

Iran's 'The Actor' outshines at German festival



Arts & Culture Desk

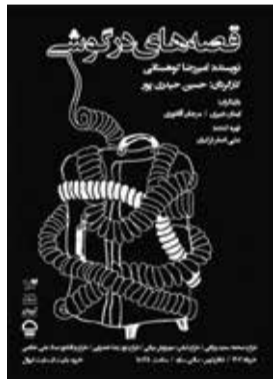
An Iranian television series titled 'The Actor' garnered recognition and accolades at the SerienCamp Festival, which is widely regarded as Germany's largest series festival.

The captivating series, directed by Nima Javidi and produced by Majid Motallebi, received an honorable mention at the festival held in Cologne from June 13 to 17, according to a report from IRNA.

Navid Mohammadzadeh, the brilliant lead actor of 'The Actor,' has already been honored with a grand prize for his exceptional performance at the 2023 Series Mania, a prestigious event held in France.

Adding to its achievements, 'The Actor' has been selected for screening at the highly-regarded 2023 Transilvania International Film Festival, an esteemed gathering in Eastern Europe, set to take place in a city located in the north-west region of Romania.

Theatrical play 'The Murmuring Tales' extended



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The captivating theatrical production titled 'The Murmuring Tales,' written by Amirreza Koohestani and skillfully directed by Hossein Heidaripour, will continue its performances at Tehran's City Theater Complex until June 23.

The play, which garnered critical acclaim during its debut at the 18th International Fajr Theatre Festival in Tehran, has been captivating audiences since May 23. The narrative of the play delves into the complexities that have consumed various aspects of life, ultimately leading individuals to vent their frustrations onto others. The thought-provoking storyline has resonated deeply with the audience, establishing 'The Murmuring Tales' as a must-see theatrical experience.

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Iranian researcher Malayeri wins Jordanian literary prize

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Iranian researcher Yadollah Malayeri was honored with the Youssef Bakkar Prize for Oriental Studies for his thought-provoking book titled 'The Neighbors in the Eastern Mediterranean.'

This political novel delves into the lives of Ahmed Mahmoud and Abd al-Rahman Munif, captivating readers with its insightful narrative. Sharing the spotlight, Malayeri shares this recognition jointly with Abbas Abdel Halim Abbas, hailing from Jordan, who authored the book, 'Abdul Wahhab Azzam, a Civilizational Project, a Study

of His Literary Efforts and Comparative Eastern Cultures,' as reported by IRNA.

The General Secretariat of the "Youssef Bakkar Prize for Oriental Studies," an inaugural award presented under the auspices of the Jordanian Writers Association, with the generous support of Youssef Bakkar, has officially unveiled the deserving recipients of this coveted honor.

Valued at \$3,000, the award symbolizes a significant milestone in the field of Oriental studies and aims to galvanize and empower scholars engaged in this domain. By fostering literary and cultural

ties between Oriental languages, particularly Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, the prize aspires to make a positive contribution to the realm of Islamic civilization.

Expressing his profound gratitude, Akram al-Zoubi, the president of the Jordanian Writers Association, Chairman of the Award's Board of Trustees, and its Secretary General, acknowledged the instrumental role played by the award's esteemed arbitrators and Board of Trustees. Al-Zoubi announced that a special ceremony will be organized to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the prize



winners at a later date, underscoring the Association's commitment to honoring and acknowledging their exceptional contributions.

Over 2,700 works submitted to 5 Int'l Photo Award

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Over 2,700 works from Iran and around the world have been submitted to the fourth edition of the 5 International Photo Award, according to a jury member.

Behdad Najafi-Asadollahi further revealed that this year has seen a remarkable increase in the number of submissions compared to last year. The festival will witness the participation of photographers from countries such as Italy, Japan, Thailand, India, Afghanistan, Turkey, France, South

America, and the United Arab Emirates, according to IRNA.

Najafi-Asadollahi emphasized that not only is the quantity of the photographs impressive, but the quality of the works received by the festival's secretariat is also remarkable. This heightened level of submissions has necessitated a more meticulous selection process by the jury members.

This year, the selected works will be unveiled during the opening ceremony on July 1st, and the awards will be presented on the same day.

Alongside the five top works, 50 additional works among the judges' choices will also be showcased and the photographers will be honored.

Najafi-Asadollahi announced that among the distinguished jury members for this edition are Frank Bockholt from Germany, Ayako Takahashi from France, Lili Golestan from Iran, Alireza Shadizadeh from Iran, Alireza Kanji from Iran, Majid Talebi from Iran, Adel Heravian from Iran, famous Turkish photographer, Tahir, Italian photographer, Mara Zamuner, and others.

The jury panel will be presided over by Takehiko Nakafuji, a well-known photographer from Japan, who has served as the head of the jury in various festivals worldwide approximately 13 times, thus establishing a prominent international position for this festival.

Najafi-Asadollahi stated that the collaboration and exchange of ideas with renowned and recognized judges from Iran and around the world is a valuable experience that contributes to the advancement of the visual arts in the country.

Iran's 'Scent of the Wind' warmly welcomed in France

The latest statistics indicate that over 20,000 individuals have already experienced the cinematic masterpiece, leading to a notable rise in the number of theaters showcasing the film to 130.

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Acclaimed Iranian film 'Scent of Wind,' directed by Hadi Mohaqeq, receives warm reception from French audiences as it expands its release to 60 cities across France since May 24.

The film has garnered significant attention and has been met with enthusiasm from viewers in the country. In fact, the latest statistics indicate that over 20,000 individuals have already experienced the cinematic masterpiece, leading to a notable rise in the number of theaters showcasing the film to 130, as reported by ILNA. The film's positive reception not only reflects the talent and craftsmanship of the Iranian filmmakers involved but also highlights the

power of storytelling to bridge cultural gaps and forge connections. As 'Scent of Wind' continues to enchant viewers, it solidifies its place as a remarkable contribution to the global cinematic landscape.

Mohaqeq and Hossein Qurchian co-wrote the story set in a distant Iranian village where a paralyzed man collects herbal medicine in the mountains for making his living with his sick child. The electricity goes off in his house and an electrician comes to fix it. Unfortunately, the problem is bigger than what was anticipated and may take days to be resolved. When he sees the child on the sickbed, he feels committed to doing whatever he can to bring the electricity back.



However, he has a tough job ahead with facing nature and some unexpected events. 'Scent of Wind' won the Silver Balloon (Montgolfière d'Argent) award of the 2022 Festival des

3 Continents in Nantes, France. It was the opening film of the 2022 Busan International Film Festival, one of the most significant film festivals in Asia, and won the Kim Jiseok Award,

which is given to two established Asian filmmakers with three or more feature films. 'Scent of Wind' was also awarded an honorable mention at the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran.