

## Iran's 'Unseen' gears up for film festivals



Arts & Culture Desk

**MEHR** – The Iranian short film, 'Unseen,' directed by the collaborative effort of Mohammadreza Rafiei and Termeh Farahmand Pouya, and written by Mohammadreza Rafiei, has completed its technical stages, preparing for participation in national and international film festivals. 'Unseen' is a social drama that underwent two days of filming in Tehran, capturing moments in front of the camera. The storyline encapsulates the essence of the film: "Parvaneh and her husband have arranged a gathering to mend a family dispute. Yet, reality unveils a different story, forcing Parvaneh to face a tough choice..." The cast of this production includes Bita Beigi, Marjan Aqanoori, Iman Dabiri, and Siavash Isazadeh. The completion of technical production marks an exciting step for 'Unseen,' as it embarks on a journey to captivate audiences at national and international film festivals, shedding light on its thought-provoking narrative and the talent of its cast and creators.

## Renowned linguist Safavi dies at 67



Arts & Culture Desk

**IRNA** – Kourosh Safavi, a distinguished Iranian linguist, translator, and vice-president of the Linguistics Society of Iran, passed away at the age of 67. He was a prominent professor at Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran, contributing significantly to the fields of semantics, semiotics, history of linguistics, and the interplay between linguistics and literature. Born on June 27, 1956, in Tehran, Safavi completed his elementary and secondary education in Germany and Austria before returning to Tehran in 1971. He pursued studies in German language and literature at the University of Tehran, later transferring to the School of Translation, and ultimately earning his bachelor's degree in linguistics in 1975. A prolific writer and translator, Safavi authored numerous influential works in the realm of linguistics, including 'An Introduction to Linguistics,' 'Wandering in the Philosophy of Literature,' 'Logic in Linguistics.' Additionally, he translated works by notable linguists and writers like Noam Chomsky, Roman Jakobson, Ferdinand de Saussure, and Jostein Gaarder into Persian.

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# Sixth Iranian Film Festival underway in Tokyo



Arts & Culture Desk

The Sixth Iranian Film Festival commenced in Libra Hall, Tokyo, showcasing the diverse cinematic offerings of Iran. The event, which opened on August 10, features a curated selection of Iranian films and is set to run through August 14. The inauguration ceremony, attended by Peyman Saadat, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Japan, university professors, artists, and filmmakers, marked the beginning of this cultural celebration. Among the notable films gracing the screen are 'Leaf of Life' by Ebrahim Mokhtari, 'Gholamreza Takhti' by Bahram Tavakoli, 'The Situation of Mehdi' by Hadi Hejazifar, and 'The Miracle of Bonasan' by Habib Ahmadzadeh, according to IRNA. The lineup also includes 'The Warden' by Nima Javidi, 'Yadu' by Mehdi Jafari,

'Walnut Tree' by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian, and 'Bodyguard' by Ebrahim Hatamikia, each offering unique insights into various societal, romantic, comedic, and dramatic themes. Ali Saadat Azar, the cultural attaché of Iran in Japan, highlighted the event's significance in fostering cultural exchange. He noted that the Iranian Film Festival in Tokyo provides a platform for cross-cultural interactions and artistic discussions, contributing to the development of cultural ties between Iran and Japan. Saadat Azar expressed optimism about the future of these collaborations, emphasizing the richness of cultural connections between the two nations. He further underscored the event's role in expanding the cinematic partnership, promoting dialogue, and deepening mutual understanding.



standing. Amid the festivities, the film 'The Miracle of Bonasan,' co-directed by Habib Ahmadzadeh, and written by Habib and Zeinab Ahmadzadeh, was screened. This joint Iranian-Japanese

production, shot in four countries including Iran, Japan, Austria, and Iraq, features prominent actors like Parviz Parastui, Shizuko Tsuya, Gerhard Freiling, Noriyuki Asakura, and Mahmoud Bankdar. The film, aimed at promoting peace, received a warm reception in Japan. Directors Ahmadzadeh and Parastui engaged with the audience, addressing their inquiries after the film's screening. The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of eight Iranian directors and actors, fostering an enthusiastic reception for the cinematic gala and subsequent

film screenings. The Iranian Film Festival in Tokyo isn't limited to movie screenings; it encompasses critical discussions about Iranian cinema, talks about film exchange between the two countries, and even traditional music performances in the Minato ward of Tokyo. This comprehensive program promises an enriching experience for cinephiles and cultural enthusiasts alike. The Sixth Iranian Film Festival in Tokyo stands as a testament to the enduring power of cinema in bridging cultural gaps and promoting international understanding.



## Iran's 'Eastwood' selected for Japan's Yamagata festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian documentary 'Eastwood,' directed by Alireza Rasoulinejad and produced by the Documentary & Experimental Film Center, was chosen to be featured in the "Double Shadows" section of the 18th Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in Japan. The Iranian film 'Eastwood' will be screened in the section titled 'Double Shadows 3: People Who Transport Films,' highlighting its thematic alignment with the festival's focus, ILNA wrote. Among the notable entries, eight documentaries hailing from Iran, India, Colombia, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, and the United States are slated for screening in this dis-

tinctive section. The selected documentaries collectively explore the history and aesthetic dimensions of cinema, showcasing the creative vision of talented filmmakers. The Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, a biennial event in Japan, holds a pivotal position as one of Asia's most significant

and influential documentary film festivals. The festival is scheduled to take place from October 5 to October 12, 2023. 'Eastwood' stands out for its unique narrative structure, contributing to the festival's exploration of innovative approaches within the realm of documentary filmmaking.



## 'Macbeth' adaptation to take the spotlight in Tehran

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The Tehran-based Iranshahr Theater Complex is set to host 'Freeze Macbeth Freeze,' an adaptation of William Shakespeare's masterpiece, 'Macbeth,' as of August 14. Directed by Arash Dadgar in collaboration with the Quantum Theater Group, this enthralling play is poised for its upcoming staging. Hessem Manzour will take on the role of Macbeth, as reported by Mehr: 'Macbeth,' one of Shakespeare's most distinguished works, delves into conscience, guilt's toll on the human psyche, and the allure of dark ambition. This dark and intense play delves into reality and illusion, witchcraft and the supernatural, ambition and kingship, the natural order, light and life, as well as the interplay between darkness and death symbolized through blood and chilling imagery.

The Iranian theatrical scene has witnessed various interpretations of 'Macbeth' in multiple performances. Notably, the Titowak Theater Group, led by Iranian director Ebrahim Poshtkuhi, unveiled 'Hey Macbeth, Only the First Dog Knows Why It Is Barking' in 2009, a thought-provoking exploration of the tragedy. The group's artistic journey extended to international platforms, including the re-

nowned 2011 Festival d'Avignon in France. Further enriching the landscape, members of the Misen Scene troupe, led by director Masoud Tayyebi, presented 'When Hamlet Was Killed by Macbeth's Witches' in 2017 at the Iranian Artists Forum. This performance ingeniously wove elements from both 'Macbeth' and Shakespeare's other celebrated work, 'Hamlet.'

