

'Mrs. Iran's Husband' awarded at Hot Docs, now eligible for Oscar



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - The Iranian documentary short film 'Mrs. Iran's Husband' won the Best International Short Documentary Award thereby making it eligible for the Best Documentary Short category at the Oscars.

The film, directed by Marjan Khosravi, is a thorough exploration of family dynamics in Iran.

The Canadian film festival, which showcased 214 films from 72 nations, was held from April 27 to May 7.

Out of the 15 sections, only four films were shortlisted for the Oscars, and 'Mrs. Iran's Husband' made the cut. "This award is rightfully deserved by 'Mrs. Iran's Husband,' an honest family portrait that draws us closer to reality with its non-judgmental and clever narration," the jury panel stated. Danish filmmaker Christian Einshøj's 'The Mountains' took home two awards for the Best International Feature and Best International Emerging Filmmaker categories, making it the festival's biggest winner.

Egyptian artist Henetar dies

AL-AHRAM - Egyptian artist Ibrahim Henetar died at the age of 75, his son revealed on social media.

Born on 26 August 1948, Ibrahim Henetar (also known as Hanteer) contributed significantly to the Egyptian creative scene with his paintings, drawings and cartoons published in various newspapers.

A graduate of the Cairo Faculty of Fine Arts Department of Engraving, Print and Graphic, the late artist presented his works in countless local exhibitions as well as internationally, such as at the Roman National Museum, Romania (2006) and during the 18th Gabrovo Biennale in Bulgaria (2007).

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Iran to expand research on Ferdowsi



EXCLUSIVE

The epic poet played a significant role in protecting the Persian language and Iranian identity.

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As Iran prepares to commemorate the epic poet Ferdowsi on May 15, an official in Khorasan Razavi Province announced that the Ferdowsi Award will expand research activities on the Persian poet and his magnum opus 'Shahnameh' (Book of the Kings).

According to Mohammad Hosseinzadeh, who spoke with an Iran Daily reporter, the award ceremony, which is currently held at a national level, will be held internationally as of next year.

At present, the Ferdowsi Award is annually given to three types of people: (1) those conducting research on Ferdowsi; (2) those who, like Ferdowsi, made a long period of contribution to the country; and (3) those who have created an epic poem praising Iran.

The epic poet played a significant role in protecting the Persian language and Iranian identity, Hosseinzadeh said, adding that his collection of epics, created during 30 years, provided a great



service to Iran and the Persian-speaking community.

The programs are aimed at introducing the poet to the young generation and increasing their knowledge, he highlighted. A theatrical performance entitled, 'Ancient Play-

book,' directed by Reza Sabeti, will be staged for 10 days, and a group of people will move from Ferdowsi's tomb to Neyshabur to hold a poetry night there.

The commemoration ceremony, which will run from May 14 for over a

week, will include theatrical programs, sessions for reading the 'Shahnameh,' poetry readings, and zoorkhaneh (powerhouse) rituals. The theme of this year's commemoration ceremony is: "Ferdowsi, the Guardian of the National

Identity of Iranians". The programs this year are based on scientific research, with over 110 scientific articles submitted from Iran and abroad, which will be published in two volumes after the ceremony, Hosseinzadeh concluded.

Iran, China to develop cinematic cooperation



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The third China Film Week opened at the Abbas Kiarostami Hall of the Farabi Cinema Foundation on May 6. The film event will run through May 10.

It will showcase the works of new-generation Chinese directors, with a total of five films scheduled for screening.

The opening ceremony took place on Saturday evening, featuring the screening of 'The Captain,' a disaster-adventure film directed by Andrew Lau. The four other films in the lineup include 'Ala Changso' directed by Sonthar Gyal (May 7), 'The Climbers' directed by Daniel Lee (May 8), 'The Wandering Earth' directed by Frant Gwo (May 9), and 'Ash Is Purest White' directed by Jia Zhangke (May 10).

Chinese Ambassador in Iran Chang Hua, Head of Cinema Organization of Iran Mohammad Khazaei, and CEO of Farabi Cinema Foundation Mehdi Javadi were present at the ceremony.

Hua reminisced about the late Abbas Kiarostami's visit to China in the last two years of his life to make a film in the Asian country.

He also expressed his gratitude to the head of the cinema organization and the CEO of the Farabi Cinema Foundation for holding the China Film Week in Iran, adding that the rich cultures of Iran and China could foster joint film cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese envoy noted that Iranian films have entered the Chinese cinema market, and approximately eight hundred million Chinese attended

the cinema last year, with the box office of Chinese cinema reaching nearly \$8 billion.

He believed this could benefit Iranian cinema, and given the cultural commonalities between the two ancient civilizations, the Chinese audience could appreciate Iranian films and vice versa. Javadi announced that Iranian Film Week would take place in China in the near future.

Given the significant role of Chinese cinema in the world, Khazaei revealed the foundation's plan to collaborate with Chinese cinema to produce joint products. He further highlighted

the value-added benefits of Chinese cinema for Iranian cinema and emphasized the positive impact of the disappearance of the unipolar system in world cinema.

Khazaei considered the event a step forward for the cinematic cooperation of countries like Iran and China through the rich cultural capacities of these two ancient civilizations.

The first edition of the China Film Week was held in September 2017 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, followed by the second edition at Tehran's Art and Experience Cinema in October 2021.

2,600-year-old stone reliefs in Spain reveal depictions of obscure ancient civilization

Archaeologists in Spain unearthed five 5th-century stone reliefs of human faces belonging to the ancient Tartessian culture of the 8th-4th centuries B.C.E.

The two most complete of these artifacts each depict women wearing jewelry. This decoration and the technical skill employed to produce the faces has led researchers to speculate that they may represent female divinities from the Tartessian pantheon. Alternatively, the women may

have been prominent figures in Tartessian society. Another of the figures is thought to represent a warrior.

The Tartessos civilization inhabited the southern Iberian Peninsula and is known to us only from archaeological discoveries. It was previously thought to have been an aniconic culture that only represented deities indirectly via animal, vegetable motifs, or baetylus (sacred stones). This new finding could therefore bring about a major shift in histori-

ans' understanding of this obscure ancient period.

The discovery was made at the Iron Age site of Casas del Turuñuelo in the province of Badajoz, which comprises a large, two-story building made of adobe walls on stone foundations. Though it has been known about since the 1990s, it was first explored in 2015 as part of "Building Tartessos," a project that analyzes the culture's surviving materials, architectural plans,

and construction techniques. The building was found to be exceptionally well-preserved and researchers have even been able to walk on the intact upper floor.

This latest effort, the fifth excavation of the site, saw archaeologists focus their efforts on an area to the east of the complex as they tried to locate the structure's facade and the entranceway to a courtyard where animals were ritually slaughtered.

