

Iran's 'Paper Dream' wins in Romania



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – At its 44th international experience, Iranian drama 'Paper Dream' won the Best Film Award at Independent Producers Indie Film Festival (IPIFF), held in Bucharest, Romania, from May 12 to 15.

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.

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, Best Film Award at the Black Hat Film Festival in Budapest, Hungary.

Works of pioneers of modern Iranian art to go on display



ISNA – First exhibition showcasing the works of the pioneers of modern Iranian art to debut at Tehran's Laleh Art Gallery on May 19.

The early modern artists embarked on a quest for unique and individualistic expression, abandoning classical forms and pioneering innovative techniques that resonated globally. The process of modernization within Iranian society during this era prompted artists to forge a connection between their works and the nation's rich traditions.

Featuring a collection of 33 artworks by 17 esteemed artists, including Reza Maafti, Parviz Shapur, and Mohammad Modabber, the exhibition promises to captivate visitors. Opening its doors on May 19, the event will welcome art enthusiasts until May 24.

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Iran, Venezuela cooperation in book publishing promotes cultural exchanges



EXCLUSIVE

Cultural exchanges between Iran and Venezuela are being promoted through their cooperation in book publishing and translation, according to the executive director of Monte Ávila Editores, Venezuela's most prominent publishing house.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Omar Rangel expressed optimism about the progressing cultural interactions between the two countries. Rangel believes that by translating books from Spanish to Persian, and vice versa, they can foster further cultural rapprochement.

At the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), the Spanish and Portuguese versions of "Cell Number 14" were unveiled.

Rangel mentioned that this book was printed as a result of an agreement between Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Venezuela's Ministry of Culture.

"Cell Number 14" contains the memoirs of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic

Revolution, documenting his struggles during the pre-revolution era in Iran. The Spanish rendition of the book received a warm welcome from Spanish speakers and Venezuelan citizens, as highlighted by Rangel.

Venezuelan Minister of Culture Ernesto Villegas praised "Cell Number 14" for conveying the message of resistance and emphasized its potential to guide countries striving for independence and freedom. Additionally, "Abril, Golpe Adentro" (translated as "April, inside the coup"), a book written by the Venezuelan Minister of Culture, will be unveiled during the book fair. Rangel explained that the book delves into the coup against the former Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez.

Following Chávez's victory in the 2000 presidential elections, an unsuccessful coup attempt was orchestrated in 2002. The coup ultimately failed after 48 hours due to public support for Chávez.

Regarding the familiarity of the Venezuelan peo-

ple with Persian literature, Rangel noted that in recent years, Ferdowsi's monumental work, "Shahnameh," one of the largest collections of Persian poetry, has been published in Spanish and distributed in Venezuela.

Rangel expressed hope that the ongoing cooperation in book publishing and Venezuela's presence in this year's book fair will contribute to greater familiarity among the Venezuelan people with Persian poetry. He further mentioned that, until a couple of decades ago, most Venezuelans associated Iran primarily with its abundant oil and energy reserves.

However, since the presidency of Chávez, a new image of Iran has emerged, depicting it as a country rich in culture, literature, and productivity. This has allowed the people of Venezuela to discover other facets of Iran, he added.

Overseeing the Venezuela pavilion, Rangel said that his country is participating in the 34th edition of the exhibition, with over 95 book titles covering



various subjects, including poetry, novels, and Spanish grammar instruction. The exhibition features three publishing houses: Monte Ávila Editores, Rana Publications, and Ayacucho Library Publications.

Reflecting on the Tehran International Book Fair, Rangel mentioned that Venezuela has consistently participated in previous editions, while this year

marks his personal debut. He expressed his surprise at the extensive array of publications in Iran, along with the enthusiastic response from visitors, which has left a lasting impression on him.

The 34th edition of the book fair, which commenced on May 10, will run until May 20, offering an expansive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.



Cannes to unveil doc 'Room 999', featuring Iran's Farhadi

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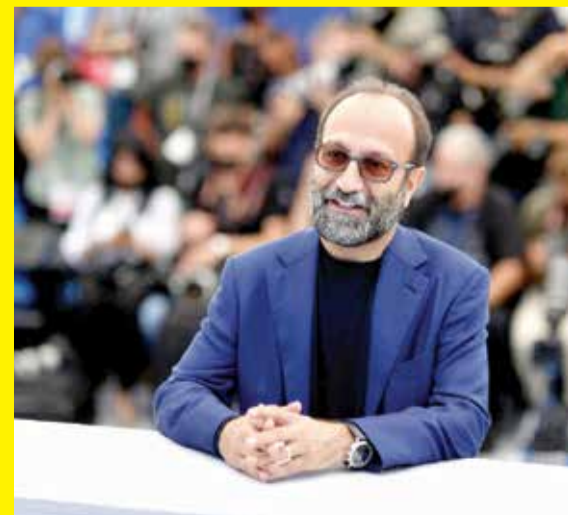
Cannes Film Festival will unveil the French documentary 'Room 999', by Lubna Playoust, featuring interviews with 30 famous filmmakers in Cannes including Iran's Asghar Farhadi.

The documentary will be screened in the Documentaries in Cannes Classics 2023 of the French festival.

"Thirty prominent directors who attended the Cannes Festival in 2022

are left alone in a hotel room and express their views on the current situation of the art of cinema and filmmaking, as it is being threatened by new means of expression and consumption. The result is a captivating, smart, contradictory, fun, and thought-provoking conversation about the recent technological and sociological changes impacting cinema today," according to mk2films.com. Familiar faces in the film include Wim Wenders,

Audrey Diwan, Joachim Trier, David Cronenberg, James Gray, Arnaud Desplechin, Lynne Ramsay, Nadav Lapid, Claire Denis, Baz Luhrmann, Alice Winocour, Olivier Assayas, Paolo Sorrentino, Agnès Jaoui, Kirill Serebrennikov, Cristian Mungiu, Kleber Mendonça Filho, Albert Serra, Pietro Marcello, Rebecca Zlotowski, Ruben Östlund and Alice Rohrwacher. In 1982, Wim Wenders asked 16 of his fellow directors to speak on



the future of cinema, resulting in the film 'Room 666'. Now, 40 years later, in Cannes, director Lubna Playoust asks a new

generation of filmmakers the same question: is cinema a language about to get lost, an art about to die?