

Iran's 'Being Ten' competing in Lisbon Animation Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian animated film 'Being Ten,' created by Fatemeh Ja'fari, is participating at the competition part of the Perspective Section of the 23rd Lisbon Animation Festival known as Monstra, running from March 7 to March 17, 2024, in Portugal. The 18-minute animated film is a production of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of

Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), utilizing the stop-motion technique, ISNA wrote. The films selected for this edition of the Lisbon Animation Festival's competition section are divided into seven separate categories, including feature-length animation, short animation, very short animation, student films, children and youth films, perspective, and Portuguese films.

The selected films in the Perspective Section consist of seven feature-length animations and 25 short animated films, competing for awards presented by the festival audience. The short animation 'Sympathy Syndrome' directed by Maral Alizadeh, another production of the IIDCYA, participated in the 21st Lisbon International Animation Festival in 2022.

Iran unveils 35 billion-word Persian macro-corpus

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Iran unveiled a massive Persian language corpus, consisting of 35 billion words. The unveiling occurred during a conference on the requirements for developing the Large Language Model (LLM) for Persian, IRNA wrote. The Persian macro-corpus, a product of artificial intelligence, was crafted by the private-sector company Targoman Intelligent Processing. This dataset is designed to support the development of advanced language processing through the innovative Large Language Model (LLM), which employs neural networks with extensive parameters in the field of AI.

This Persian macro-corpus, released as open source, offers high diversity and preserves the text structure for public accessibility. LLM, or Large Language Model, represents a groundbreaking AI approach utilizing neural networks with extensive parameters for advanced language processing. The conference highlighted the prominent role of artificial intelligence generators in recent advancements, particularly attributed to Large Language Models (LLMs). LLMs, a type of AI model, demonstrate significant capabilities in processing mul-



tifaceted information, providing optimized and improved responses to various user queries. During the event, an artificial intelligence professor Behrouz Minaei emphasized the crucial role of data in the utilization of large language models, noting that nations with more data hold greater power. He underscored the importance of having a native LLM to enhance the capabilities of governments. The secretary traced the evolution of AI technology from expert systems in the 1970s-1980s to the advent of data mining in

the 1990s. He also discussed the emergence of deep learning systems, specifically highlighting the development of language models in the period of 2012-2018. The secretary stressed the advantages of the new generation of AI systems, praising their non-domain-specific capabilities and expanded horizontal power in semantic circuits and content comprehension. The significance of having a native Persian language model was emphasized for its cultural and value-based contributions to diverse perspectives.

Iranian musician Ghamsari to perform with Moscow Symphony Orchestra

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Ali Ghamsari, nominated for the international Bravo Award, will perform alongside the Moscow Symphony Orchestra during Nowruz (Persian New Year). The Bravo Award, a global recognition in arts and culture, aims to strengthen Russia's position as the cultural center of Eurasia. Ambassadors from various countries participate, and honorary guests attend the awards ceremony, according to ILNA. This year marks the first invitation for an Iranian



artist, Ghamsari, to the international event. He will not only be a nominee but also perform with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. Ghamsari expressed in a brief note, "I am honored to be a nominee for one of the most prestigious global awards. It is the first time an Iranian representative is nominated for this event. Creating music and playing for you is the best gift from God to me." He continued, "Simultaneously, I consider the coincidence of this event with Nowruz as a good omen. I hope not to return from

this event empty-handed and, with the unity of your energy, play the piece 'Leaf' in the historic Bolshoi Theatre with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. May art echo the cry for lasting peace, and may the Iranian strings be the resounding voice of our Iran. I aim to present a gift in the moment of the new year's bloom for you." Qamsari, known for his diverse performances in Iran and several other countries, has made significant contributions to the study of harmony in Iranian traditional music. His activ-



ities include the publication of the book 'Harmony in Iranian Music' in 2012 and conducting educational workshops. His unique style of harmonizing instruments, such as the use of four *kamancheh* (an Iranian spiked fiddle) in the album 'Sarv-e Ravan,' sets him apart in the field of music composition.

Celebrities at Oscars wear red pins to support Gaza cease-fire calls



Several celebrities attending the 96th Academy Awards wore red pins to show support for a cease-fire in Gaza, as pro-Palestinian protesters blocked roads nearby and delayed the start of the ceremony. The red pins were distributed by Artists4Cease-fire, a group of celebrities and entertainment industry members who collectively signed a letter late in October asking US President Joe Biden to demand a cease-fire as well as the safe

release of captives in Gaza. The pin design shows a red glossy circle with a hand and a black heart, *aljazeera.com* reported. "The pin symbolizes collective support for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, the release of all of the hostages, and for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza," Artists4Cease-fire said in a press release. "Compassion must prevail," it added. The more than 380 signatories include Cate Blanchett,

Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez and Bradley Cooper. "We are asking for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Gaza," actor and comedian Ramy Youssef told US media. "We are asking for justice and peace for the Palestinian people and also, you know, a really universal message, which is let's just stop killing the children," he added. Prior to Sunday's ceremony, the red pins were seen at the Grammys and the Directors Guild of

America (DGA) Awards in February. During that time, actor Mark Ruffalo was also spotted wearing the pin. "We're not going to bomb our way to peace, and all we're saying is, what's wrong with giving a cease-fire a chance?" Ruffalo said on the DGA red carpet. Outside the Dolby Theatre, some groups held up placards and chanted for a cease-fire in Gaza, blocking several lanes of traffic. Among the protesters was

SAG-AFTRA Members for a Cease-fire, a group of working actors. The demonstrators said they sought to ensure that Israel's assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah was not ignored, even amid the glitz and glamour of the evening. More than 31,000 Palestinians have been killed so far in five months of the Israeli military offensive, which has prompted concerns over the risk of genocide and famine.