

Tehran to host 'Museum and Disability' exhibition



ILNA – A cartoon exhibition titled 'Museum and Disability' will be held at Sa'adabad Cultural and Historical Complex in Tehran on the occasion of the International Museum Day and Cultural Heritage Week from May 23 to June 11.

The exhibition will be held with the aim of realizing the rights of people with disabilities for the accessibility of museums and cultural and artistic places, the innovation of museums and the provision of educational needs.

Iranian House of Cartoon will also host the exhibition in the same period of time.

Ray Stevenson 'Star Wars' actor dies aged 58



AFP – Ray Stevenson, the Northern Irish actor who played the villainous British governor in 'RRR,' Volstagg in the 'Thor' films and a main antagonist in the upcoming 'Star Wars' series Ahsoka, died aged 58.

Representatives for Stevenson said he had died on Sunday, four days before his birthday. The Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported he had been hospitalized with a sudden illness on the island of Ischia. Among those to pay tribute on Tuesday were 'RRR' director SS Rajamouli, who wrote: "Just can't believe this news. Ray brought in so much energy and vibrancy with him to the sets. It was infectious. Working with him was pure joy. My prayers are with his family. May his soul rest in peace."

Harry Potter actor Matthew Lewis, who appeared alongside Stevenson as a child in the television film 'Some Kind of Life,' wrote on Twitter: "This is so sad. Ray played my dad in the first thing I ever did on TV. Almost 30 years ago."

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'Squad of Girls' challenges war narratives, redefines women's roles

Arts & Culture Desk

In Monir Qeidi's 'Squad of Girls,' a group of women unite amidst the Iraqi invasion of Khorramshahr, determined to overcome the scarcity of weapons and ammunition by venturing into an army fortress to retrieve them. This film has sparked discussions among film critics and experts, each offering their unique perspective on its merits.

According to sociologist Abolfazl Iqbali, while appreciating Qeidi's previous work, 'Villa Dwellers,' more than 'Squad of Girls,' he acknowledges the director's exceptional vision and special effects in the latter. However, Iqbali believes that the weakness lies in the film's script.

Film critic Milad Dokhanchi notes the director's gender, highlighting the potential for insightful portrayal of human relationships through identification with female characters. However, Dokhanchi observes that 'Squad of Girls' focuses more on filmmaking techniques rather than delving into these relationships, despite its substantial production value. Zahra Ardakanifard, another film critic, initially found the movie slow and tiresome. However, upon reflection, she recognized that 'Squad of Girls' presents a distinct female perspective, brimming with intricate details.

Ardakanifard explains that our perception might



have been influenced by male-dominated war narratives, causing the film's deliberate pace to be misunderstood. She emphasizes that the director's intention is not to glorify a martyr hero, but rather to portray the lives of displaced individuals during the war from a female viewpoint.

Ardakanifard clarifies that a "female view of war" doesn't solely refer to the inclusion of female char-

acters, but rather to experiencing war through the lens of a woman's emotions and perceptions. Moreover, she contrasts the passive women depicted in Qeidi's 'Villa Dwellers' with the proactive female characters in 'Squad of Girls,' who actively engage in a traditionally male-dominated field.

In contrast to Iqbali's opinion, Ardakanifard believes that the women in the film are not driven by competi-

tion or the pursuit of it. Instead, they are portrayed as individuals with personal motivations for participating in the war. These characters are not bound by social or collective ideals throughout the film.

Ardakanifard expresses her view on the gap between cinema and society when it comes to portraying active women. Despite women's advancement in various spheres of society, she argues that cinema has

yet to catch up and accurately depict their activism. In 'Squad of Girls,' Munir Qeidi presents a layered exploration of women's roles during wartime, examining their personal motivations and the intricacies of their experiences. The film has sparked valuable discussions among film critics, shedding light on the nuanced perspectives it offers and its contribution to the portrayal of women in cinema.

Cinemas in France to screen Iran's 'Derb'



Iranian feature film 'Derb,' written and directed by Hadi Mohaqeq, is set to captivate audiences as it hits screens in over 60 cities across France, starting today.

This widespread screening follows the film's remarkable reception at various international film festivals, where it garnered significant acclaim. 'Derb' achieved notable

recognition at esteemed events such as the 27th Busan International Film Festival in South Korea, the 45th Festival des 3 Continents in France, and the 40th Fajr Film Festival in Iran, ISNA reported.

Delving into the narrative, the film revolves around an employee of the electricity authority, who undertakes the cru-

cial task of connecting remote homes to the power grid.

Mohaqeq himself takes on a prominent role in 'Derb,' alongside actor Mohammad Iqbali.

Notably, the director deliberately chose not to cast renowned actors, prioritizing authenticity and the preservation of believability throughout the film.

Tourism Ministry prioritizes ...

To mitigate this, he urged the involvement of the private sector in supporting such restoration projects.

The minister further emphasized the inclusivity of Iran's cultural heritage

preservation efforts, stating, "It is important for people to know that even in challenging economic conditions, we prioritize the protection and restoration of our diverse cultural heritage, including not only Muslim mosques

and buildings, but also the heritage of other religions such as churches, synagogues, and fire temples."

In a bid to safeguard cultural heritage, Zarghami proposed a ceremony to destroy the metal detec-

tors found by the ministry's Protection Unit.

Additionally, he stressed that individuals interested in the discovery of treasures should understand the importance of locating and destroying metal detectors, as legal action will

be taken against violators. The issuance of notices, warnings, and text messages by the Protection Unit for cultural heritage preservation and the prevention of the destruction of national treasures has proven valuable. Such

warnings have contributed to a decrease in criminal activities.

The ratio of court cases filed in response to warnings and discoveries remains low, indicating the effectiveness of these preventive measures.

