

## TIFF to lose sponsor after 28 years



**VARIETY** – Bell Canada is ending its long-standing sponsorship of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Variety confirmed. The telecommunications company, a lead sponsor since 1995, will not continue its partnership with TIFF after the festival's 48th edition this year.

"Bell has had a terrific partnership with TIFF for the past 28 years," the company said in a statement shared with Variety. "We're proud of our partnership to help make TIFF a leading global destination for film and to support Canadian content and talent on the world stage." The statement continued, "Earlier this year, we decided that the end of 2023 would be the right time to step back from our partnership with TIFF and opted not to renew our sponsorship in order to invest in other opportunities that are core to our business. We are confident TIFF will continue to develop and showcase the world's leading content to inform, educate and entertain the best audience in film. We're grateful to have been a part of it all."

Representatives at TIFF did not respond to Variety's request for comment. Back in July, TIFF unveiled this year's slate of 60 films, representing 70 countries around the world.

The world premiere of Sylvester Stallone's documentary 'Sly' will close the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 16 at Roy Thomson Hall. The festival begins September 7.

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## Kermanshah handicrafts capable of being introduced to the world: **Minister**



● IRNA

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami said that Meyvan village's handicrafts in Paveh County enjoy a wide variety in terms of design and color and need to be introduced to domestic and international tourists. Zarghami noted the diverse designs and colors of these crafts and their significant contribution to the province's industrial and tourism growth, IRNA wrote. During his visit to Kermanshah Province on Sunday, Zarghami lauded

the skilled *giveh* (traditional Iranian footwear) weavers of Meyvan.

He highlighted their intricate designs, underscoring the importance of showcasing these handicrafts to a broader audience. Zarghami praised the efforts of the Cultural Heritage Department staff and local officials in nurturing this artistic community. He stressed the necessity of education, modernization, innovation, and adaptation to modern preferences to refresh the handicraft sector. He praised Fereshteh Hosseini, the director of Meyvan's Women Weavers'

Cooperative, for transforming the village into a national pride, and setting an exemplary standard for the country. While exploring the Bam Paveh tourism project, Zarghami praised the exceptional tourism potential of UNESCO-designated Uramanat, in Kurdistan Province. He projected tourism-centered projects as the driving force behind the region's development. Zarghami also emphasized the project's strategic location in Paveh, which could significantly enhance the city's tourism appeal.

## Iran's Nobakht among Armenian festival's jury members



● ISNA

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker and producer Elaheh Nobakht is among the jury members at the 9th edition of Armenia's Apricot Tree International Documentary Film Festival. Other jury members at the 9th edition of the event include Italian artist Vighen Avetis, and French filmmaker Vincent Sorrel, Mehr news agency reported.

Nobakht, who is also the CEO of ELI Image, an international production and distribution film company, has already been a jury member at several other international film festivals, including the 18th International Oriental Film Festival of Geneva, the Religion Today Film Festival in the Italian town of Trento, the Beirut International Women's Film Festival in Lebanon, and Mena International Film Festival in the Netherlands.

Recently, she was introduced at the Cannes Film Festival Market as one of the top 10 producers, with a promising future in world cinema.

Established in 2015 by Filmadaran Film Culture Development NGO, Apricot Tree (ATIEFF) is a documentary film festival that takes place annually in August in the Armenian village of Ujan. Not only do selected participants get to see their films projected on the big screen in Ujan Park under the open sky but, more importantly, they live among the villagers in their houses, share bread and watch films with them, while getting to experience Armenian culture first-hand.



## Iranian diplomat raises concern over safety of artifacts in British Museum

### Arts & Culture Desk

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Martin, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London, expressed concern regarding the security of valuable artifacts, including Iranian items, in the British Museum (BM).

The diplomat's statement comes in the wake of recent reports detailing the theft of about 2,000 ancient artifacts from the renowned British Museum, ISNA reported.

In a message posted on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Martin

questioned the museum's ability to provide a safe environment for safeguarding these treasures. He wrote, "With the news about thousands of stolen artifacts from the British Museum, the question remains whether the museum is still a safe place for

holding these priceless artifacts, including the Iranian items. Can British Museum officials regain the trust of original foreign owners?"

The British Museum, housing an extensive collection of historical and cultural artifacts, has faced

controversies surrounding the provenance of some of its holdings. The concerns raised by the Iranian diplomat touch on a broader debate about the responsibility of museums to ensure the security and ethical acquisition of artifacts.

## Items from Charles Dickens' childhood to be displayed to mark 200-year milestone

Charles Dickens' fans will be able to see relics from his harsh childhood in an exhibition marking 200 years since he was put to work aged 11. The author was forced to leave school in the autumn of 1823 to toil in a blacking factory when his father John was put in a prison for debtors. Charles spent 10 hours a day, six days a week fixing labels to bottles of boot-blackening liquid, first in London's Charing Cross, later in Covent Garden, the

Evening Standard reported. The episode shaped him and his work, and a bottle from his workplace, Warren's Blacking Factory, is among items at the Charles Dickens Museum. The museum is located in Holborn, which is where he wrote 'The Pickwick Papers,' 'Oliver Twist' and 'Nicholas Nickleby.' Visitors can also see two letters written by dad John, described by his son as "a jovial opportunist with no money sense". Curator Frankie Kubicki

said: "The items let us see the damaging effects of poverty on a child's life." Frankie Kubicki, senior curator at the Charles Dickens Museum, said: "Although Dickens never spoke of the blacking factory publicly, his life there was an experience he would never forget. "The 11-year-old boy who walked to work from lodgings in Camden and Southwark every morning experienced the ugliness of factory life and received a permanent mental imprint

of the hardship that was lurking to find impoverished children in the capital city. "In his later works, the blacking factory looms large, not only as a significant backdrop to 'David Copperfield,' but as the driving force behind the creation of hapless child victims in his stories, such as the much-loved character, Oliver Twist. "His position at the factory was to damage his relationship with his parents for the rest of his life, and

his father's continuing money problems only further deepened this void. "The items which we are showing make the experience palpable and enable us to see the damaging effects of poverty on a child's life and a close-knit family." The items are on display at the museum from 25 August until January 21.

● BRITANNICA

