



## Epic production 'Battle of Rostam and Sohrab' makes splash in theatrical world

### Arts & Culture Desk

Parsaei, who has previously directed productions such as 'Esfandiar's Seven Labors' and 'Oliver Twist,' said that he has always been drawn to the 'Shahnameh' (The Book of Kings), Iran's national epic poem.

Parsaei said the tale of 'Battle of Rostam and Sohrab' holds a special significance for Iranians, striking a deep chord with the nation's people.

"The people of Iran love the stories of 'Shahnameh', and we have tried to bring this story to life in a way that is both visually stunning and emotionally powerful," Parsaei said. "We have used all of the latest technology, including

animation, lighting, and special effects, to create a truly immersive experience for the audience."

Parsaei acknowledged that the production has been expensive, but he believes that it is worth it. "I don't think about the cost of the production when I'm working on a project," he said. "I just want to create something that is beautiful and meaningful. And I believe that this production is something special."

Parsaei said that the high-ticket price is necessary to cover the costs of the production, which includes a cast and crew of over 300 people.

"I know that the ticket price is high, but I believe that it is worth it," Parsaei said. "This

is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I think that people will be willing to pay a premium to see it."

Parsaei also emphasized the importance of government support for the arts. "In other countries, the government supports the arts and provides funding for productions like this one," he said. "But in Iran, we don't have that kind of support. We have to rely on private investors to make productions like this possible."

Despite the challenges, Parsaei is optimistic about the future of the arts in Iran. "I believe that there is a lot of talent and creativity in this country, and I think that with the right support, we can create something truly special," he said.



## Iran, Malaysia produce documentary on mosques ahead of World Mosque Day

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A documentary showcasing the most spectacular mosques in Iran and Malaysia was produced to coincide with World Mosque Day, highlighting the significance of these houses of worship in advancing Islamic goals.

The nine-minute documentary, produced by the Iranian Cultural Center in Malaysia, explores the history, architecture, and current importance

of mosques in both countries. The film features lesser-seen images of the interior and artistic designs of these iconic structures. The documentary was produced in response to the Zionist desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, a painful memory for Muslims that is commemorated on August 21. The film aims to pay tribute to the role of mosques in promoting Islamic values. The documentary features some of the most beautiful

mosques in Iran, including the Nasir al-Molk Mosque, the Jame Mosque of Isfahan, and the Blue Mosque of Tabriz, as well as notable mosques in Malaysia, such as the National Mosque, the Zahir Mosque, and the Crystal Mosque.

The film will be broadcast on various Iranian television networks on World Mosque Day, which falls on August 21. It has been produced in Persian, English, and Malay with subtitles.

## Iranian composer wins third prize at Italy's '2 Agosto' competition



Iranian musician Sina Jafarikia took home the third prize at Italy's prestigious "2 Agosto" International Composition Competition for a one-movement symphonic piece inspired by Persian music.

Jafarikia, a composer and musician, said the competition is one of the most famous in the world and is held annually in Italy with the support of the Italian presidential office and the mayor of Bologna. This year's festival was the 30th edition, and it was held with the presence of prominent judges, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Iranian composer's piece, a symphonic work inspired by Persian music, was written with a contemporary music approach, but with subtle influences from traditional Persian music. Jafarikia noted

that only music professionals would be able to detect the Persian influences in his work.

Jafarikia received a cash prize and a certificate signed by the mayor of Bologna. He said the competition is a significant event in the music world, with numerous composers presenting their works from different countries. The competition is held in memory of the 1980 terrorist attack in Bologna, which killed 75 people and injured 200.

The Iranian composer's work, along with the works of the other two top composers, will be performed by various symphony orchestras and broadcast simultaneously on the Italian Rai5 channel. Jafarikia has previously won prizes at competitions in Italy and New York, including a

prize for a violin solo piece at the Milan Conservatory and a prize for a string quintet piece at a competition held by the Cultural and Global Association in New York.

Jafarikia is currently working on translating a 1,000-page music book, which he hopes to publish by the end of the year. He has also written his own book, "Theory and Practice of Music".

The "2 Agosto" competition has a reputation for being one of the most prestigious music competitions in the world, thanks to the presence of international and renowned judges. This year's competition was judged by a panel including Claudio Kazan, professor of Composition at the University of Rome, and Maestro Sascha Goetzl, a French composer and pianist.

## 63 countries participate in Pars Int'l Photo Award Festival

The first Pars International Photo Award Festival attracted participants from 63 countries, the event's executive secretary said.

Reza Mir-Mohammadi said the festival aims to promote art and culture, support young and talented artists, and showcase the capabilities of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone, IRNA wrote.

The festival, which was held in three categories — oil industry, family, and environment and tourism — received

entries from photographers from around the world. After a judging process, winners were selected and will be announced at a ceremony in September, coinciding with the opening of an exhibition of the winning works.

Mir-Mohammadi also announced that a festival book, 'Pars Photo', has been published and will be presented to winners and attendees at the ceremony.

The festival was organized by the Pars Special Economic

Energy Zone, in cooperation with the National Iranian Oil Company, and with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP).

Mir-Mohammadi explained that the festival was originally scheduled to take place in March, but was postponed to September due to various reasons, despite the book being ready and the winners having been selected.