

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Tehran Paris Tehran' top-grossing Iranian theater in current year



Iran's 'Tehran Paris Tehran' play won the title of the best-selling show of the current Iranian year, ending on March 19, with ticket sales totaling \$140,000. The drama, directed by Saeed Dashti and produced by Sam Beheshtyar, has run continuously for the past five months without reproduction, according to a report by IRNA on Sunday. The storyline tells the story of Sara, a young girl who travels from Tehran to Paris to seek revenge for her father's murder. Upon returning to Tehran, she becomes entangled in a complex narrative.

Iran's 'Alone' to compete at Indian festival



The film 'Alone,' directed by Maryam Khadivi and Saied Nabi, will take part in the competition section of the IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival in India. This marks its debut at international film festivals, according to IRNA.

The IAWRT global festival is a significant cinematic event focused on influential women's issues worldwide. The 19th edition is scheduled to take place from March 7 to 9 in Delhi's cinemas, highlighting storytelling and innovative ideas from Asian women filmmakers.

'Alone,' shedding light on the life of a forest guardian in the woodlands of Gilan Province in northern Iran, narrates the challenges faced by these guardians, urging people to reflect on their environmental behavior.

In this international cinematic competition featuring narrative films, documentaries, shorts, animations, and experimental works, over 650 films worldwide were reviewed. Fifty films, representing various genres and originating from 20 countries, have been carefully selected for the final competition phase after a thorough evaluation process.

Iran's 'Loteria' wins big at Utah Zions Indie Film Fest

Arts & Culture Desk

Ali Atshani's film 'Loteria' won the Best Film Award at the closing ceremony of the 23rd Zions Indie Film Fest (ZIFF) on March 2. This marks its 39th international appearance at the Utah festival, IRNA reported. The festival, one of the top 10 in the United States, is held annually from February 26 to March 2 at the SCERA Center for the Arts in Orem, Utah. Established in 2001 and rebranded in 2022 with a new focus, ZIFF is a leading showcase for independent filmmakers worldwide. The 23rd edition, taking place against the backdrop of Utah's Wasatch Mountains, features a diverse audience

of cinema enthusiasts, industry leaders, film critics, film students, government officials, and financial supporters. The event, which includes feature films, documentaries, special screenings, short films, music videos, screenplay competitions, table readings, valuable industry panels, and key presenters, continues the tradition of programming standards established over two decades ago. Ali Atshani's 'Loteria,' produced in Mexico last year, has already received over 10 awards for best film and best director at various international film festivals. The screenplay of 'Loteria' is based on a true story written by Ali Atshani and Mahmoudreza Sani.



Iran to celebrate poet Nezami Ganjavi in weeklong program

Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced its plan for a weeklong program commemorating the renowned Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi. The program, set to begin on March 4 will mark the third edition of the national plan, ILNA reported. The event will feature the words of the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance's message, along with speeches from prominent Persian language and literature scholars. Distinguished artists specializing in music, naqqali (Persian passion play), and reading the poems of Nezami will showcase their talents throughout the celebration. The event aims to highlight Ganjavi's role as a common cultural heritage for Iranians and Persian-speaking neighbors, fostering unity and cul-

tural understanding. By introducing Ganjavi to the world, the organizers hope to bring attention to his thoughts and provide an opportunity for all admirers to appreciate his wisdom, poetry, and works. In addition to the diverse cultural and artistic activities, this year's program, in line with the third international commemoration of Nezami, will introduce the national Ganjavi Award. This accolade, presented for the first time, aims to honor the poet's legacy and encourage academic excellence among students. The focus is on recognizing the best doctoral dissertations in the field of Nezami studies, contributing to scholarly advancement and inspiring future researchers. Ganjavi (c. 1141-1209 CE) is mostly known for "Khamseh", two copies of which are pre-

served in Iran were inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register list in 2011. "Khamseh" is a pentology of poems written in Masnavi verse form (rhymed couplets) with a total of 30,000 couplets. These five poems include the didactic work Makhzan ol-Asrar (The Treasury of Mysteries); the three traditional love stories of Khosrow and Shirin, Leili and Majnun, and Haft Paykar; and the Eskandar-nameh, which records the adventures of Alexander the Great. There are various versions of "Khamseh" in Iranian libraries, but the two versions kept at the Central Library of the University of Tehran and the library of the Shahid Motahari School and Mosque in Tehran are the ones that were registered by UNESCO.

Iran's National Orchestra to perform in Tehran



Iran's National Orchestra, led by guest conductor Mazyar Zahredini, is set to perform at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on March 14. According to ISNA, the orchestra will perform pieces including Ahmad Pejman's 'Divertimento' and Mehran Rouhani's 'Nostalgia.' 'Divertimento' is composed in four movements, titled 'Soran,' 'Hengam,' 'Susa,' and 'Kharazam,' created in 2008 with a free approach to form, emphasizing rhythmic and melodic patterns

of music from various ethnicities and regions. 'Nostalgia,' a three-movement piece, begins with the first movement, 'Red,' representing the color of love and based on the famous theme of 'Elahe-ye Naz' by Akbar Mohseni. The second movement, 'White' draws inspiration from the well-known theme 'Sang-e Khara' by Ali Tajvidi. The final movement, 'Red Color of the Flag' is based on the delightful spring theme by Ruhollah Khaleqi.

13th Tehran Int'l Animation Festival kicks off

The 13th Tehran International Animation Festival kicked off on March 3, showcasing films from the Iranian and International Competition Sections at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults cultural center.



In the International Section, the festival includes 195 films, with 33 Iranian and 162 foreign entries, Mehr reported. The jury members include Hormoz Haqiqi, Alexey Demin, and Pedro Serrazina. Mohammad Hassan Shahmohammadi is one of the jury members of the CIFEJ (special screenings) section in this edition of the animation festival. The 13th Tehran International Animation Festival, spanning March 3 to 7, is currently underway in Tehran, organized into four sections: Competition, out of competition, special screenings, and Perspective, under the direction of Mohammadreza Karimi-Saremi.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
 Cartoonist

