

Over 3,000 people attended Ashura performance in City Theater



IRNA – Over 3,000 people gathered at Tehran's City Theater to welcome the Ashura performance during the special program titled, 'Navay-e Arshian va Mashq-e Farshian,' that took place over the first ten nights of the month of Muharram.

According to statistics, the event saw the participation of over 330 artists and an audience of approximately 3,000 people.

On the 10th and final night of the program, which revolved around Ashura and Muharram, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, attended the mourning ceremony.

Esmaeili expressed a strong commitment to supporting their authentic artistic traditions by promoting these rituals, particularly during the lunar months of Muharram and Safar.

He mentioned that during these two months, they host ceremonial and traditional performances in most cultural and artistic centers of the ministry.

Regarding the interaction between the ministry and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) for documenting the art of ta'zieh, he said: "We will support this art in all cities where ta'zieh exists, and this popular and historical art must be preserved. With the help of our good friends at IRIB, we aim to safeguard and document this important heritage through collaboration."

Emmy Awards to be postponed amid Hollywood strike: Reports

REUTERS – The 75th Emmy Awards, which was slated for September 18, will reportedly be moved to January due to actors' and writers' strikes in Hollywood.

An official announcement is yet to be made by the event's organizer, Fox; however, it is expected to be released soon, according to US media reports, quoting insider sources. Hollywood shut down earlier this month after tens of thousands of actors walked off their jobs as Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) issued a strike order. The Writers Guild of America, on the other hand, has been protesting since May.

The actors and writers have been calling for better pay and protection against use of artificial intelligence in the industry. The last time the actors' union went on strike, in 1980, it lasted more than three months. Executives of the Fox network had earlier said they wouldn't proceed with the show if the protests were still by the end of July, according to reports.

License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
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 Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Mottahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran



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Iran introduces two writers for IBBY-iRead Award



Iran's Children's Book Council, after a rigorous evaluation process, introduced Alireza Seyyed-Abadi and Nader Mousavi as nominees for the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award. This award, established by the Shenzhen iRead Foundation and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), aims to recognize individuals who have shown a strong commitment to promoting reading and inspire others globally to do the same. Nominees for this award are required to have actively engaged in innovative and creative efforts to promote reading among children and young

adults for a minimum of three years. The Children's Book Council, as the Iranian branch of IBBY, selects and nominates candidates for this prestigious accolade. The jury will consider a range of criteria when evaluating the nominees, including the implementation of exceptional reading promotion projects, effective strategies for advocating reading policies, and a commitment to advancing children's right to read. Factors such as sustainability, influence, innovation, and inspiration will also be taken into account during the judging process.



Seyyed-Abadi was previously nominated by the Children's Book Council for the same award in 2019 and has received the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) in both 2023 and 2024. Also, Mousavi has been nominated for the same award for the second time. He was previously

nominated for the IBBY-iRead Award in 2022 and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) in 2023. The jury for the Children's Book Council's promotion group awards includes Ja'far Tozandehjani, Atefeh Selyani, Giti Safarzadeh, Neda Movahedipour, and Fatemeh Nekoui.

Iranian documentarian nominated for Chinese prize



Iranian documentarian Saeid Nabi's film 'Stand with the Wolf' received a nomination for the Golden Panda Award for Best Film at the renowned Sichuan TV Festival (SCTVF) in China.

The festival, scheduled to take place from September 23 to 25, aims to promote the establishment of a better society by emphasizing sustainable development and a shared, intelligent future for humanity, as reported by IRNA.

'Stand with the Wolf' depicts the true story of Hadi Jalali, an environmental activist who miraculously survived more than 99 shotgun pellets fired at him by hunters, with many of them still embedded in his body. Despite receiving a presidential award for his sacrifice, he remains a stranger in his own village and town. His dedication to the envi-

ronment has led him to believe that education is a potent tool for preserving nature, but he encounters numerous obstacles in pursuit of his aspirations. Nabi, the film's director, boasts 22 years of experience in producing compelling environmental and social documentary films and television programs.

The Sichuan TV Festival is among the largest and most esteemed film festivals in Asia. Every two years, it bestows the Golden Panda Award, symbolizing China's recognition of outstanding films.

Only films that stand out for their exceptional quality and have been broadcast or distributed in specific countries or regions are eligible for submission.

The central vision of this Asian television and film festival is to foster a superior society through sustainable development



and a shared, intelligent future for humanity. By showcasing remarkable cinematic and televi-

sion works, the festival encourages reverence for humanity and its future through artistic expression.

Emperor Nero's lost theatre found under site of hotel in Rome

The ruins of Nero's Theatre, an imperial theatre referred to in ancient Roman texts but never found, have been discovered under the garden of a future Four Seasons hotel, steps away from the Vatican.

Archaeologists in Rome have excavated deep under the walled garden of the Palazzo della Rovere since 2020 as part of planned renovations on the frescoed Renaissance building. The palazzo, which takes up a city block along the broad Via della Conciliazione leading to Saint

Peter's Square, is home to an ancient Vatican chivalric order that leases the space to a hotel to raise money for Christians in the Holy Land, the Guardian reported.

The governor general of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, confirmed during a news conference announcing the discovery that the hotel chain due to occupy the site was the Four Seasons. News reports have said the hotel is expected to be open in time for the Vatican's 2025 jubilee, when an

estimated 30 million visitors and pilgrims are expected to visit Rome.

Officials said the findings were "exceptional" because they provided a rare look at a period of Roman history from the empire through to the 15th century. Among the discoveries have been 10th-century coloured glass goblets and pottery pieces that are unusual because so little is known about this period in Rome. Marzia Di Mento, the site's chief archaeologist, said that previously only seven glass chalices of the era had been found,

and that the excavations of this site had turned up seven more.

Archaeologists found marble columns and plaster decorated with gold leaf, leading them to conclude that the Nero's Theatre referred to in texts by Pliny the Elder, the ancient Roman author and philosopher, was indeed located at the site, just off the Tiber River. Officials said the movable antiquities would be taken to a museum, while the ruins of the theatre structure itself would be covered again after all studies were completed.

