

## Iranian children shine in French competition



**ILNA** – Eight members of the cultural and artistic centers affiliated with Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) were awarded in the International Visual Arts Competition, "Louis François" "Three members from the IIDCYA received honorary plaques, while five others from the IIDCYA's children and adolescent centers achieved the honorary diplomas of the event.

The International Visual Arts Competition, "Louis François", held in France in 2022, had the theme of "The Landscape I Love, Nature I Must Preserve and Protect."

Seven-year-old Reyhaneh Salehian from Darab, Fars Province, Yeganeh Kan'aani, aged 10, from Ardebil Province, and 18-year-old Frank Pourali from Lar, Fars Province, were among those honored with the honorary plaques.

## 16 provinces to host 1st Nat'l Iranian Ethnic Film Festival



**IRNA** – The 1st National Iranian Ethnic Film Festival will be held simultaneously in 16 provinces, according to the festival's president Mehdi Heidari.

The festival is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 5 in the northwestern city of Tabriz, Iran. It aims to showcase a diverse range of films that highlight the ethnic diversity and cultural heritage of the country.

Heidari emphasized that the festival belongs to Iran as a whole, rather than being tied to a specific individual or city.

As the first edition of the festival, Heidari acknowledged that there may be certain shortcomings, but the goal is to create a celebration that represents the Iranian ethnic communities.

He further added that filmmakers interested in participating in the festival can submit their works to the festival's secretariat until October 2. Films produced from 2017 onwards that explore the themes of ethnic diversity are eligible for participation in the festival.

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# Iranian Muslims preparing for mourning season of Muharram



### Arts & Culture Desk

Every year, as the lunar month of Muharram approaches, the people of Iran and millions of Shia Muslims worldwide embark on a solemn journey of grief and reverence. This sacred month holds significance as it marks the martyrdom anniversary

of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, and his loyal companions. It was during those days, some 1,400 years ago, that they valiantly sacrificed their lives in the city of Karbala, in present-day Iraq, facing the forces of the 2nd Umayyid caliph, Yazid. Through the first 10

days of Muharram, Muslims don black attire, set up mourning tents, and participate in collective processions to honor the memory of Imam Hussein's martyrdom. Even after centuries have passed, the legacy of Imam Hussein continues to resonate deeply in the hearts and minds of Muslims.

Among the most notable expressions of mourning are the religious plays and ta'zieh, which are central to the commemoration of Muharram in Iran. Ta'zieh performances serve as a powerful medium to depict religious events, historical narratives, mythical stories, and folk tales. The art form incorporates the elements of poetry, music, song, and motion, captivating audiences with its profound emotional impact.

Rooted in the Ashura culture and the courageous struggle and martyrdom of Imam Hussein, ta'zieh originated during the 9th century, in the time of the Abbasids and Buyids. However, it flourished and gained prominence during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and further blossomed during the Qajar era. These performances have become an integral part of the Muharram tradition.

This year, the Tehran City Theater commenced its ta'zieh performances on July 11, opening with 'Love to the Horizon of the Sun' by Zahra Jarban. Meanwhile, the Simorgh Hall of the Bidel Dehlavi Foundation in Tehran will host a series of ta'zieh performances throughout the initial ten days

of the lunar month of Muharram, which begins today.

One notable group, the Haj Saqqa Mosaffa Ta'zieh Group, under the direction of Seyyedeh Mitra Hassani, will recount stories from the martyrdom of Imam Hussein and his devoted companions during the events of Ashura. Their performances aim to evoke deep emotions and bring alive the sacrifice and heroism exhibited on that fateful day.

In the days to come, the City Theater will also feature two other special performances titled, 'Jaryan' and 'Personal Cell,' adding to the diverse array of artistic expressions during this significant period.

While the circumstances of this year's Muharram may have necessitated adjustments and adaptations to traditional observances, the unwavering spirit and reverence for Imam Hussein continue to resonate within the hearts of the Iranian people. Through their steadfast devotion and creative adaptations, they ensure that the memory of Imam Hussein's sacrifice and the timeless message of justice, bravery, and selflessness remains alive and cherished during the holy month of Muharram.

## Iranian poet Abdolmalekian receives Italian Roddi Prize

Iranian poet Garous Abdolmalekian was honored with the prestigious Roddi Prize at a ceremony held in Turin, according to reports from Italian media outlets. The event featured a section titled 'Witness of Beauty 2023,' in which Abdolmalekian was recognized, as reported by the Italian media cited by IRNA on Tuesday. Abdolmalekian, known for his minimalist style and concise language, is highly regarded as an author in Iran today, stated the source. His poems have been translated and published in French, German, English, Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkish. The poet has achieved numerous national and international awards, in-

cluding his recent nomination for the Pen Prize for his anthology of translated poems, *Lean on* at this late hour (2020). The closing ceremony of this cultural event took place on July 17, 2023. Born in 1980, Abdolmalekian currently serves as a poetry editor at Cheshmeh Publication in Tehran. Translation of the statement by the jury regarding Abdolmalekian's selection is as follows: "Garous Abdolmalekian is one of the most prominent voices of contemporary Persian poetry worldwide. His poems and verses have not only circulated within Iran but have also made an impact in various languages. His works, which contin-



ue the grand tradition of Persian poetry spanning thousands of years, reflect the life, suffering, dreams, and destiny of a people who have always fought for peace, freedom, and equality. The book 'War, Love, Solitude' (a selection of Abdolmalekian's poems in Italian) offers an opportunity to hear the human

outry of his poetry in Italian. Therefore, in recognition of his poetic influence and the depth of his works, as well as his social, civic, and human commitment, we present the 'Witness of Beauty' award to Abdolmalekian. We hope that poetry will once again lead us towards a more beautiful world."

The book 'War, Love, Solitude' is a collection of Abdolmalekian's work in Italian, comprising selections from three of his collections: 'Cavities,' 'Middle Eastern Trilogy,' and 'Acceptance.' It was translated into Italian by Faezeh Mardani and Francesco Occhetto and published by Caraba in 2022.