

Oscars new requirements for best picture



VARIETY – The Academy's Board of Governors approved new theatrical release requirements to be eligible for the best picture Oscar beginning at the 2025 ceremony.

In addition to the one-week qualifying run in one of the six U.S. markets, beginning with movies released in 2024, a film must meet additional areas regarding its theatrical release to be nominated and win the highly coveted best picture statuette.

They include: Expanded theatrical run of seven days, consecutive or non-consecutive, in 10 of the top 50 U.S. markets, no later than 45 days after the initial release in 2024.

For late-in-the-year films with expansions after Jan. 10, 2025, distributors must submit release plans to the Academy for verification.

Release plans for late-in-the-year films must include a planned expanded theatrical run, as described above, to be completed no later than Jan. 24, 2025.

Non-U.S. territory releases can count towards two of the 10 markets.

Qualifying non-U.S. markets include the top 15 international theatrical markets plus the home territory for the film.

These changes do not affect any film contending in the 2023 calendar year and won't go into effect until Jan. 1.

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Over two million people went to cinema in one month: *Data*



Arts & Culture Desk

Despite having various holidays, scorching temperatures, and the burdensome school exam season, cinemas experienced

a remarkable increase in the number of its viewers, with a 2.15 million individuals flocking to theaters during a one-month period commencing on May 22 and concluding on June 22.

According to IRNA, a total of 19 newly produced films from the present year and seven holdover films from the previous year were showcased during this timeframe, re-

sulting in an astonishing 64,876 showings. The highest-grossing film, much like the preceding two months of the ongoing year, was the comedy masterpiece entitled 'Fos-

sil,' skillfully directed by Karim Amini, captivating the attention of a remarkable 1.14 million moviegoers.

Following suit, securing the second position in the box office rankings was yet another comedy by Amini, titled 'Shahr-e Hert' (City of No Laws), making its debut on June 7. Despite its tardy release, the film managed to amass an impressive viewership of 276,000, placing it firmly in second place.

In the course of this period, 'Two-Person Song' garnered the attention of 162,000 movie enthusiasts. Notably, an intriguing observation emerged from the screenings during this timeframe, involving the film titled 'Private Meeting.' Despite its limited presence across theaters in comparison to other cinematic offerings, Omid Shams' film managed to captivate approximately 40,000 viewers, securing substantial box office revenue when juxtaposed with holdover films from the previous year.

Illegal excavators looting 2,000-year-old site in Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

Seven years ago a team of Iranian and Italian archeological experts carried out archeological excavations in an ancient site in southwestern Iran.

The site is called Kaleh Chendar and is located near the city of Izeh in Khuzestan Province.

The archeological team was able to discover a large collection of Elymai tombs, dating back 2,000 years, along with prayer platforms and the remains of residential spaces.

The archeologists could not return to this ancient site to complete their explorations. So they urgently restored everything they found and buried many parts of their findings in the ground so that they would not be damaged. But their efforts failed to keep unauthorized excavators away from the site.

These illegal excavators seized the opportunity and carried out dig-

ging operations in the region. They destroyed some of the findings of the archeologists and attempted to steal two big tomb stones which weighed around 1,000 kilograms. Shepherds and herdsmen also confirm their presence in the ancient site of Kaleh Chendar.

The ancient site has been abandoned, and there are no guard posts or petrol units around it, which paves the ground for illegal excavators to continue their activities.

The Shami statue was discovered in Kaleh Chendar some 80 years ago. One of the main surviving works of Parthian art, it is currently held in the National Museum of Iran.

Depicting a man, the bronze statue is 1.94 meters high. Some scholars believe that it was made by Greek or Roman sculptors. Others argue that it was produced in Palmyra (Syria), or by an artist from this city. It is also believed that the statue was made in Susa (in modern day Iran).

Elymais was an ancient Parthian vassal state located east of the lower Tigris River and usually considered part of the larger district of Susiana. It incorporated much of the area of the biblical region of Elam, approximately equivalent to the modern region of Khuzestan Province, Iran. The heart of the kingdom centered near the mountains of Lorestan, near modern Behbahan and Izeh, where the local dynasty left inscriptions in a form of Aramaic.

Iran, Uganda keen to expand tourism cooperation



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Uganda are demonstrating a profound interest in expanding their bilateral tourism relations, as expressed during a meeting between Muhammad Tezikuba Kisambira, the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Iran, and Iranian officials.

The Ugandan envoy conveyed his belief that his country possesses exceptional capabilities to attract Iranian tourists, highlighting Uganda's pristine nature and mountainous terrains, which offer excellent opportunities for hiking and trekking.

Moreover, the Ugandan ambassador in Iran emphasized the simplified visa acquisition process in his country and assured the presence of favorable security conditions for tourists visiting Uganda.

In support of strengthening ties, Hassan Mirzakhani, a provincial official, acknowledged the influen-

tial role of 54 independent African nations in international decisions, signifying the importance of these countries in fostering political and economic relations.

He underscored the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance as a friend and supporter of African nations, striving to expand interactions through diverse frameworks.

The deputy coordinator further emphasized the substantial potential and favorable prospects for enhancing bilateral relations between Iran and Uganda.

Recognizing Markazi Province as one of the most significant provinces in Iran, he asserted its unwavering determination to promote robust ties with Africa.

To facilitate mutual cooperation, it was noted that Uganda, being a prominent nation in East Africa, could serve as a gateway for Iran to enter these markets. Moreover, Markazi Province expressed readiness to organize an exhibition showcasing the capabilities of the province in the capital of Uganda.

With hopes of finalizing a comprehensive memorandum of understanding, it is expected that the primary framework for cooperation with Uganda will be established and subsequently signed in Tehran, as expressed by Mirzakhani.

Ali Joudaki, head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the Ugandan ambassador has demonstrated a keen interest in establishing capacity-building initiatives within the province.