

Iranian 'The Zoo' awarded at Beijing festival



MEHR - Iran's short film, 'The Zoo,' written and directed by Nafiseh Zare, garnered recognition at the esteemed 12th Beijing International Short Film Festival (BISFF) in China.

The film, produced by Kavah Mazaheri and Sorena Ekbatani, was honored with the prestigious Best Film Award in the Nova Section of the festival.

In 'The Zoo,' viewers are immersed in the story of Ra'na, who embarks on a quest within the confines of the zoo in search of a deer she had dreamt of. Meanwhile, her mother is eagerly attempting to deliver important news, creating an engaging narrative that captivates audiences.

This recent accolade adds to the film's growing list of achievements. In January, 'The Zoo' was celebrated as the joint winner of the best film prize at the Second Diyarbakir International Short Film Festival in Turkey, further cementing its position as a remarkable and internationally acclaimed production.

Munich film festival to host two Iranian films



ISNA - The 40th Munich International Film Festival, slated for June 22-July 1, will host two Iranian feature films.

'Empty Nets' directed by Behrooz Karamizade will be screened at the "New German Cinema" section of the festival. 'Empty Nets' narrates the story of Amir, a young Iranian, who signs on with a fisherman on the rugged Caspian Sea coast in order to earn the money he needs to marry his sweetheart, Narges. But in so doing, he becomes entangled in the criminal machinations of caviar poaching.

Piece by piece, a complex hierarchy is revealed in a parallel realm that becomes ever more constricting and oppressive, endangering Amir's relationship with Narges as well.

Moreover, 'Subtraction' directed by Mani Haghighi will be screened at the "International Independents" section of the event. It narrates the story of Farzaneh who is a young driving instructor in Tehran. She sees her husband, Jalal, go into another woman's apartment. When she confronts him about this, Jalal claims he was away on business. Puzzled by her story, he decides to take a look at the building for himself.

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Iranian calligrapher Alborzi showcasing Kufic script in Dubai



Arts & Culture Desk

Dubai's Urbanist Art Gallery is currently showcasing the exquisite exhibition titled 'Endless Beauty,' featuring 23 mesmerizing works of Kufic script calligraphy by the highly acclaimed artist,

Sanaz Alborzi.

This exhibition, which commenced on June 6, will continue to captivate art enthusiasts until June 21. In addition to this remarkable exhibition, Sanaz Alborzi will graciously host a complimentary workshop

at the gallery, as reported by IRNA.

Renowned for her mastery in both calligraphy and painting, Sanaz skillfully merges these disciplines, resulting in a diverse array of breathtaking creations. Among her notable works

are 'My Moon' (2016), a captivating masterpiece composed of acrylic, copper, and gold leaf on canvas, as well as 'Peacock' (2018), an acrylic marvel on canvas.

Alborzi's artistic journey stems from a graphic design background, and she is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Islamic Art History at Istanbul University's Faculty of Islamic Art. Her expertise in the Kufic script has led her to teach this distinctive art form and actively participate in numerous festivals and workshops, including a notable presence at Dubai Expo 2020.

Furthermore, Sanaz has presided over esteemed juries focusing on visual arts, graphic design, and illustration, further solidifying her reputation as a respected authority in the field. Notably, her enchanting compositions seamlessly blend calligraphy with illustrations against meticulously crafted canvases. Inspired by the works of esteemed artists such as Paul Cezanne from France and Vincent Van Gogh from the Nether-

lands, Sanaz skillfully incorporates their influences into her vibrant palettes and meticulously composed works. Noteworthy Calligraphy masters Hossein Zenderoudi and Faramarz Pilaram also serve as her primary sources of inspiration.

Shahab Shahidani, Iranian scholar, describes Sanaz Alborzi's work eloquently: "Alborzi's work makes use of eternal forms as prescribed in the realm of the universe. No script can bind heaven and earth together like Kufic, and due to its mystic and heavenly character, it fits perfectly in the cosmic spaces. In these created forms, the Kufic lines emerge from an unseen world and flow to our own like a stream, a cascade or a fountain of letters, or sometimes reach the earth undaunted like a ray of light from a sun-like circle above," Shahidani states. "The world is actually nothing more than beautiful lines that must be read. With the aid of Kufic script and correct backgrounds, Alborzi has bestowed a new life to the natural elements."

Prominent Iranian actress Fakhri Khorvash dies at 93

Arts & Culture Desk

Renowned Iranian actress Fakhri Khorvash, who dedicated her life to the Iranian theater, cinema, and television industry, died at the age of 93.

Her demise leaves behind a profound legacy of exceptional talent and remarkable contributions, as reported by IRNA.

Throughout her illustrious career spanning from 1948 to 2002, Khorvash captivated audiences with her captivating performances

in over 40 movies and numerous popular TV series. Notably, she collaborated with esteemed actors Ali Nassiriani and Ezzatollah Entezami in the theater, showcasing her skills and versatility on stage.

Following her role in the Iranian drama 'A Little Kiss' (2005), directed by Bahman Farmanara, Khorvash made the decision to retire from acting. She relocated to Los Angeles, in the United States, where she spent her remaining years alongside her cher-

ished family.

Khorvash's indelible mark on Iranian cinema extends beyond her exceptional talent. Her ability to breathe life into diverse characters and her profound impact on the Iranian artistic landscape will forever be remembered and treasured.

In 1971, her film 'Mr. Naive' received a Jury Special Award at the Moscow International Film Festival, gaining significant popularity in Iran. Additionally, she earned the Best Ac-

triss Award at the Sepas Film Festival that same year, further solidifying her reputation as a distinguished artist.

Khorvash's unparalleled reputation and remarkable abilities allowed her to sustain her career in Iranian cinema even during the period following the Islamic Revolution. While she had not previously appeared in television series prior to 1979, she had directed episodes of the long-running serial 'Qamar Khanoum's House'



(1967-1971). However, in the post-revolutionary years, she took on roles in several TV series, including the renowned 'Amir Kabir' (1985), where she portrayed Mahd-e Olia, the mother of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar.

The loss of Fakhri Khorvash leaves a void in the Iranian artistic community, but her contributions and enduring impact will continue to inspire future generations of performers and storytellers.



PIC OF THE DAY

The images depict the ancient craft of tobafi, a centuries-old textile weaving artistry in the eastern Iranian province of South Khorasan. This traditional technique involves the meticulous weaving of exquisite fabrics and towels. Revered for its cultural significance, tobafi was officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018.