

## 'Smart Kid' hits \$1.24m, third most viewed film of year



### Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian animated film 'Smart Kid', produced by Hamed Ja'fari, reached a significant milestone in the children's cinema, surpassing the \$1.24 million sales.

'Smart Kid' is the only non-comedic Iranian film to enter the \$1.20 Iranian cinema, being categorized among the top six highest-grossing films in the history of Iranian cinema, ILNA wrote.

The first five highest-grossing films are 'Fossil,' 'Hotel,' 'Lawless City,' 'Solitary,' and 'Hawaii,' respectively.

Since its debut in the fall, the animated film has garnered widespread appeal among children and their families, amassing nearly 1.9 million viewers in the country's cinemas. Consequently, it currently ranks third in terms of audience numbers for films screened as of the Iranian year (March 21, 2023).

Jointly produced by the Honar Pooya Animation studio and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, 'Smart Kid' is the result of the collaborative efforts of a 250-member powerful team of young Iranian artists.

## Iran's 'Paper Dream' wins at Abu Dhabi Film Festival



Iranian film 'Paper Dream,' directed by Ali Atashani, won the Best Film Award at the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival. The film premiered in Iran on February 14 and secured the top honor at its 91st international screening in Abu Dhabi.

Presented by Shokoufa Film domestically, with distribution and promotion overseen by Saeed Pakestani, 'Paper Dream' has been screened at various international festivals,

collecting significant awards from different global events including Best Director Award at the South Texas International Film Festival in the U.S. city of Edinburg, Mehr news agency reported.

The film tells the story of a young man who has been out of the public view because of his being an Albino. A young girl takes advantage of his pure heart and makes him a social media influencer; meanwhile he falls in love with the girl.

## Iran's Farhadi to be awarded in Belgrade for his contribution to film art



Award Belgrade Victor for Outstanding Contribution to Film Art at the



52nd International Film Festival FESF, which runs from February 23 until

March 3, goes to Iran's two-time Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi. Two-time Oscar winner Farhadi, an Iranian film director and screenwriter, who will receive the Belgrade Victor on 29 February in the Serbian capital, is considered one of the most prominent filmmakers of Iranian and world cinematography of the 21st century, according to the festival's official website.

According to critics, his

scripts are deep sociological, psychological, and philosophical studies of problems that are universal in society, and his films have gained recognition because of their focus on the human condition and because they describe intimate and challenging stories about family conflicts.

In 2011 his film 'A Separation' won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and received critical acclaim inside and out-

side of Iran, as well as the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival, and won the Golden Globes and the Caesar Award. The film 'The Past' (Le passé, 2013) won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival. The film 'The Salesman' (2016) brought Farhadi his second Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, making him one of the few directors worldwide who have won twice this prize.

## Germany to show Iranian film 'Maral'



Iranian shot film 'Maral,' directed by Parinaz Mehri, will experience its first international debut at the 32nd edition of the Regensburg Short Film Week (Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche) in Germany.

The film, marking Mehri's first project into writing and directing and produced by Amir Etminan, is the only Iranian representative in the international competition section.

The storyline of 'Maral' is about a 15-year-old girl forced into marriage with her mentally challenged

cousin in the absence of her father, under the guardianship of her grandfather and uncle.

Regensburg Short Film Week, established in 1994, is a renowned film festival in Germany. The competitive event spans 10 days (from March 7 to March 17), featuring various sections. Alongside the main competition sections, the festival includes special programs with thematic focuses and national highlights, complemented by exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and a film market.

## Tajik maestro Davlatmand Kholov dies at 74

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Davlatmand Kholov, a prominent Tajik musician and singer, died at the age of 74 after a long battle with cancer.

Born in 1950, Kholov gained fame for his performance of the track 'Refuge' dedicated to Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, written by contemporary Iranian poet Mahmoud Habibi Kasbi.

Death of Kholov, a master of the ancient Tajik music style 'Falak' and a virtuoso

on traditional instruments such as the dotar, Qeychak (a bowed lute), and setar left behind a legacy that has significantly shaped the musical landscape of Tajikistan, IRNA wrote.

He emphasized the cultural ties between Iranian and Tajik music, adding that Iranian music is a treasure that cannot be found under or on the earth.

Kholov's album 'Learned & Folk Music' released in 1996, was a testament to his deep understanding and innovative approach

to traditional music. His Sufi-inspired melodies were mostly based on the poetry of Rumi (Molavi).

Iranian Minister of Culture and the Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, extended condolences to the government and people of Tajikistan, highlighting Kholov's deep affection for the Persian language and the works of renowned Iranian poets.

Esmaeili praised Kholov's contributions to cultural exchange between the

two nations. Moreover, Kholov was honored at the Imam Reza International Festival last year, receiving a plaque of devotion. Iran's Ambassador to Tajikistan, Ali Reza Haqiqian, expressed condolences to Kholov's family in Dushanbe, acknowledging the artist's significant impact on the cultural landscape.

Kholov was a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the State Prize of Tajikistan named after Abuabduh



Rudaki. The President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, extended condolences to Kholov's family, acknowledging his invaluable contributions to the development of singing, particularly folk songs and the 'Falak' genre.

