

'1.5 Horse Power' receives four nods in China festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian film, '1.5 Horse Power', directed by Rasoul Kahani, made its international debut with a remarkable showing at the 25th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), garnering four prestigious nominations. Competing in the Asian New Talent category, the film received nods for Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Leading Actress, and Best Picture, as reported by ILNA.

This captivating cinematic creation marks Kahani's second feature film following his critically acclaimed work, 'Dizziness.'

The festival, scheduled from June 9 to 18, will showcase films across four main feature-length sections: main competition, Asian New Talent, Animation film, and documentary. The film's synopsis evokes a nostalgia, as it recounts the childhood experiences of the protagonist, who would rest their head on their mother's comforting shoulders. The warmth emanating from her shoulders and the longing for the familiar scent of their mother's presence deeply resonated with them, creating a profound yearning for her cherished embrace. While SIFF remains the only mainland China festival to be accredited as a so-called A-list event by the International Federation of Film Producers (FIAPF), its selections are largely separate and distinct from those at other major international festivals.

Int'l festival on ritual, traditional theater to start in September

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IQNA - The 21st International Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival of Iran will be held during September 28-October 3.

This festival will host those interested in various types of ritual and traditional shows in different competitive and non-competitive and research sections.

The festival will include stage performances, student performances, and shabihkhani.

Shabihkhani is, in fact, an evolved form of the passion play, in which mourning is less visible, and is performed in different ways in various regions of Iran.

So far, about 250 works have been submitted to the secretariat of the event, according to the official website of the festival.

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Persian language plays significant role in Iran's public diplomacy



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The head of the Sa'di Foundation, Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, emphasized the growing significance of public diplomacy in foreign ministries worldwide, and high-

lighted the crucial role of language education and expansion in this form of diplomacy. Speaking at a gathering of heads of political representations of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, Haddad-Adel

stressed that countries with a broader dissemination of their language wield greater influence on the international stage, forging a meaningful correlation between power and influence that transcends geographical

boundaries, according to ILNA. He pointed out the historical significance of the Persian language, noting that in the past, Iran's vast reach allowed Persian to serve as a cultural and literary language for

over 800 years, spanning from present-day India and Pakistan to the Ottoman territories, China, and the African Continent.

Haddad-Adel highlighted the Sa'di Foundation's responsibility in teaching and promoting the Persian language worldwide. He underlined the importance of diplomats being proficient in multiple languages and cited examples, such as Russia, which has been teaching Persian for over two centuries as a written tradition within its diplomatic system.

He further mentioned that countries like Japan, China, Korea, and others prioritize sending diplomats fluent in Persian to Iran and maintain a substantial number of Persian-speaking diplomats and employees in their embassies.

The head of the Sa'di

Foundation called for ambassadors in their respective countries to be aware of numerous Persian language centers and associations and lend them support.

He also discussed the foundation's budget in comparison to other countries' allocations for the expansion of their national languages. Initially, the foundation was able to allocate approximately one million dollars in foreign currency for teaching Persian outside of Iran. However, in recent years, this amount has decreased to around 150,000 dollars. Despite financial challenges, the foundation continues to provide crucial infrastructure for Persian language education to non-Persian speakers, including books, software, websites, and the training of Persian language instructors.

'Return of the Taliban' provides vivid, colorful images of Afghanistan

With 'The Return of the Taliban,' Kaveh Kazemi captures the mood of Afghanistan a month after the United States military ended its 20-year occupation, allowing the Taliban to regain control.

The work of Iranian photojournalist Kazemi is prolific, encompassing coverage of significant events such as the Iranian (Islamic) Revolution and conflicts spanning the entire Persian Gulf region, as well as the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Accompanied by his wife, Colombian journalist Catalina Gomez, they embarked on a journey that took them across the border into Afghanistan, eventually reaching the

city of Herat. Throughout their expedition, they remained vigilant, capturing any noticeable changes in the landscape, the people, or the political atmosphere. Spanning a period of 12 days, their travels also led them to Kabul and Kandahar, where they documented rare glimpses into life in the aftermath of tumultuous events.

Kazemi was born on October 17, 1952 in Tehran. He studied photography in England and began his professional and artistic career with the Iranian Revolution in 1979. He settled in Paris in 1984 and expanded his photographic domain by traveling to countries such as Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Cuba,

Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Syria, Cyprus, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

This book consists of photographs of his fourth trip to Afghanistan in the past 30 years, when American troops left the country ending a 20-year occupation. This is Kazemi's fifth photo book published by Nazar Art Publications.

His previous works include 'Revolutionaries' (2017), 'Portraits of Iranian Literati' (2018), 'My Days in Troubled Ireland' (2019), and 'The Persian Gulf, Scene of Never-Ending Conflicts' (2020).

For the past four decades, Kazemi has collaborated with international print media as a freelance photojournalist, photographing Iran, the Middle East and other parts of the



world. He has been working with Getty Images for years, and his pictures

from more than 40 countries are archived there and available online.

