

## Iranian dubber, actor Manouchehri dies



### Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – Hamid Manouchehri, an 82-year-old actor and pioneer in Iranian radio and dubbing, died on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at Shahram Hospital in Tehran due to complications from a hip fracture and pulmonary disease.

On Friday, he was laid to rest at the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in southern Tehran.

Born in Tehran in 1941, Manouchehri began his journey in the entertainment industry at the age of 16 with radio performances. A year later, he started exploring the art of dubbing under the guidance of Houshang Kazemi, paving the way for an extraordinary career.

In 1963, Manouchehri joined Radio Iran with the support of Nosratollah Mohtasham, becoming a significant figure in the broadcasting world. He directed the children's radio program from 1972 to 1978, captivating young audiences with his storytelling. Beyond his radio and dubbing contributions, Manouchehri left a lasting impact on the film and television industries. He graced the silver screen with memorable roles in films like 'Broken Fist and Gun,' 'Devil's Associates,' 'Mission,' 'The Second Face of the Fall,' and 'Owls.' On television, he made his mark in serials such as 'One of These Days,' 'The Story of a Life,' and the acclaimed 'The Enigma of the Shah,' where he showcased his acting talents as Ayatollah Kashani. As we bid farewell to this legendary artist, his legacy will live on through the airwaves, reminding us of the magic he brought to countless hearts and minds during his illustrious career.

## Gaza open-air cinema delights Palestinians

AFB – Gaza Strip residents experienced a rare treat over the past two weeks as they gathered on the beach for the "Cinema of the Sea" film festival, a breath of fresh air for Palestinians in an enclave lacking operating movie theaters.

The festival, which ended on Monday, showcased about 15 films, many featuring Palestinian actors and producers, offering a respite from the heat in the impoverished territory, as reported by i24news.tv. Organized by the Al-Bahr Elna Cooperative Café, in collaboration with the Culture Ministry, the open-air festival allowed the community to gather and enjoy films such as 'Farha,' a Jordanian film depicting the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the creation of the Jewish state, and 'Ferdinand,' an animated blockbuster about a giant and kind-hearted black bull.

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## Iranian composer Bolourchi awarded

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Pejman Bolourchi, a highly accomplished composer and dulcimer player, was honored with a prestigious gold medal at the World Best Musicians Competition in the US for his exceptional composition, 'Nature Dance'. The

recognition adds to his already impressive list of accolades, which includes winning the Akademia Music Awards in the United States.

'Nature Dance' has garnered widespread acclaim since its release, receiving esteemed recognition at the Global Music Awards

in January 2022, as reported by IRNA.

Bolourchi, also the esteemed director of the Nahaleh Rudaki Cultural and Art Institute, holds a prominent position in the realm of Iranian music publishing. His extensive body of work includes captivating solos, ensembles, and

compositions that have left an indelible mark on the Iranian music scene. The award-winning composer's dedication to his craft and artistic contributions continue to enrich the world of music both in Iran and beyond.

## Teahouse paintings on display at Tehran's Museum of Fine Arts

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The Teahouse Paintings Art Exhibition, held at the Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Ferdowsi Foundation, opened on August 1 with a warm reception from visitors and art enthusiasts. The exhibition featured 17 captivating works from esteemed artists and masters of this genre, including Mohammad Modabber, Mirza Mehdi Naqqash Shirazi, Amirhossein Moqimi, and Abdollah Rahimi. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Seyyed Hossein Alavi, director of the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex, and Yasser Movahedfard, secretary-general of the Ferdowsi

Foundation, alongside other museum officials and artists. During the opening, Movahedfard delivered insights into the history of teahouse paintings, setting the stage for a remarkable display of artistic talent. Following the inauguration, young artists Hassan Rasouli and Mohammad Hossein Rasouli mesmerized the audience with their ta'zieh performances related to the significant event of Ashura. Alavi, in his remarks, highlighted the exceptional significance of the exhibition, underscoring its ability to draw attention to the hidden treasure held within the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex. He praised the beauty and value of

the exhibited collection, which gains widespread appreciation when showcased during various events. Discussing the distinction between modern art and pre-modern art, Alavi emphasized how modern artists place themselves at the center of their understanding of the world, adopting a subjective lens in their artistic expressions. On the other hand, pre-modern artists serve as witnesses to reality without distorting it. The director also noted the uniqueness of teahouse paintings, dating back to the Safavid period, when artists strove to remove themselves from their artistic works, resulting in many unsigned pieces. The intention is for the



artist to act as a documentary observer of events and truths rather than a dominant presence in the artwork. The exhibition, a captivating journey into the diverse world

of teahouse paintings, will remain open until the end of the month of Muharram (August 17), offering visitors an opportunity to experience this artistic heritage firsthand.

## Immersive art firm behind Van Gogh, Monet shows files for bankruptcy

It has been billed as the "future of art" by some critics and praised as a way of bringing some of the world's most iconic masterpieces to a mass audience. But now one of the biggest companies behind the boom in "immersive art" has filed for bankruptcy, suggesting the craze could end up being short-lived. Lighthouse Immersive is a Toronto-based company known for its immersive experiences of Vincent van Gogh, Frida Kahlo and Claude Monet as well as Disney animations. The company was believed to have sold more than 7m tickets to its exhibitions across 18 cities in North America. Yet in June its forthcoming Disney shows in Houston and Atlanta were cancelled without explanation. Now, according to court

documents reportedly obtained by Bloomberg News, the company has filed for Chapter 15 bankruptcy in the US state of Delaware, the Guardian reported. The company's touring Van Gogh installation was one of many to use the Dutch artist's work. Viewers pay to see gigantic reproductions of his masterpieces beamed over gallery walls while being treated to special effects, such as seeing imaginary brushstrokes being applied to Sunflowers or watching the skies of The Starry Night swirl. Debate has raged over the cultural value of these immersive shows. Writing in the Guardian, Hettie O'Brien described her experience of attending an immersive Van Gogh experience in east London in less

than glowing terms: "The show seemed to be trying very hard to cultivate a sense of momentousness, but the overall impression was haphazard, as if its creators didn't want people to look too closely at the details." Art critic Jonathan Jones was even more dismissive of David Hockney: Bigger and Closer, another immersive show, albeit one put together by the artist himself. "It is a dumb contemporary fad that doesn't – and cannot – capture the beauty of his art," Jones wrote. Gimmick or not, there seemed less debate around the fact that these events could generate money. In 2020, the Serpentine's Arts Technologies programme published a report with ideas for how ticketed immersive experi-



ences could bring the art world closer to the financial model of theme parks. The current London exhibition 'Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience' still

runs shows every half hour, six days a week, charging up to £35 for a standard ticket, despite no original works by Van Gogh being on display.