



Int'l Film Festival Rotterdam unveils poster for 'The Old Bachelor'



ILNA – The International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) unveiled the official poster for the Iranian film 'The Old Bachelor' simultaneously with its screening.

The festival showcased the poster as the film made its debut in Dutch cinemas, ILNA wrote.

Directed by Oktay Baraheni, 'The Old Bachelor' competes in the Big Screen Competition of the 53th edition of the festival.

The international poster design for the film was crafted by Hanif Sarvari and Fatemeh Hassanvand.

Running from January 25 to February 4 in the city of Rotterdam, the festival is renowned as one of Europe's significant cinematic events, aiming to present a selection of independent and creative films of global quality.

'The Old Bachelor' marks Baraheni's second directorial project, featuring his own screenplay and backed by investors Arsalan Baraheni and Amirhossein Abdollahi. The film, starring Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, and Mohammad Reza Golzar will premiere on January 30, continuing its screenings until the festival's conclusion on February 4.

Culture minister emphasizes importance of arts in education system



Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili (C) speaks at the 98th session of the Arts Council held in Tehran on January 29, 2024.

● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili underscored the significance of enhancing artistic education within the edu-

ational system.

Esmaeili made the statement on the sidelines of the 98th session of the Arts Council, held on January 29, adding that an agreement has been signed with the Ministry

of Education in this regard.

Esmaeili discussed the decision to initiate a mentorship program instead of the current semester-based system at Farschchian University of Islamic-Iranian Arts, IRNA

wrote.

Regarding art education in schools, Esmaeili stated, "In the field of education, we need serious attention to the issue of arts."

The minister elaborated, "Art in the Ministry of Education has three crucial dimensions: Formal education from elementary to high school; cultural and educational centers; and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, alongside additional capacities such as art schools."

Esmaeili expressed concern for the advancement of artistic education and emphasized the necessity of devising a comprehensive arts document within the education system.

He called for collaboration from the Arts Council secretary and other officials, identifying the significant role of educational capacities in achieving the council's objectives.

Highlighting achievements

in the field of music, Esmaeili stated, "Our approach is to award top artistic honors in festivals, a practice not very common in the past."

Mohammad Khazaei, the head of the Cinema Organization of Iran, mentioned the impressive presence of young filmmakers in the Fajr International Film Festival, with 621 submissions from various countries.

He noted the participation of filmmakers from different Iranian provinces, reflecting the government's cultural justice approach.

Khazaei added, "This edition of the festival showcases a diverse range of topics. We almost have no dark or bitter films. Additionally, for the first time, there is a film about retribution. Themes such as resistance, fertility, the role of Martyr Ahmad Kazemi after the Bam earthquake, the events of Karbala, and Imam Reza (PBUH) will be featured in this festival."

Iran faces 62% drought, 50mm of rain decline in 50 years

Social Desk

Head of the Iranian Parliament Research Center Babak Negahdari highlighted the pressing issue of climate change in Iran.

Speaking at the 7th International Conference on Climate Change, the Parliament member emphasized the need for an environmentally friendly approach to managing climate change, asriran.com reported.

Persistent observation reveals a continuing trend,

he said, the average temperature has increased by four degrees each decade over the past 50 years.

He added that during the crop year, Sept. 22, 2020, to Sept. 22, 2021, 61.7% of the country experienced drought, while only 19.3% encountered normal conditions.

Negahdari stated that climate change should be a nationwide project, influencing crucial areas such as food security, ecosystems, and energy safety. He introduced two ap-

proaches to address the issue: adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Pointing to the tangible impacts of climate change in Iran, Negahdari underlined the drastic reduction in precipitation from 250mm in the 1970s to 200mm in the 2010s.

The official expressed concern over the health sector, citing increased mortality among the elderly due to rising temperatures. He also highlighted the agricultural challenges, includ-

ing reduced rice, potato, and sugarcane production, as well as the impact of dust storms originating from neighboring countries.

Discussing climate change management, Negahdari stressed the importance of environmental sustainability in developing countries. Negahdari concluded by emphasizing the crucial role of environmental conservation in development, stating that development plans should be tailored to environmental conditions. He highlighted the need to



focus on improving productivity as a key aspect of climate change management, with a greenhouse gas reduction approach.

The 7th International Conference on Climate Change opened on January 29 and will end on January 30.

FAJR VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL IN PHOTOS



The 16th Fajr Visual Arts Festival opens in the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on January 28, 2024.

● AKBAR TAVAKKOLI/IRNA