, trapped in a conventional marriage, rebels against the constraints on women in the patriarchal society of small-town Scotland in the early 20th century.