

Iranian actress dies at 79



IRNA – Iranian actress Parvaneh Masoumi, who was famous for starring in TV series, died at the age of 79 on Monday.

Masoumi was hospitalized for a few days due to intestinal rupture, and transferred to the intensive care unit due to a lung infection.

Born Sakineh Kabudarangani in 1944, Masoumi studied at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran.

She made her cinematic debut in 1971 with a short film titled 'The Journey'.

Her first appearance on TV was in Behrouz Afkhami's 'Jungle Commander', however, her role in 'Imam Ali' gained her a lot of fame.

She acted in several movies, including 'Heavy Rain' (1972), 'Story City' (1973), 'The Crow' (1977), 'Captain Khorshid' (1986), 'Suitcase' (1986), 'Toranj' (1986), 'Out of Range' (1987), 'The Gifts' (1987), 'The Call' (1989), 'Nasseraddin Shah Film Actor' (1991), 'Plans to Meet' (2003), and 'The Resident of the Wooden House' (2012).

Masoumi's roles in different movies won her three awards and several nominations. She won the best actress in a leading role award for her part in 'Chrysanthemums' (1984).

She also won an award for best actress in a leading role for 'Robab's Dowry' (1987). Her outstanding appearance in 'The Glory of Life' (1987) won her another award for best actress in a leading role.

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Iranian conductor Rahbari to hold masterclass in Beijing

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian orchestra conductor Ali Rahbari is scheduled to conduct a masterclass for the National Youth Orchestra of China in the city of Beijing.

The event, aimed at promoting the skills of the young Chinese symphony musicians, follows Rahbari's recent collaboration with symphony orchestras in Hangzhou and Shenzhen, IRNA wrote.

Rahbari had previously been invited to lead the 130-member National Youth Orchestra of China in Beijing. Now, after a short hiatus, he has been invited back to Beijing to conduct a masterclass, having gained a lot of experience holding masterclasses worldwide,

including in countries such as Turkey, Ukraine, South Africa, and Slovakia.

Currently in his third consecutive artistic season as the permanent conductor of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, Rahbari performed on November 24 at the Mariinsky Theatre, staging works by Mozart and Beethoven for the 13th consecutive time.

He has already conducted over 120 prominent symphony orchestras worldwide, including those in Vienna, Berlin, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Toronto, Tokyo, and Mexico. In addition, Rahbari has also contributed to recording approximately 250 classical music albums with some of the world's most renowned orchestras and operas.



106 films submitted for Nat'l Section of Fajr Int'l Film Festival

The Fajr International Film Festival received applications from 106 films seeking to participate in the National Section of the 42nd edition of the festival.

Simon Simonian, the festival's secretary, stated that during the one-month registration period, which concluded on November 21, filmmakers submitted for National Section (Iranian Cinema) of the upcoming festival, IRNA reported.

Referring to the special presence of

first-time filmmakers in this round, Simonian said that out of the registered films a total of 51 films belong to these directors.

Simonian announced that the submitted films would undergo a primary review process to ensure complying with the festival's regulations.

He added that films meeting the criteria would proceed to the next stage of evaluation by the selection committee.

He further elaborated, stating that the national competition's selection committee would begin the review of the films from December 6 and would announce the selected films for participation by January 5, 2024.

The International Section's lineup will be announced subsequently.

The 42nd edition of the event, under the supervision of Mojtaba Amini, is scheduled to take place from February 1 to 11.

'Soul-shattering' 'Prophet Song' wins 2023 Booker prize

Irish author Paul Lynch has won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song,' set in an imagined Ireland that is descending into tyranny. It was described as a "soul-shattering and true" novel that "captures the social and political anxieties of our current moment" by the judging chair, Esi Edugyan.

Canadian novelist Edugyan, who has twice been short-listed for the Booker prize herself, said the decision to award Lynch the £50,000 prize "wasn't unanimous" and was settled on by discussion and multiple rounds of voting that lasted "about six hours".

'Prophet Song' takes place in an alternate Dublin. Members of the newly formed secret police, established by a government turning towards totalitarianism, turn up on the doorstep of microbiologist

Eilish asking for her husband, a senior official in the Teachers' Union of Ireland. Soon, he disappears – along with hundreds of other civilians – and Eilish is left to look after their four children and her elderly father, fighting to hold the family together amid civil war, the Guardian reported.

"It is with immense pleasure that I bring the Booker home to Ireland," said Lynch, a former film critic, upon receiving the prize. "I had a moment on holiday in Sicily many years ago where I had this flash of recognition, I knew that I needed to write, and that was the direction my life had to take. I made that decision that day to just swerve, and I swerved. And I'm bloody glad I did."

His win comes days after violent protests broke out across central Dublin after a stabbing attack outside a primary

school that left three children injured. Police said the disorder was caused by a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology".

Asked about his reaction to the events, Lynch said that he was "astonished" and at the same time "recognised the truth that this kind of energy is always there under the surface".

"I didn't write this book to specifically say 'here's a warning', I wrote the book to articulate the message that the things that are happening in this book are occurring timelessly throughout the ages, and maybe we need to deepen our own responses to that kind of idea," Lynch said, later adding that he is "distinctly not a political novelist".

Edugyan said, when asked whether recent events had influenced the judges' decision, that "at some point in the dis-

cussions, maybe for a few minutes, this was introduced, this was discussed". However, she said that timeliness "was not the reason that 'Prophet Song' won the prize" – the judges simply felt it was a "truly a masterful work of fiction".

This is the second year in a row that a novel about political conflict has won the prize. In 2022, Shehan Karunatilaka won with 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida', set during the Sri Lankan civil war.

"Lynch's dystopian Ireland reflects the reality of war-torn countries, where refugees take to the sea to escape persecution on land," wrote Aimée Walsh in an Observer review. "'Prophet Song' echoes the violence in Palestine, Ukraine and Syria, and the experience of all those who flee from war-torn countries."

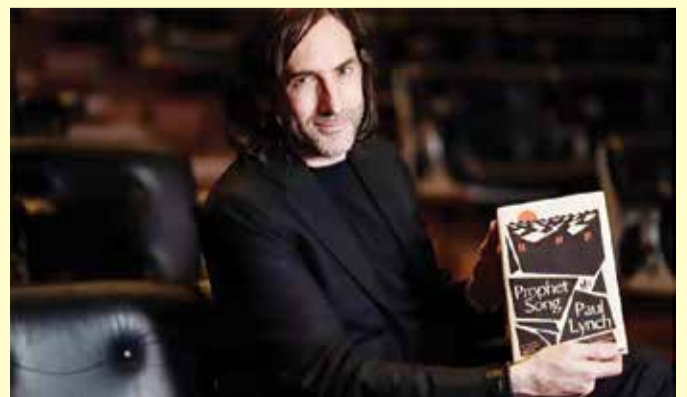
Melissa Harrison called the

novel "as nightmarish a story as you'll come across: powerful, claustrophobic and horribly real" in her Guardian review.

Lynch was born in 1977 in Limerick, grew up in County Donegal and now lives in Dublin. His other novels are Beyond the Sea, Grace, The Black Snow and Red Sky in Morning.

He is the fifth Irish author to win the prize, following in the footsteps of Iris Murdoch, John Banville, Roddy Doyle and Anne Enright. The Northern Irish writer Anna Burns won in 2018.

Asked what he would spend the prize money on, Lynch said that "half of it has already gone" on his tracker mortgage.



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