

## Global Release of 'Zalava' on Amazon



**HONAR ONLINE** – The Iranian film 'Zalava,' directed by Arsalan Amiri, has been released worldwide on the Amazon platform, along with its online release on domestic platforms such as Filimo and Namava.

Produced by Samira and Rouhollah Baradari, the film has received significant acclaim, winning three Crystal Simorgh awards and garnering 10 Crystal Simorgh nominations at the 31st Fajr Film Festival. The exclusive distribution rights for the film in the United States and Canada have been acquired by Corinth Films, while Amazon has secured the rights to showcase the film on their Prime Video platform. Denmark's LevelK has acquired the global distribution rights for the film, which has also earned prestigious accolades including the FIPRESCI Prize and the Grand Critics Award at the 2021 Venice Film Festival.

'Zalava' has made its mark in the international film festival circuit, with screenings at more than 50 renowned festivals including Toronto, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary, Gothenburg, and Sitges. The film is scheduled to be released in 14 additional countries later this year, further expanding its global reach and audience.

## 'Still Streaming' exhibition to open in Tehran



**ILNA** – The 'Still Streaming' exhibition, a retrospective of the reflection of the Ashura movement in contemporary visual arts, will open at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on July 19, coinciding with the beginning of the lunar month of Muharram. The exhibition will feature 80 artworks by 35 artists, including pieces from the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's collection and artworks from the art community. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibition until September 13. 'Still Streaming' is a research-oriented event that presents this collection for observation and examination, free from any prejudice, to provide a platform for reinterpretation and contemplation.

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# Curtains down on 16th National Festival of Youth Music

## Winners announced

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 16th National Festival of Youth Music concluded with an online ceremony on Sunday evening, where the distinguished winners were announced and commended. The festival, which showcases the talent and dedication of young musicians, received a total of 1,792 applicants this year, including 652 females and 1,140 males. In his message to the festival, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of

Culture and Islamic Guidance, emphasized the significance of music in Iran's cultural heritage.

He praised the commitment of pioneering artists and the enthusiasm of young people in preserving and advancing this ancient art form, IRNA reported. "Our young artists, as the builders of our dear country's future, possess remarkable qualities such as love, enthusiasm, freshness, and purity," Esmaeili remarked.

He highlighted the crucial role of music masters and the legacy bearers in guiding and nurturing the talents of these young musicians, ensuring the future progress of Iranian music. Hamidreza Ardalan, a festival official, provided detailed statistics about the different sections of the festival. This year, the festival included three sections: regional music, classical music, and *dastgahi* music section, 403



participants from 21 regions showcased their talents in 100 instrumental and vocal branches, while the *dastgahi* music section saw the participation of 1,112 applicants in various categories, including vocal and instrumental performances, composition, and mastery of the entire musical system. The classical music section attracted 277 applicants, demonstrating their skills across 12 branches. A total of 313 participants were selected as winners, with 192 winners in the regional music section, 93 in the *dastgahi* music section, and 28 in the classical music section. Among the winners, 76 were female and 237 were male, reflecting the diversity and talent within the young music community. During the event, Mah-

moud Salari, the Deputy Culture Minister, emphasized the importance of youthfulness and innovation in the performances and content of the National Youth Music Festival.

He highlighted that the festival shapes the future vision and exploration of Iranian music, with the emerging artists becoming influential instructors and custodians of the Iranian music heritage.

Mohammad Allahyari, the Director General of the Music Office, commended the significant number of young participants and enthusiasts in the festival. He noted that the festival not only provides a platform for young individuals but also allows experienced professors to receive valuable feedback on their works, contributing to their

growth and development. Representing the jury panel, Saeed Tehrani Zadeh and Marjan Qanbari-Mehr praised the progress and improvement they witnessed in the performances throughout the years. Tehrani Zadeh emphasized the festival's role as a producer and initiator, nurturing talented musicians who will shape the future of Iranian music. Ghanbari-Mehr expressed satisfaction and hope in observing changes in age criteria and increased abilities among participants, reflecting the festival's positive growth. The National Festival of Youth Music continues to play a pivotal role in promoting and nurturing young talents, shaping the future of Iranian music with its youthful energy, innovation, and artistic excellence.

# Iran to host 16th Mariwan Int'l Street Theater Festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran is set to host the 16th Mariwan International Street Theater Festival from October 3 to 9, marking its return after a one-year break. Artists from Iran and around the world have been invited to participate in this event, announced Rahman Houshyari, the president of the festival.

Reflecting on the previous year, Houshyari shared, "In late August and early September, we announced the festival's call for participation, which resulted in an impressive influx of about 170 submissions. These submissions were meticulously assessed and selected across various categories." Elaborating on the festival's structure, Houshyari explained, "This artistic event will encompass six exciting sections: Open, Traditional-Ceremonial, Children and Adolescents, Inclusive (specifically designed for individuals with disabilities), Innovative Performances, and a special section dedicated to Sacrifice and Mar-

tyrdom." Each section's works have undergone a thorough review and selection process led by a distinguished three-member jury.

Emphasizing a notable feature of this edition, Houshyari expressed that in the international section of the 16th festival, "we have witnessed

an extraordinary level of enthusiasm among participating groups, particularly in producing exceptional works exclusively for the prestigious event." "We anticipate the presentation of approximately 11 performances from a diverse array of countries including Mexico, Italy, Mongolia, Egypt,

Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Iraq. The detailed names and information of these groups will be announced separately." Houshyari stated that this year, his team has extended a special invitation to around 10 festival organizers from various parts of the world to witness

the extraordinary works showcased during the event. The aim is to facilitate artistic exchange and introduce remarkable Iranian groups to other countries.

He added, "In recognition of the performance groups that expressed their interest in participating last year, we have

decided not to issue a new call for submissions this year. However, in the 'Festival of Festivals' section, we will proudly host selected groups from other renowned festivals."

"Our approach in inviting artists for selection and judging their works has been to include experienced individuals, preferably with academic qualifications, while also maintaining a youth-oriented perspective to ensure a fresh and vibrant artistic atmosphere."

Concluding his remarks, Houshyari underlined, "Mariwan, though a small city nestled in the westernmost part of the country, may not possess the same scale of facilities, equipment, and executive infrastructure as other cities. Nevertheless, the people and festival organizers, fueled by their love and enthusiasm for this extraordinary artistic event and their commitment to hosting outstanding performance groups, spare no effort each year to provide the best possible cultural, artistic, and tourism environment for its resounding success."

