

## Iran to stage first play produced in collaboration with AI

**MEHR** – In an innovative development for the Iranian theater scene, 'Antigone,' the first-ever play in Iran produced in collaboration with artificial intelligence (AI), is set to go on stage in Tehran as of September 21. The play's poster, designed by Pedram Shahrabadi, was unveiled on Saturday. The creators behind 'Antigone' used various aspects of AI in different elements of the production, effectively blending human intelligence with artificial intelligence throughout the work. Directed by Mohammadreza Agaah, the cast of 'Antigone' includes Mahsa Jamshidi, Pedram Zamani, Parsa Sahraei, and Sajjad Mir. 'Antigone' follows 'Woyzeck,' making it the second joint work between Sajjad Afsharian and Mohammadreza Agaah in the field of theater.

A poignant excerpt from 'Antigone' reads, "When a law is broken... the gates of Greece are also broken... If your father were here today... he wouldn't give you this permission."

This innovative fusion of theater and AI technology promises to offer audiences a unique and thought-provoking theatrical experience, setting a guide for future creative collaborations in the Iranian arts.

## Amazon to require authors to disclose use of AI material

**AP** – After months of complaints from the Authors Guild and other groups, Amazon.com started requiring writers who want to sell books through its e-book program to tell the company in advance that their work includes artificial intelligence material.

The Authors Guild praised the new regulations, which were posted Wednesday, as a "welcome first step" toward deterring the proliferation of computer-generated books on the online retailer's site. Many writers feared computer-generated books could crowd out traditional works and would be unfair to consumers who didn't know they were buying AI content.

In a statement posted on its website, the Guild expressed gratitude toward "the Amazon team for taking our concerns into account and enacting this important step toward ensuring transparency and accountability for AI-generated content."

A passage posted this week on Amazon's content guideline page said, "We define AI-generated content as text, images, or translations created by an AI-based tool." Amazon is differentiating between AI-assisted content, which authors do not need to disclose, and AI-generated work.

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# Parthian era monument discovered in Iran



### Arts & Culture Desk

Archaeological excavations by researchers from the University of Tehran revealed the remains of a significant monumental structure dating back to the Parthian era in the historical site of Viranshahr in North Khorasan Province. The Viranshahr archaeological site, located in Faruj County, North Khorasan Province, has been one of the most important historical sites in the province

since 2019, when it came under the scrutiny of archaeological researchers, as reported by IRNA. The fifth season of excavations, which began in late June 2023, uncovered a quadrangular wall measuring 350 meters in length and width, with an acropolis or governing seat situated in its northern corner. Previous excavations and studies indicated that this wall in the Viranshahr site was equipped with corner towers and featured

a main gate in its northwestern edge. The ongoing archaeological explorations in the southern part of the site led to the discovery of architectural remains characterized by thick adobe walls, measuring three meters in thickness. Further excavations in the southern mound revealed a grand structure consisting of a wide eastern hall, a square-shaped hall in the west, and adjoining rooms in the north and south. Additionally, a central hallway with a width of three meters was identified within the space of the eastern hall and the main hall.

The layout and structure of the newly-found building in Viranshahr closely resemble architectural complexes of the Greek-Hellenistic cultural sphere in northern Afghanistan during the Parthian era. These architectural designs spread to various regions of Central Asia, the Iranian Plateau, and Mesopotamia during the Parthian period. Based on the identified architectural elements and dated pottery fragments, the discovered edifice in Viranshahr is believed to have been constructed around the 2nd century BC and was in use until the mid-Sassanid era.

What distinguishes the Viran-

shahr monumental structure from similar examples is its relative preservation. The structural integrity of the walls in Viranshahr has allowed for the conservation of more than four meters of the building's height in most areas. Evidence suggests that many of the spaces were covered with vaulted roofs, and the walls were coated with layers of plaster.

The discovery of this monumental structure in Viranshahr, located on Iran's current borders, is a rare find and holds the potential to become a significant archaeological site-museum. It presents an excellent opportunity for further exploration and research into the historical background of the region and the development of tourism in the area.

Meysam Labbaf, an associate professor in the Department of Archaeology at the Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Tehran, explained the term "monumental structure" in archaeology: This term is commonly used in archaeology to refer to magnificent buildings constructed by the ruling authorities of their time, symbolizing power and often carrying symbolic and ceremonial significance.



## Iran's 'Alaa' to be staged in South Korea



### Arts & Culture Desk

'Alaa,' a monodrama written and directed by Mohammad Kazemtabar, is set to make its international debut at the 14th Daejeon International Play Festival in South Korea.

This theatrical production introduces a unique blend of romance and aerial yoga movements, making it a standout performance in the festival, Mehr news agency reported.

With a presence of 16 plays from eight different countries, the 14th edition of the South Korean festival opened on September 8, and will run through September 26 in the city of Daejeon, South Korea.

The talented cast includes Marjan Aqanouri, Ali Borji, and Mohammadreza Azadfar, who bring the production to life with their outstanding performances.

## Record number of submissions for Iran's Cinéma Vérité

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 17th edition of the Iran International Documentary Film Festival, known as Cinéma Vérité, has so far received over 2,000 documentary film submissions, with a significant section focusing on social issues.

Under the direction of Mohammad Hamidimoqaddam, the festival has attracted filmmakers from Iran and around the world, showcasing a diverse range of topics, Mehr news agency reported.

To date, the festival's secretariat has received over 2,000 films, with 300 of them coming from Iranian documentarians, and over 1,800 entries hailing from various countries, competing in the international section.

A substantial number of these submissions are on social subjects, with documentaries addressing environmental issues, demographics, women's rights,



and family dynamics, garnering particular attention among filmmakers.

The primary deadline for submitting the works was announced as September 11, while documenta-

ry filmmakers still have the opportunity to submit their entries for consideration.

The 17th edition of the festival will be held in December 2023 in Tehran.